

The Guest Artist

Margaret Snodgrass, a native Iowan, began her study of music at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, and continued at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, Oberlin, Ohio, from which she graduated in 1950. From this Conservatory she also received a Masters of Music Degree in 1955. Among her organ teachers in America have been Arthur Poister and Grigg Fountain. She has held teaching positions at North Dakota State Teachers College, Minot, N. Dak., and Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa. While at Ames she served as organist at First Baptist Church (1951) and Memorial Lutheran (1952-1955).

Miss Snodgrass was chosen for a Fullbright Scholarship to study organ with Prof. Helmut Walcha, Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany, for the year 1955-56. Another scholarship was granted her by Oberlin Conservatory and she chose to continue her study of organ with another well-known European organist and teacher, Andre Marchal, in Paris, France, in 1957. Since her return to this country she is teaching in the Department of Music, Randolph-Macon College, Lynchburg, Virginia.

Organ Description

The New Organ at Memorial Lutheran Church was built by the Holtkamp Organ Company, Cleveland, Ohio.

It is unenclosed and placed in the rear balcony located at the west end of the chapel. Looking up at the organ, one sees from the nave three separate groups of pipes. These groups represent the three divisions of this organ: Positiv (brilliance); Great (foundation tones); Pedal (bass). Placed above the main case and in pyramidal arrangement against the west wall are the pipes in the pedal division. Chests which contain the Positiv and Great divisions, respectively, are brought out forward obliquely from the main case and suspended from the beams.

The instrument is played from a console with two manual keyboards and a foot keyboard. Variations in tonal color are

regulated by 11 stops, a series of tablet controls, placed above the upper keyboard. Each stop controls an individual set of pipes. In all there are 706 pipes, grouped into 13 ranks, in the organ. These pipes vary in length from less than one inch to 16 feet. The pipes are made of pine and combinations of tin, lead and zinc.

The Memorial Lutheran Organ represents another instrument in a series of contemporary baroque designs by Walter Holtkamp. Other instruments in this series designed by Mr. Holtkamp and installed by his company are Battel Chapel (Apse Organ), Yale University, the MIT Chapel, Kent School and Concordia Teachers College, River Forest, Ill. Other Holtkamp organs in this area are at University Christian Church, Des Moines, Trinity Lutheran Church, Grand Island, Nebr., and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

In this instrument, Mr. Holtkamp, without attempting to reproduce a baroque period organ, has aimed at restoring its best features which make it an instrument of independent, non-imitative character. It is unenclosed and without swell pedals. It has principal and flue stops, but no reed stops. It has full ensemble chorus for singing, clarity for polyphonic texture, brilliance, and incisive attack, although it is capable of softer and lighter timbres. All these features make the instrument outstanding for leading the congregational singing and most suitable for performing the music that is traditional in the Lutheran Church.

Detailed specifications follow—the figure to the left of each stop indicates the length of the longest pipe in the rank; the figure to the right indicates the number of pipes involved:

	Pedal	2'	Principal	61
16'	Subbass	32	Cymbale	61
8'	Principal	32		
4'	Choralbass	32	Positiv	
		8'	Copula	61
	Great	4'	Principal	61
8'	Quintadena	61	Spitzflote	61
4'	Rohrflote	61	Mixture	61
		2R		