



A  
TRIBUTE TO  
**RICHARD  
WAYNE  
DIRKSEN**

CANON PRECENTOR,  
COMPOSER, CONDUCTOR,  
& ORGANIST



**MASSED  
CHOIRS  
CONCERT  
MONDAY**

**APRIL 15, 1991, AT 8 PM**

**WASHINGTON  
NATIONAL  
CATHEDRAL**

TO BENEFIT THE RESTORATION OF  
THE BETHLEHEM CHAPEL ORGAN



## RICHARD WAYNE DIRKSEN

Richard Wayne Dirksen was born on February 8, 1921, in Freeport, Illinois, the eldest of three children of Richard and Maude Dirksen. His father was a skilled organ builder and his mother an accomplished pianist, organist, and singer. Dirksen's musical talent was apparent as a young child, and his first instruction was from his mother beginning at age six. With a stimulating musical environment combined with a strong family and church life, Dirksen was exposed from his earliest years to the three areas which have marked his life-long commitments: his family, his church, and his beloved art of music.

After graduating from high school in 1938, he moved to Baltimore, Maryland, where he continued his musical studies at the Peabody Conservatory of Music under the world-renowned virtuoso organist Virgil Fox, graduating *magna cum laude* in June 1942. During Dirksen's final year at Peabody, Paul Callaway, then organist-choirmaster of Washington Cathedral, invited the brilliant young musician to be his assistant organist. Dirksen accepted, and on February 1, 1942, began his long association with the cathedral, which was to span forty-nine years and two months, until his retirement on April 1, 1991.

There was one interruption for military service in World War II. Dirksen enlisted in the U.S. Army in June 1942 and served as a chaplain's assistant, first in Washington, D.C., at the Walter Reed Army Hospital, and later in northern Europe. In January 1943, while at Walter Reed, he married Joan Shaw, his high school sweetheart and an individual of enormous talent and accomplishment in her own right. There are four Dirksen children: Richard Shaw (b. 1943), Geoffrey Paul (b. 1948), Laura Gail (b. 1950), and Mark Christopher (b. 1958). To date there are five grandchildren.

In October 1945, Dirksen was discharged from the Army, and in December of that year was invited to rejoin the cathedral's music staff. Paul Callaway was on active military duty abroad at the time, but when he returned shortly after Easter in 1946, the Callaway-Dirksen association, so successfully initiated in 1942, resumed in what was to become an extraordinary relationship producing a constant stream of excellence for many years in the musical life of the cathedral.

In the fall of 1941, Callaway had founded the Cathedral Choral Society. The twenty-year-old Dirksen was a chorister in the first performance and went on to serve this distinguished organization over the years in several different ways. He was—at various times—its accompanist, associate music director, and general manager. He has conducted the Choral Society in performance on many occasions, and when Callaway retired in 1984, he served as interim music director for a season (1984-1985) while the search for a permanent successor was undertaken.

In 1949, Dirksen was appointed director of the Glee Club of St. Albans School for Boys. The following year, he was appointed to the same position with the National Cathedral School for Girls and immediately combined the two glee clubs, thereby initiating the first ongoing coordinated activity in the history of the two schools. The following eighteen years under his direction were marked by many outstanding concerts, frequently with professional orchestra, and a series of musical productions including—to the great joy of all involved—five original operettas, three of which were created in collaboration with his multitalented wife Jo.

As the years rolled on, Dirksen became more and more active in long-range artistic planning for the cathedral. In 1964, he relinquished his post as associate organist-choirmaster and was named the first director of advance program, with responsibility for developing a comprehensive arts program embracing music, drama, dance, and all other arts-related areas. The effects of Dirksen's brilliant early planning are felt to this day in the rich and diverse offerings of the cathedral through its festivals and wide range of special events and activities.

In 1969, Dirksen embarked on a remarkable new phase of service through his appointment as precentor by the Very Rev. Francis B. Sayre, dean of Washington Cathedral. This appointment, thought to be the first for a lay person in the 400-year history of the Anglican church, placed Dirksen at the head of the worship department, with responsibility for planning and overseeing all worship services at the cathedral. In 1982, Dirksen was made a canon of the cathedral by Bishop John T. Walker.

