

A Note From the Archive

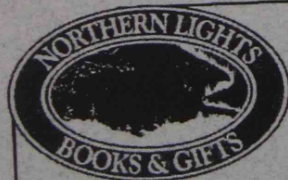
Many of us who have only attended Matinee Musicale concerts in recent years probably do not associate the series with organ recitals. However, the archive does offer at least two examples of programs for organ over the years. One of these was a recital given 70 years ago this fall by the renowned French organist, Marcel Dupre (1886-1971). The concert was given on September 28, 1939 at the Pilgrim Congregational Church. Dupre played works by Bach, Purcell, Franck and Widor. He also programmed several of his own works: *Carillon*, *Prelude and Fugue in G Minor*, and the *Intermezzo from the Concerto in E Minor*. Dupre was well-known for his musical improvisations, and it appears from a review of the recital that the organist did offer his Duluth audience an improvisation "on a submitted theme."

Nathan Cohen, writing for the Duluth News Tribune, praised Dupre for his "facile technique which seemed to have no limitations." Cohen also took special note of the organist's performance of Franck's *Fantasy in A Major* which "stood above the others, as Franck usually does."

Dupre was 53 at the time of his Duluth recital. During this same period, Dupre served on the faculty of the Paris Conservatoire as professor of organ, a post which he held from 1926 to 1954. His students included Jehan Alain, Olivier Messiaen and Jean Langlais. During the early 1930s, Dupre also taught the American organist, Virgil Fox. Fox was a recitalist for Matinee Musicale on November 1, 1951. Like Dupre, he played a Steere organ, which was the predecessor to the Jaeckel organ now at the Pilgrim Congregational Church.

Marcel Dupre is now regarded as one of the finest composers of 20th century organ music. According to **The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians**, he "left a succession of works which, along with those of Messiaen and Alain, represent some of the last great examples of the virtuoso symphonic tradition in French organ music."

Brad Snelling



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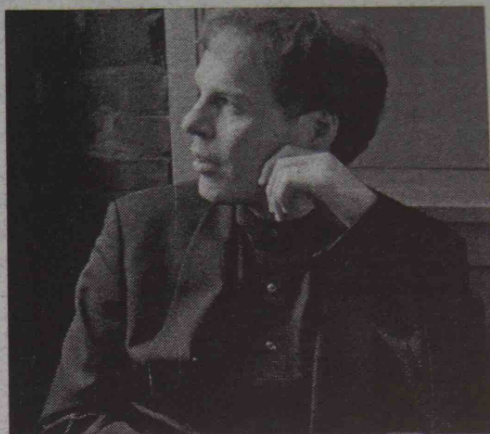
www.norlights.com

Alon Goldstein, *piano*

October 6, 2009

7:30 pm

Mitchell Auditorium
College of St. Scholastica
1200 Kenwood Ave.



Minneapolis Guitar Quartet



November 17, 2009

7:30 pm

Pilgrim Congregational
Church,
2310 E. Fourth St.

Presented by

Matinee Musicale
Duluth, Minnesota

