

*First Church of Christ is pleased to host the Eleventh Annual*

# **Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival**

**NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR YOUNG ORGANISTS**

**September 5-7, 2008**

## **ASOF CELEBRATION CONCERT - Friday, September 5, at 7:30 p.m.**

A Celebration Concert opens the festival, featuring the artistry of **Gerre Hancock**, one of America's most highly acclaimed concert organists and choral directors, and considered the finest organ improviser in the country; **Marilyn Mason**, whose distinguished career as concert organist, lecturer, adjudicator, teacher and recording artist has had a profound impact on the American organ scene; and **Frederick Hohman**, who is a unique American organ virtuoso, bringing the pipe organ and its 500 years of music to audiences worldwide through concert performances, radio, recordings and television. The Celebration Concert also features the **Festival Choir**, conducted by ASOF co-founder **David Spicer**.

## **ASOF ORGAN COMPETITION - Saturday, September 6**

### **High School Division, 9 a.m.-12 noon**

Finalists are Chelsea Barton of Mechanicsburg, PA; Caroline Robinson of Greenville, SC; and Gregory Zelek of Coral Gables, FL

### **Young Professional Division, 2-5 p.m.**

Finalists are Nathan Davy of Rochester, NY; Christopher Houlihan of Somers, CT; and James Kennerley of Greenwich, CT

## **MASTERCLASS - Sunday, September 7 - 1:30-3:30 p.m.**

The first-place winners in both divisions will participate in a masterclass with the judges in the Meetinghouse of the First Church of Christ, and awards will be presented. The First-Place Young Professional Division Award is provided by several combined funds.

***All are welcome to attend any or all of the events!***

An offering will be received on Friday evening.

Childcare will be available on Friday evening for those through age of 8.

## *Our Inspiration at ASOF*

**Albert Schweitzer** (1875-1965) – Dr. Schweitzer was a physician, theologian, musician and philosopher. His writings on the music of Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) have been an invaluable resource and inspiration for organists and musicologists. The Nobel Peace Laureate's ethic of *Reverence for Life* emphasizes each human being's responsibility to all forms of life on our planet. This philosophy is the foundation of the programs of the Albert Schweitzer Institute, located at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Connecticut.

The ASOF competition will be judged by our guest concert artists: **Gerre Hancock**, **Marilyn Mason** and **Frederick Hohman**. Their bios and photos appear below.



# The Judges for ASOF 2008



**Gerre Hancock**, one of America's most highly acclaimed concert organists and choral directors, has recently been appointed to the faculty of The University of Texas at Austin where he is developing a curriculum for the study of Sacred Music. Prior to this appointment, Dr. Hancock held the position of Organist and Master of Choristers at Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue in New York City, where, for more than thirty years he set a new standard for church music in America. Previous to his time at Saint Thomas Church, he held positions as Organist and Choirmaster of Christ Church Cathedral in Cincinnati, where he also served on the Artist Faculty of the College-Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati, and as Assistant Organist at St. Bartholomew's Church, New York City.

Dr. Hancock received his Bachelor of Music degree from The University of Texas at Austin and his Master of Sacred Music degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York from which he received the *Unitas Distinguished Alumnus Award*. A recipient of a Rotary Foundation Fellowship, he also studied in Paris and during this time was a finalist at the Munich International Music Competitions. His organ study has been with E. William Doty, Robert Baker, Jean Langlais and Marie-Claire Alain.

A Fellow of the American Guild of Organists, Gerre Hancock has been a member of its National Council and is a founder and past president of the Association of Anglican Musicians. He has served on the faculty of The Juilliard School in New York City and taught improvisation on a visiting basis at the Institute of Sacred Music, Yale University in New Haven, CT, and The Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY. In 1981 he was appointed a Fellow of the Royal School of Church Music and in 1995 was appointed a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists. Gerre Hancock has received honorary Doctor of Music degrees from the Nashotah House Seminary, and The University of the South at Sewanee, Tennessee. In May 2004 he was awarded the Doctor of Divinity degree (Honoris causa) from The General Theological Seminary in New

York. He is listed in "Who's Who in America," and his biography appears in *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians, 2nd edition*. In 2004 he was honored in a ceremony at Lambeth Palace in London where he was presented the Medal of the Cross of St. Augustine by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Gerre Hancock's consummate skill is clearly apparent in his concert appearances. Possessing a masterly interpretive ability, he is an artist of taste, warmth, perception and style. A featured recitalist and lecturer at numerous regional conventions of the American Guild of Organists and at national conventions of the Guild in Philadelphia, Cleveland, Boston, Washington DC, Detroit, Houston and New York City, he also represented the AGO as recitalist at the Centenary Anniversary of the Royal College of Organists in London. Considered the finest organ improviser in America, Dr. Hancock has been heard in recital in many cities throughout the United States, Europe, South Africa, and Japan. On occasion he performs in duo recitals with his wife, Judith Hancock.

