

Kola Owolabi: Kelty Organ Recital
Associate Professor, University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, MI
Saturday, March 25, 2017 at 7:30 PM

Kola Owolabi is associate professor of Organ at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. There he teaches courses in organ, improvisation, and sacred music. From 2006 to 2014, he taught at Syracuse University and served as University organist. He also held positions as sub dean and dean of the Syracuse Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Dr. Owolabi has had an active career as a solo recitalist, including performances at St. Thomas Church Fifth Avenue in New York, St. James Episcopal Church in Los Angeles, The Memorial Art Gallery in Rochester, NY, St. Paul's Anglican Church in Toronto, Cornell University, Pacific Lutheran University, and The University of Notre Dame. International venues include the University of the West Indies in Mona, Jamaica and Église du Bouclier in Strasbourg, France. He was a featured performer at the American Guild of Organists National Convention in Boston in June 2014, performing three recitals at Methuen Memorial Music Hall. Owolabi also performed a concert for the Organ Historical Society Convention in Syracuse in August 2014. He has performed numerous concerts as organist and harpsichordist with the Grammy-nominated vocal ensemble Seraphic Fire and Firebird Chamber Orchestra, based in Miami, FL.

Owolabi is a published composer and has received commissions from the Royal Canadian College of Organists and the Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto. His solo organ composition Dance was selected for the Royal Canadian College of Organists National Competition in August 2013, where all of the finalists performed this composition. His choral works have been performed internationally by ensembles such as the Santa Cruz Chorale, CA, Nashville Chamber Singers, Illinois Wesleyan University Choir, and the Elmer Isler Singers in Toronto.

In 2002, Owolabi was awarded second prize and audience prize at the American Guild of Organists National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance. He holds degrees in organ performance and choral conducting from McGill University, Montréal, Yale University, and Eastman School of Music. Owolabi's former teachers have included Bruce Wheatcroft, John Grew, Martin Jean, Thomas Murray, Hans Davidsson, and William Porter.