



PRISM

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and ministers,
for scholars
and practitioners."*

YALE INSTITUTE OF SACRED MUSIC

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30
YEARS AT YALE

INSTITUTE OF SACRED MUSIC

Celebration and CD-set to Honor First Director Robert Baker

Margot E. Fassler

Photo by Rodney Smith



Robert Baker: A Biographical Note

Michael-Thomas Gilman

Dr. Robert Stevens Baker was born in Pontiac, Illinois. His father was a circuit judge and a lawyer for the Chicago and Alton Railroad (the C&A). Dr. Baker has loved the Iron Horse ever since. He learned how to send and receive on the telegraph (Morse code) because of this. His first memory is of the soldiers marching off to World War I across the square in front of the Pontiac Courthouse.

He started playing the organ at the age of 12, and his first job was as a theater organist, back in the days of the silent pictures.

After high school, he went to Illinois Wesleyan University, where he met his future wife Mary at the audition. He won a full scholarship to study organ, and his wife a full scholarship to study piano. They were married in 1943 (on the hottest day of the year, Mrs. Baker always adds).

At Illinois Wesleyan, Dr. Baker studied the organ with Frank Jordan. While there, he also won the title of District Golf Champion, and remains an avid golf fan (as well as a fan of the Chicago White Sox, and later of the Brooklyn Dodgers [R.I.P. Ebbetts Field]).

Continued on page 2

One of the ways in which the ISM is celebrating its first thirty years at Yale is with a gala reception on April 16th, at which the special guest of honor will be its first director, Robert Baker. As most PRISM readers know, Dr. Baker is the illustrious organist from New York City who, together with music historian Richard French, seminary chaplain Jeffrey Rowthorn, and administrator Mina Belle Packer, migrated to Yale upon the closing of the School of Sacred Music at Union Theological Seminary, to begin a new venture: the Yale Institute of Sacred Music.

In large part due to his bold vision, that fledgling enterprise has prospered and grown to seventeen faculty, who teach throughout the University, and 65 students, who enroll in the School of Music or the Divinity School through the Institute. All those students and all of the nearly three hundred alums of the ISM (as well as so many of the alums of Union) share in the rich legacy of Robert Baker's leadership and consummate musicianship. In fitting tribute to a great man, then, the ISM is honored to issue a 6-CD retrospective of recordings made during his prodigious career, to transmit that legacy onto new technology, and into a new century.

Copies of the CD set will be distributed to guests who attend the gala reception on April 16th. Additional copies are available while supplies last—if you are interested in having one of these, please contact Will Cowen at the Institute at 203-432-1580.

The biographical note of Dr. Baker at left was contributed by the producer of the CD set, Michael-Thomas Gilman, the organist of the United Congregational Church in Holyoke, Massachusetts, and close friend of Dr. and Mrs. Baker.

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Music for Holy Week Concert of Yale Schola Cantorum

The Yale Schola Cantorum will present James MacMillan's monumental *Seven Last Words from the Cross* on Good Friday, April 9 at 7 pm in Battell Chapel, New Haven (corner College and Elm). The Schola Cantorum, directed by Simon Carrington, will be joined by string players from the Yale School of Music. The composer will conduct.

Widely hailed as MacMillan's masterpiece, the *Seven Last Words* provides an absorbing and moving concert experience for performers and audience alike. This cantata follows Christ's final utterances at the Crucifixion, meditating on each to form a dramatic and emotional sequence. Both the vocal and instrumental parts draw on characteristic models: Lutheran baroque techniques for the chorus, and the sophisticated British and Polish 20th-century traditions of writing for the string orchestra. The work was commissioned by BBC Television and broadcast in seven nightly episodes during Holy Week of 1994.

James MacMillan, the preeminent Scottish composer of his generation, will be in residence at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music and the Yale School of Music during the week of April 5 to conduct masterclasses for choral conducting students and composers, and to work with the Institute's performing groups, including the Yale Camerata as well as the Schola Cantorum. He will also present a seminar to the composers at the Yale School of Music hosted by Ezra Laderman.

