



Peoria  
Chapter

American  
Guild of  
Organists

**DELBERT DISSELHORST**

ORGAN CONCERT

SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 1990  
3:30 P.M.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
1504 W. MOSS AVENUE  
PEORIA, ILLINOIS

## **DELBERT DISSELHORST**

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Delbert Disselhorst is a native of Illinois. He earned both the Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from the University of Illinois where he graduated as a Bronze Tablet Scholar. He was a recipient of a Fulbright grant in organ, studying with Helmut Walcha in Frankfurt, Germany. He holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Michigan and has also been awarded the Palmer Christian citation as a distinguished alumnus of the Michigan Organ department. His teachers have included Jerald Hamilton, Mildred Andrews Boggess, Marilyn Mason and Russell Saunders.

As a concert artist, he has performed in the United States, Canada and Europe. He has appeared as a recitalist for several regional conventions and for the National Convention of the American Guild of Organists in Houston in 1989. Tours in Europe have included recitals in Denmark, Germany and France.

Dr. Disselhorst is Professor of Music and Chairman of the Organ Department at the University of Iowa.



This program is sponsored in part by a grant from the Peoria Area Arts & Science Council and the Illinois Arts Council.

# Program

Praeludium in E "Vincent Lubeck  
1654-1740

Chorale Prelude  
"Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr," S.662  
Johann Sebastian Bach  
1685-1750

Sonata III in d Minor, S.527 J. S. Bach  
Andante  
Adagio e dolce  
Vivace

Introduction and Passacaglia in f Minor, op.65  
Max Reger  
1873-1916

- INTERMISSION -

Gospel Preludes from Book II William Bolcom  
b. 1938  
(1980-81)

Jesus Loves Me  
Amazing Grace

Three Sketches from op. 58 Robert Schumann  
1810-1856

F Minor  
D-flat Major  
C Minor

Pageant (1931) Leo Sowerby  
1895-1968

*Phyllis Stringham Concert Management*

## - NOTES -

### Lübeck -

Lübeck was a distinguished North German composer, teacher and performer. Although only nine organ works are known, these writings perfectly represent the "fantastic style" of the North German school. The Praeludium in E is a multi-sectional design contrasting brilliant improvisatory sections with stricter imitative writing. The style displays the varied color possibilities of the North German organ of the period.

### Bach -

In the last years of Bach's life a number of writings from earlier periods were revised including a major group of chorale preludes originally composed many years earlier during his residency in Weimar. This highly ornate setting of the German Gloria is an elegant essay in the polished art of baroque embellishment.

According to Bach's first biographer, Forkel, the set of six sonatas for keyboard and pedal were composed for "his eldest son, Friedemann, who, with their help, had to prepare himself to become the great organ player of later days. Their beauty cannot be praised enough." Despite the extraordinary compositional intricacies and performing problems, the effortless unfolding of the three contrasting lines presents the purest form of chamber music for the organ.

### Reger -

Reger was the most prolific German Romantic composer for the organ. The 12 works constituting Opus 65 date from 1903, and like many writings of the composer, reflect a creative spirit very much indebted to J.S.Bach. The boldly contrasting gestures of the Introduction recall the "fantastic style" of free improvisation, while the style and order of the variations in the Passacaglia suggests the influence of the great C Minor Passacaglia of Bach.

### Bolcom -

William Bolcom is presently on the music faculty at the University of Michigan. The four books of Gospel Preludes reflect his intense interest in American materials and native American styles--jazz, blues, ragtime, etc. The serene and simple setting of "Jesus Loves Me" contrasts strongly with the colorful variations of "Amazing Grace." These writings are pure Americana.

### Schumann -

Schumann composed these sketches for the pedal-piano, an unusual instrument then in use as a practice instrument at the Leipzig conservatory. Though the instrument did not achieve long-lasting success, the works written for it have continued as the property of organists. With their simple designs, ingratiating rhythms, folklike melodies and colorful sounds, they resemble many of the shorter character piano works from the Romantic period.

### Sowerby -

Sowerby was for many years organist and choirmaster at St. James Cathedral in Chicago. He later was affiliated with the College of Church Musicians at the National Cathedral in Washington. Winner of the Prix de Rome and countless other prestigious awards, Sowerby was an important contributor to the organ repertory of American composers. The Pageant, a set of variations on an original melody, is one of his most virtuosic concert writings.

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