



Worth Abbey

ORGAN MUSIC 2022

Saturday August 13 Parish Mass # 5pm

Communion

Andante from String Quartet, Op.10

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

arr. Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)

Postlude

Fugue sur le thème du Carillon des Heures de la Cathédrale de Soissons, Op.12

Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986)

Debussy did not compose for the organ: this beautifully cool movement, marked '*doucement expressif*', is the third of the four movements of his string quartet written when he was 31, in 1893, and premiered in December that year in Paris by the Ysaÿe Quartet at the Société Nationale, a work with which Pierre Boulez said Debussy freed chamber music from "rigid structure, frozen rhetoric and rigid aesthetics." Whilst it is not be religious of origin or intent, its gentle, searching spirituality make its reflective spirit a suitable meditation...

At the peak of his career when he wrote this short piece - with what must be the longest title – literally 'Fugue on the theme of the hourly carillon/chimes of Soissons Cathedral', this was Duruflé's contribution to a collection published in 1962 to mark the 25th anniversary of the death of Vierne (1937), whose protégé he was. Duruflé dedicated the piece to the editor of the collection, Henri Doyen, who was the Organist of Soissons Cathedral (hence the homage to Soissons) at the time. Doyen described the piece: "*Lively and spritely in a minor mode that sometimes resembles Gregorian melody... always moving forward with seeming simplicity, always singing and responding with the ringing of joyous, numerous bells, in turn crystalline and shimmering, until the masterful ending on Full Organ*". Duruflé gave its premier in Soissons in 1964.

Of Duruflé, Vierne wrote "*His art reveals an intense inner life expressed in the most adequate means with rare sensitivity.*" The emotional life of this short piece, which builds to an elevating spiritual expanse, reveals just that.

Sunday 14th August Abbey Mass # 9.30am

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Communion

Evocation 'Salve Regina'

Michael Howard (1922-2002)

Postlude

Fugue sur le thème du Carillon des Heures de la Cathédrale de Soissons, Op.12

Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986)

A pupil of G. D. Cunningham, Ralph Downes and Dupré, Michael Howard was a noted organist whose appointments included Tewkesbury Abbey, Ely Cathedral, and Farnborough Abbey. A noted choral conductor, a pioneer of the Early Movement in the middle of the 20th century, he was celebrated for his interpretations 16th century polyphony: in 1944 he founded The Renaissance Singers and in the 1960s he formed and conducted the sixteen-voice group Cantores in Ecclesia. His Salve Regina of 1996 is a peaceful meditation very much in the style of the great French Romantics (particularly Vierne) who he admired so much.

Notes on Duruflé's Fugue may be found above.



D'Arcy Trinkwon
Abbey Organist