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SATURDAY 18TH JULY

Oundle
FOR ORGANISTS

KATERINA CHROBOKOVÀ

11.30am Oundle School Chapel

Le Monde dans l'attente du Sauveur
(The World, awaiting the Saviour)
from *Symphonie-Passion*, Op. 23

Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)

Marcel Dupré achieved legendary status as an interpreter and improviser. 'Symphonie-Passion' had its genesis in 1921 as an improvisation during a recital on the huge Wanamaker Store organ in Philadelphia - an occasion which Dupré recalled: "I played in a state of exaltation I have seldom known!"

'Le Monde ...' trades in rapid staccato chords, suggesting a restless anticipation of the coming of Christ, interlaced with the pensive Gregorian Chant *Jesu Redemptor Omnium*.

Le Banquet céleste (1926)
(The Heavenly Banquet)

Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)

Messe de la Pentecôte (1951)
I. Entrée (Les Langues de Feu / Tongues of Fire)
IV. Communion (Les Oiseaux et les Sources / Birds and Water Sources)
V. Sortie (Le Vent de l'Esprit / The Wind of the Holy Spirit)

Prière après la Communion (1984)
(post-Communion prayer)
from *Livre du Saint Sacrement*

Olivier Messiaen's unique and awesome contribution to organ literature stands alongside Bach's - almost as a 'New Testament' to Bach's 'Old'. Rooted always in his passionately maintained Christian faith as a practising Roman Catholic, the pieces played today dip into a swathe of nearly sixty years of the composer's unbroken output, not only for organ but in every musical genre.

'Le Banquet céleste' is a vision of eternity, conveyed through chords moving almost imperceptibly slowly, through which short 'stabbing' notes, played high on the pedals, depict drops of Christ's life-giving blood.

Three movements from 'Messe de la Pentecôte' are a distillation of the essence of Messiaen's improvisations, with birdsong, impetuous unison outbursts and Greek rhythms.

'Prière après la Communion' - peace in the believer's heart after Mass.

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