

Fourth and Final Dedicatory
Concert for the
Newly Installed Pipe Organ

at Mercer Island
Presbyterian Church

Marilyn Mason, University Organist
University of Michigan



June 2, 2006
7:30 PM

3605 84th Ave SE
Mercer Island, Washington 98040
206 232-5595



MARILYN MASON

Marilyn Mason is University Organist and Chairman of the Organ Department at the University of Michigan. She earned the Master of Music degree from the University of Michigan and Doctor of Sacred Music from Union Theological Seminary. Her extensive career as concert organist, lecturer, adjudicator, and teacher has carried her throughout the musical 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 to play in Egypt. During a single year, invitations took her to five continents. Professor Mason has served as judge at nearly every major organ competition in the world. Her dedication to contemporary music is evidenced in the 65 works that she has commissioned and premiered. Currently, she is pursuing her commitment to stylistic integrity through research into the construction and tonal design of historic European instruments. Twenty research tours have focused on historic organs in Europe.

In 1987, Dr. Mason was awarded a Doctor of Music degree *honoris causa* by the University of Nebraska. She was honored as the "1998 Performer of the Year" by the New York Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Her discography includes music

of Bach, Pachelbel, Handel, Mondonville, and contemporary composers on Columbia and Musical Heritage Society labels. A recent recording on Albany Records included Concertos by Petr Eben, Emma Lou Diemer, Leo Sowerby, and Gospel Preludes, Vol IV, of William Bolcom. She is presently recording the organ music of Johannes Pachelbel for the Musical Heritage Society.

Among many interesting experiences Dr. Mason has had, she notes that in May 1987, she had the opportunity to play the organ at Bachkirche, Arnstadt (in the former DDR, or "East Germany"). This organ includes seven ranks of pipes known to have been played by Bach, each of which is marked with a tiny "B." It was a moving experience to play the sounds Bach heard. For several hours Dr. Mason played only those individual registers. Each of the ranks she found to be beautiful. The Bach partita which she chose to play at her concert on that organ is the same piece that she is playing tonight.

"This past century has seen an enormous growth in challenging new organ music, and one of the very, very most influential virtuosi and proponents of new organ music alive is Marilyn Mason. She has encouraged so much new music from so many composers, and I especially thank her for her extensive performances and insightful teaching of my own music. She has commissioned several of my most important organ works and has always championed them, and this is precious to a composer--maybe the work will have a life! But no work has a life without the right performance, and her doing the right performance for me and so many others, long dead and still living, is what makes Marilyn Mason so extremely special." William Bolcom

Special Acknowledgements

The Organ Committee wishes to specifically acknowledge the generous support of Mary Kaye and Jim Johnston in regard to our concert tonight. Janet Syferd provided the airline tickets. The Pipe Organ Foundation supported the recording of the concert by Tom Caulton.

Program

Marche on a Theme of Handel **Alexandre Guilmant**
(1837-1911)

Toccatina in E Minor **Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)**
Played to honor the 300th anniversary of the composer's death.

Partita, "O Gott, du Frommer Gott" BWV 767 Johann
Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Johann Sebastian Bach was the most creative member of a distinguished family of musicians. This Bach family was comprised of composers, teachers, and performers. Bach's genius is especially displayed in his incredible variety of organ music: music which is remarkably crafted. It is dramatic yet personal, rhetorical yet intimate. It was my opportunity to perform the complete organ works at The University of Michigan and at The University of Texas in 1985 during the Bach tercentenary celebration. His youthful years saw the creation of four partitas. A "partita" is a set of variations on a melody. In the C Minor Partita the melody "O God, Thou Faithful God" is heard in a straightforward hymn setting. Then follows eight variations on this melody.

Chorale in A Minor **César Franck (1822-1890)**
Franck was the organist at Ste. Clotilde in Paris and composer of many significant works for the organ, piano, and orchestra.

