



Peoria
Chapter

American
Guild of
Organists

Mary Preston

Organ Concert

Sunday, November 11, 1990
3:30 P.M.

Bethel Lutheran Church
200 Colona
Bartonville, Illinois

MARY PRESTON

The electric drive and rhythmic certainty which set Mary Preston apart as one of the finest concert organists of her generation were experienced by delegates to the 1988 National Convention of the American Guild of Organists meeting in Houston. The critic from one national journal covering the convention stated flatly, "Mary Preston's recital was a highlight of the convention week." He called her "a superb organist" who "left no doubt that she has what it takes technically and musically."

Mary Preston has been presented in numerous recitals, including engagements in San Francisco, Chicago, Dallas, San Jose, Austin, and Los Angeles, as well as the Riverside Church in New York City, and the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, where she appeared by special invitation of the late Pierre Cochereau.

She was the first-place winner of the Gruenstein award in Chicago, and a finalist in other national organ playing competitions in Los Angeles and Fort Wayne, Indiana. She was graduated with honors and received a Master of Music degree from North Texas State University, studying with Charles Brown, and has continued post-graduate study with Russell Saunders at the Eastman School of Music. Her early training began with Kathryn McCain and Harold Mueller in San Francisco, followed by study with Garth Peacock, the Oberlin Conservatory of Music; John Walker, San Jose State University; and Robert Anderson, Southern Methodist University. A member of the Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society, she has coached and played in master classes with Jean Guillou, Marie-Claire Alain, Pierre Cochereau, and Michael Radulescu.

Mary Preston serves as Director of Artistic Ministries and Organist of King of Glory Lutheran Church, Dallas, Texas.

She is represented by Philip Truckenbrod Concert Artists, West Hartford, Connecticut.

Program

Prelude and Fugue in C Major

Georg Bohm
(1661-1733)

Chorale Prelude and Trio on

Johann Sebastian Bach

"Allein Gott In der Hoh sei Ehr," BWV 662 and 664 (1685-1750)

All glory be to God on High,
Who hath our race befriended!
To us no harm shall now come nigh,
The feud at last is ended;
God showeth His goodwill toward men,
And peace shall dwell on earth again;
Oh thank Him for His goodness.

(Catherine Winkworth, 1865)

The Despair and Agony of Dachau

Paul J. Sifler
(b. 1911)

Paul Sifler, an American citizen since childhood, was born in Lubljana, Yugoslavia. Depicting the roaring furnaces, the scurrying of the rats and the barking of the dogs, this work was composed to provide a history lesson for the future, and to offer the fervent prayer that mankind will never again be involved in such an atrocity.

My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?
Why art Thou so far from helping me,
from the words of my groaning?
O my God, I cry by day, but Thou dost not answer;
and by night, but find no rest.
Yet Thou art holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.
In Thee our fathers trusted;
they trusted, and Thou didst deliver them.
To Thee they cried, and were saved;
in Thee they trusted, and were not disappointed.
Upon Thee was I cast from my birth,
and since my mother bore me Thou hast been my God.
Be not far from me,
for trouble is near and there is none to help.
(from Psalm 22)

Chorale Prelude on "Jauchz, Erd', und Himmel, Jubel!", Op. 67 No. 15 (1873-1916)

Max Reger

I'll praise my Maker while I've breath,
and when my voice is lost in death,
praise shall employ my nobler powers;
My days of praise shall ne'er be past,
while life, and thought, and being last,
or immortality endures.

Happy the one whose hopes rely on Israel's God;
He made the sky, and earth, and seas,
with all their train.

His truth forever stands secure,
He saves the opprest, He feeds the poor,
and none shall find His promise vain.

(from Psalm 146)

- Short Intermission -

The Ninety-Fourth Psalm

Julius Reubke
(1834-1858)

Grave-Larghetto

O Lord God, to Whom vengeance belongeth, show Thyself.
Arise, Thou Judge of the world;
and reward the proud after their deserving.

Allegro confuoco

Lord, how long shall the ungodly triumph?
They murder the widow and the stranger;
and put the fatherless to death.
And yet they say, Tush, the Lord shall not see;
neither shall the God of Jacob regard it.

Adagio

If the Lord had not helped me;
it had not failed but my soul had been put to silence.
In the multitude of the sorrows that I had in my heart;
Thy comforts have refreshed my soul.

Allegro

But the Lord is my refuge;
and my God is the strength of my confidence.
He shall recompense them their wickedness,
destroy them in their own malice.

Scherzo, Op. 2

Maurice Durufle
(1902-1986)

Evocation (Poeme symphonique), Op. 37

Allegro deciso

Marcel Dupre
(1886-1971)

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

Peoria Chapter
American Guild of Organists
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