

L'ORGUE MYSTIQUE
BY
CHARLES TOURNEMIRE



Today's Program

XVII. Dominica Resurrectionis

Pièce Terminale: *Paraphrase et Double Choral*

Op. 56, No. 17
Date of Completion: 11 November 1927

A l'ami, au maître, à Joseph Bonnet, organiste de Saint-Eustache

XVIII. Quasimodo: Dominica I post Pascha

Offertoire: *Angelus Domini descendit de caelo*

Op. 56, No. 18
Date of Completion: 14 February 1930

A son confrère et ami M. Marcel Pitoy, organiste de Maison-Laffite

XVIII. Quasimodo: Dominica I post Pascha

Pièce Terminale: *Toccata sur un Choral*

Op. 56, No. 18
Date of Completion: 14 February 1930

A son confrère et ami M. Marcel Pitoy, organiste de Maison-Laffite

XVI. Sabbato Sancto

Offertoire: *Alleluia*

Op. 56, No. 16
Date of Completion: 31 May 1928

A son élève et cher ami Daniel-Lesur

XXIII. In Ascensione Domini

Pièce Terminale: *Paraphrase sur un Choral*

Op. 56, No. 23
Date of Completion: 7 November 1928

Au R.P. Dom Letestu, organiste de l'abbaye de Solesmes

XVI. Sabbato Sancto

Pièce Terminale: *Postlude*

Op. 56, No. 16
Date of Completion: 31 May 1928

A son élève et cher ami Daniel-Lesur

XIX. Dominica II post Pascha

Pièce Terminale: *Rapsodie Sacrée*

Op. 56, No. 19
Date of Completion: 13 March 1930

A son confrère et ami A. Daces, professeur l'orgue à Rochester



L'Orgue Mystique by Charles Tournemire

CHARLES TOURNEMIRE'S *L'Orgue Mystique* represents a pivotal point in the history of liturgical organ music. This recondite magnum opus, composed 1927-1932, comprises two-hundred-fifty-three movements written for the Mass. Fifteen hours in duration, this epic work employs over three-hundred chants both as an act of devotion and as musical exegesis based upon the chant libretto with the goal of celebrating fifty-one Sundays and Liturgical Feasts throughout the Church Calendar.

Although today shrouded in popular obscurity, Tournemire was a seminal musical influence of the twentieth century, particularly in the realm of sacred music. Born in Bordeaux in 1870, Tournemire, who was a student of César Franck and Charles Marie Widor, was organist of the Basilica of Sainte-Clotilde in Paris from 1898 until his death in 1939 where he was known as an improviser extraordinaire. He produced an enormous compositional output of incredible profundity. His greatest work, the magnum opus *L'Orgue Mystique*, transformed the sound of the organ world, hearkening to the past with its use of Gregorian Chant and yet welcoming it into modernity with its innovative mystical sonorities.

Today's recital represents a work in progress. Organist Richard Spotts, a native of Bucks County, Pennsylvania and a graduate of Westminster Choir College in Princeton, has set out to perform and educate the public of this seminal work, with the ultimate goal of performing the complete fifteen-hour cycle in a recital series over a period of ten days. Mr. Spotts has given recitals at cathedrals, universities, and parishes throughout the United States and Canada and is writing a book on the subject.

