



**THE NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER
AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS**

PRESENTS

**THE 1988 INTERNATIONAL
PERFORMER OF THE YEAR RECITAL**

BY

MARILYN MASON

**TUESDAY, 10 MAY, 1988, AT EIGHT O'CLOCK
THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH, NEW YORK CITY**

Recital on the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial Carillon on Tuesday May 10, 1988, at 7:30 p.m.

JAMES R. LAWSON, CARILLONNEUR

- I. PRELUDE FOR CARILLON.....Percival Price
- II. NOCTURNE FOR CARILLON.....Margo Halsted
- III. *FANTASY* from ANN ARBOR SUITE.....Leen 't Hart
- IV. THE BELLS OF RIVERSIDE.....Otto Luening

The late Percival Price was formerly Carillonneur of the University of Michigan. Margo Halsted is the present University Carillonneuse. Leen 't Hart is a Dutch carillonneur and composer living in Nijkerkerveen, The Netherlands. Otto Luening, American composer and conductor, lives on Riverside Drive here in New York City.

MARILYN MASON is Professor of Music and Chairman of the Organ Department at The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She has been guest professor at Columbia University, and also at Union Theological Seminary, where she received the Doctor of Sacred Music degree in 1954. Dr. Mason has been heard in recitals throughout North and South America as well as in Europe. She was the first American woman to play in Westminster Abbey, when she represented the United States at the International Congress of Organists in 1957.

Subsequent tours of Europe have included two return engagements at Westminster Abbey: in 1963, and in 1966, the latter on the occasion of the 900th anniversary of the Abbey, as well as appearances in London (Royal Festival Hall), Edinburgh, Hamburg, Berlin, and Vienna. In 1960 she played four concerts at the Auditorio Nacional in Mexico City, the first woman organist to play in Latin America; and in 1963 she played in Spain at the International Congress of Organists. From 1965 to 1970 during two weeks each January she has taught and played at the International Festival of Music in Brazil.

During the season of 1970-71 Dr. Mason played on five continents: North America (in cities including New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Washington, D.C., and in Buffalo at the National Convention of the American Guild of Organists), South America, Europe (Cathedral of Notre Dame, Paris, New College and Queens College, Oxford), Africa (two concerts in Cairo -- the first American organist to play in the newly completed Sayyid Darwish Concert Hall), and Australia (four concerts in the Festival of Perth at the University of Western Australia and a concert for the Organ Society of Australia in Sydney).

Because of her interest in contemporary music, Dr. Mason has commissioned numerous composers to write for the organ and has given many premier performances.

In September of 1972, Professor Mason received the *Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award* from The University of Michigan. This Award is presented annually to five senior faculty members of the University whose contributions to their field of scholarship and teaching has been outstanding and considered worthy of recognition. In 1987, she was awarded an honorary Doctor of Music degree by the University of Nebraska. She has recorded on the Columbia and Musical Heritage Society labels.

The New York City Chapter
AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
presents

The 1988 International
Performer of the Year Recital

MARILYN MASON

Tuesday Evening, 10 May, 1988, at Eight O'Clock
The Riverside Church, New York City

Music Commissioned and Premiered by Marilyn Mason

Michael McCabe (b. 1941)

Flourish and Chorale (1987) *

Edmund Haines (1914-1974)

Suite for Organ (1947)

- I. *Promenade*
- II. *Air*
- III. *Toccata*

William Albright (b. 1944)

Organbook II (1971)

- I. *Night Procession*
- II. *Toccata Satanique*
- III. *Last Rites (with electronic tape)*

INTERMISSION

Alec Wyton (b. 1921)

Dithyramb (1960)

William Bolcom (b. 1938)

Gospel Preludes, Book IV (1984) *

- I. *Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child*
- II. *Sweet Hour of Prayer*
- III. *Fantasy on "O Zion, Haste"
and "How Firm a Foundation"*

*New York Premier

**The 1988 Performer of the Year Award will be presented by Harold Stover,
Dean of the New York City Chapter**

Aeolian-Skinner/Adams Organ: Five Manuals, Two Hundred Sixteen Ranks
Anthony A. Bufano, Curator of the Riverside Organs
Tape System by Scharf Communications
Special Thanks to University of Michigan Public Relations Department
and Josh Weisberg of Scharf Communications

PROGRAM NOTES BY MARILYN MASON

As a fledgling teacher at The University of Michigan in 1946, I realized that there was a dearth of contemporary concert music for the organ. I decided to encourage composers through commissions. Consequently, during four decades I have commissioned some sixty organ works both personally and through the Marilyn Mason Commissioning Fund.

For this award concert, it was not an easy task to choose music from my list, which includes Cowell, Krenek, Hambraeus, Castiglioni, and many others. The five works represent various aspects of composition for the organ. The Haines was the very first work commissioned, and the Bolcom one of the most recent.

Flourish and Chorale (1987) Michael McCabe (b. 1941)

The composer is organist and choirmaster at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Omaha, Nebraska. He was previously associated with Leo Sowerby and one of the last students to work with him. The composer describes the work:

"The music was written in A-B-A form and provides a splash of sound for the Fanfare Trumpet. The piece is most successful when there are antiphonal reeds which can be used in contrast."

Suite for Organ (1947) Edmund Haines (1914-1974)

The composer was Professor of Music and teacher of composition at The University of Michigan from 1941 to 1947. He joined the faculty of Sarah Lawrence College in 1948 and taught there until his death. This Suite won the American Guild of Organists Composition Award in 1948 and was the first work which I commissioned. The composer described the Suite to me with a smile: "An anachronism: -- A young lady walks down Fifth Avenue in a hoop skirt. The Air is the song which she sings when sad. The Toccata, a bright and happy ending . . ."

Organ Book II (1971) William Albright (b. 1944)

William Albright, who was born in Gary, Indiana, has performed as concert organist and pianist throughout the United States and Europe. As composer, he has produced works for almost every medium, including electronic, visual, and theatrical, but he is best known for his keyboard music. William Albright is Professor of Music at The University of Michigan where he earned the D.M.A. in Music as a student of Ross Lee Finney and the Bachelor's and Master's of Music as a student of Marilyn Mason. Other composition teachers have included Olivier Messiaen, George Rochberg, and Aaron Copland. The composer writes about this work:

"The generic title *Organbook* is an adaptation of the popular French Baroque term "livre d'orgue," and, like the centuries-old model, is a collection of several pieces, each of which explores a single idea or sonority.

" 'Night Procession' primarily employs the softest sounds in the organ. Flutes, strings, and celestes color the exposition of slowly changing four- to five-note chords that form the basis of the movement. The core of the piece, in fact, is a long harmonic sequence characterized by constant mutations of timbre; the effect is obtained by rapidly shifting keyboard changes and continual operation of the swell shades. Interpolated in this overall texture by way of contrast are several series of fleeting, vaporous roudades that seldom cover a span larger than an octave.