The concert and the residency are sponsored by the Yale Institute of Sacred Music. The concert is free and open to the public. No tickets are required. For more information, call 203/432-5062.

Photo courtesy of James MacMillan



Woolsey Organ Profiled

The Spring 2004 issue of *American Heritage of Invention and Technology* (Vol 19, No 4) features an article on the Newberry organ and its curators by Stephen Budiansky. The article includes spectacular photographs of the organ's innards, and emphasizes the mechanical and technical complexity of the instrument.

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Margot E. Fassler, Director

409 Prospect St.

New Haven, CT 06511

Telephone 203 432 5180

Fax 203 432 5296

Editor: Melissa Maier, melissa.maier@yale.edu

Alumni News and Job Placement Editor:

William Cowen, ism.alumni@yale.edu

Layout and Design: Elaine Piraino-Holevoet, PIROET

ROBERT BAKER *continued from page 1*

After graduation, he went to New York City and studied with Dr. Clarence Dickinson at Union Theological Seminary. He had planned to become a concert artist, but on his first Sunday afternoon in New York, he went to hear the choir and organ of St. Bartholomew's Church under David McK. Williams, and decided on the spot to become a church organist and choir director. In New York, he has held posts at Temple Emanu-El; at the First Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn Heights; at the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church; at St. James Episcopal Church; and at the First Presbyterian Church of New York City.

He has taught at Interlochen, Oxford, Ann Arbor, Union Seminary and Yale. He was dean of the School of Sacred Music at Union Theological Seminary, and the founding director of the Institute of Sacred Music at Yale. As a concert artist, he has played recitals on virtually every important organ in the United States, including those at St. John the Divine, West Point, Annapolis, Grace Cathedral, and many others.

Dr. and Mrs. Baker live in Hamden, Connecticut. They have two children, James and Martha, and two grandchildren, Joseph and Stephanie.

Robert Blocker to Serve Third Term as Dean of the School of Music

Robert Blocker has been reappointed as dean of the School of Music for a third five-year term, effective July 1, 2005, according to an announcement by President Richard C. Levin.

In a letter to the School of Music community, Levin said that those who participated in the review of Blocker's performance as dean spoke of his "collegiality and open-mindedness, of his approachability and willingness to listen. He is felt to be '... a man unfailingly fair, even-handed and resourceful in his administration of all areas of YSM ...' 'He had,' one faculty member stated, 'achieved the ideal moral for the students and faculty respectively through his hard working and gentle but decisive executions. His unselfish dedication to the university provided better facilities, organization, faculty and more.'" Many talked of his success as a fundraiser and of the enormous strides that he has made in the restoration of the school's facilities.

"The School of Music and the University are fortunate to have the services of such an outstanding leader," concluded Levin, "and I know we all will be pleased to work with him for another term."



Photo by Harold Shapiro

PLACEMENT LISTINGS

Connecticut

First Congregational Church of Portland: Director of Music/Organist. Seeking Director of Music to lead talented choir and provide organ plus piano music during worship service every Sunday. Additionally, the Director provides music for special and seasonal services. The position averages 10 – 12 hours per week and requires skillful operation of a Schlicker Pipe Organ (Unit) 11 ranks. Interested candidates may contact the church office at 860-342-3244 and/or mail their letter of interest to First Congregational Church, 554 Main Street, Portland, CT 06480, Attention: Music Search Committee.

First Congregational Church of Guilford: Organist (part time): Starting June 20th, the First Congregational Church in Guilford, CT, needs an organist to play at two services (8:30 and 10) through Sept.5th. Interested candidates can e-mail Gail Etter at Gail.Etter@attglobal.net or call 203-453-8818.

