The Organ Works of Seth Bingham (1882-1972)

Presented by Christopher Marks
New York AGO Presidents’ Day Conference, February 21, 2011

Ex. 1a: Roulade, opening bars

Ex. 1b: Roulade, lyric theme from B section

Ex. 1c: Roulade, modal chorale from B section

Ex. 2: Pastorale, main theme set with impressionistic harmonies
Ex. 3a: Toccata, opening theme

Ex. 3b: Toccata, recapitulation of opening theme

Ex. 4a: Unto the Hills, opening theme

Ex. 4b: Unto the Hills, second theme

Ex. 4c: Unto the Hills, combination of themes in recapitulation
Ex. 5a: Wesley, introduction

Ex. 5b: Wesley, fugal treatment of hymn tune

Ex. 5c: Wesley, trio setting of hymn tune

Ex. 6a: Annunciation, epigraph and main theme
Ex. 6b: Annunciation, second theme based on “Salutation Carol”

Ex. 6c: Salutation carol (opening)

Ex. 6d: Annunciation, apotheosis of main theme
Ex. 6e: Annunciation, combination of main theme with Salutation Carol (top of LH)

Ex. 7a: Ut Queant Laxis, opening showing hexachord motive and chant fragment

Ex. 7b: Ut Queant Laxis, first presentation of chant theme, in canon

Ex. 7c: Ut Queant Laxis, recitative theme, alternating with harmonized chant fragments

Ex. 7d: Ut Queant Laxis, chant *en taille* combined with recitative theme in soprano
Ex. 7e: Ut Queant Laxis, apotheosis of chant theme, in augmentation canon
In 1923, Casavant Frères was contracted to rebuild and enlarge the 1900 Hook & Hastings organ, to the specifications of Seth Bingham (1882-1972), who was organist and choirmaster from 1913 until his retirement in 1951.

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<td>Tremulant</td>
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| Solo Organ (Manual IV)           |                                 |                      |
| Stentorphone*                    |                                 |                      |
| Gross Flute*                     |                                 |                      |
| Gamba*                           |                                 |                      |
| Gamba Celeste*                   |                                 |                      |
| Gemschorn*                       |                                 |                      |
| Hohlpfeife*                      |                                 |                      |
| Tuba Mirabilis*                  |                                 |                      |
| Musette*                         |                                 |                      |
| Chimes (Echo)                    |                                 |                      |
| Celesta (Choir)                  |                                 |                      |
| Tremulant                        |                                 |                      |

| Echo Organ (prepared)            |                                 |                      |
| Erzähler                         |                                 |                      |
| Cor de Nuit                      |                                 |                      |
| Vox Angelica                     |                                 |                      |
| Fern Flute                       |                                 |                      |
| Cromorne                         |                                 |                      |
| Vox Humana                       |                                 |                      |
| Chimes (25 tubes)                |                                 |                      |

| Adjustable Combination Pistons   |                                 |                      |
| Pistons No. 1-2-3-4-0-Ped0       | affecting Solo & Pedal stops    |                      |
| Pistons No. 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-0-Ped0 | affecting Swell & Pedal stops   |                      |
| Pistons No. 1-2-3-4-5-6-0-Ped0  | affecting Great & Pedal stops   |                      |
| Pistons No. 1-2-3-4-5-0-Ped0     | affecting Entire Choir & Pedal stops |                  |
| Pistons No. 1-2-3-4-5-0          | affecting Pedal stops           |                      |
| Pistons No. 1-2-3-4-5-6-Ped0    | affecting Echo stops            |                      |
| Pistons No. 1-2                 | affecting Eco stops             |                      |
| General Release                 | affecting manuals only          |                      |
| Coupler cancel                   | hand                             |                      |
| All boxes to Swell Pedal        | hand & foot                      |                      |

Six Pieces, Op. 9
H.W. Gray, 1920-1923
Movements:
1. Prelude and Fugue in C Minor (1923) – to Charles Marie Widor
2. Adoration (1921) – to Arthur Sewall Hyde
3. Roulade (1923) – to David McK. Williams
4. Chorale Prelude on St. Flavian (1920) – to Joseph Bonnet
5. Aria (1923) – to Homer Humphrey
6. Counter-Theme (1923) – to Harry Benjamin Jepson


Memories of France, Op. 16
H.W. Gray, 1936 (mvt. 1), 1943 (mvt. 2)
Date of original composition: c.1921
Movements:
1. Carillon de Chateau-Thierry (1936) – to Alfred et Pouchette
2. Pastorale, or Love in the Fields (1943) – to Paul Callaway
3. The Moonlit Marne (unpublished)

Originally orchestra works. Piano four-hand arrangements exist in manuscript for movements 1 and 2. Bingham records title for movement 3 in manuscript at NYPL, but not music. Movement 4 for organ exists in manuscript at NYPL. Movement 2 also contained in an H.W. Gray anthology of contemporary music.

