



THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MARILYN MASON
Organist

Friday, October 2, 1987
Blanche Anderson Moore Hall
8:30 p.m.

PROGAM

MUSIC OF JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

Youthful Works

Pedal exercitium g-moll, BWV 598
In dulci jubio, BWV 751

Bach in Arnstadt (1704-1707)

Nun freut euch, liebe Christen g'mein, BWV 734

Bach in Muhlhausen (1707)

Ein' feste Burg ist unser Gott, BWV 720

The Weimar Period (1708-1717)

Toccatà and Fugue in D Minor, BWV 565

MARILYN MASON

Marilyn Mason is University of Michigan 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. Marilyn Mason's dedication to contemporary music is evidenced in the 40 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 fourteen research tours have focused on historic organs in France, North Germany, Saxony, and Spain. Her discography includes music of Bach, Handel, Mondonville and contemporary composers on Columbia and Musical Heritage labels.

ABOUT THE ORGAN AND ITS BUILDERS

For many years University of Michigan organ faculty and students have expressed a strong need for a baroque recital and teaching instrument that could most authentically serve the monumental compositions for organ by J.S. Bach and other early composers. Acquisition of such an instrument became possible through a very generous gift from Judith Barnett Metz in honor of Marilyn Mason, and with further substantial support from the Executive Officers of the University.

As a result of exhaustive research and consultation among members of the School of Music organ faculty and C.B. Fisk, Inc., of Gloucester, Massachusetts, it was mutually agreed that the instruments of Gottfried Silbermann (1683-1753) should be the models upon which the Michigan organ would be based. Silbermann was a contemporary of Bach; in fact, Bach played upon many Silbermann organs and praised them.

The Michigan organ does not replicate any single Silbermann instrument, of which there are twenty-eight extant, all but one in East Germany. Rather, it takes the best of what he offered in his medium-sized instruments and is totally in the aesthetic spirit and within the mechanical capabilities of Silbermann. The Michigan organ bears the closest resemblance to the instrument built by Silbermann for the Georgenkirche in Rotha, East Germany. It is number 87 in the Fisk series, which includes installations at Harvard, Stanford, and Yale. The organ specifications are as follows:

HAUPTWERK			PEDAL	
1. Bordun	16'	lowest 1-1/2 octaves of wood; remainder of lead	23. Principalbass	16' wood
2. Principal	8'	tin	24. Octavenbass	8' wood
3. Rohrflote	8'	lead	25. Octavenbass	4' lead
4. Octava	4'	tin	26. Posaunenbass	16' wood
5. Spitzflote	4'	tin	27. Trommetenbass	8' tin
6. Quinta	3'	tin		
7. Octava	2'	tin	Tremulant	
8. Mixtur	V	tin	Klingel	Which rings a small bell for the calcant (pumper)
9. Cornet	III	tin	Couplers:	Oberwerk to Hauptwerk Hauptwerk to Pedal Oberwerk to Pedal
10. Trommete	8'	tin	Key Action:	Direct mechanical, suspended
OBERWERK			Stop Action:	Direct mechanical
11. Gcdackt	8'	lowest octave of wood; remainder of lead	Thirty-five ranks	
12. Quintadena	8'	tin	Twenty-seven voices	
13. Principal	4'	tin	Number of pipes:	1,816
14. Rohrflote	4'	lead	Manual compass:	56 notes
15. Nasat	3'	lead	Pedal compass:	30 notes
16. Octava	2'	tin	Temperament:	One-fifth-comma modified meantone at A=440
17. Gemshorn	2'	tin	Winding systems:	a) hand-pumped b) .7 hp electric blower
18. Tertia	1-3/5'	tin	Wind pressure:	75mm
19. Quinta	1-1/2'	tin		
20. Sifflet	1'	tin		
21. Mixtur	III	tin		
22. Chalumeau	8'	tin		

FUTURE RECITAL

Marilyn Mason
November 1, 1987
4:00 p.m.