INTERMISSION

Variations, "Heil Dir Im Siegeskranz" **J.C. Rinck**
(1770-1846)

Heil dir, im Siegeskranz may be translated as "Hail to the Conqueror's Crown" A kranz is a wreath as in a "crown of laurels." This title is a metaphor for "Hail to the Monarch" just as we sing "Hail to the Chief." The tune first appeared in a German Thesaurus Musicus of 1732, and it was in a German song ; later it was adopted by the English, perhaps owing to the influence of

the House of Hanover, as "God Save the Queen." In Boston, Samuel Francis Smith was given a book of German tunes from which he chose this melody and joined it with verses he composed. "My Country 'Tis of Thee" was first sung in Boston on July 4, 1832. The setting by Rinck follows the usual custom of the time: first the melody appears, followed by several variations, including the minor key, and climaxed by a rousing restatement of the original tune.

Music by American Composers

Fanfares and Variations on Wareham **Robert M. Speed**
(b. 1933)

Robert M. Speed is Professor of Humanities at Grand View College in Des Moines, where he was on the faculty for 45 years and was, for many of those years, chairman of the Humanities Division. He has been involved in church music programs in Des Moines for the past fifty years and is presently organist at St. Mark's Episcopal Church. A graduate of Drake University, he studied organ with Frank B. Jordan and Russell Saunders and at Columbia University with Marilyn Mason. He is one of the first to be initiated as a Friend of the Arts of Sigma Alpha Iota. This is the first performance of this work anywhere. The work was commissioned by Dr. Mason and dedicated to her as well.

Two Hymn Preludes **William Bolcom (b. 1938)**
Abide with Me
Sweet Hour of Prayer

Concert Variations on the Austrian Hymn, Op. 3 **J. K.**
Paine (1839-1906)

John Knowles Paine was born in Portland, Maine, on Jan. 9, 1839 and he died in Cambridge on April 25, 1906. Two special honors are his: He was the first American to be accepted as a composer in the late 19th century, and the first professor of music in an American university---Harvard University.

Everyone is invited to a reception in the Courtyard after the concert

Background

Since 1968, the congregation at Mercer Island Presbyterian Church (MIPC) had worshipped with a 5-stop Schlicker pipe organ. The need for a more adequate instrument was recognized even before this temporary practice organ was installed, and in the 1990s, Fran Steding led an Organ Committee which spent a great deal of time with the goal of obtaining an instrument that could effectively lead the congregation and appreciably enhance the worship experience in the sanctuary. Unfortunately, financial barriers and other matters stymied the Committee's efforts.

In 2001 a new Organ Committee was formed, chaired by Carl Dodrill, President of the Pipe Organ Foundation. This Foundation has as one of its main objectives the refurbishing of quality pipe organs that would otherwise be discarded. This is done at a reduced cost by the heavy use of expert volunteer labor. These organs are then made available to public settings where there is the need for these instruments but where there are not adequate funds to pay the normal cost for a new instrument.

On December 3, 2003 MIPC entered into an agreement with the Pipe Organ Foundation to have an instrument installed in the church. The instrument is leased from the Foundation with a purchase option to be exercised within five years at an affordable cost. Our organ is a compilation of several instruments custom assembled and hand installed by the experienced people from the Pipe Organ Foundation. Major obstacles which had to be overcome were the unusual acoustical demands of our sanctuary, a lack of space for the organ, and limited funding. The product of these efforts is now available for all to hear.

Tonal design by Clint Meadway in consultation with Cheryl Storey, MIPC Director of Music Ministries. Tonal finishing by James R. Stettner and Clint Meadway.

