

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 compositions 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 Raven label. Some of Portman's compositions have won awards as well, in competitions hosted by the Twin Cities AGO, the District of Columbia AGO, and the University of Notre Dame. She has been commissioned numerous times in recent years for solo organ, organ-plus-instrument, and choral works, including by the American Guild of Organists and various musicians across the country. Her compositions are primarily published by Sacred Music Press and Augsburg Fortress, though others are self-published or in print from Paraclete, Selah, and Wayne Leupold Editions. More information can be found at her website, www.brendaportman.com.



Recent activities include a 3-day teaching residency at the University of Iowa, teaching at the AGO's Pipe Organ Encounter at Wheaton College, adjudicating the Sursa American Organ Competition at Ball State University, and teaching 4th graders about how pipe organs work. When not doing music, she enjoys gardening, taking walks with her husband, and trying to keep up with her three children's activities.