

# American Guild of Organists

Oklahoma City Chapter



PRESENTS THE

DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN ORGANIST

## Marilyn Mason

FACULTY UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

IN

## Concert

*Crown Heights Christian Church*

4020 NORTH WESTERN AVENUE

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

*March 5, 1954*

## Program

### Allegro (Concerto IV)

The Organ Concertos of Handel were written for organ and string orchestra. They were played and conducted by Handel himself at the Hay-Market Theatre in London.

Handel  
(1685-1759)

### "I Stand At the Threshold" (Sinfonia, Cantata 152)

The word "sinfonia" was used by Bach to designate that music, in his choral works, which was completely instrumental. The "sinfonia" is a forerunner in its form of our "symphony" today.

Bach wrote over 295 church cantatas, of which 190 have survived. This composition, the "sinfonia" or opening movement of Cantata 152, is a work of quiet, restrained, introspective nature, one which is forward looking in its idea.

J. S. Bach  
(1685-1750)

### Toccatà and Fugue In D Minor

The works of Bach form the "rock" of organ literature. This great Toccatà and Fugue is brilliant, dynamic and dramatic.

With the opening notes, one is struck by the fiery and tempestuous music of the Toccatà, by its intense and massive chordal structures, its brilliant, recitative-like passages.

The Fugue, with its quietly flowing subject, progresses smoothly along its way. In the development section, Bach employs the idea of "echo" passages, where one voice answers another with the same material, but with a different sound. The Fugue grows and grows, until eventually it is interrupted by a massive cadenza, completely in the spirit of the Toccatà, and the music ends with an irresistible driving sweep of rhythm.

J. S. Bach  
(1685-1750)

### \* Three Dances

#### Passepied Sarabande Gavotte

The Passepied ("to pass the foot") was a dance in quick three-quarter time which was greatly in vogue at the French court of Louis XIV.

The Sarabande was a seventeenth century dance in slow triple meter, and of very dignified expression.

The Gavotte is fast, bright and gay, and comes from the provinces of France.

These Dances were written by Rameau for small string orchestra, but are heard in organ arrangement by Marilyn Mason.

Rameau  
(1683-1750)

## Program

### Fantasy on "Ein' Feste Burg"

Max Reger

(1873-1916)

Max Reger is probably the greatest composer for the organ in Germany since Bach. This work is a fantasy on the famous hymn, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," a tune generally attributed to Luther and which first appeared in a German hymnal as early as 1529. The theme appears here in a variety of ways, and Reger, with his bold harmonies, brilliant figurations, elaborate progressions, seems to pay dynamic tribute to Martin Luther — and the Reformation.

## INTERMISSION

### \* Quiet Design (1953)

The composer has subtitled this work "Music for Meditation." It has been recorded by Marilyn Mason on Remington Records, and is dedicated to her.

Normand  
Lockwood

### Roulade (1920)

A roulade is a musical term referring to a series of short, running notes.

Seth Bingham

### \* Two Preludes

Searle Wright

#### Brother James' Air (1951)

#### Greensleeves (1950)

### \* Epilogue (for pedal solo) 1952 Jean Langlais

### \* Suite For Organ (1948)

Edmond

#### Promenade Air Toccata

Haines

Dr. Haines is a member of the music faculty of Sarah Lawrence College, New York. Concerning this Suite he says: "The Promenade depicts a sophisticated young lady gaily tripping down Fifth Avenue on Easter Sunday, resplendent in her new dress, and carrying a red striped parasol. The Air is the song she sings when sad, and the Toccata is a bright and happy ending for the story." This Suite won the American Guild of Organist's composition award in 1948.

### \* First Performance in Okla. City

### ‡ Dedicated To Marilyn Mason