



Simon Preston *Toccata*

Encore Publications announces the release of Simon Preston's *Toccata* (1998) for organ. The starting point for this recital piece was the *Toccata and Fugue in D Minor* ascribed to J.S. Bach. Simon Preston has tried to retain the dramatic and virtuosic elements in his own work while, at the same time, seeking to free it from the harmonic restraints of D minor. To do this, he started with all the notes of the first two bars of Bach's *Toccata*, removed the note D, and created his own chordal, melodic, and rhythmic patterns with what is left.

Simon Preston studied at King's College, Cambridge, where he served as organ scholar. In 1962, he made his debut at the Royal Festival Hall in London. Shortly afterwards, he was appointed sub-organist of Westminster Abbey. In 1970, he became organist of the cathedral and tutor in music at Christ Church Oxford, before returning to Westminster Abbey from 1981–87 as organist and master of the choristers. Since leaving the Abbey, Preston has continued to pursue an active career as a concert organist. In 2009, he was made a CBE in the New Year's Honours list.

Duration 6'30", 16 pages, £8.50; for further information: www.encorepublications.com.

Michael's Music Service announces new organ sheet music. *Second Toccata*, by James H. Rogers (1857–1940), a spicy toccata from 1911, is not as hard as one might think based on the number of notes. *Onward Christian Soldiers*, by Samuel B. Whitney (1842–1914) is based on Arthur Sullivan's tune, ST GERTRUDE, which was first included in a hymnal in 1872, and it remains in many hymnals today. Whitney was organist at Boston's Church of the

Nunc Dimittis

Peter J. Basch died August 3, 2012, in Hoboken, New Jersey. He was 82. Born December 8, 1929 in Webster, New York, he studied at the Eastman School of Music. He was the first editor of *MUSIC Magazine*, 1968–73, and taught at the New York School of Liturgical Music. He also served as organist and choirmaster at the Church of St. John the Evangelist in New York City, and later at Holy Redeemer Parish, West New York, New Jersey.

In 1972 Basch commissioned *Cantique de Joie* from his friend and composer Serge de Gastyne, and played the premiere at Notre Dame de Paris in 1973. He wrote: "It's a very difficult piece for organ which took me nearly a year to memorize completely, mainly because of accidental and rhythmic intricacies."

W. Lindsay Smith III, age 96, died October 2 in Greenville, South Carolina. He earned his BA degree from Furman University and MSM and DSM degrees from Union Theological Seminary in New York. Professor of music and organist at Furman University for 38 years, he served an extended term as music department chair, and also a term as chair of the university faculty. Smith also held church music positions in Greenville, including for 18 years at Christ Episcopal Church and 25 years at Trinity Lutheran. He was an initial organizer of the Greenville AGO chapter. A frequent recitalist, Smith assisted many area church in the acquisition of pipe organs. W. Lindsay Smith III is survived by his wife, Charlotte, a son, a daughter, a sister, and two grandsons. ■

Advent. *Scherzo from "A Midsummer Night's Dream,"* by Felix Mendelssohn, was transcribed by Samuel P. Warren (1841–1915). Warren wrote this virtuosic tour de force to show off the organ and his incredible ability. Michael's Music Service's website includes a concert video of this piece, by Thomas Trotter, played on the Mander organ in the Cranleigh School Chapel. For information: <http://michaelsmusicservice.com>.

Recordings

An archival recording of **Heinrich Fleischer** playing the E. M. Skinner organ in Chicago's Rockefeller Chapel during the 1950s is now available in a recently released 2-CD set. The recording, issued by the H. Fleischer Archive at Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota, celebrates the 100th anniversary of Fleischer's birth. The program includes works by Bach, Franck, Bruhns, Reger, Langlais, Messiaen, and Lenel. Information about the recording, together with an order form, will be found at www.agosioxtrails.org.

Pro Organo announces new recordings in progress. **Daryl Robinson** was first prize winner of the 2012 NYACOP (National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance). His recording will feature the Fisk organ at Rice University, Houston, where he is studying with Ken Cowan. **Isabelle Demers** recorded a new album on the Patrick J. Murphy & Associates organ at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, New Orleans, Louisiana. The program includes Raymond Daveluy's *Toccata*, Reger's transcription of Bach's *Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue*, and

other works by Thalben-Ball, Reger, Bull, and Mendelssohn. For information: www.ProOrgano.com.

Michael Tilson Thomas and the **San Francisco Symphony** have released *American Mavericks*, a hybrid SACD recorded live in concert at Davies Symphony Hall. The SFS Media recording includes works by Edgard Varèse, Henry Cowell (featuring piano soloist Jeremy Denk), and Lou Harrison's *Concerto for Organ with Percussion Orchestra*, which features organist **Paul Jacobs**. The 1972 concerto utilizes a variety of percussion instruments from glockenspiel, vibraphone, celesta, and tube chimes, to oxygen tanks and wood drums. The solo

organ part requires tone clusters played with the palm of the hand, and specially cut wooden slabs. For information: sfsymphony.org/store.

Organ Builders

Fratelli Ruffatti has built a two-manual, 25-stop organ for the cathedral in Hämösand, Sweden. The casework was designed by Michela Ruffatti, and was installed in June by a team from the factory, under the direction of Piero Ruffatti. Voicing was done in July by Francesco Ruffatti and Fabrizio Scolaro. The organ was dedicated by Lars G. Fredriksson, cathedral assistant organist, on September 9, 2012.

Ruffatti has restored the organ in S. Nicolò dei Mendicoli (St. Nicholas of the Beggars), one of the oldest churches in Venice. The builder of the restored organ is unknown. It is from the 18th century, but was built into an older case dating from the end of the 16th century. The paintings on the balcony rail are by Carletto Caliarì (1570–1596) of the Paolo Veronese school. The instrument has one keyboard and pedal, with 18 stop knobs. The stops are typical of the Venetian tradition, including the Tromboncini reed, placed in front of the Principal façade pipes, according to the same Venetian tradition. The organ can be hand-pumped or winded by a modern blower.

Ruffatti has built a new organ for the new Harbin Concert Hall in Harbin, China. Because of its bitterly cold winters, it has been called the "Ice City" and is noted for its ice sculptures in winter. The new organ, which has three manuals and 41 stops, will be installed in the fall of 2013, after the concert hall is finished. For information: www.ruffatti.com. ■

Carillon News



Belgorod Mobile Carillon

The **Petit and Fritsen Bellfoundry** delivered a new mobile carillon to the city of Belgorod, Russia. With 51 bells, the carillon has a compass from B-flat to D. Every year in Prokhorovka, approximately 40 kilometers from Belgorod, a significant combat operation between Germany and Russia is commemorated. A large number of tanks were destroyed in this "world's greatest tank battle," which also resulted in many casualties. The battle was a principal turning point in World War II. The carillon is intended to be used in an annual remembrance of the battle. The original plan was to install the carillon in the tower, but they opted for a mobile carillon so that it could be used for a wider variety of events.

Ottawa Dominion Carillonneur **Andrea McCrady** hosted the 2012 Percival Price Symposium at the Peace Tower carillon. The annual symposium celebrates the legacy of performance, teaching, and campanology of Percival Price, Canada's first Dominion Carillonneur from 1927 to 1939. Guest artist for the September 2012 symposium was **George Gregory**. ■

Send items for "Carillon News" to Dr. Brian Swager, c/o THE DIAPASON, 3030 W. Salt Creek Lane, Suite 201, Arlington Heights, IL 60005-5025; or e-mail brian@allegrofuoco.com. For information on the Guild of Carillonners in North America: www.gcna.org.

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