

Marilyn Mason

ORGANIST

IN RECITAL

NATIONAL CITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Thomas Circle, N.W. - Washington, D.C.

Sunday, January 9, 1977
8:00 p.m.

SUITE FOR ORGAN (1948)..... Edmund Haines
Promenade (1914-1975)
Air
Toccata

This work won the American Guild of Organists' composition prize in 1948. It was commissioned by Marilyn Mason and is dedicated to her.

MAGNIFICAT DU HUITIEME TON EN SOL MAJEUR Le Clerc
Plein Jeu (?)
Duo
Jeu du Clarion
Flutte
Musette
Grand Jeu

The Magnificat (Hymn of the Virgin) comes from St. Luke's gospel. Although it was usually sung, the practice of performing alternate verses with the organ began in the 17th Century. Because there were twelve verses in the Magnificat, composers would write six verses for organ alone. Here LeClerc utilizes the 8th tone as his melodic source. The work was obtained from the British Museum and edited for performance by Marilyn Mason.

EINIGE CANONISHE VERANDERUNGEN UBER DAS WEIHNACHTSLIED...J. S. Bach
"Vom Himmel hoch da komm ich her" (1685-1750)
I. In Canone all'Ottava
II. Alio modo in Canone alla quinta
III. In Canone alla Settima
IV. In Canone all'Ottava per augmentationem
V. L'altra sorte del Canone rovescio:
1. alla Sesta 3. alla Seconda
2. alla Terza 4. alla Nona

In 1747 Bach was invited to become a member of the Mizler Society, an organization founded by a Leipzig musician of the same name. This Society devoted itself to the study of music in its various scientific aspects. Each new member was asked to submit a self portrait in oils and an original composition. We owe to this requirement one of the last portraits of Bach as well as one of his most esoteric compositions.

INTERMISSION

PASTORALE (1909)Jean-Jules Roger-Ducasse
(1873-1954)

"The Pastorale for organ, written in 1909, is dedicated to Mlle. Nadia Boulanger and was given the first performance April 20, 1910, by Alexander Guilmant. It is a work of charming and graceful construction and the reflective mood which pervades throughout captivates irresistibly....The sonority attained through the registration, the various canons (in two, three and four parts, distributed among the manuals in different rhythms), and the organistic writing, are all exquisite. The end, with its attenuated feeling, is of exceeding beauty. One regrets this charming pastorale is almost inaccessible because of its difficulty of execution. The intricate writing and the registrational demands (are two requirements) to which many instruments cannot do justice."

-From Roger-Ducasse, Le Musicien L'Oeuvre by Laurent Cellier

SAILING TO BYZANTIUM for Organ and Electronic

Tape (1973) Alden Ashforth
(1933-)

Miss Mason commissioned this work by Alden Ashforth in 1973 and it is dedicated to her. Mr. Ashforth writes: "Yeats' poem, Sailing to Byzantium, expresses a desire to leave behind the transient temporal sensual world and retreat to the eternal world of the spirit, of art and of intellect: the artifice of eternity. His image of this unaging realm, 'the holy city of Byzantium,' was inspired by reading that in the Byzantine Emperor's palace there was a tree of singing birds entirely wrought of silver and gold. The notion of a voyage from nature to art, from the world of reality to an artificial world existing outside of real time, struck me as a provocative musical scenario.

"The piece is in four sections. The opening section, suggesting the temporal world of the senses, includes such real sounds as brooks and birds and a melody hummed by a lyric tenor (Dennis Heath). In the second section, where both organ and tape are in transition to a different sort of world, the electronic sounds are constituted of materials created by encephalo-electronic (biofeedback) means, whereby such dimensions as pitch, attack, and vibrato were produced by controlling synthesizers directly by my own brain waves (amplified up to a million times). In the third section the organ and tape achieve a condition of melodic and harmonic balance and stasis. The organ solo of the final section, transforming the opening melody through variation techniques, is ultimately joined by 'birds' that are entirely artificially wrought.

"The subjective process of psychological and spiritual transformation is the intended essence of this aural migration."

PAGEANT (1931)Leo Sowerby
(1895-1968)

Tonight's recital is played in honor of and is lovingly dedicated to the memory of Lilian Murtagh (1907 - 1976), concert manager for Dr. Mason and many other artists since 1930.

Dr. Mason's recital is the fourth of six inaugural events in celebration of the new Möller Organ, dedicated September 26, 1976. There are 105 ranks and 5,391 pipes. You are invited to the remaining two events: CLYDE HOLLOWAY, Sunday, February 6, 1977, 8:00 p.m. Tickets \$3.50. ROBERT BAKER, Sunday, March 13, 1977, 8:00 p.m. Tickets \$3.50.

You may greet the artist at the reception in Scott Hall following the recital.

A debt of \$80,000 remains on the new organ. If you wish to have a part in reducing this debt, your contribution of any size would be gratefully received. Checks should be made payable to "Organ Fund, National City Christian Church." Contributions are tax deductible.