



Allen Hobbs at Duquesne University Chapel in 1994 during the improvisation festival.

Obituary Allen Hobbs

On August 2, 2007 at the age of 71, Allen Hobbs died quietly in his sleep at the house of the Little Sisters of the Poor in Denver, Colorado after a long illness as the result of diabetes. He had been close to the Cardinal Lustiger who died two days later in Paris.

Allen Hobbs, musicologist, composer, teacher, and organist, received the Legion of Honor award. He was a Life Member of the Société Française de Musicologie. Author of textbooks on counterpoint, fugue, and a biography of Charles Marie Widor, he also edited a collection of organ pieces by Widor based on his studies with Dupré which was published by Lissett. He was organist of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and Roman Catholic Church of the Holy Ghost in Denver and was responsible for the oversight of the renovation and completing of the Kimbell organ at the Cathedral by the firm of Morel and Associates in Denver. During his tenure as organist at the Cathedral he also arranged for recitals by Jean Langlais in 1954, and of another other French organist, Frédéric Desenclos in 1996. He arranged for the first performance and recording of Joaquin Nin-Cumel's *Symphonie des Mystères* at the Cathedral in the presence of the composer at the Cathedral in 1997.

In Paris he studied organ with André Marchal and Jean Langlais. At the Paris Conservatory he studied solfège and counterpoint with Georges Caussade and Simone Plé-Caussade and piano accompaniment with César Abel Estyle. During his student years in Paris during the late 1950s he befriended Vierne's friend Mme. Mallet-Richepin, Felix Raugel, Marie-Louise Boëllmann, Daniel Lesur, and Henri Potiron among others.

Founder of the International Tournemire Society, he served as its honorary president. He was tireless in promoting the love of Tournemire's music and was even responsible for having a street in Paris named after him. He was also close to Tournemire's second wife Alice from 1958 until her death and inherited many scores from her. In 1991 Hobbs arranged for the recording of Tournemire's complete *L'Orgue Mystique* by Joseph Alexander at the Roman Catholic Church of the Holy Ghost in Denver and wrote extensive program notes on the work including the chants for each office and background information on the composition of the work, published by Lissett Publications in 1991. During the 1994 AGO Convention in Denver he was active as a translator for Yvonne Loriod.

During his studies in Paris in 1958 and 1961 he amassed an impressive collection of books and music. He left the main part of his extensive collection of French books and scores to Duquesne University as the Jean Langlais Collection in honor of his teacher Jean Langlais.

His compositions included masses, motets, instrumental music, and a large choral and instrumental work, *Three Psalms* written in 1991 in memory of Jean Langlais. At the time of his death he was working on the revision of his textbook on counterpoint.

He was described by a close friend as a wonderful "old world gentleman." His voice may be heard on the DVD of "Life and Music of Jean Langlais" with host and artist Ann Labounsky, produced by the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

He is survived by a brother, Lawrence Hobbs.

Ann Labounsky