

First United Methodist Church Presents  
Discoveries in Music

*Examined  
Rapidly*

# Marilyn Mason, Organist

Friday, November 11, 1994

8:00 P.M.

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## THE PROGRAM

Prelude and Fugue in D Minor

*Johann Pachelbel  
(1653-1706)*

*Marilyn Mason is currently recording all of the organ  
music of Pachelbel for the Musical Heritage Society*

Partita, "O Gott, du frommer Gott," B.W.V. 767

*Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)*

Fantasia und Fugue, G moll, B.W.V. 546

*Johann Sebastian Bach*

Chorale in A minor

*César Franck  
(1822-1890)*

*César 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 Conservatoire in a quiet, unostentatious manner, yet found time for composition.*

## AMERICAN COMPOSERS

Pageant

*Played in honor of the Sowerby Centennial*

*Leo Sowerby  
(1895-1968)*

Sweet Hour of Prayer (Gospel Preludes, Book IV (1984)\*

*William Bolcom  
(b. 1944)*

Concert Variations on the *Austrian Hymn*, Op. 3

*John Knowles Paine  
(1839-1906)*

*\*Commissioned by Marilyn Mason and dedicated to her*

Following the program you are invited to the  
church parlors for refreshments and an  
opportunity to greet Dr. Mason .

## Leo Sowerby

Leo Sowerby was one of our most distinguished American composers. He was born in Grand Rapids, May 1, 1895. He studied at the American Conservatory in Chicago. In 1924, he returned there to teach following his *Prix de Rome*. At the same time, he was appointed organist and choirmaster at the Episcopal Cathedral of St. James. In 1962, he was one of the founders and became Director of the College of Church Musicians at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

It was my privilege to play for Sowerby on many occasions. Almost every summer he would visit his friends, Joseph and Ferol Brinkman, in Ann Arbor. Dr. Sowerby graciously suggested to me how to interpret his music. He also valued the playing of my students. I remember a time when his "Toccatà" was well played by Weston Brown, an undergraduate. Sowerby congratulated the young man.

In 1957, Leo Sowerby conducted the orchestra when we performed his "Classic Concerto" in Westminster Abbey at the First International Congress of Organists. We had met previously in Ann Arbor when he coached me in this work. In 1965, in his seventieth year, I played an all-Sowerby concert in Milwaukee which included both his Organ Symphonies and the *Pageant*, which he attended. There was an ovation for both of us, and he was gratified.

I commissioned an organ work, "Bright, Blithe and Brisk" in 1970, and we met for his suggestions about performance. The work was later published by H.W. Gray.

— Marilyn Mason

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We are grateful to the following persons for their financial support of the *Discoveries in Music* Concert Series:

Robert and Susan Cobb	Lloyd and Lois Moseley
George and Cynthia Buck	Mary Ross
Richard and Marion DeVinney	Nancy Sparks
Charles and Esther Fisher	Dorothy Stout
Steve and Edith Gresley	Robert and Marjorie Whitacre
Linn Keller	Dorothy Wimmer

### Coming Events at First Church

January 22 .....First Church Organists  
Richard DeVinney, Robert Cobb, George Buck, and Laurie Haller

February 26 .....United Methodist Choir Festival

Feb. 26 — March 5.....Celebration Festival of the Arts

March 5 .....Grand Rapids Organists  
Lee Engstrom, William Klimas, and Mark Thomas

April 23 .....The Chancel Choir and Orchestra  
Britten "*Rejoice in the Lamb*" — Vivaldi "*Gloria*"