

MARILYN MASON

CONCERT ORGANIST

The First Presbyterian Church of York, Pennsylvania

Sunday, November 7, 1993

3:00 P.M.

PROGRAM

Toccat, Adagio, and Fugue in C, BWV 564

J. S. Bach

The "Toccat, Adagio, and Fugue" is unique among Bach's 28 larger Preludes and Fugues for organ. Bach gave it a special place in his canon with its multi-movement shape. Each of the three movements stands alone, yet the Toccat, with its quasi-Italian influence of question-answer dialogue, and the rousing Fugue, form pillars framing the quiet, meditative Adagio. This music comes from Bach's Weimar years 1708-17. On hearing Bach's organ music, Goethe is reported to have said, "It is as though eternal harmony were conversing with itself, as it may have happened in God's bosom shortly before He created the world."

Chorale in B minor

Cesar Franck

Cesar Franck, through his teaching and influence as well as by his composition, established a national school of organ music inspired by the highest ideals. He became organist at Ste. Clotilde in Paris in 1885. There is a particular appeal in the life of this Flemish genius who carried out his church duties and his teaching at the Paris Conservatoire in a quiet, unostentatious manner yet found time for original composition.

Marche sur un theme de Handel, Op. 15, no. 2

Alexandre Guilmant

Alexandre Guilmant was a distinguished French teacher, musician, and composer. He first held the position of organist at the Church of Saint-Joseph, in Boulogne, at the age of 15, and then, following other church and academic appointments, was appointed organist of the Church of the Trinity in Paris in 1871. There he founded the Schola Contorum with Charles Bordes and Vincent d'Indy, and became professor of organ there and at the Paris Conservatoire. His music was composed primarily for the organ and includes eight sonatas and numerous separate compositions for church use.

Flourish and Chorale (1987)

Michael McCabe

(b. 1941)

Michael McCabe is organist and choirmaster at Saint Barnabas's Episcopal Church in Omaha, Nebraska. He was a pupil of Leo Sowerby.

Prelude on "Sweet Hour of Prayer" (1984)

William Bolcom

(b. 1938)

The composer is Professor of Music at the University of Michigan. He is a prolific and eclectic composer whose works embrace many compositional styles. He has received numerous awards and recognitions, most recently the 1988 Pulitzer Prize in Music.

Toccata (Symphony V)

Charles-Marie Widor

The Italian "toccare" and the Spanish "tocar," meaning "to touch" are the root of the word "toccata." Early toccatas of Frescobaldi were quiet and improvisational. By the 19th century, the toccata had evolved into a brilliant and virtuosic work of grand proportions.

--Notes by Marilyn Mason

ABOUT THE ARTIST

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 woman to play in Westminster Abbey, the first woman organist to play in Latin America and the first American to play in Egypt. Dr. Mason has served as adjudicator at nearly every major organ competition in the world. Her dedication to contemporary music is evidenced in the forty-five works which she has commissioned and premiered. She was chosen 1988 Performer of the Year by the New York Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Her discography included music of Bach, Pachelbel, Handel, and contemporary composers on Columbia and Musical Heritage Society labels.

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This concert is co-sponsored by Dr. and Mrs. John B. Heyde and the York Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

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The First Presbyterian Church Choir invites you to a reception in the Gathering Place to greet Dr. Mason following the concert.