

Sunday, September 15, 2019

3:00pm

Madonna della Strada Chapel

Jerry Jelsema, Organ

Three American Pieces

Prelude from "Sonata for Worship"
Flourish
Fanfare

Alfred V. Fedak (b.1953)
Wilbur Held (1914-2015)
Richard Proulx (1932-2015)

Pastorale in F Major, BWV 490

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Two German Romantic Works

Marche Triomphale
Benedictus, Op. 59, No. 2

Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)
Max Reger (1873-1916)

Paeon (Hymn of Praise)

Kenneth Leighton (1926-1988)

Two Twentieth Century Pieces

Choral Dorien from "Deux Chorals"
Pasticcio from "Organ Book"

Jehan Alain (1911-1940)
Jean Langlais (1907-1991)

Choral No. 1 in E Major

César Franck (1822-1890)

Jerry Jelsema spent his professional career as a church musician in Chicago. He served Trinity Lutheran Church in Des Plaines, Illinois for 21 years, building a music program that included four vocal choirs, two handbell ensembles and a large brass choir. While there he developed a concert series which featured an assortment of visiting artists and ensembles, along with the church's musicians, performing two major sacred works each year. In 2000, Jerry became Director of Music and Organist at First United Methodist Church in Evanston where he expanded the music program to multiple choirs and handbell groups including several instrumental ensembles. The adult choir frequently performed large works with strings and other instruments, utilizing the young musicians from neighboring Northwestern University. During his tenure at First Methodist, the large Austin organ with some pipes dating from 1911 was updated with solid state technology, enlarged to 80 ranks, and equipped with a new movable four manual console.

Jerry received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Central College, Pella, Iowa with a major in music with an emphasis in organ and earned a teaching certificate. His Master's degree is from the University of Michigan where he studied with Robert Glasgow, a well-known recitalist and teacher. Other degree work was taken at Roosevelt University in the Social Sciences.

Mr. Jelsema has presented organ recitals at various locations, including Rockefeller Chapel and Alice Millar Chapel at Northwestern University. He also sang with the William Ferris Chorale from 1989 to 2010 and periodically performed organ works in conjunction with the Chorale's programs. In 2008, he began carillon studies with Wylie Crawford at the University of Chicago's Rockefeller Chapel and in 2009 joined a roster of

carillonneurs at the university, each playing a weekly recital on the 72-bell instrument, the second largest carillon in the world. Jerry was active in both the Chicago and North Shore Chapters of the American Guild of Organists.

After retiring from full time church work in 2011, Jerry served as organist and director of music (part time) at First Methodist Church in Oak Park, Illinois where he enjoyed the wonderful restored E. M. Skinner organ. At the same time, he prepared to move back to his home state of Michigan, having a home built in South Haven, a lovely resort town on the opposite shore of the lake. He was fortunate to continue his carillon work in Grand Rapids, playing weekly recitals at the two bell towers on the separate campuses of Grand Valley State University. In 2013, Mr. Jelsema took a part time position as organist and director of music at Unity Lutheran Church, located in the Andersonville neighborhood of Chicago, allowing him to spend weekdays in a small town and then enjoy the benefits of city living on weekends. This situation has created an interesting and rewarding retirement.