First Presbyterian Church

Stamford, CT

Carillon Recital

7 pm Thursday July 26, 2018

George Matthew Jr., guest carillonneur

1. Three Spanish Dances (from 12 Spanish Dances) Enrique Granados

(1867 – 1916)

 #1 in C Major 2.

 #3 in D Major 2.

 #12 in f minor

1. Spirituals Traditional

Joshua fought the battle of Jericho

(and the walls come tumblin’ down)

Precious Lord, take my hand

(A favorite of Dr. Martin Luther King)

1. The Nestlé Suite Roger Vuataz

Prayer (1898 – 1988)

Birds in the Sky

At the tomb of the Heroes

Alleluia

1. Works of J. S. Bach (1685 – 1750)

Rejoice, O Zion (from the Christmas Oratorio) BWV 248 3.

Air from Orchestral Suite #2 BWV 1068 4.

Sleepers Wake! BWV 140 2.

1. Familiar Transcriptions

Ave Maria Franz Schubert 2.

 (1797 – 1828)

 Yismechu Trad. Hebrew

 Sabbath Melody

 Pastime Rag #5 Artie Matthews 2.

 (1888 – 1959)

Transcriptions: 1. Jacques Maasen 2. George Matthew Jr. 3. Heleen van de Wiele

 4. Georg Köppl

The Nestlé Suite

By George Matthew Jr. and Andreas Friedrich

*AF* The Nestlé Suite by Roger Vuataz was commissioned by Helen Maguire-Muller, daughter of Walter Maguire and Sonia Maguire-Streuli.

*GM*  Roger Vuataz composed about 500 works in many genres, with a preponderance of religious works. From 1992-1963 he was director of music for Radio Geneva.

*AF* Prière is a three minute piece with five sets of 12 measures each.

*GM* “Birds in the Sky” juxtapose a chorale-like melody with suggestions of bird calls. I sense a vast clear blue sky…

*AF* “At the Tomb of the Heroes” opens with “thunder rumbling”.

*GM* I hear solemn memorial bells and later the fury and futility of war and lamentations, concluding with the memorial motif.

*AF* Alleluia is for two voices throughout, at first syncopated and jumping, then descending in seconds.

*GM* The Suite concludes with a simple open chord quietly presaging a better future.

Andreas Friedrich of Grenalier, Switzerland, has written a thoroughly researched history of the Stamford carillons, the Vuataz Suite, and the New Skete Zvon, published in the 2017 issue of the Swiss Carillon Guilds’ annual bulletin. An English language translation will shortly be available. Andreas Friedrich served two terms as president of the Swiss Carillon Guild. His main occupation was the Swiss diplomatic corps; he was active in negotiating an end to nuclear testing worldwide.

George Matthew Jr. was born in Yonkers, NY, received degrees from Columbia, Bridgeport and Wesleyan Universities, and lived in Stamford from 1963 – 2000. He played the first public performance of the Stamford carillon on Easter 1968 and was formally appointed carillonneur in 1975, serving until 1998. He has served as carillonneur of Middlebury College and Norwich University in Vermont since 1985, and has made 40 carillon concert tours of the USA and 13 of Europe. He is the first American to play carillon in Russia. A church organist since the age of 13, he was organist of Temple Sinai from 1968 – 1983; his last church position before moving to Vermont was at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church in Stamford. He is currently organist of St. Stephen’s on the Green, Middlebury, VT. He is also remembered as director of instrumental music at Rogers School, 1972 – 1995.