Spring Glen Church (UCC), Hamden: Organist/Choir Director (part time). We are an open and affirming congregation of about 560 members. Our church staff consists of a Senior Pastor, an Associate Pastor, a part-time Coordinator of Christian Education, and a part-time Organist/Choir Director. Primary responsibilities for Organist/Choir Director include selection and provision of music for worship services and leadership of Adult Volunteer Choir. Rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings from 7:30 – 9:00 and Sunday mornings from 9:15 – 9:45. (Sunday worship begins at 10:00 a.m.) The organ is a well-maintained Moller organ (1983): two-manual, 13-rank unified, double expression, electro-pneumatic action. Salary \$14,000. Please send resume to Spring Glen Church (UCC), 20 Glen Parkway, Hamden, CT 06517. 203.288.3381 SpringG@snet.net

Ss. Peter and Paul Parish, Wallingford: Organist/Music Director (part time). The position begins on April 12, when our present organist will leave for medical school. Ss. Peter and Paul Parish, 139 North Orchard Street, Wallingford CT, is a 451 family Polish American Roman Catholic Parish that has three Masses on weekends (4PM on Saturday PM, and 8AM and 10AM on Sundays. A musician will be needed to coordinate a music program for these liturgies and the special devotions and holy days whose liturgies require music. A wage is negotiable, and can be on a per-service basis. This position is part-time, and a good opportunity for a church musician who wishes to earn some extra cash, and perhaps gain experience in liturgical music and liturgical programs. There are opportunities to develop a cantor program, an adult choir, and a children's choir if possible. Also a great benefit would be (for all) to incorporate the Polish community and its traditional/current liturgy and music. Perhaps a student of music who knows Polish and English—music and liturgy—could be a benefit, or someone who is open to such traditions. Please call the Parish Administrator (Fr. Joe Parzymies) at (203) 269-4617.

Out of State

The Brick Presbyterian Church, New York, NY: Director of Children's Music Ministries. Applications are being accepted for a full-time position starting September 1, 2004. The Brick Presbyterian Church currently has three vocal children's choirs (pre-K through 6th grade) and one intergenerational handbell choir with weekday afternoon rehearsals. In addition, classes in age-appropriate sacred music are taught in the church's Sunday School. The choirs perform monthly (September through May) during the Sunday morning worship service and annually present a Christmas pageant and Spring children's sacred musical. The Brick Church School has 145 children ranging in age from three to six years old. Classes in music and movement are held Monday through Friday (mornings to early afternoons) from September to June. Applicants must have strong training and demonstrable experience in the following areas: sacred music, early childhood music education, choral conducting, and piano. Applicants must be of the Christian faith and supportive of the goals of the Presbyterian Church (USA). In addition, strong interpersonal skills and a nurturing personality are prerequisite. The Brick Presbyterian Church is nationally recognized for its musical excellence. Excellent facilities and support are available for this position. An attractive salary (\$50,000+) and benefits package is offered. The Brick Church does not discriminate in employment on the basis of age, race, gender or marital status. All resumes with letters of application should be sent to: Keith S. Toth, Minister of Music, The Brick Presbyterian Church, 62 East 92nd Street, New York, NY 10128-1398. Fax: (212)-996-7078. E-mail: ktoth@brickchurch.org

Christ Church, Summit, New Jersey: Interim Director of Music Ministries. Responsibilities include: rehearse and direct the adult Chancel Choir for worship and the Jubilation Ringers adult handbell

choir in occasional concerts; play organ for all worship services, at weddings and funerals; participate in weekly staff meetings; oversee maintenance of musical instruments; maintain the music library for the church; enlist the participation of members of the congregation who sing or play musical instruments; assist with the children's choir and handbell programs; supply weekly bulletin information to secretary and, in conjunction with the ministers, select hymns for the worship service; recruit and hire paid singers for the Chancel Choir, as necessary, as well as soloists and instrumentalists for special performances; manage the music budget; and encourage young musicians within the congregation to perform in worship. Organ is a beautiful three-manual Austin pipe organ of 37 ranks, built in 1956.

