

The *Elegy in Memory of Marilyn Mason* which receives its first performance today, was written in sacred memory of my teacher, Marilyn Mason, who taught at the University of Michigan for an astounding 67 years, longer than anyone in its history. There are people in our lives whom we owe a great deal. Originally, I was not planning to be involved in Sacred Music, however Madame Mason encouraged me, and paved the way to allow me to study with her. Madame Mason was possibly the most famous organist of the twentieth century. She knew every important composer and musician of the time and commissioned over 60 new works from composers of our time. However, she was a down to earth person, who rode her bike to her teaching studio every day. And in Dr. Mason's organ studio, her teaching was wedded to warmth, humor and practical assistance in all aspects of the lives of her countless students. She found them scholarships and helped them find jobs as church organists so that they could begin to pay off tuition. She herself served a number of denominations over time, notably as organist at the First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor for 27 years. Her death at 93 occasioned an obituary which took up nearly a whole page in the New York Times. Despite the glamour of her fame and performing life, this *Elegy* represents her as I remember her, quiet, creative and loving presence.

The two works of Dom Paul Benoit are representative of the over a hundred works that he composed. Brother Benoit was a Dominican monk for 60 years of his life, living in the monastery of St. Mark and St. Maur in Luxembourg, Belgium. Quite content with the consecrated life, he rarely performed out of his monastery, and his many organ works were published by friends. Nearly all of his music is influenced or based on Gregorian Chant. He himself described his music as a "combination of Gregorian Chant, Bach and Louis Vierne"

Third Thursday Organ Interludes

Jan 20 Mercer University organ Students, *from the organ studio of Dr. Jack Mitchener*

Feb 17 Mercer Students

Mar 17 Jonathan Poe, *Music Director of Christ Church, Episcopal, Macon*

Apr 21 Tom Granum, *Music Director, Kirk in the Hills, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan*

May 19 Gregory Hamilton

June 16 Paul Thornock *Music Director, The Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Savannah*

July 21 Nelda Chapman *Organist Emeritus, St. Joseph*

Music at St. Joseph

Third Thursday

Organ Interludes

Gregory Hamilton



We welcome all parishioners and visitors with the welcome of Christ to our Parish Masses and Special Events!

“The musical traditions of the of the universal church is a treasure of inestimable value, greater even than any other art...the treasure of Sacred Music is to be fostered with great care”
The Second Vatican Council

St Joseph Parish Choir

The parish choir sings Sundays at the 11:00 Mass. This season we will offer Choral Music of Alstott, Elgar, White, Music of the Russian Orthodox, Lotti, Hurford, Perosi, Faure, Vaughn Williams, Archidelt, Vivaldi, We are always open to new members! Please contact Gregory Hamilton

St. Joseph Choirsters

Our Children's' Choir will resume in September! We follow the *Voice for Life* program. Please contact Gregory Hamilton for details.

Schola Cantorum

The *Schola Cantorum* sings Gregorian Chant and Propers for the 2:00 *Extraordinary Form* Mass, the last Sunday of every month.

Music Interns

We welcome the contributions of our students from Mercer University

Parish Cantors—We are looking for new cantors!

Dr. Gregory Hamilton, Director of Music 832-545-0900 ghmus7@hotmail.com
www.gregoryhamilton.org YouTube: [ghmus7](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCghmus7)



Dr. Marilyn Mason, in front of *The Marilyn Mason Organ*, University of Michigan

St. Joseph's, Macon Third Thursday Organ Interludes

May 19th, 2022 12:00 noon Gregory Hamilton, organ

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| Pièce d'Orgue / Fantasia in G Major BWV 572 | J. S Bach |
| An Wasseflussen Babylon BWV 653 <i>By the Waters of Babylon we Wept</i> | |
| Von Gott will ich nicht lassen BWV 658 <i>God will Keep You</i> | |
| Der Tag, der ist so freudenreich (Rudoff Chorales) <i>The Day is so Joyful</i> | |
| Elegy in Memory of Marliyn Mason (First performance) | Gregory Hamilton |
| Ubi Caritas (Holy Thursday) Prelude and Fugue on "Victimae Pachali Laudes" | Dom Paul Benoit 1893 – 1979 |

Notes on Today's Music

Of the four works by J. S. Bach chosen for today's program, three are called "Chorale Preludes" and the first is a "free" work. Choral preludes were composed by the thousands during the 17th and 18th centuries—they are simply, an organ piece based on a popular hymn tune known to the congregation who sang them. In each of these three works, the listener can hear very clearly the tune—whether played in the pedals by the feet, or on one of the manuals by the hands. In some cases the music that surrounds these simple tunes may be derived from the hymn tune, and this is developed with great sophistication by Bach—such is the art that Bach epoused. Just to note, the last work in the set is from a collection (the "Rudoff" Chorales) just discovered in the 1990's. So it is "new Bach"!

The Fantasy in G, which begins the program is a tri—part work, kind of like a renaissance triptych that opens up into three panels. The three sections obviously bring to mind the Holy Trinity. There is considerable question about which section represents which member of the Trinity. I leave it to the listener to decide. This is a youthful work of Bach, and certainly show his energy and also his exploration into the French Baroque style, from his boyhood singing in choir at Celle.