

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

Presents

MARILYN MASON

in concert with

THE CHATTANOOGA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

conducted by Zelman Bokser

Saturday evening, February 2, 1985 8:00 p.m.

Sunday afternoon, February 3, 1985 3:00 p.m.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

—DEDICATORY PROGRAM—

Felix Mendelssohn The Hebrides (Fingal's Cave), op. 26

Francis Poulenc Organ Concerto, G minor

Marilyn Mason, Organist

INTERMISSION

J. S. Bach Prelude & Fugue in D Major, S. 532

Marilyn Mason, Organist

W.A. Mozart Symphony No. 41, K. 551, C Major
("Jupiter")

I. Allegro vivace

II. Andante cantabile

III. Menuetto: allegretto

IV. Molto: Allegretto

The Cassavant organ (opus 3,584) was built in 1984 and comprises 5,075 pipes (93 ranks) controlled by four manual console.

A reception will follow in the Key-Andrews hall.

The Chattanooga Symphony Orchestra is a member of the Allied Arts.

Pipe Organs At St. Paul's

By ALLEN CHESNEY

The superb new Casavant pipe organ at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Chattanooga, is the fourth that has been heard in the almost century-old nave. When the congregation moved to its new church home in 1888, an organ had already been installed at a cost of \$3,234.31. The fact that the Casavant organ cost some \$500,000 gives an indication of the economic inflation that has occurred over the years.

In the old, pre-Civil War St. Paul's building, the original instrument used for music was a melodeon that cost \$35!

By 1888, St. Paul's was already known for its excellent choir of men and boys and for the quality of its music. The choir had gone "coed" by 1901, when it comprised 23 boys, 10 men and 14 women. Dr. Edwin S. Lindsey writes in his *Centennial History of St. Paul's Episcopal Church* that the parish's organs gave "frequent cause for complaints and expensive repairs" until the installation of a modern Moller organ in 1950.

The 1888 organ on the Epistle side of the choir was utilized until 1915, when the parish at last received \$1,000 from the U.S. government for Civil War damage claims on the original building. These funds were used as seed money for the installation of a new Moller organ. Dr. Lindsey writes, "a three-manual Moller organ costing \$6,000 was ordered on June 14, 1915. Later the figure was raised to \$9,000."

The first Moller organ was dedicated at a recital on Feb. 15, 1916, in honor of those members of the parish who had lost their lives in the War Between the States 50 years earlier. Apparently, Confederate memories lived on, even while communicants of the parish were working to improve race relations in Chattanooga.

MANY ST. PAUL'S FOLKS will remember that the 1915 organ, with its great ranks of pipes on both sides of the choir, closely resembled the new Casavant instrument. However, the visible pipes were gilded, unlike the new organ's functional, silvery metal.

Blynn Owen, of the music department at the University of Chattanooga, served as organist and choirmaster from 1923 to 1941, and was much beloved by members of the parish.

By the end of World War II, the vestry recognized that the 30-year-old Moller organ was no longer adequate to the needs of the church. In December, 1945, under the leadership of William S. Keese, a contract was signed with the Aeolian-Skinner company for an organ to cost \$36,200. However, the firm was swamped by a backlog of prewar orders, and the contract specifications proved impractical. In July 1949, the parish and Aeolian-Skinner canceled the contract by mutual agreement.

In October 1949, the parish signed a contract for a second Moller organ with an estimated cost of \$50,000. Tom Alexander, then organist and choirmaster, wrote the specifications for the instrument

Dr. Lindsey, then chairman of the music committee, sums up the arrival of the 1950 organ thus: "After a vexatious delay of nearly five years, a splendid new organ was installed in the fall of 1950 and played for the first time in a service on Sunday, November 19." The new instrument had three manuals, 62 stops and 3,195 pipes. In the fashion of the time, its pipes were concealed behind fabric screens.

"Over \$50,000" in income from the Nieland endowment fund was used to pay for the Moller organ, which was dedicated on Dec. 10, 1950, in honor of Mrs. Helen A. Nieland.

Having been paid for in 1950, the second Moller organ was used for 34 years, under the musical direction of Tom Alexander, Paul Anderson, John Hooker and Dr. William B. Knaus.

THE CASAVANT ORGAN was first officially used for worship at the Thanksgiving service on Nov. 22, 1984. There have also been a number of impromptu mini-recitals, with Dr. Knaus at the keyboard playing for appreciative members of the choir, the parish and other music lovers. No doubt the instrument will continue to provide such special moments in old St. Paul's.

T.D. Harden chaired the committee that made arrangements for the new organ, financed primarily from the Hansel King trust fund. Clifford A. Betts Jr. oversaw the technical installation. Other members of the committee were Esther Duncan, Betsy Pierce, Andy Scott and Bill Knaus.

The firm of Casavant Freres, Quebec, Canada, was chosen to build the organ. During this period, 1983-84, the Rev. John H. Bonner Jr. was rector, and Tom Kale and Michael A. Patten served as senior wardens.

Independent consultants for the organ work were Dr. Robert G. Delcamp of the University of the South and John Brock of the music faculty at UT-Knoxville. David Klepper of White Plains, N.Y., did an acoustical study of the building.

The Casavant organ has 5,075 pipes, 93 ranks and 63 stops, with a 4-manual main console, according to Dr. Knaus. The largest pipes in the choir are 18 feet long. The organ has five divisions, including the antiphonal division in the narthex balcony. The antiphonal assemblage can be played either from the main console in the choir or from a special console in the balcony.

Distinctive features of the organ also include the *trompette en chamade*, the horizontal trumpets flaring from the narthex balcony. The *clochettes*, five tuned brass rods, give a tinkling sound. The *cromorne* rank and tubular chimes from the 1950 Moller organ were retained.

The consoles' natural keys are ebony wood, and the sharp keys are rosewood with ivory caps, Dr. Knaus said. The stop knobs and couplers are rosewood, and the stops can also be controlled with electric buttons between the console manuals. There are digital clocks on both consoles.

On Sept. 7, 1986, St. Paul's parish will celebrate the centennial of the laying of the cornerstone. Through the years, the church's walls have seen four pipe organs played to the glory of God — Sunday after Sunday, day after day. We can hope that the new Casavant instrument will inspire worship and bring musical pleasure for decades to come.