

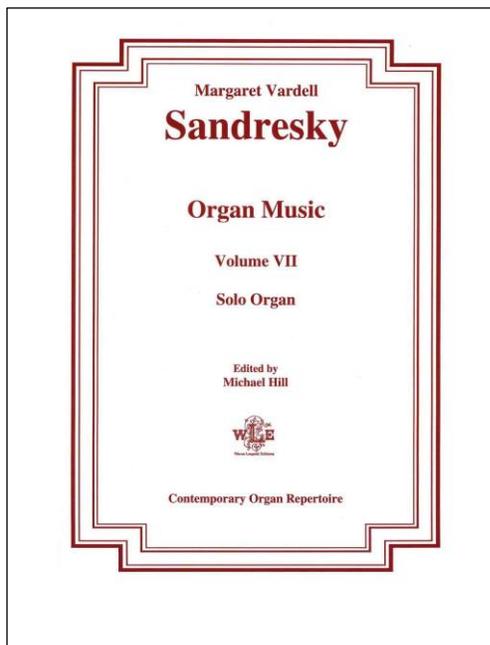
A Short Biography of Margaret Sandresky

Margaret Sandresky graduated from Salem Academy and College, earning a Bachelor of Music degree, cum laude. Continuing her education at the Eastman School of Music, she earned a Master of Music in Composition. She studied with Howard Hanson and Bernard Rogers and was an organ pupil of Harold Gleason. In 1955, she was awarded a Fulbright Grant to the State Institute of Music in Frankfurt/Main, Germany, where she studied organ, harpsichord, and composition.



As a Salem College professor of music for 36 years, beginning in 1950, one cannot exaggerate her influence, which continues to be profoundly evident even though she retired more than three decades ago. She also held teaching positions at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Ohio, the University of Texas at Austin and UNC School of the Arts, where she founded the organ department. During her career, she served as organist at several Winston-Salem churches, including Home Moravian, First Baptist, and Centenary United Methodist.

In 2017, Margaret was awarded (for the second time) the Distinguished Alumna Award by the Salem College Alumnae Association. She has received numerous awards for her life's work, including the 2004 Distinguished Composer Award from the American Guild of Organists, the Sam Ragan Award for extended exemplary service to the arts, North Carolina Symphony Young Composer Award, and the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, which is among the most prestigious awards conferred by the Governor of North Carolina.



A prolific composer by any measure, she has witnessed her works played by orchestras across the globe, including the American Bach Orchestra in San Francisco, the Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra, the North Carolina Symphony, the Winston-Salem Symphony Chamber Orchestra, and the Moravian Philharmonic in Czechoslovakia.

Among her commissions are those funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, the North Carolina Arts Council, the Reynolda House Museum of American Art, the North Carolina Music Teachers Association, and the American Guild of Organists.

Margaret Sandresky is the fourth generation of professional women musicians in her family, and continuing that tradition, her daughter is the fifth. The Charlotte Chapter is pleased to honor her with a program of her organ music.