

Elmhurst College Music Department
Presents

Music for Brass and Organ

Elmhurst College Student Brass Quintet, *Kari Lee Director*

Barbara A. Masters, Organ
Thursday February 8, 2018 7 PM
Hammerschmidt Chapel

Program Notes

NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD.....Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933) arr. Wesley Day

Now thank we all our God is a popular Christian hymn. It is a translation from the German "Nun danket alle Gott", written circa 1636 by Martin Rinkart (1586-1649). The Late-Romantic German composer Sigfrid Karg-Elert was one of the more recent composers to use this hymn, composing a 'Marche Triomphale' Op. 65, No. 59 in his Organ Chorale -Improvisations.

The arrangement played in this program is an adaptation of the original solo organ composition which sets a portion of the original for Brass Quartet and Organ.

O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM (O GrMys.....Giovanni Gabrieli (1557-1612)
.....Ed. Stanley Drummond Wolff

The original setting of this motet was for 2 choirs, organ and instruments. It has been adapted by the editor for organ and brass. Gabrieli composed the piece to be performed in San Marco Cathedral in Venice for the Christmas liturgy. The text is roughly translated:

O great mystery,
and wonderful sacrament,
that animals should see the new-born Lord,
lying in a manger!
Blessed is the Virgin whose womb
was worthy to bear
our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!

PRAYER OF ST. GREGORY Op. 62B.....by Alan Hovhaness (1911-2000)

Hovhaness was an Armenian-American composer. This composition was originally an interlude for trumpet and strings from his opera *Etchmiadzin* (1946). The title refers to St. Gregory the Illuminator who was the “apostle” and patron saint of Armenia (ca. 240-330 AD). The somber mood of the piece may depict the 12 year period of imprisonment St. Gregory suffered.

GRAND CHOEUR DIALOGUE (Grand Choir Dialogue)..... Eugene Gigout (1844-1925)
Adapted from the original piece for Organ and Brass by Robert S. Walker

Gigout was a student of Camille Saint-Saens and served as organist at St. Augustin Church in Paris (pictured here) for over 60 years. This bravura piece is played for grand occasions in churches such as ordinations and weddings. The original is longer, very chromatic and virtuosic. This arrangement features the dialogue between the brass and organ and omits the extended solo organ sections of the original composition.

