

The Royal Canadian College of Organists
Hamilton Centre



presents
Organist

Marilyn Mason

Wellington Square United Church
Burlington, Ontario

Saturday, April 23, 1983

PROGRAMME

Magnificat.Jean François Dandrieu (1684-1740)

Premier Livre de Pièces d'Orgue

Plein Jeu

Duo

Tierce en Taille

Basse de Cromorne

Recit de Nazard

Dialogue

Alternatim (sung by the men of the Choir)

The Magnificat (Hymn of the Virgin Mary) 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.

Two Sonatas:

Sonata de primo Tono Organo con Trompeta RealJosé Lidon
(1752-1827)

José Lidon was a Spanish organist and composer. In 1787 he became organist of the royal chapel in Madrid. He composed much music for the church.

Sonata IV from Biblical HistoriesJohann Kuhnau (1660-1722)

"Ezechias sick unto death and recovered"

Johann Kuhnau was one of the notable German claviers composers before Bach. He became organist of St. Thomas' in Leipzig in 1684, founded a series of concerts in 1688, and became musical director of the University in 1700. He composed sacred and claviers works, including a set of six sonatas based on subjects from the Bible.

Toccata, Adagio, and Fugue, BWV 564J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

-- INTERMISSION --

Choral en Si MineurCésar Franck (1822-1890)

César Franck, through his teaching and influence as well as by his compositions, established a national school of organ music inspired by the highest ideals. He became organist at Ste. Clotilde in Paris in 1858. There is a particular appeal in the life of this Flemish genius who carried out his church duties and his teaching at the Conservatoire in a quiet, unostentatious manner, yet found time for original composition.

Three Gospel Preludes (1981) William Bolcom

Jesus Loves Me
Shall we Gather at the River?
Amazing Grace

William Bolcom is Professor of Composition at The University of Michigan. *Three Gospel Preludes* was commissioned by the Marilyn Mason Commissioning Fund and dedicated to Marilyn Mason. Tonight is the first performance of this work in the Hamilton area.

Pageant (1931) Leo Sowerby (1895-1968)

Leo Sowerby was born May 1, 1895, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. His father was English and his mother Canadian. He graduated from the American Conservatory in Chicago in 1918, and was the first American composer to be awarded the *Prix de Rome*, spending three years (1921-1924) in the Italian capital. For many years he was on the faculty of his *alma mater* as well as the Organist and Choirmaster at Saint James' Episcopal Church in Chicago. Later, and until his death in 1968, he was Director of the College of Church Musicians, attached to the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. Because of his prolific writings and his influence on his many students, Dr. Sowerby may be considered the dean of American composers for the organ.

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MARILYN MASON is University Organist and Chairman of the Organ Department of the University of Michigan. Her extensive career as concert organist, lecturer, adjudicator, and teacher has carried her throughout the Western World. She was the first American woman to play in Westminster Abbey, the first woman organist to play in Latin America, and the first American organist to play in Egypt. During one single year, invitations took her to five different continents. She has served as adjudicator at almost every major competition in the world.

Dr. Mason's dedication to contemporary music is evidenced in the thirty-five organ works which she has commissioned and premiered. Currently, she is pursuing her commitment to stylistic integrity through scholarly research into the construction and tonal design of historic European instruments. Recently four major study tours have focused on Baroque organs in France, North Germany, Saxony, and Spain.

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The Hamilton Centre, R.C.C.O., wishes to thank most sincerely the Rev. Barry Day, Minister, and Mr. Gordon Douglas, Organist, for their assistance in the use of Wellington Square United Church for the presentation of this concert.