

St. Paul's Cathedral
and Friends of Cathedral Music
present

Marcel Dupré's
Stations of the Cross

Based on the poetic reflections by Paul Claudel
performed by

Dr. Marilyn Mason

English Text read by Dan Ervine

French Text read by Philip Darby



Friday, March 16, 2001

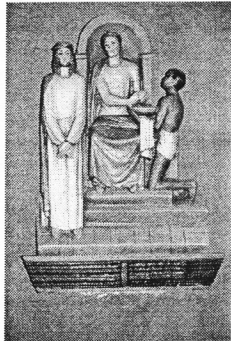
Eight O'clock in the Evening

This concert is presented
in loving memory of

Tom and Gwen Stephens

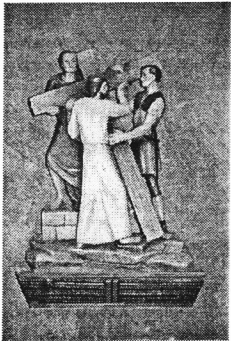
whose generosity to Cathedral Music is legendary. Both were active members for many years and Mr. Stephens served on the Vestry and was Church Treasurer. Mrs. Stephens' last bequest helped fund our Assistant Organist/Choirmaster position as well as the renovation and restoration of the Memorial Organ Console.

The Stations of the Cross



I. Jesus is Condemned to Death.

The tumult of the crowd and their angry cries for Barabbas can be heard. The name of Barabbas is depicted by one of the rhythmic motives.



II. Jesus Receives His Cross.

Heavy, plodding figures as Jesus Begins the journey toward Golgotha. The cross is symbolized by the ascending fourths.



III. Jesus Falls the First Time.

Jesus' suffering is depicted by the descending triplet figure. Reflecting the heavy burden, the music slows to a halt as Jesus falls.



IV. Jesus Meets His Mother.

A peaceful scene as Jesus comforts his mother. The motif of the Virgin Mary is a descending arpeggiated major chord.



V. Simon the Cyrene Helps Jesus to Carry the Cross.

Jesus' load is lightened by Simon. The canon symbolizes following and sharing. The Cross' motif is heard.



VI. Jesus and Veronica.

The Compassion Motif (two thirds ascending) is combined with the Cross Motif. The movement closes with the Redemption Motif in "Harmonies Mysterieuses."



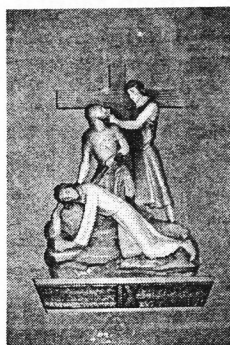
VII. Jesus Falls a Second Time.

The weariness of Jesus is shown by the descending seconds in the soprano.



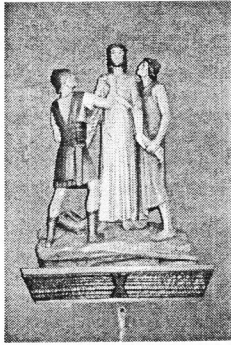
VIII. Jesus Comforts the Women of Jerusalem.

The Motif of Pity is heard first. The voice of Jesus (on the trumpet) is then combined with the Pity Motif.



IX. Jesus Falls a Third Time.

A French Toccata. The persecution of Jesus is represented by a three-note figure in the left hand accompanied by an ascending, diminished arpeggiated chord in the right hand.



X. Jesus is Stripped of His Clothes.

The flagellation of Jesus is expressed through a constant, driving rhythm. The movement concludes with the incarnation Motif of ascending minor third dyads.



XI. Jesus is Nailed on the Cross.

The hammer blows on the Crucifixion Motive (descending fourths) are heard throughout the movement. The Motive of Suffering returns near the end.



XII. Jesus Dies Upon the Cross.

His agony is expressed by a quiet four-note motif which fills in a tritone. Suddenly, there is an earthquake and Jesus dies.



XIII. The Body of Jesus is Taken from the Cross and Laid in Mary's Bosom.

The theme of the Virgin Mary returns as Mary beholds His face.



XIV. The Body of Jesus is Laid in the Tomb.

The motifs of pity and suffering are combined. Jesus' redemption is depicted in a "final" section by a transformation of the motif of suffering, to a rising motif.

DR. MARILYN MASON, ORGANIST: Professor of Music and University Organist at the University of Michigan, she is widely respected as a performer, adjudicator, teacher, and lecturer. Her distinguished career has carried her throughout the Western World. In one year alone, she received invitations to perform on five continents. She has adjudicated at nearly every major organ competition in the world. She was the first woman to perform at London's Westminster Abbey. Currently, she is pursuing her commitment to artistic integrity through scholarly study of historic performance practices. She has taught organ and organ literature courses at the University of Michigan for over fifty years. Additionally, she has commissioned more than sixty compositions.

MARCEL DUPRÉ (1886 – 1971) enjoyed a worldwide reputation for his organ compositions, brilliant organ playing, extraordinary ability at improvisation, and skill as an organ pedagogue. He was organist at the church of Saint Sulpice in Paris, was a professor of organ at the Paris National Conservatory, and served for a time as director of the Conservatory.

COMPOSER'S NOTES: The first sketch of *Le Chemin de la Croix* was conceived and realized in the form of an improvisation, at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Brussels, on February 13, 1931. During the concert the fourteen poems of *Le Chemin de la Croix* by the great French poet, Paul Claudel, were read and after each, I improvised a musical commentary. Many in the audience having expressed their regret that nothing should remain of this spontaneous music, I decided to write the work down, trying to evoke the same atmosphere. Its composition took me an entire year. I gave the first performance in the hall of the Tracadero in Paris on March 18, 1932. - Marcel Dupré

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS refer to a series of pictures or tableaux representing certain scenes in the Passion and Death of Christ, each corresponding to a particular incident connected with the Passion. They are usually arranged at intervals around the walls of a church... The object of the Stations is to help the faithful make, in spirit, a pilgrimage to the principal scenes of Christ's passion and death. The Devotion is carried out by passing from Station to Station, meditating on each incident represented in the tableaux... The origin of this devotion is traced to the Holy Land. The route Christ traveled from the place of sentencing to Calvary has been marked since the earliest years of Christianity, and has been the object of pilgrimage since the days of Constantine. There is, however, no direct evidence of a set form of devotion until the seventeenth century, at which time the number of Stations was fixed at fourteen. *The Catholic Encyclopedia, XV.*

THE ILLUSTRATIONS IN THIS PROGRAM are photographs of the Stations of the Cross which adorn the walls of St. Paul's Cathedral. Hand-carved in Italy by the Demetz Art Studio in 1992, the Stations were a gift of a dedicated and generous group of Cathedral parishioners. **OUR THANKS** to **FRANK PALMS** for photographing the Stations.

PAUL CLAUDEL (1868 – 1955): dramatist, poet, essayist, and diplomat, was one of the most significant French literary figures in the first half of the twentieth century and an outstanding representative of the Catholic literary revival. His set of fourteen poems, *Le Chemin de la Croix*, was written in 1911. The English translation used in this program is by Gale Kramer and Sister Judith Schweiss.

THE READERS: Philip Darby and Dan Erwine are members of St. Paul's Cathedral. Phil is Cathedral Receptionist and holds an M.A. degree in French from Assumption College. Dan is a well-known member of the broadcast staff at San Diego's KPBS public radio station.

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