



Traditional

VESPER MUSICALE

Sigma Alpha Iota

Twenty-eighth Triennial
National Convention

The National Presbyterian Church
Washington, D. C.
August 19, 1956
Five O'clock

The Vesper Musicale

is

lovingly dedicated

to

OUR FOUNDERS

MARY STORRS ANDERSEN*

ELIZABETH CAMPBELL*

FRANCES CASPARI*

NORA CRANE HUNT*

LEILA FARLIN LAUGHLIN*

GEORGINA POTTS

MINNIE DAVIS SHERRILL

*Deceased

Meditation

"If this be the hour in which I lift my lantern, it is not my flame that shall burn therein. The Guardian of the night shall fill it with oil and He shall light it also."

—KAHLIL GIBRAN

PROGRAM

Organ Meditation

Concerto del Signor Torelli¹.....*Johann Gottfried Walther*

Message—"The Priceless Gift".....*KATHLEEN DAVISON*
National President

Prelude and Fugue in D Major¹.....*J. S. Bach*

Cantilene (Suite Brève).....*Jean Langlais*

Épilogue (pour solo pedale).....*Jean Langlais*

MARILYN MASON, Organist

Intrada.....*Desplanes*

Nigun.....*Bloch*

Vivace ma non troppo.....*Brahms*

From Sonata in C Major, Op. 78

KEES KOOPER, Violinist

MARY LOUISE BOEHM, Pianist

We Sing To Him.....*Purcell*

Benedictio Nuptialis².....*Richard Felciano*

I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes.....*Leo Sowerby*

Psaume XXXIV.....*Arthur Honegger*

Psaume CXL.....*Arthur Honegger*

Psaume CXXXVIII.....*Arthur Honegger*

RACHEL KOERNER, Contralto

THEODORE SCHAEFER, Organist

Chorale Prelude, O Mensch beweine dein'

Sunde Gross³ (1956).....*Dika Newlin*

Dieu parmi nous (La Nativité du Seigneur).....*Olivier Messiaen*

MARILYN MASON, Organist

¹Recorded on Aeolian-Skinner label, Volume VII

²Manuscript

³Premiere

The Vesper Musicale has been planned under the leadership of the fraternity's National Editor.

Ushers for the Vesper Musicale are members of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

The National Presbyterian Church

CONNECTICUT AVENUE AT N STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON

The church home of our Nation's President, Dwight D. Eisenhower, The National Presbyterian Church is founded upon two historic congregations—The First Presbyterian Church in the District of Columbia, which originated in a carpenter shop on the White House grounds in 1795, and the Church of the Covenant, which was established on this site in 1883.

A creation of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America with the approval of the Presbytery of Washington City, The National Presbyterian Church is both a parish Church and the representative Church of the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America in the Nation's Capital.

The Church edifice holds much of historical import, and the influences of the Church on our nation's life have been and are far-reaching. Bearing the original plate "The President", and brought to this Church from the old First Presbyterian Church, the old "President's pew" is located on the right of the pulpit. It was occupied by Presidents Jackson, Polk, Pierce, Buchanan and Cleveland and by Vice Presidents Colfax and Hobart. President Benjamin Harrison had his own pew, No. 43. It is located on the left side of the center aisle. The front pew on the left is that of Ulysses S. Grant. President Eisenhower occupies pew No. 41, on the left side of the center aisle.

Secretaries James G. Blaine, John W. Foster, and John Hay were elders in this congregation. Cabinet officers John Wanamaker, William Windon, Robert Lansing and Henry L. Stimson were members of the Church, the latter two holding offices in the Church. Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States—Henry B. Brown, Stanley Matthews and William Strong were members of the Church.

Worshipping here at present are Secretary John Foster Dulles, Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield, several Assistant Secretaries, and the Director of the F.B.I., J. Edgar Hoover. Until his recent resignation, Secretary Douglas McKay also worshipped here. Space does not permit the listing of the many Senators, Congressmen, Judges, and Diplomats among our illustrious leaders of the past and the many of the present who have been and are associated with this Church, or are active Presbyterian leaders generally. The inventor, Alexander Graham Bell, was a member of the congregation. His pew may now be seen occupied by his descendants.

In the National Presbyterian Church today, many eminent Presbyterians are memorialized in windows, plaques, memorial pews and statuary. The exquisite Dahlgren windows are among the finest in Washington, and are a memorial to Admiral John A. Dahlgren, elder and Church School Superintendent. A memorial to Dr. Sheldon Jackson, famed medical missionary, has been established by his two daughters, who have been active members of the Church.

In the Church Hall is the handsome old pulpit from The First Presbyterian Church from which eminent preachers and laymen have spoken, including Dr. J. Henry Jowett, Dr. Henry Ward Beecher, Dr. Henry Van Dyke, Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, and Dr. T. DeWitt Talmadge, a pastor for a number of years.

In the chancel of the Church, the communion table and the lecturn are made of wood from the cedars of Lebanon. The depositories of the church hold personal pew rental accounts of Presidents, old newspapers, photographs and books, and communion vessels more than a century old.

In front of the Church stands the statue of Rev. John Witherspoon. First moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly, he was the only clergyman to sign the Declaration of Independence. The monument was erected by action of the Congress.

Sigma Alpha Iota is deeply grateful to the officials of The National Presbyterian Church for the rare privilege of holding its National Convention Vesper Musicale in this historic House of Worship.