

Sunday, July 16, 2023

3:00pm

Madonna della Strada Chapel

Brenda Portman, Organ

Four Pilgrimages in Lorraine, Op. 30 Rachel Laurin (b. 1961)

- I. Cathédrale de Metz: Procession (Sur le Gloria de la messe XV)
- II. Sanctuaire Notre-Dame-de-Sion: Invocation (Sur les "Litanies de Lorette")

Omaggio Festivo, Op. 89 Rachel Laurin

Sonata No. 4 in E minor, BWV 528 Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
Adagio–Vivace
Andante
Un poco Allegro

Three Short Pieces Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
Capriccio, Op. 76, No. 2 transcribed by Brenda Portman
Intermezzo, Op. 118, No. 2
Rhapsodie, Op. 119, No. 4

Reverie William Grant Still (1895-1978)

Ekklesia Brenda Portman (b. 1980)
I. "...but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength."
II. "They will be called oaks of righteousness, planted by the Lord, so that he may be glorified."
III. "Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
IV. "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."
V. "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden."
VI. "Those who believe will do even greater things than these..."
VII. "...our present sufferings are not worth comparing to the glory that will be revealed in us."

Following a decade of successes in performance competitions, and now with her positions increasingly in demand, Brenda Portman has established a well-respected dual career as both a concert organist and composer. She serves as the Resident Organist at Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church in Cincinnati, Ohio, where she is also the Executive Director of the church's renowned Organ Concert Series. She is the Organ Instructor at Xavier University in Cincinnati, and also teaches organ and piano privately.

Raised in Grafton, Wisconsin, Brenda's earliest musical studies were at the piano with her mother, Cheryl Heck, and later with Clarice Wysocky of Grafton. Her organ studies began in high school, also with her mother, and with John Behnke at Concordia University. She furthered her study of the organ and church music with Edward Zimmerman at Wheaton College (B.Mus.Ed.), Douglas Cleveland at Northwestern University (M.Mus.), and with

Roberta Gary and Michael Unger at the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music (D.M.A.), where she received a full scholarship as first prize winner of the Strader Organ Competition and served as a teaching assistant for the organ department.

Between the years 2006 and 2016, Brenda received numerous awards in national organ competitions. In October 2014 she was the only female American organist to compete in the prestigious Canadian International Organ Competition in Montréal. Her performance there led to a collaboration with acclaimed Canadian composer Rachel Laurin and a recording entitled "Pilgrimages: Organ Music of Rachel Laurin Inspired by Sacred Themes," which was released in 2016 on the 2.7 (u)-4.312 0 Td [a th taberf.