ARTIST OF THE YEAR 2017 – JENNIFER BOWER

Jennifer Bower's enthusiasm for diverse repertoire is imbued in her work as a soloist as well as in collaborations with various orchestras, chamber ensembles, and soloists across the US, Canada, and China. She has premiered a number of pieces for organ and harpsichord, including the first public U.S. performance of Laudes, Jean-Louis Florentz's majestic seven-movement opus for organ.

Her musicianship is rooted in the symbiotic, physical relationship between historical instrument and player, a relationship informed by experience with period instruments and concepts of embodiment drawn from historical performance practices. During her time at Oberlin, Jenny studied harpsichord with Webb Wiggins, and organ with James David Christie, Olivier Latry, and Mme. Marie-Louise Langlais, ultimately completing a master's degree through which she explored the performance practice of rhythmic inequality within early baroque Spanish keyboard sources.

After completing dual degrees in geology and historical keyboard performance, Jenny has enjoyed keeping a foot in two worlds, allowing her to thrive as an accomplished scientist and musician. Within these respective spheres, she has competed as a semifinalist in the 2016 Jurow International Harpsichord Competition, studied lead speciation within urban soils at the Advanced Photon Source, and performed regularly as a member of the Shanghai Camerata.

Since completing a master's degree in Geology at the University of Vermont in May of 2017, she has enjoyed working as a data tinkerer for the State of Vermont, while performing weekly on an 1879 Hook and Hastings organ in Vergennes, a vibrant church community near the Green Mountains.