

# TWO ADDITIONAL SERVICE PLAYING TEST PIECES

Kathleen Thomerson, FAGO, ChM

**Dans la Gloire des Invalides (Marcel Dupré, 1886–1971).** These eleven versets were improvised by Dupré as part of the dedication service of the Beuchet-Debierre organ at the church of St. Louis des Invalides in Paris on December 8, 1957. A recording made of the service was issued on LP by Erato, with this portion listed as “Onze Versets Improvisés en réponse aux invocations de Son Eminence, Maurice Feltin.” Ten invocations were intoned by Cardinal Maurice Feltin, interspersed with improvised responses by Dupré. After a concluding prayer, the improvisations concluded with a Toccata.

The vinyl disc, Erato LDE 3082, has not been available since the 1960s. David A. Stech of the music faculty of the University of Alaska–Fairbanks reconstructed Dupré’s improvisations, and they were published by Wayne Leupold Editions in 2004 (reviewed in the March 2006 TAO). Dr. Stech is now

emeritus professor of music at UAF, having taught there from 1972 to 2007.

“In the Glory of the Invalides” was added to the Service Playing 2009 repertoire list in October 2008 as an alternate for Dupré’s *Sixteen Chorales (Le Tombeau de Titelouze)*, and replaces the *Chorales* in the 2010 repertoire list. Any one of the eleven sections may be chosen by the candidates. A CD is now available of Dupré’s original performance, so questions about tempos and registration are easily answered. Haydn House ([www.HaydnHouse.com](http://www.HaydnHouse.com)), P.O. Box 608, Dennis, MA 02638, makes private transfers to CD for backup only, and lists the 1957 Organ Dedication Service, St. Louis des Invalides, for \$12 on page 2 of its Organ Loft Collection. The disc also includes organist Bernard Gavoty playing Vierne, Franck, and Balbastre works (reviewed by Rollin Smith in the March 2009 TAO).

Verset V, “You will sing of the glory of the angels,” played by Elaine Dykstra, CAGO, will be included on the updated CD of the Study Guide for the AGO Service Playing Test, listed on the AGO Resources page in each issue of TAO. Most of the versets are two or three pages long. Even though the organ being dedicated consisted of three manuals and 61 stops, most of the pieces can be played on one or two manuals. Registration indications are given by Dr. Stetch. The chanted invocation should be omitted when a verset is played for the test.

For those who are wondering about the “invalides” in the title, the historic complex of buildings houses military pensioners. The Hôtel National des Invalides was founded in 1671 by King Louis XIV to provide a place for disabled or impoverished war veterans. The Church of Saint-Louis was added as an annex to the complex in 1679. Residents were required to attend daily Mass there. The church is connected directly with the royal chapel, the Dôme des Invalides. Napoleon Bonaparte’s tomb is in this chapel, along with those of famous French military leaders and war heroes. At the 1957 concert, Bernard Gavoty and a brass ensemble also played Vierne’s *Marche Triomphale pour le Centenaire de Napoleon*, band 13 on the CD.

**Trio on “People, Look East” (Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954).** Dr. Wold is associate professor of music and college organist at Hood College in Frederick, Md. “Besançon” is the third section of his “Light One Candle: An Advent Organ Collection,” published in 1996 by Augsburg Fortress. The other hymn tune settings are on “Tif in Veldele” and “Wachet auf.”

The trio on the hymn tune “Besançon” was also recorded by Dr. Dykstra for the Service Playing CD, which accompanies the Study Guide for the AGO Service Playing Test, available for \$20 from the AGO. This three-page trio is preceded by a one-page “Intonation on People, Look East,” which should not be played for the test. The suggested registration is 8’ and 2’ stops in the right hand, 8’, 4’, and 1½’ in the left hand, with 8’ Flute and 4’ Principal in the Pedal. The tempo is Allegretto, lively and playful. Articulation groups are indicated with slurs and staccato marks, and when followed will reflect the playful character of the piece. Be sure to play F# in measure 5, top line, p. 26. No registration changes are needed during the trio, but the last page has frequent back-and-forth manual changes. Since the music repeats a motif at the changes, it’s only necessary to read every other measure. Keeping your eyes glued to the music might be risky in this passage.

The Trio on “People, Look East” has been added to Group C of the Service Playing Requirements (July 2009 TAO). *Dans la Gloire des Invalides* is in Group B. The three pieces chosen from Groups A, B, and C are no longer played together at the beginning of the test as S1 but will be played in the order chosen by the candidate, at the position of S1 (Prelude), S7 (Offertory), and S10 (Postlude).



**Lois Fyfe Music**  
Specialists in Choral  
and Organ Music  
2209 Crestmoor Road, Suite 220, Nashville, TN 37215  
800-851-9023 • 615-386-3542  
[sales@loisfyfemusic.com](mailto:sales@loisfyfemusic.com)



**Wilma JENSEN**  
*Legendary artistry.  
Insightful instruction.*  
Organ Recitals • Masterclasses • Choral Workshops • [wilmajensen.com](http://wilmajensen.com)