The ideal candidate will have as minimum qualifications a bachelor's degree in sacred music, choral conducting, organ, or the equivalent, and church music experience, and will be compatible spiritually with our ministers. Competitive compensation for Interim Music Director. Start date between June 1 and August 20. Telephone: (908) 273-5549. Please send cover letter, resume, a statement describing your philosophy of music ministry, reference and any other helpful material to Music Director Search Committee at Christ Church, 561 Springfield Avenue, Summit, New Jersey 07901-4404, or electronically to jobs@ChristChurchSummit.org. Web site: ChristChurchSummit.org.

First Presbyterian Church of Ottumwa, IA: Director of Music Ministries (full time). Direct of music ministries (individual or couple) for 370-member congregation with a tradition of musical excellence. Responsibilities include providing service music for Sunday and special seasonal services, as well as directing the adult choir, three children's choirs and three handbell choirs. The ideal candidate will have a strong faith and be an accomplished organist/accompanist with experience in choral conducting. A commitment to working closely with staff and committees in planning worship and expanding the music program is necessary. Bachelor's degree with a concentration in music is required. Salary is negotiable. Mail resume and cassette/video tape of your musical abilities to: First Presbyterian Church of Ottumwa, PO Box 733, Ottumwa, IA 52501. Fax – (641) 684-5400, email – fpcottum@lisco.com

Highland Park Presbyterian Church in Dallas, TX: Director of Music. We are officially accepting applications for this position. Applications and inquiries may be sent electronically to musicsearch@hppc.org or by mail to: SEARCH COMMITTEE, c/o Ronald W. Johnson, 4700 Renaissance Tower, 1201 Elm Street, Dallas, TX 75270-2196.

St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church in Wilmington, DE: Director of Music Ministry. This part-time position will start August 1, 2004. St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church is seeking a part-time Director of Music Ministry to enhance both the depth and quality of parishioner musical participation. Our ideal candidate will exhibit strengths both as a vocal trainer and organist. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to: chairing the music committee; maintaining responsibility for all musical groups; and serving as organist for 2 Sunday services each week. The organ is a two-manual Allen Digital Computer Organ with full pedal board, Midi, and transposer. Applicant must have a Bachelor's degree in music or church music, with a priority given to Master's degree candidates, or sufficient professional experience to equal such training. Please submit letter of interest, resume and list of references by May 15, 2004 to: St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, attn: Search Committee, 2800 Duncan Road, Wilmington, DE 19808. Contact Fr. Robert Broesler by phone (302) 994-6607 or email: frbob2000@yahoo.com with any additional questions.

Opportunity Knocks on Game Show Circuit

The answer is: the Newberry Organ at Woolsey Hall. Or else: the location is New Haven, Connecticut. Or possibly: He's ISM student Christopher Jennings. The question will be, what is the question?

Keep all these facts at your fingertips when you tune in to **Jeopardy!** on April 29th. The popular game show was filmed in New Haven for its collegiate edition last fall....

Need we say more?

30
YEARS AT YALE

INSTITUTE OF SACRED MUSIC

The Religious Arts in America

The Religious Arts in America is on display April 12 through 27 at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music, 409 Prospect St., in New Haven. Gallery hours are weekdays 9 to 4. The exhibition, part of the Institute's 30 Years at Yale celebration, is presented with support from Yale Divinity School.

Curated by Virginia Raguin, Professor of Art History at the College of the Holy Cross, the exhibition presents religious images from 19th and early 20th century America. Currier and Ives, well represented in this exhibition, was but one of the institutions dedicated to the dissemination of the inexpensive image that entered into virtually every home in America at that time. In this exhibition are a variety of different types of images that served not only to document contemporary belief, but also as a means of establishing a common language of visual communication in the period.

On Sunday, April 18, Professor Raguin will present a talk to accompany the exhibition. Entitled *Art Beyond Museums: The Religious Image and Popular Culture in 19th Century America*, the talk will be held in the Great Hall at the Institute at 3 pm. There is ample free parking. A reception will follow.

Both the exhibition and the talk are free and open to the public. For more information, visit the ISM website at www.yale.edu/ism or call 203/432-5062.



Photo by Robert A. Lisak

Christ at the Well



Yale Institute of Sacred Music
409 Prospect Street
New Haven, CT 06511-2167