With the retirement of Paul Callaway as organist-choirmaster in 1977,

Dirksen once again took up musical duties in service to the cathedral. He succeeded Callaway as the fourth organist-choirmaster of Washington Cathedral, a position he held with great distinction for a decade, retiring in 1988 to devote his full time to planning the great events surrounding the consecration of the completed cathedral in September 1990, a task he accomplished brilliantly with the special skills and understanding acquired over a lifetime of devoted service to this great institution.

In his personal life as an artist and musician, Richard Wayne Dirksen's accomplishments—both inside and outside Washington Cathedral—form a large and impressive body of work. For this writer, his achievements as a composer stand at the head of the list. His fertile imagination and unerring musical instincts have led to the creation of myriad works in all forms, all characterized by great craft and understanding of the performing forces for which he is writing. Performers and listeners alike derive the greatest possible satisfaction from Dirksen's works. There are, of course, many and varied works for the church—works for voices, organ, instruments, and combinations thereof. Anthems, motets, hymns (six in the 1982 Episcopal hymnal), chants, service music, chancel dramas, full-scale pageants, fanfares, and other ceremonial music—the list goes on and on. Then there is the oratorio *Jonah*, composed for the school glee clubs; the musical drama based on Paul Green's *Faith of Our Fathers*, composed for the opening of the Carter Barron Amphitheatre in 1950; and the music for *American Adventure*, a multimedia work created in 1976 in honor of the bicentennial of the United States and heard by thousands of tourists visiting the nation's capital. His total output forms an enormous corpus embracing nearly every genre of musical composition.

As a performer, Dirksen has enjoyed a distinguished career as a keyboard artist (organ, piano, harpsichord) and conductor. Among his many conducting credits are the 1969 NBC Television production of Dave Brubeck's oratorio *The Light in the Wilderness*, produced in Washington Cathedral with the Cathedral Choral Society and Dave Brubeck, and the highly acclaimed Arena State production of Kurt Weill's *Threepenny Opera* in 1963.

Inevitably, any listing of Dirksen's vast accomplishments will be incomplete, but reference must be made to at least three of the many other areas that have engaged his talents over the years. He has had a lifelong interest in recording, radio, and television and is expert in both the engineering and production aspects of those fields. His skills have been at the core of numerous outstanding broadcasts, telecasts, and recorded releases, both within and without Washington Cathedral. He has taken a page from his father's book as an organbuilder through his longtime involvement in organ design and construction, including the overseeing of the renovation of the Great Organ of the cathedral over a period of more than three decades. He is also an enormously gifted teacher and has always been unflinchingly generous in sharing his knowledge and insights with others. In honor of his achievements, Dirksen has received three honorary degrees to date: Doctor of Fine Arts, George Washington University, Washington, D.C., 1980; Doctor of Music, Marymount College, Ohio, 1986; and the Medal of Excellence, Shenandoah Conservatory of Music, Virginia, 1988.

The biography of Richard Wayne Dirksen is remarkable by any standard. His accomplishments to date form one of the most outstanding careers in American music and churchmanship in this century. But one cannot refrain from observing that the real biography of Wayne Dirksen lies in the hearts of the hundreds—even thousands—of people whose lives he has touched so directly, so profoundly, and so permanently. I know that this writer's life has been thus richly blessed.

In devotion to his family, his God, and his art, Dirksen's life is an example for all. Dirksen himself said it best in a 1989 interview with Ellen Perkins of *The Cathedral Age*, and I close this biography and respectful appreciation with his words: "Most important, make of your life a 'Temple not built with hands. . .,' make it, your life of giving to others, cathedral-like in dimension, and in authority, in richness, and in loving, an all-embracing example."

