Flourish and Chorale

Méditation à Sainte Clotilde (1915)

Petite Rapsodie improvisée

Introduction, Chorale, and Fugue on a British Theme

Blackberry Winter

Featuring Dulcimer Soloist Stephen Seifert

I. Mysterioso – Blackberry Blossom – Reuben’s Train
II. Music Box – Canon – Storm – Jaw Harp
III. Introduction – D-Major theme – E-Minor theme – Coda

Registrant Jennie Lou Smith

Michael McCabe is an American composer, organist, and teacher currently serving as Chapel Organist for Boys Town. Flourish and Chorale begins with a trumpet fanfare featuring an angular melody in the right hand and dissonant chords in the accompaniment. The flourish, or fanfare, introduces the chorale, a slow, stately procession, before the flourish returns in crashing chords on full organ.

American organist Philip James studied with Joseph Bonnet and Alexandre Guilmant in Paris. In this composition, James, a prolific composer, pays homage to César Franck, organist of Sainte-Clotilde, with quotations from Franck’s well-known Symphony in D Minor. Ternary in form, the Méditation builds in grandeur and then ends quietly, much as it began.

Charles Tournemire was a pupil of César Franck, and his successor at the Basilica of Sainte-Clotilde in Paris. In 1930, Tournemire recorded the five improvisations on the Ste. Clotilde organ, but they were never transcribed or published by him. Maurice Duruflé, pupil and protégé of Tournemire, reconstructed these works and published them in 1958. Tournemire often played at length at the end of High Mass or at the close of Vespers, giving free rein to his improvisatory gifts. The “Petite Rapsodie” is based upon his own original modal theme and exhibits a short, charming miniature.