



DEDICATORY RECITAL BY GERRE HANCOCK

February 5, 1999 • 8:00 p.m.

PROGRAM

Choral in A minor

César Franck
(1822-1890)

Prelude and Fugue in E minor

Nikolaus Bruhns
(1665-1697)

From the Six Chorales (Schübler)

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

O Whither Shall I Flee

Art Thou, Lord Jesus, from Heaven to Earth Now Descending

My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord

Fantasia and Fugue on B-A-C-H, Opus 46

Max Reger
(1873-1916)

Improvisation on submitted themes: A Sonata

Gerre Hancock, biography

Gerre Hancock is Organist and Master of the Choristers at Saint Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue in New York City. Until this appointment, Dr. Hancock was 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. Prior to this he was Assistant Organist at St. Bartholomew's Church, New York City.

Dr. Hancock received his Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Texas and his Master of Sacred Music degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York. He also studied in Paris as a recipient of a Rotary Foundation Fellowship and 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 was a member of its National Council and is a founder and past president of the Association of Anglican Musicians. In addition to his duties at St. Thomas Church, he serves on the faculties of the Juilliard School in New York City and the Institute of Sacred Music, Yale University, and teaches improvisation on a visiting basis at the Eastman School of Music. In 1981 he was appointed a Fellow of the Royal School of Church Music, and was awarded the Doctor of Music degree by Nashotah House Seminary in 1986. He is listed in "Who's Who in America."

Gerre Hancock's consummate skill is clearly apparent each time he makes a concert appearance. Possessing a masterly interpretive ability, he is an artist of taste, warmth, perception, and style. A featured recitalist and lecturer at more than a dozen 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. He is considered to be the finest organ improviser in America. Dr. Hancock has been heard in recital in many cities throughout the United States and Europe and at St. Thomas Church; on occasion he performs in duo recitals with his wife, Judith Hancock. He concertizes under the management of Karen McFarlane Artists, Inc.

Gerre Hancock, improvisation

Improvisation has long been a subject of consuming interest to Gerre Hancock, who was fortunate to have studied the subject with Nadia Boulanger, Jean Langlais, and Searle Wright.

A large part of the organ music for the services at Saint Thomas Church includes improvisation on various themes presented within the courses of each day's liturgical and musical numbers. Dr. Hancock enjoys improvising in the various classical forms, with particular emphasis on contrapuntal forms, especially fugal.

He teaches the course on improvisation at the Juilliard School in New York City, the Institute of Sacred Music at Yale University in New Haven, and the Eastman School of Music in Rochester. He is frequently invited to give master classes or lecture-demonstrations for chapters of the American Guild of Organists and other groups on this subject. Dr. Hancock has also conducted workshops of a more extended nature in a number of leading universities in the United States, and at various Church Music Conferences.

On his recital programs he is frequently asked to improvise from themes presented just prior to this part of the program. His improvisations have been widely praised and on countless occasions have earned for him standing ovations.

A recording, *Improvisation II*, of several of Dr. Hancock's improvisations on various hymn-tunes is available from the Music Secretary, Saint Thomas Church, 1 West 53rd Street, New York, New York 10019.

His textbook, *Improvising: How to Master the Art*, is published by Oxford University Press, New York.

This recital has been underwritten by the Friends of Trinity Music. Contributions are welcomed. Alms basins are at the doors of the Cathedral. (Checks should be payable to Trinity Cathedral.)

There will be a reception in Satterlee Hall following the recital.

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL
1100 Sumter Street • Columbia, South Carolina 29201
Telephone: 803 771-7300 • Fax: 803 254-4885