

Sunday, September 21, 2014

3:00pm

Madonna della Strada Chapel

Ricardo Ramirez, Organ

Scherzo, Op. 2 (1926)

Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986)

Litanies (August 1937), JA 119

Jehan Alain (1911-1940)

Prélude et Fugue sur le nom d'Alain, Op. 7 (1942)

Maurice Duruflé

Meditation, Op. Posthum (1964)

Maurice Duruflé

Prélude, Adagio et Choral Varié sur le theme du 'Veni Creator,' Op. 4 (1930)

Maurice Duruflé



H. Ricardo Ramirez is the Director of Music and Organist for the Cathedral of the Holy Name, Chicago Illinois where he directs four choral ensembles and performs on the cathedral's three mechanical instruments, including the West Gallery's 117-rank organ built by Flentrop Orgelbouw. Born in Eagle Pass, Texas, Dr. Ramirez attended the University of Notre Dame earning two undergraduate degrees simultaneously: B.S. in electrical engineering, and, B.M. in performance. He later received a Master of Music degree from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, and he earned the Doctor of Musical Arts Degree from the Eastman School of Music, Rochester, New York. His teachers included Daniel H. Pedtke, Susan Seid Martin, Robert Anderson, and, David Craighead (organ). Other teachers include Lloyd Pfautch (choral conducting), Gerald Plain (composition) and William Dobbins (improvisation).

A prolific composer, he has composed sacred works for chorus and organ as well instrumental music. His oratorio, *Huei tlamahuicoltica – The Great Event*, was premiered on the Feast of the Virgin Guadalupe on December 12, 2008. Based on the *Codex Escalada*, the oratorio relates the story of the apparition of the Virgin Mary (Lady of Guadalupe) to Juan Diego in 1531. The choruses, arias and recitatives combine folkloric elements with modern musical styles and are in the languages of English, Spanish and Nahuatl.

Prior to arriving at the Cathedral of the Holy Name, Dr. Ramirez was Director of Music Ministries for the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Rochester, New York, where he spearheaded the committee that selected Paul Fritts Organ Company for the installation of the new organ for the cathedral (Opus 26 - 2008, 3m/53 s/79 r, mechanical action).

While in Rochester, he continued extensive studies in choreography and theater with Garth Fagan (*The Lion*

King) and Elizabeth Clark, as well as further studies in aboriginal dance with Bill Crause (Iroquois song leader). Dr. Ramirez provided the choreography for the opera *Killbear Comes Home* by composer Paul Stuart which was hailed as "a charming, visceral combination of Native American and modern dance" (Democrat and Chronicle).

Among Dr. Ramirez specializations in organ repertoire is French organ music of the twentieth century, including the complete organ works of Maurice Duruflé and the six symphonies for organ of Louis Vierne. The Flint Journal's review of his performance of Louis Vierne's "6th Symphony was impressive and exciting...(and)...the improvised set of variations on '*Veni Creator*' should be written down as a model for improvisation." Dr. Ramirez has been awarded prizes in organ playing and composition including National hymn Competition sponsored by the Diocese of Rochester, New York; the Flint, Michigan International Organ-Playing Competition, and the Fort Wayne, Indiana National Organ Playing Competition.

Dr. Ramirez is past Dean of the Chicago Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.