Norman Scribner  
April 1, 1991



A Tribute  
to  
RICHARD WAYNE DIRKSEN

Canon Precentor, Composer,  
Conductor, and Organist

*performed by the*

Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys  
Douglas Major, Conductor

Cathedral Choral Society  
J. Reilly Lewis, Conductor

St. Albans and National Cathedral School Chorale  
Richard Roeckelein, Conductor

*with*

Gene Tucker, Tenor  
Richard S. Dirksen, Baritone  
Justin Purnell, Treble  
Elizabeth Peterson, Cello  
David Flowers, Trumpet  
Daniel Smith, Trumpet  
Milton Stevens, Trombone  
Paul Schultz, Trombone  
Fred Begun, Timpani  
R. Benjamin Dobey, Organ

Monday, April 15, 1991  
Eight o'clock  
Washington National Cathedral

**Fanfares and Ceremonial Music ..... Richard Dirksen**

**Three Unicorn Fanfares (1965)**

*Entry music for Menotti's The Unicorn, the Gorgon, and the Manticore*

**Fanfare for Bishop Angus Dun (1957)**

*For the entry of the Fourth Bishop of Washington at the 50th Anniversary Commencement of Saint Albans School*

**A Quiet Fanfare (1973)**

*For the dedication of the Maryland Bay; also used for processions at several consecrations and installations of bishops*

**Fanfare for T.S. Eliot (1965)**

*From A Song of Simeon composed for the memorial service in 1965.*

*"... and all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side," from Pilgrim's Progress by John Bunyan*

DOUGLAS MAJOR, ORGAN  
BRASS QUARTET

**Welcome ..... The Rev. Canon Sanford Garner, Interim Provost**

**We the Lord's People ..... Richard Dirksen**

*Text: John E. Bowers*

We the Lord's people, heart and voice uniting,  
praise him who called us out of sin and darkness  
into his own light, that he might anoint us a royal priesthood.

This is the Lord's day, day of God's own making,  
day of creation, day of resurrection,  
day of the spirit, sign of heaven's banquet, day for rejoicing.

This is the Lord's house, home of all his people,  
school for the faithful, refuge for the sinner,  
rest for the pilgrim, haven for the weary; all find a welcome.

In the Lord's service bread and wine are offered  
that Christ may take them, bless them, break and give them  
to all his people, his own life imparting, food everlasting.

*Richard Dirksen composed a large number of new hymn tunes in conjunction with the publication of the Hymnal 1982. This tune is named for Decatur Place, the street where both Dirksen's son Geoffrey and his friend and colleague Paul Callaway lived, and is included in the Hymnal 1982 along with five others.*

**Festival Te Deum ..... Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)**

*Text: Book of Common Prayer, 1662*

We praise thee, O God; we acknowledge thee to be the Lord. All the earth doth worship thee, the Father everlasting. To thee all angels cry aloud; the heavens and all the Powers therein. To thee Cherubin and Seraphim continually do cry, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of thy glory. The glorious company of the Apostles praise thee. The goodly fellowship of the Prophets praise thee. The noble army of Martyrs praise thee. The holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge thee; the Father, of an infinite majesty; thine honourable, true, and only Son; also the Holy Ghost, the Comforter.

Thou art the King of Glory, O Christ. Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father. When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man, thou didst not abhor the Virgin's womb. When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death, thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Thou sittest at the right hand of God, in the glory of the Father. We believe that thou shalt come to be our judge. We therefore pray thee, help thy servants, whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood. Make them to be numbered with thy saints, in glory everlasting.

O Lord, save thy people and bless thine heritage. Govern them and lift them up for ever. Day by day we magnify thee; and we worship thy name ever, world without end. Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin. O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us. O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us, as our trust is in thee. O Lord, in thee have I trusted; let me never be confounded.

THE COMBINED CHOIRS  
DOUGLAS MAJOR, CONDUCTOR  
R. BENJAMIN DOBEY, ORGAN



**Sanctus (from the Mass in B minor) ..... Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)**

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth.  
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria ejus.

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of his glory.

CATHEDRAL CHORAL SOCIETY  
J. REILLY LEWIS, CONDUCTOR  
R. BENJAMIN DOBEY, ORGAN

*The Cathedral Choral Society was founded in 1941 by Dr. Paul Callaway. Since that time, Dr. Dirksen has served the Society as singer, assistant conductor, accompanist, business manager, interim conductor, and advisory board member. Music Director J. Reilly Lewis recalls that his earliest musical experiences, as a junior choirboy and organ student, were under the inspiration of Dr. Dirksen.*

**Final, Symphonie I ..... Louis Vierne (1870-1937)**

DOUGLAS MAJOR, ORGAN

**Cantate Domino ..... Heinrich Schütz (1585-1672)**

Cantate Domino canticum novum,  
laus eius in ecclesia sanctorum.  
Laetetur Israel in eo qui fecit eum,  
et filiae Sion exultent in rege suo.  
Laudent nomen eius in tympano et choro,  
in psalterio psallant ei.

