

# BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

## R. JELANI EDDINGTON

During the years that Jelani Eddington has given concerts, he has easily established himself as one of the most prominent and sought-after artists on the concert circuit. Jelani has performed at virtually all of the major concert venues throughout the United States, has toured extensively abroad, and has received numerous awards and recognitions, including his selection as the *2001 Theatre Organist Of The Year*.

Jelani Eddington was born in Muncie, Indiana to Louise Eddington and the late Robert Eddington and grew up in a very musical family. Between the interests of his mother, a professional music teacher of many years, and those of his grandmother, Florence Arnold, a well-respected piano instructor, it was no surprise when Jelani demonstrated an inclination toward music at a very early age.

Shortly after beginning piano instruction at the age of four, Jelani began studying classical piano under the direction of his grandmother. At the age of eight, a trip to hear Wurlitzer organ at the Paramount Music Palace in Indianapolis introduced Jelani to the sounds of the theatre pipe organ. Soon thereafter, he began to pursue classical organ lessons and ultimately began studying theatre organ under the direction of John Ferguson, whose skills as a theatre organ instructor have been highly acclaimed internationally.

At the age of 13, Jelani won the American Theatre Organ Society's *Young Theatre Organist Competition*, prevailing over competitors ages 13-21 from the United States, England, Australia, and New Zealand. Jelani remains the youngest competitor ever to win this title. Jelani went on to graduate *Magna Cum Laude* from Indiana University in 1996, and later

received a *Juris Doctor* degree from the Yale Law School in 1999, and was thereafter admitted to practice law in the states of New York and Wisconsin.

During the course of his concert career, Jelani has been featured at numerous national and regional conventions of the American Theatre Organ Society, and has toured extensively throughout the world, including numerous concert appearances in the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Europe. He has also accompanied numerous silent films, and in 2007, Jelani accompanied the classic film, *The Hunchback Of Notre Dame*, for an international organ festival in Lupua, Finland.

In addition to his work as an organist, Jelani has also distinguished himself as a concert pianist, appearing as a guest pianist for performances of various well-known piano concerti, including the Rachmaninoff *Piano Concerto #2 in C-Minor*, the Grieg *Piano Concerto in A-Minor*, George Gershwin's *Rhapsody In Blue*, and Leroy Anderson's *Piano Concerto in C-Major*.

Jelani has also produced and marketed numerous theatre organ albums on some of the best-known and most dynamic instruments in the country. In August 2001, the American Theatre Organ Society honored Jelani's extensive career as a concert and recording organist by naming him the *2001 Theatre Organist Of The Year*—the organization's most prestigious honor for theatre organists.