

Los Angeles

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

presents

BACH FESTIVAL

Program III

Wednesday March 8 1950

Bovard Auditorium 8:30 p.m.

Series 64 Number 30



PROGRAM

MARILYN MASON, *organ*

Guest Artist

Prelude and Fugue in G Major

Allegro (Trio Sonata 5)

Two Chorale Preludes

If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

INTERMISSION

Prelude and Fugue in D Major

Sinfonia from Cantata No. 156, *I Stand at the Threshold*

Toccatina and Fugue in D Minor

PROGRAM NOTES

Prelude and Fugue in G Major

The Prelude and Fugue in G Major, written in 1724, is a bold and striking work. Not only are the two movements alike in mood, but, what is even more unusual in the organ preludes and fugues, they have a thematic connection. The fugue subject is anticipated in the rhythm of the little theme of the prelude. Schweitzer states that this work is "eloquent with a great and serene confidence that banishes care from troubled hearts."

Allegro (Trio Sonata 5)

The charm of the sonatas, written for Wilhelm Friedemann, Bach's son, lies chiefly in their melodiousness, their close and animated interplay of voices, and the beautiful ease and flow of the polyphony. Parry says of them, "The sonatas present a polyphonic texture of the very first quality, and there are few works of Bach that are more delicately poised or more subtly finished." And Schweitzer says, "For the connoisseur there is hardly a purer aesthetic delight than to pursue these three contrapuntal lines—free and yet so bound by the laws of beauty—through their delightful intertwining, to say nothing of the perfection of the themes."

Two Chorale Preludes

If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee

In his later years Bach prepared organ arrangements of six chorales from his cantatas for the publisher of Zelle, Herr Schubler. This was his first group of works to be published. The first chorale, one of the six "Schubler," is an arrangement of a duet from the cantata of the same name.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

The striking hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" is a free translation of Psalm 46 and was written by Martin Luther in 1529. It became the battle song of the Reformation. This melody, one of the few written by Luther, was adapted from the Roman Gradual and published in 1531.

Prelude and Fugue in D Major

The Prelude is composed in French overture style, with a slow and stately opening, followed by a main section which is faster and polyphonic in character; the final bars conclude with a return to the original mood and idea of almost improvisatory nature.

The Fugue is predominantly a scherzo—very bright and gay. In spite of the constant use of this light style to the end, a very definite climax is attained.

Sinfonia from Cantata No. 156, *I Stand at the Threshold*

The theme of this work was used not only in the cantata but also in the slow movement of the F-Minor Piano Concerto.

Toccatà and Fugue in D Minor

Schweitzer says, "In the D Minor Toccata and Fugue the strong and ardent spirit has finally realized the laws of form. A single dramatic ground-thought unites the daring passage work of the toccata, that seems to pile up like wave on wave, and in the fugue the intercalated passages in broken chords only serve to make the climax all the more powerful."