



Music Theory Faculty, Conservatory

Jacob Bernhardt earned his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in collaborative piano from the Cleveland Institute of Music, where he studied with Anita Pontremoli and Joela Jones. Bernhardt also earned his master's degree in collaborative piano from CIM and his bachelor's degree in piano performance from Bob Jones University. He won concerto competitions at both schools and was a two-time prizewinner in CIM's Milhaud Competition. Upon graduating with his master's degree, he received CIM's Rosa Lobe Memorial Award for the highest level of achievement in the collaborative piano department. Choral accompanying forms a large part of Bernhardt's work. Since arriving in Cleveland in 2017, he has worked extensively as a collaborative pianist for the Cleveland Orchestra Choruses. He is also passionate about orchestral playing and performs with the Canton and Firelands symphonies. During the 2022-23 season, Bernhardt made his concerto debut with the Asheville Symphony and performed with members of The Cleveland Orchestra and CIM faculty for his final DMA lecture-recital. For two years during his DMA studies, he taught music theory to non-majors at Case Western Reserve University. Bernhardt resides in Cleveland with his wife Joanna, and their sons Freddie and Andrew. He enjoys reading, playing cribbage, and being involved in his church.