Tame Animal Tunes, Op. 20
Unpublished
Date of composition: c.1925
Movements:
1. Duck à la Barcarolle
2. Rabitoccatina
3. New Kittens
4. Caper the Billy-Goat
5. Pig in Slumber
6. Love-Sick Rooster
7. Puppy Song
8. Dignified Ruminations (of a Cow)
9. Variations on a Turkey (interlarded with Goose-step)

Manuscript at NYPL. Originally an orchestral suite.

Suite, Op. 25
To Lynnwood Farnam
G. Schirmer, 1926
Movements:
1. Cathedral Strains
2. Rhythm of Easter
3. Intercession
4. Toccata
Pioneer America, Op. 26

H.W. Gray, 1928
Movements:
1. Redskin Rhapsody – to Gustave Ferrari
2. Sailing Over Jordan – to the memory of Booker Washington
3. Along the Frontier (Canuck and Cowboy Songs) – to Mr. J.C. Casavant

Probably Bingham’s least successful organ works, with the exception of movement 2.

Harmonies of Florence, or Armonie di Firenze, Op. 27

G. Schirmer, 1929
Movements:
1. Florentine Chimes – to Blanche Guy
2. Primavera – to Louis Vierne
3. Savonarola – to Charles Doersam
4. Twilight at Fiesole – to Ruth Muzzey
5. March of the Medici – to Chandler Goldthwaite

Pastoral Psalms, Op. 30

Carl Fischer, 1938
Movements:
1. Unto the Hills
2. Forgotten Graves
3. Black Cherries
4. Voice of the Tempest
5. Beside Still Waters

Movements published separately. Unusually, there is no dedicatee.

Five Pieces, Op. 36

J. Fischer & Bro., 1939
Movements:
1. Prelude and Fughetta in F – to André Marchal
2. Agnus Dei (Communion) – to Harold Geer
3. Toccata on “Leonie” [sic] (Hebrew Melody) – to Winslow Cheney
4. Night Sorrow – to Harold Heeremans
5. Bells of Riverside – to Harold V. Milligan

 Movements published separately. A one-page introduction to movement 3 was later written (1940) and included with some sheet music.

Passacaglia in E Minor, Op. 40
To Hugh Porter

J. Fischer & Bro., 1939

Nativity Song
For Rosalind

H.W. Gray, 1941

No opus number given to this piece. Not a Christmas piece, but written on the birth of his first grandchild.
Twelve Hymn-Preludes on Familiar Tunes, Op. 38

H.W. Gray, 1942
Movements:

   Set 1
   1. Ajalon (“Gracious Spirit, Dwell With Me”) – to Garth Edmundson
   2. Festal Song (“Rise Up, O Men of God”) – to Walter Blodgett
   3. Morwellham (“O Holy City, Seen of John”) – to W. Russell Bowie
   4. Martyn (“Jesus, Lover of My Soul”) – to Horace M. Hollister
   5. Toplady (“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”) – to Norman Coke-Jephcott
   6. Truro (“Lift Up Your Heads”) – to Philip C. Jones

   Set 2
   7. Bethany (“Nearer, My God, to Thee”) – to Robert E. Lewis
   8. Bread of Life (“Break Thou the Bread of Life”) – to Joseph Ragan
   9. Langran (“O Thou Great Friend”) – to Vernon de Tar
   10. Rathbun (“In the Cross of Christ”) – to Alice
   11. Need (“I Need Thee Every Hour”) – to Rose
   12. Olivet (“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”) – to George Volkel

Published in two books – Set 1 and Set 2. There is a longer variant of No. 2, which includes a one-page introduction.

At the Cradle of Jesus
For Madame Alfred Guy

J. Fischer, 1943
No opus number given to this piece.

Baroques, Op. 41
To E. Power Biggs

Galaxy, 1944
Movements:

   1. Overture
   2. Rondo Ostinato
   3. Sarabande
   4. Rhythmic Trumpet
   5. Voluntary

Still in publication from Galaxy/ECS.

Seven Preludes or Postludes on Lowell Mason Hymns, Op. 42

H.W.Gray, 1945
Movements:

   1. Wesley (“Hail to the Brightness”) – to Catharine Crozier
   2. Boylston (“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”) – to Julain Williams
   3. Missionary Hymn (“From Greenland’s Icy Mountains”) – to Frederick Kinsley
   4. Watchman (“Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”) – to Alexander Schreiner
   5. Laban (“A Charge to Keep I Have”) – to Alexander McCurdy
   6. Henley (“We Would See Jesus”) – to Leslie P. Spelman
   7. Work Song (“Work, for the Night is Coming”) – to Daniel Gregory Mason

Chorale Prelude on "Vere Languores" (Lotti)

Unpublished
Date of composition: 1947
Manuscript in NYPL. No opus number.
Fantasy in C, Op. 50
To Carl Weinrich
H.W. Gray, 1949

Variation Studies, Op. 54
To Harold Gleason
Witmark, 1951

Variations on an original theme. Revised and fingered by Catharine Crozier.

