

*The First  
Presbyterian Church*



*The Stations of the Cross*  
Friday, April 3, 2009  
7:30 PM

**Marilyn Mason, Organist**  
**Heather Archer, Narrator**

***The Stations of the Cross, Op. 29***

Marcel Dupré  
(1886 – 1971)

I. Jesus is Condemned to Death

*The tumult of the crowd and their anger cries for Barrabas can be heard, depicted by the dotted rhythmic motive.*

II. Jesus Receives His Cross

*Heavy plodding figures as Jesus begins the journey toward Golgotha. The cross is symbolized by 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 motive 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 motive is heard.*

VI. Jesus and Veronica

*The Compassion Motive (two thirds, ascending) is combined with the Cross Motive. The movement closes with the Redemption Motive.*

VII. Jesus Falls a Second Time

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

VIII. Jesus Comforts the Women of Jerusalem

*The Motive of Pity is heard first. The voice of Jesus (on the Trumpet stop) is the combined with the Pity Motive.*

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 Motive 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 motive which fills 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 Jesus' lifeless face.*

XIV. The Body of Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

*The motive of Pity and Suffering are combined. Jesus' redemption is depicted in a "final" section by a transformation of the Motive of Suffering into a rising motive.*

**Reception to follow**

**You are invited to make a free will offering upon exiting**



## About the Performer

Marilyn Mason is Professor and Chair of Organ at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance and University Organist. Her dedication to contemporary music is evidenced by the 75 organ works she has commissioned and premiered. Dr. Mason's extensive career as concert organist, lecturer, adjudicator, and teacher has carried her throughout the Western world. She was the first American woman organist to perform in Westminster Abby, the first woman organist to play in Latin America, and the first American organist to perform in Egypt. During one year, invitations took her to five continents. She has served as adjudicator at almost every major organ competition in the world.

*We thank those who have made significant contributions to make this series possible.*

## Concert Series Patrons

Robinette and Maurice Hahn  
Mary Meredith  
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Presbyterian and Southwest Michigan present  
works of Bach, Tallis, Wilberg, Brahms and  
others. **4 pm**