

Ezequiel Menéndez

Ezequiel Menéndez has been the Director of Music for the Archdiocese of Hartford and the Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Hartford, Connecticut since 1998. In addition, Ezequiel holds additional organist posts including Chapel Organist at Ethel Walker School, Simsbury, Connecticut, since 1994 and Music Coordinator at the University of Saint Joseph, West Hartford, since 2011. Dr. Menéndez is the Professor of Organ at Central Connecticut State University, where he established the Organ Department in 2013. In November of 2018, Dr. Menéndez was named *Distinguished Scholar in Residence* as Organ Professor in the Department of Music at the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Massachusetts.

During his tenure at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Ezequiel has established a music program that has become one of the largest in Connecticut, encompassing multiple choirs, a resident orchestra, Soli Deo Gloria, and an active concert series, *Sacred Sounds*. He co-founded Hartford Concerts for Charities, which has raised money both to rebuild Sri Lanka and to benefit local charities, of which the Rotary Club International made him a Paul Harris Fellow. In addition, Ezequiel was recently honored by The State of Connecticut as an immigrant who has contributed greatly to the community. Being an ardent advocate of the pipe organ, Ezequiel has acted as an organ consultant for dozens of churches in Connecticut and, due to his efforts; many now own new or relocated pipe organs.

A native of Argentina, Menéndez graduated from the Conservatorio Gilardo Gilardi in Argentina as Professor Superior de Organo. In 1992, he received his Master of Music degree from Yale University under the tutelage of Thomas Murray. Yale awarded him the highest prizes given to an organist, the Charles Ives Scholarship, and the Julia Sherman Prize for Excellence in Organ Playing. Other awards include the E. Power Biggs Fellowship and the Vivian E. Smith Scholarship. In May of 2006, he received the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Boston University.

He remains an active recitalist and has concertized widely throughout Europe and the Americas, including the national and regional conventions of the American Guild of Organists, The Organ Historical Society, and the National Convention of Cathedral Musicians. Menéndez has performed as soloist with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, Orquesta Estable del Teatro Argentino, New Haven Symphony Orchestra, Orquesta Estable del Teatro Colon, Orquesta de Camara de la Municipalidad de La Plata, and the Hartt Orchestra at the University of Hartford. He has been an adjudicator for several national and international competitions, including the American Guild of Organist Regional Competition and the Kaliningrad International Organ Competition in Russia.

Recent recordings include Ezequiel Menéndez, Live in Notre Dame, Paris, *French Music at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph* and *Ezequiel Menéndez, LIVE*, the latter featuring pre-Bach era compositions recorded at the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Massachusetts. Both have been widely acclaimed. In 2009, the Boston Chapter of the American Guild of Organists chose Dr. Menéndez to perform Mendelsohn's Six Sonatas, Opus 65 to mark the composer's 200th birthday: they were recorded on the famous Flentrop organ in Busch Hall at Harvard University. Ezequiel Menéndez lives in Avon, Connecticut with his wife, Mercedes Featherston, and their four children: Cecilia, Madeleine, Ezekiel and Nicholas.