O sing unto the Lord a new song;  
let the congregation of saints praise him.  
Let Israel rejoice in him that made him,  
and let the children of Sion be joyful in their King.  
Let them praise his name in the dance:  
let them sing praises unto him with tabret and harp.

**Jubilate Deo ..... Richard Dirksen**

**Text: Psalm 100**

O be joyful in the Lord all ye lands;  
serve the Lord with gladness  
and come before his presence with a song.

O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving  
and into his courts with praise;  
be thankful unto him and speak good of his Name.

Be ye sure that the Lord he is God;  
it is he that hath made us and not we ourselves;  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

For the Lord is gracious;  
his mercy is everlasting;  
and his truth endureth from generation to generation.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son  
And to the Holy Ghost,  
As it was in the beginning, is now  
And ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen.

ST. ALBANS AND NATIONAL CATHEDRAL SCHOOL CHORALE  
RICHARD ROECKELEIN, CONDUCTOR  
ELIZABETH PETERSON, CELLO  
R. BENJAMIN DOBEY, ORGAN

*It was Dr. Dirksen who, in 1950, united the two school glee clubs into one performing group and began producing an operetta every spring—first Gilbert and Sullivan, and later five of his own compositions. These shows continued through the 1960s and were the subject of frequent and positive reviews in the local press.*

*The "Dirksen Portative Organ" was designed and built by Dr. Dirksen's father, a career organ builder and designer. The pipes were made by Aeolian-Skinner, originally for the Great Organ's Positive division, but were not used in the large instrument for technical reasons. The mechanical portion of the small instrument was designed and built especially to accommodate these eight ranks of pipes and to provide an instrument that could easily be moved on the floor of the cathedral. It has been used in concerts and services for more than twenty years by the cathedral choir, the glee clubs of the schools, and many other performing groups.*

**Tu es Petrus ..... Henri Mulet (1878-1967)**

J. REILLY LEWIS, ORGAN

**Great is Jehovah the Lord** ..... **Franz Schubert (1808-1878)**

*Text: Campbell Clarke*

Great is Jehovah the Lord. The heavens and the earth proclaim his power and his might. 'Tis heard in the crash of the storm, in the wild torrent's loud impetuous roar. At his command the trees put forth their opening leaves, and valleys wave bright with golden corn; with lovely flowers the fields are decked, and stars in splendour fill the vault of heaven. Heard with dread in the thunder's deep blast, and seen in flames of lightning. But chief in his great loving-kindness shines forth Jehovah's boundless might. In his loving-kindness shines forth the boundless power of the everlasting God. Raise your prayerful hearts on high, and hope for mercy, and trust in him.

GENE TUCKER, TENOR

**Here on Earth (from A German Requiem)** ..... **Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)**

Here on earth have we no continuing place, howbeit we seek one to come. Lo, I unfold unto you a mystery.  
We shall not all sleep when He cometh, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye,  
at the sound of the trumpet.  
For the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised, incorruptible.  
Then, then what of old was written, the same shall be brought to pass.  
For death shall be swallowed in victory. Grave, where is thy triumph?  
O Death, where is thy sting?

RICHARD S. DIRKSEN, BARITONE

**Psalm 46** ..... **Chant: Richard Dirksen**

*Text: Book of Common Prayer, 1979*

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;  
Though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.  
The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.  
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.  
God is in the midst of her; she shall not be overthrown; God shall help her at the break of day.  
The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.  
The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.  
Come now and look upon the works of the Lord, what awesome things he has done on earth.  
It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.  
The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

**Christ Our Passover** ..... **Richard Dirksen**

*Text: I Corinthians 5:7-8; Romans 6:9-11; I Corinthians 15:20-22*

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us, therefore let us keep the feast,  
Not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.  
Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.  
For in that he died, he died unto sin once; but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.  
Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Christ is risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept.  
For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.  
For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

