

CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Brooklyn New York

Advent Organ Recitals

1951

Wednesdays Evenings at 8:30

December 5, 12, and 19

December 12th



MARILYN MASON

CONCERTO DEL SIGNOR TORELLI

Johann Gottfried Walther

WEIHNACHTEN ("Christmas Eve")

Max Reger

CHORALE PRELUDE

Max Reger

"Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken"

LA NATIVITÉ DU SEIGNEUR (The Birth of the Lord) *Olivier Messiaen*

- I La Vierge et l'Enfant (The Virgin and the Child)
- II Les Bergers (The Shepherds)
- III Desseins Éternels (Eternal Purposes)
- IV Le Verbe (The Word)
- V Les Enfants de Dieu (God's Children)
- VI Les Anges (The Angels)
- VII Jésus Accepte la Souffrance (Jesus Accepts Sorrow)
- VIII Les Mages (The Wise Men)
- IX Dieu Parmi Nous (God Among Us)

Olivier Messiaen, one of the leading composers in France today, is a faculty member at the Conservatoire in Paris, and in 1949 taught at the Berkshire Festival in Massachusetts. Of him, Francis Poulenc said said: "Messiaen is, beyond all doubt, the most curious of French musicians since 1940. One may either like his music or hate it, but one cannot deny it. Rid of commentaries, this music is simply very beautiful music."

In this work, each of the nine "Meditations" presents a vivid and colorful suggestion of a significant moment or aspect in Christ's coming to dwell among men.

Olivier Messiaen is a distinctive figure on the musical horizon today. An impressionist, he carries on the heritage of Debussy and Ravel. Messiaen is a deeply religious man and has said that, to him, "composing is an act of faith". Much of his music is inspired by Biblical texts and incidents from the scriptures. In his suite, "The Birth of the Lord", he has notated short passages which tend to make the music more lucid.

I The Virgin and the Child

"For unto us a Child is born, a Son is given.... Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem. Behold, thy King cometh unto thee; He is just, and having salvation...."

Isaiah 9:6; Zechariah 9:9

II The Shepherds

"Having seen the babe lying in the manger, the shepherds returned, glorifying God and praising Him...."

Luke 2:20

III Eternal Purposes

"He foreordained us to become his sons through Jesus Christ, in fulfilment of his generous purpose, so that we might praise the splendid blessing which he has given us through his beloved Son."

Ephesians 1:5

IV The Word

"He said to me, 'You are my son; Today have I begotten you'. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...."

Psalms 2, 109; John 1:1

V God's Children

"But to all who did receive Him and believe in Him he gave the right to become the children of God....And because you are sons, God has sent into our hearts the spirit of his Son, with the cry, 'Father! Father!'"

John 1:12; Galatians 4:6

VI The Angels

"Suddenly there appeared a throng of the heavenly army, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in heaven and on earth....'"

Luke 2:13

VII Jesus Accepts Sorrow

"When He cometh into the world He saith to the Father, 'Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body didst thou prepare for me....Lo, I am come to do thy will, O Father....'"

Hebrews 10:5

VIII The Wise Men

"So they obeyed the king and went, and the star which they had seen rise led them on until it reached the place where the child was...."

Matthew 2:9

IX God Among Us

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth....My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour...."

John 1:14; Luke 1:46