Thirty-Six Hymn and Carol Canons in Free Style, Op. 52
H.W. Gray, 1952
Movements:
1. Abide with me (Eventide), 3 settings – to Harold Friedell
2. As with Gladness (Dix), 2 settings – to Richard Ross
3. Faith of our fathers (St. Catherine), 2 settings – to Walter Baker
4. God of our fathers (National Hymn), 2 settings – to William Strickland
5. He leadeth me (Aughton), 3 settings – to Marilyn Mason
6. I love to tell the story (Hankey), 2 settings – to William Watkins
7. In the cross of Christ (Rathbun), 2 settings – to Edwin Shippen Barnes
8. Jesus, and shall it ever be (Federal Street), 2 settings – to Everett Titcomb
9. Just as I am (Woodworth), 2 settings – to A. Walter Kramer
10. Lord, who throughout these forty days (St. Flavian), 3 settings – to Palmer Christian (in memoriam)
11. Men and children everywhere (Rock of Ages), 3 settings – to Leo Sowerby
12. O come and mourn (St. Cross), 2 settings – to Arthur Poister
13. O Son of God (Donne Secours), 2 settings – to Mack Evans
14. Sun of my soul (Hursley), 3 settings - to H. Leroy Baumgartner
15. The God of Abraham praise (Yigdal (Leoni)), 3 settings – to Barrett Spach
16. The heavens declare Thy glory (Uxbridge), 3 settings – to Clare Coci
17. We gather together (Kremser), 3 settings – to Claude Murphree
18. When I survey the wondrous cross (Hamburg), 2 settings – to Donald Gray
19. When I survey the wondrous cross (Rockingham Old), 2 settings – to Allan Hughes
20. Where cross the crowded ways (Germany (Gardiner)), 2 settings – to George Frederick McKay
21. A minuit fut un reveil, 3 settings – to George Markey
22. Christus resurrexit, 3 settings – to Clarence Watters
23. Entre le boeuf et l’ane, 2 settings – to Theodore Schaefer
24. Gabriel’s salutation, 3 settings – to Charles Finney
25. God rest you merry, gentlemen, 2 settings – to Robert Noehren
26. Good King Wenceslas, 5 settings – to Virgil Fox
27. Je sais, vierge Marie, 3 settings – to Robert Crandell
28. Jesus loves me, 3 settings – to Howard McKinney
29. Nous voici dans la ville, 2 settings – to Robert Crandell
30. Puer natus in Bethlehem, 2 settings – to Richard Keys Biggs
31. Quand Dieu naquit, 3 settings – to Hugh Giles
32. Quittez, pasteurs, 3 settings – to Robert Baker
33. The first Noel, 3 settings – to Robert Elmore
34. Un flambeau, Jeannette, Isabelle, 3 settings – to Searle Wright
35. Vom Himmel kam der Engel Schaar, 3 settings – to Emilie Parmalee Spivey
36. What child is this? (Greensleeves), 2 settings – to Richard Purvis

Extract published as Sixteen Carol Canons.

Annunciation
To Mildred Andrews
H.W. Gray, 1970
Date of composition: 1957

No opus number.
**Hymn Fantasy on “Riverton”**


No opus number.

Based on an original hymn tune?

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**Sonata of Prayer and Praise, Op. 60**

To Leonard Raver

H.W. Gray, 1959

 Movements:
  1. Prelude to Worship
  2. Rapid Lyric
  3. Christmas Meditation
  4. Finale

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**Offertoire sur une chanson espagnole**

In memory of Victor Gonzalez

World Library of Sacred Music, 1959

No opus number.

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**Ut Queant Laxis, Op. 61**

To Frederick Swann

C.F. Peters, 1962

Still in publication.

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**He Is Risen (Fantasy on Easter Themes), Op. 62**

To Robert Baker

H.W. Gray, 1962

Incorporates themes: “Christ lag’ in Todesbanden”, “O filii et filiae”, “Jesus Christ is risen today”

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**Introit on “Elton”**

World Library of Sacred Music, 1962

No opus number.

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**Prelude and Fughetta on “St. Kevin”**

To George Markey

Galaxy, 1962

Still in publication. No opus number.

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**The Good Shepherd**

To Eugene Hancock

Galaxy, 1962

No opus number. Contains the hymn tune and text “He Leadeth Me”, as well as the text for the 23rd psalm, to be spoken by a narrator if desired.