



Peoria
Chapter

American
Guild of
Organists

John Weaver

Organist and Choir Director

The Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity

New York City

Sunday 10 November 1968
3:30 P. M.

First United Methodist Church
Perry at Hamilton
Peoria, Illinois

Program

CONCERTO NO. 2 IN A MINOR

Vivaldi-Bach

Allegro
Adagio
Vivace

Johann Sebastian Bach was a great admirer of his Italian contemporary, Antonio Vivaldi. This concerto was composed for two violins and string orchestra by Vivaldi and transcribed for the organ by Bach.

CHORALE-PRELUDE: Schmucke Dich

J. S. Bach

This work is one of the finest examples of melodic ornamentation of a chorale. Each line of the familiar Lutheran hymn "Deck thyself with joy and gladness" is decorated with many trills, mordents and other ornaments in the soprano voice, and the whole rests upon a three-voice accompaniment of great melodic beauty.

PRELUDE AND FUGUE IN E MINOR (The Wedge)

J. S. Bach

The interesting musical shape of the subject of the E Minor Fugue gives it its familiar name, the "Wedge." Starting on the tonic note of "e" the notes fan out from the center in ever wider intervals until they are an octave apart. The chromatic nature of the subject provides the material for some startling harmonic passages in the later development. The prelude which precedes it is a work of towering gothic grandeur as awe-inspiring as the greatest cathedrals.

INTERMISSION

CORTEGE AND LITANY

Marcel Dupre

Marcel Dupre celebrated his 80th birthday in 1966 by playing an organ recital! He is unquestionably among the very greatest organists of this century as well as a revered teacher and prolific composer.

The Cortège and Litany is among his earliest works, and was originally written for the orchestra. The first part is notable for its soaring melodic lines and rich harmonies. In the Litany a quiet chant is introduced on a single flute stop and developed so skillfully that its continuous repetition is always fresh and interesting. As it increases in urgency the Cortège is superimposed on it building up to a majestic conclusion.

ROULADE

Seth Bingham

Dr. Bingham is Professor-emeritus of Composition at Union Theological Seminary in New York. This charming scherzo is perhaps his most popular work for the organ.

THE ASCENSION

Olivier Messiaen

"Serene Alleluias"
"Outburst of Joy"

Messiaen, believed by some to be France's foremost living composer, has made the most significant contribution to the organ literature since Cesar Franck. He speaks of his own work thus: "It is a glistening music we seek, giving to the aural sense voluptuously refined pleasures. At the same time this music should be able to express noble sentiments." Messiaen's music for the organ is always conceived as an expression of his religious experience, and in these two contrasting compositions the feelings of quiet joy and ecstatic joy are unmistakable.

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Peoria Chapter American Guild of Organists

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