

Marilyn Mason's recital for the International Performer of the Year Award was presented on 10 May 1988 at The Riverside Church.

[Click here to see the actual program with notes. \(PDF\)](#)

[Click here](#) and [here](#) to hear two programs featuring performances by Marilyn Mason and conversation with Michael Barone on Pipedreams.

# Marilyn Mason

## Organist

The Riverside Church  
Tuesday, 10 May 1988  
8.00 pm

### PROGRAM

*Music Commissioned and Premiered by Marilyn Mason*

**Michael McCabe**  
(b. 1941)

**Flourish and Chorale (1987) \***

**Edmund Haines**  
(1914-1974)

**Suite for Organ (1947)**

- I. Promenade
- II. Air
- III. Toccata

**William Albright**  
(b. 1944)

**Organbook II (1971)**

- I. Night Procession
- II. Toccata Satanique
- III. Last Rites (with electronic tape)

**Alec Wyton**  
(b. 1921)

**Dithyramb (1960)**

**William Bolcom**  
(b. 1938)

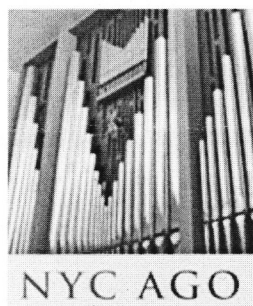
**Gospel Preludes, Book IV (1984) \***

- I. Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child
- II. Sweet Hour of Prayer
- III. Fantasy on "O Zion Haste"  
and "How Firm a Foundation"

\* *New York Premiere*

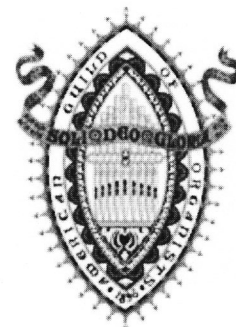
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## Marilyn Mason International Performer of the Year 1988

2015 Daniel Roth  
2012 Thomas Trotter  
2011 Stephen Tharp  
2010 Gerre Hancock  
2009 Olivier Latry  
2005 John Weaver  
2002 Frederick Swann  
1999 Jon Gillock  
1998 John Scott  
1997 Robert Glasgow  
1988 Marilyn Mason  
1987 Simon Preston  
1986 Thomas Murray  
1985 Luigi F. Tagliavini  
1984 Marie-Claire Alain  
1983 David Craighead  
1982 Jean Guillou  
1981 Gillian Weir  
1979 Catharine Crozier  
1978 Robert Noehren

Among the important influences on the American organ scene in the second half of the 20th century, **Marilyn Mason** certainly has made a lasting impact in her distinguished career as concert organist, lecturer, adjudicator, teacher, organ consultant, recording artist, and by the nearly 75 organ works she has commissioned. Her name commands immediate recognition among organists today, confirming her impact more than 50 years after she made her debut.

Dr. Mason is University Organist, Professor of Music, and Chairman of the Organ Department of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Her affiliation with Michigan began in 1944 as she began her undergraduate studies there under Palmer Christian, later completing her M.Mus degree. And, except for a year spent in France, where she studied under Nadia Boulanger (analysis) and Maurice Duruflé (organ) and time studying for her Doctor of Sacred Music degree at Union Theological seminary in New York, she has spent her entire career in Ann Arbor. Dr. Mason has been consistently recognized by the faculty: first, as an undergraduate, she was awarded the Stanley Medal, the highest award given to any music major. Later, in her teaching career, her colleagues presented her with the Distinguished Faculty Award, and music alumni awarded her the first Citation of Merit. During her time at Michigan, annual summer and fall organ music conferences have become regular highlights, she has led organ tours abroad to see and hear historic organs, and the Marilyn Mason Organ was installed in a specifically-built recital hall. The organ, built by C. B. Fisk, is a replica in the spirit of the instruments of the 18th century organ builder, Gottfried Silbermann, whose organs Bach knew well.



Marilyn Mason

Dr. Mason has performed on every continent, save Antarctica. She was the first American woman to play in Westminster Abbey, the first woman organist to play in Latin America, and the first American to play in Egypt. She has served as judge at nearly every major organ competition in the world. Her dedication to modern organ music is evidenced by the names of influential composers who have written for her: Albright, Bolcom, Cook, Cowell, Creston, Diemer, Haines, Jackson, David Johnson, Jordan, Krenek, Langlais, Lockwood, Near, Persichetti, Sowerby, Wyton, and Young. Dr. Mason is currently recording the complete works of Johann Pachelbel for the Musical Heritage Society. In 1987, Dr. Mason was awarded the degree Doctor of Music *honoris causa* from the University of Nebraska.