

Joe Balistreri of Detroit earned his degrees in Organ Performance at the University of Michigan. Recognized for “especially moving” interpretation (The American Organist) and “impressive technique and bristling enthusiasm” (The Diapason), his organ performances include American Guild of Organists and National Association of Pastoral Musicians conventions, university conferences, and orchestral collaborations. Joe was named one of The Diapason’s 2015 “20 under 30” in the organ and church music field. In 2016, Joe was appointed visiting lecturer of Gregorian chant and organ at the University of Michigan. From 2011 to 2021, Joe was Coordinator of Music Ministries for the Archdiocese of Detroit, serving as a resource and community facilitator for parish musicians and clergy. He also was Director of Music at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, where he was principal organist, directed the choirs, and lead the Cathedral Cultural Series (CCS). In these roles, Joe had the pleasure of rebuilding the choral program, leading the Archdiocesan Chorus and festival choirs to Rome, facilitating the historic 2017 Sistine Chapel Choir visit to Detroit, and hosting the world’s finest musicians for concerts and liturgies. Joe is particularly proud of starting the Cathedral Choir Academy, a graded choral program for trebles rooted in liturgical music, and the Schola Cantorum Detroitensis, an ensemble of Catholic choral professionals based at the cathedral. Since 2021, Joe is Musician-in-Residence at Christ Church Cranbrook. There, he serves as organist, conductor, composer, and consultant to the church’s thriving music program.