ORGAN PROJECT VOLUNTEERS


Excellent use was made of volunteers during the rebuild of this pipe organ. Volunteers worked under the direction of the staff of the Pipe Organ Foundation. A total of 51 people contributed more than 6,000 hours of volunteer time. Volunteers cleaned and polished pipes, wired the entire organ, made windchests and other items, refinished the console and bench, and did a host of other tasks. Pictures of volunteers performing these tasks can be found on the Pipe Organ Foundation website and in the courtyard. The volunteers are listed below:

Marty Akerman	Sue Alexander
Tom Aparico	Fred Beck***
Charlie Buck	Dwight Christy
Tom Craig	Bart Dawson
Carl Dodrill***	Halie Dodrill*
Kandi Dodrill	Mark Dodrill
Nancy English	Russ Evans*
Joe Fielding	Barbara Graham**
John Hackett**	Einer Handeland
Myrtle Hovik-Musgrove*	Chuck Huffington**
Ian Huffington	Owen Huffington
Bill Iverson*	Jim Johnston
Gwen Kuhn	Kris Kuhn
Sam Lake	Bob Long**
Gordy Mathis*	Marilyn Mathis
Fred May	Bruce McAuley
Doug McNeal	Clint Meadway**
Roger Meers*	John Miller
Bob Monsen*	Loretta Moore
Tom Pearson	Bob Pollock
Rhea Pollock	Gus Raaum
Kathy Robbs	Shoko Sasaki
Jim Smith	Wes Spore
Jim Stettner	Brian Tate
Dan Warner	Ben Weyhing*
Marilyn Wilt	Mo Youngs

* Contributed at least 100 hours of volunteer time

** Contributed at least 200 hours of volunteer time

*** Contributed at least 500 hours of volunteer time



Buildings and Grounds Ministry at MIPC

Fellowship Hall

Mercer Island Presbyterian Church
3605 84th Ave SE
Mercer Island, WA 98040
206 232-5595
www.mipc.org

May 5, 2019

Dear Chris,

We are so sorry not to have responded sooner to your mother's passing. She was such a wonderful woman and we have some good memories of her. Her friendship with my brother Dale, was how we grew to know more about her. Dale's love of music drew him to Marilyn and he was particularly fond of organ music. On several of our trips back to Monroe, we were privileged to be with her in Ann Arbor for some events. She traveled to our home in Washington State and stayed with us.

We had invited her to perform a recital at the dedication of our new pipe organ at Mercer Island Presbyterian Church. I say "new organ" advisedly. While it was new to us, it was a newly assembled organ comprised of a console, blowers, wind chests, and pipes salvaged from a number of decommissioned organs or obtained on the used organ market. It was assembled, with all new electronics, by the local Pipe Organ Foundation using all volunteer labor. The sanctuary had the main organ in the front, and an antiphonal organ on a balcony in the back, both operated from one console.

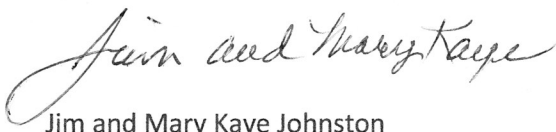
Marilyn played a wonderful variety of music which brought out the best of the organ and was pleasing to the ears of church members who were not organ aficionados, as well as delightful to some of the AGO members in the audience.

The program included an intermission. Just before the intermission, a cipher appeared. By switching the blowers off and on a few times, the cipher was cleared. We broke for the intermission.

When Marilyn returned to the console, she found that the antiphonal organ was silent. Apparently, all the switching on and off had tripped a circuit breaker for the blower for the antiphonal organ. Either no one there knew where the offending circuit breaker was located, or they didn't get word of the problem so the antiphonal was out of commission for the balance of the program. Of course, she had all of her stops programmed for the pieces selected for the latter half of the program. But did that deter her? Of course not. She quickly changed a few stops and proceeded to play the second half with substantially different registration than she had planned. It was receive with generous applause. Nobody knew. Wow, what a professional!

She was such a gifted professional but she was humble and not self-serving. We will always carry the joy of her memory with us.

Please accept our condolences,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim and Mary Kaye". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Jim and Mary Kaye Johnston