CATHEDRAL CHOIR OF MEN AND BOYS  
DOUGLAS MAJOR, CONDUCTOR  
BRASS QUARTET  
FRED BEGUN, TIMPANI



Richard Dirksen played the organ, conducted the Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys, trained the Junior Choir, and led the music program of the cathedral at various times during his life's work on Mount St. Alban. The setting of Psalm 46 was composed after the bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut in 1982. "Great is Jehovah" was a favorite anthem of his, performed by the choir many times with Gene Tucker as soloist. Part VI of the Brahms Requiem was often performed on Easter Sunday in the cathedral with his son Richard S. Dirksen as baritone soloist. (A performance of the entire work was their last professional collaboration together.) "Christ Our Passover," a festival setting of the Easter canticle with brass, has been performed every Easter Sunday since its composition in 1964.

**A Tribute ..... The Rt. Rev. Ronald H. Haines, Bishop of Washington**

**A Child My Choice ..... Richard Dirksen**

**Text: Robert Southwell**

Let folly praise that fancy loves,  
I praise and love that child  
Whose heart no thought,  
Whose tongue no word,  
Whose hand no deed defiled.  
I praise him most, I love him best,  
All praise and love is his;  
While him I love, in him I live,  
And cannot live amiss.

Alas! he weeps, he sighs, he pants,  
Yet do his angels sing;  
Out of his tears, his sighs and throbs,  
Doth bud a joyful spring.  
Almighty Babe, whose tender arms  
Can force all foes to fly,  
Correct my faults, protect my life,  
Direct me when I die! Amen.

COMBINED CHOIRS  
DOUGLAS MAJOR, CONDUCTOR

*This Christmas carol was composed in 1958 and dedicated to Dr. Dirksen's son Mark. It remains Dr. Dirksen's single most popular published choral work and has been sung at Christmas Eve services in the cathedral every year since its composition.*

**Welcome All Wonders ..... Richard Dirksen**

**Text: Richard Crashaw, Hymn to the Nativity**

Welcome all wonders in one sight,  
Eternity shut in a span.  
Summer in winter, day in night,  
Heaven in earth and God in man.

That he, the old Eternal Word  
Should be a child and weep.  
Each of us his lamb will bring,  
Each his pair of silver doves;  
Till burnt at last in fire of thy fair eyes,  
Ourselves become our own best sacrifice.

JUSTIN PURNELL, TREBLE  
COMBINED CHOIRS  
J. REILLY LEWIS, CONDUCTOR  
R. BENJAMIN DOBEY, ORGAN

*Dr. Dirksen composed this anthem in 1957 for the fiftieth anniversary of the setting of the Foundation Stone.*

## THE BETHLEHEM CHAPEL ORGAN

The proceeds from tonight's concert will benefit the Bethlehem Chapel Organ Restoration Fund, designated as a thanksgiving for the life and work among us of Richard Wayne Dirksen.

The organ was built by the Aeolian-Skinner Organ Company of Boston and installed in Bethlehem Chapel in 1953. It was designed by G. Donald Harrison, who almost singlehandedly reformed the organ building industry in America with his ideas on tonal design of pipe organs. Dr. Dirksen was responsible for the awarding of the contract to Aeolian-Skinner and directed the planning and installation of the instrument. Over the past thirty-eight years it has been used for countless weddings, chapel services, funerals, and memorial services, for teaching, and as a practice instrument for the cathedral organists.

The organ contains seventeen ranks of pipes disposed over two manuals and pedals. It is built in the French "choir organ" style, a plan based on the smaller instruments found in the front of the great French cathedrals and used for accompanying the choir. The instrument will be restored with no changes in tonal or mechanical design. It is one of the few remaining G. Donald Harrison instruments in the United States still in its original condition, an important matter for scholars of pipe organ design and construction. Restoration will begin in the fall of 1991 and will be completed about four months later. The work will be done by a local firm specializing in the preservation of small Skinner instruments.

We are pleased to acknowledge a major gift to the Bethlehem Chapel Organ Fund from the Esther Simon Charitable Trust, with our special thanks to Stephen and Bonnie Simon.

For those who wish to contribute to the organ fund this evening, there are boxes at the doors.

### PLANNING COMMITTEE

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