Compositions by Dr. Hancock are published by Oxford University Press. His compositions for organ and chorus are widely performed and his textbook, *Improvising: How to Master the Art*, is used by musicians throughout the country. He has recorded for Gothic Records, Decca/Argo, Koch International and Priory Records, both as a conductor of The St. Thomas Choir and as a soloist.



**Marilyn Mason** Among the important influences on the American organ scene in the second half of the 20th century, Marilyn Mason certainly has made a lasting impact in her distinguished career as concert organist, lecturer, adjudicator, teacher, organ consultant, recording artist, and by the nearly 75 organ works she has commissioned. Her name commands immediate recognition among organists today, confirming her impact more than 50 years after she made her debut.

Dr. Mason is University Organist, Professor of Music, and Chairman of the Organ Department of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Her affiliation with Michigan began in 1944 as she began her undergraduate studies there under Palmer Christian, later completing her Master of Music degree. And, except for a year spent in France, where she studied under Nadia Boulanger (analysis) and Maurice Duruflé (organ) and time studying for her Doctor of Sacred Music degree at Union Theological seminary in New York, she has spent her entire career in Ann Arbor. Dr. Mason has been consistently recognized by the faculty: first, as an undergraduate, she was awarded the Stanley Medal, the highest award given to any music major. Later, in her teaching career, her colleagues presented her with the Distinguished Faculty Award, and music alumni awarded her the first Citation of Merit. During her time at Michigan, annual summer and fall organ music conferences have become regular highlights, she has led organ tours abroad to see and hear historic organs, and the Marilyn Mason Organ was installed in a specifically-built recital hall. The organ, built by C.B. Fisk, is a replica in the spirit of the instruments of the 18<sup>th</sup>-century organ builder Gottfried Silbermann, whose organs Bach knew well.

Dr. Mason has performed on every continent, save Antarctica. She was the first American woman to play in Westminster Abbey, the first woman organist to play in Latin America, and the first American to play in Egypt. She has served as judge at nearly every major organ competition in the world. Her dedication to

modern organ music is evidenced by the names of influential composers who have written for her: Albright, Bolcom, Cook, Cowell, Creston, Diemer, Haines, Jackson, David Johnson, Jordan, Krenek, Langlais, Lockwood, Near, Persichetti, Sowerby, Wyton, and Young. Dr. Mason has recorded the complete works of Johann Pachelbel for the Musical Heritage Society. In 1987, Dr. Mason was awarded the degree Doctor of Music honoris causa from the University of Nebraska.



## Frederick Hohman

Organist Frederick Hohman is a unique American organ virtuoso, bringing the pipe organ & its 500 years of music to audiences worldwide through concert performances, radio, recordings and television.

He was born in St. Louis, Missouri to professional musicians specializing in jazz. He entered the University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music in 1974 as an undergraduate scholarship student in the organ class of David Craighead. Remaining at Eastman, he holds *Eastman's Performer's Certificate* (organ), Mus.B., M.M., and D.M.A. degrees. In 1984, he was named First Prize Winner in both the *Eighth National Organ-Playing Competition* (Mader Foundation, Pasadena, California) and the *Arthur Poister Memorial Organ-Playing Competition* (American Guild of Organists, Syracuse, New York).

Since 1984, Frederick Hohman has appeared as a dedicatory recitalist for new organs by several American builders, as a recitalist for conventions of *The Organ Historical Society*, *The American Guild of Organists* and *The American Institute of Organbuilders*, and as a recitalist and lecture-recitalist for prominent U.S. organ festivals and summer organ festivals, including *the San Anselmo Organ Festival* and *the Redlands Organ Festival*, and most recently as an adjudicator for the *National Organ-Playing Competition* in Fort Wayne, Indiana and as a performer and competition adjudicator for *The Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival/LISA*. He has also appeared as organ soloist with American symphony orchestras in the East and midwest.

Hohman's 1984 doctoral essay, *The Art of the Symphonic Organist*, and his 1985 recording, *Lemare Affair* (Pro Organo CD7007) ignited a revival in symphonic literature and organ performance practices. The success of these works led to his recording of more symphonic organ music and transcriptions and to the publication, by Wayne Leupold Editions, of a new organ transcription series bearing his name. In 1992, a critic with *The Diapason* acclaimed him as "one of the symphonic organ's strongest exponents." Although much of his work centers upon the symphonic organ and Edwin Lemare and the symphonic organ music traditions which began in the 1880s in England and concluded during the 1930s in America, Dr. Hohman's broad repertoire reveals considerable expertise in several areas of organ literature.

Frederick Hohman is seen on television as both host and organist in a weekly half-hour series about the organ and organists in America, entitled *Midnight Pipes*. This series, which is comprised of 13 new programs each television season, premiered over several PBS television affiliates in 1998, including those serving Los Angeles, New England and the great plains region. Performance segments from the *Midnight Pipes* series are seen on the nationally-distributed *Classic Arts Showcase* (ARTS) cable network. As a composer, Frederick Hohman has written for SATB choir and organ (both original organ music and organ transcriptions), and his works are published by Wayne Leupold Editions and Lawson & Gould (G Schirmer).



## ALBERT SCHWEITZER ORGAN FESTIVAL September 5-7, 2008

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