

Marilyn Keiser

Chancellor's Professor of Organ

Marilyn Keiser, one of the world's most brilliant and sought-after concert organists and teachers, will retire as Chancellor's Professor of Music after 25 years of distinguished service to the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. In constant demand as a recitalist and teacher, Dr. Keiser has appeared throughout the United States and Europe in concerts sponsored by the American Guild of Organists (AGO), on major organ recital series in churches and universities, having played many of the world's most prestigious instruments. Her former students currently occupy some of the most important teaching positions in the organ world.

Appointed to the Jacobs School of Music faculty in 1983, she began her organ study in her native state, Illinois, and graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University with a Bachelor of Sacred Music degree under the tutelage of Lillian McCord. Dr. Keiser then entered the School of Sacred Music at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, where she studied organ with the reknowned Alec Wyton, and graduated summa cum laude in 1965 with a master's degree. She earned a Doctor of Sacred Music degree from Union Seminary in 1977.

Upon graduation from Union Seminary, Dr. Keiser became assistant organist at the Riverside Church in New York and one year later was appointed associate organist/choirmaster of the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, a position she held from 1966 to 1970.

An active member of the AGO, Marilyn Keiser has served as national registrar, dean of the Western North Carolina chapter, and a member of the National Nominating Committee and the Committee on Professional Education. She holds the highest certifications—fellow and choirmaster—from the Guild. She has been a featured artist for national conventions in Dallas and Washington, D.C., where she played with the National Symphony Orchestra at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, as well as soloist with the Detroit Symphony. In Europe she has appeared as featured artist for the International Congress of Organists in Cambridge, England, in concert at Royal Victoria Hall with the Singapore Symphony, at the American Cathedral in Paris, and at the Southern Cathedrals Festival in Winchester, England. In South America she has been soloist at the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil.

Her fame as a virtuoso concert organist has brought invitations from across the United States to present lectures and workshops in church music for all major denominations. She has been president of the Association of Anglican Musicians and a contributing editor to the hymnal *Ecumenical Praise*, has served on the Episcopal Church's Standing Commission on Church Music, and was a consultant to the Hymn Music Committee for the Episcopal *Hymnal 1982*. Dr. Keiser is past chairman of the Worship and Music Commission for the

Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis and the author of a publication in the Church Hymnal Teaching Series entitled *Teaching Music in Small Churches*.

Marilyn Keiser is a member of the Phi Kappa Phi and Alpha Lambda Delta national honor societies, as well as an honorary member of the national professional music fraternity, Sigma Alpha Iota. She is the recipient of the degree Doctor of Humane Letters, Honoris Causa, from both Virginia Theological Seminary and Illinois Wesleyan University.

A major testimony to her outstanding reputation in her chosen field is her selection by several of the most important living composers of music for organ to give world premieres of their newest compositions. She has been featured in performance on radio broadcasts throughout the United States and has made several professional recordings for Pro Organo CDs and the Organ Historical Society.

Having had one of the most successful careers in America as a performer and teacher of organ, Dr. Keiser will continue to reside in Bloomington and maintain her position as director of music for Trinity Episcopal Church.

Larry Smith