

THE ORGAN MUSIC OF NED ROREM

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I. WORKS TO BE DISCUSSED / LISTENED TO

Rondo (*Organbook III*)
Pie Jesu (*Organbook II*)
In Nomine Domini (*Organbook II*)
Reveille (*Organbook I*)
Evidence of Things Not Seen (*A Quaker Reader*)
"There is a Spirit That Delights to Do No Evil..." (*A Quaker Reader*)
The World of Silence (*A Quaker Reader*)
A Secret Power (*A Quaker Reader*)
Rain Over the Quaker Graveyard (*Views From the Oldest House*)
Sunday Night (*Views From the Oldest House*)

II. PUBLISHED ORGAN WORKS

(All are published by Boosey and Hawkes except for the Pastorale for Organ, which is published by Southern-Peer)

Fantasy and Toccata (composed 1947, published 1994)

Pastorale for Organ (1953, pub. Southern-Peer)

A Quaker Reader (1977)

First-Day Thoughts; Mary Dyer did hang as a flag...; Evidence of Things Not Seen; "There Is a Spirit That Delights to Do No Evil..."; The World of Silence; "Bewitching attire of the most charming simplicity..."; A Secret Power; "...No darkness at all..."; One Sigh Rightly Begotten; Return Home to Within; Ocean of Light

Views From the Oldest House (1981)

Sunrise on Sunset Hill; Elms; The Nest in Old North Church; Spires; Rain Over the Quaker Graveyard; Sunday Night

Concerto for Organ, Four Brass, Timpani and Strings (ms. / 1985)

Recitative and Passacaglia; Chorale and Waltz; Second Recitative and Passacaglia; Aria and Scherzo

Fantasy and Flourish, for Organ and Brass (ms. / 1988)

Organbook I (1990)

Fantasy; Episode; Song; Serenade; Reveille

2.

Organbook II (1990)

Rex Tremendae; Magnificat; Pie Jesu; Stabat Mater; "Eli, Eli, Lama Sabachthani?"; In Nomine Domine

Organbook III (1990)

Rondo; Impromptu; Passacaglia; Fanfare; Fugue

Six Pieces for Organ (1998)

To Tallis; Why and Because; The Flight Into Egypt; Cortège; Entreat Me Not; Touch and Go

II. SELECTED RECORDINGS

Organ Music of Ned Rorem, Ronald Prowse, organist (Albany, 2000 / iTunes / Spotify)

Fantasy and Toccata; Pastorale for Organ; Fantasy (Organbook I); "Eli, Eli, Lama Sabachthani?" (Organbook II); Organbook III; Six Pieces for Organ

Organ Works by Ned Rorem, Catherine Crozier, organist (Delos, 1989 / iTunes)
A Quaker Reader; Views From the Oldest House

Organ Works of Rorem and Pinkham, Delbert Disselhorst, organist (Arkay, 1992)
Organbook I; Organbook II; Organbook III

(Out of print) *Ned Rorem: A Quaker Reader*, Leonard Raver, organist (Composers Recordings Inc., CRI #SD 396)

III. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

The following are specifically concerned with Ned Rorem's organ music; they contain more extended bibliographies, including citations of Rorem's own literary works

Raver, Leonard. "The Solo Organ Music of Ned Rorem," *The American Organist*, October 1983, 67

Extensive performance comments on *A Quaker Reader* and *Views From the Oldest House*; also contains corrections to the first printing of *A Quaker Reader*

Brinson, Doris, "A Style-Critical Study of the Organ Works of Ned Rorem," D.M.A. research paper, Memphis State University, 1988

3.

Raver, Leonard, "Ned Rorem: 1989 AGO Composer of the Year," *The American Organist*, March 1989, 56

Extensive comments on *Concerto for Organ* and *Fantasy and Flourish* for organ and brass.

McLelland, Jeffrey, "The Development of an Interpretational Scheme for the Performance of *A Quaker Reader* by Ned Rorem," D.M.A. document, The University of Alabama, 1992. Available from University Microfilms International, Ann Arbor, MI

Prowse, Ronald, "Ned Rorem's *Organbooks*: Style and Technique," *The American Organist*, February 1995, 64 (

Valuable for discussion of specific *Organbooks* pieces and Rorem's overall compositional style / techniques. The latter are cited both with respect to the *Organbooks* as well as to similar examples in *A Quaker Reader* and *Views From the Oldest House*.

Marsh, John, "The Organ Works of Ned Rorem," D.M.A. thesis, Rice University, 2002. Available from University Microfilms International, Ann Arbor, MI

Excellent summaries of Rorem's career and overall compositional style / technique, as well as brief but precise analyses of all the solo organ pieces, the *Concerto for Organ*, and the *Fantasy and Flourish* for organ and brass.

Interviews with Ned Rorem on American Public Media's *Pipedreams* (archived online at www.pipedreams.org):

Program #0841, "Rorem on Rorem" (discussions with the composer; performances of solo organ works and anthems with organ accompaniment)

Program #8431, "AGO 1982 IV," 4/30/84 (discussion of *Views From the Oldest House*; premiere performance of this suite by John Obetz at the AGO National Convention, Washington, DC 1982)

Program #8434, "AGO 1982 VII," 5/21/84 (discussion of *A Quaker Reader*; performance of the complete suite by Catherine Crozier at the AGO National Convention, Washington, DC 1982)

IV. GRADED TEACHING SEQUENCE / SOLO ORGAN WORKS

(OB = *Organbook* (1, 2, 3); QR = *A Quaker Reader*; SP = *Six Pieces for Organ*; VH = *Views From the Oldest House*)

I. EASIEST

QR: "There Is a Spirit That Delights to Do No Evil..."; "...No darkness at all..."
 VH: Elms
 OB I: Episode; Song; Serenade
 OB II: Pie Jesu; Stabat Mater
 SP: Entreat Me Not

II. MORE CHALLENGING, BUT NOT DIFFCULT

Pastorale for Organ

QR: First-Day Thoughts; "Bewitching attire of the most charming simplicity..."; A Secret Power; Return Home to Within
 VH: The Nest in Old North Church
 OB II: Rex Tremendae; In Nomine Domini
 OB III: Impromptu
 SP: Why and Because; The Flight into Egypt

III. MODERATELY DIFFICULT / DIFFICULT

Fantasy and Toccata

QR: The World of Silence; One Sigh Rightly Begotten; Ocean of Light
 VH: Sunrise on Sunset Hill; Rain Over the Quaker Graveyard
 OB I: Fantasy; Reveille
 OB II: Magnificat; "Eli, Eli, Lama Sabachthani?"
 OB III: Rondo; Passacaglia; Fanfare; Fugue
 SP: To Tallis; Cortège

IV. MOST DIFFICULT

QR: Mary Dyer did hang as a flag...; Evidence of Things Not Seen
 VH: Spires; Sunday Night
 SP: Touch and Go

V. A (CONSERVATIVE) LIST OF MOVEMENTS SUITABLE FOR USE IN WORSHIP SERVICES

Fantasy and Toccata

Pastorale for Organ

A Quaker Reader:

"There Is a Spirit That Delights to Do No Evil..."

A Secret Power

"...No Darkness at All..."

Views From the Oldest House (on the basis of musical style; perhaps alter titles?!)

Elms

The Nest in Old North Church

Sunday Night

Organbook I:

Episode

Song

Serenade

Organbook II:

Magnificat

Pie Jesu

Stabat Mater

In Nomine Domini

Organbook III:

Rondo

Impromptu

Fanfare

Six Pieces for Organ:

The Flight Into Egypt

Entreat Me Not