

# Light of Mary

## Nine meditations for organ

Based on the stained-glass windows of Legé (France) "Notre Dame de l'Assomption" (Our Lady of the Assumption) church.

### Musical means put at stake :

- musical phrases depicting the words from the Gospel : construction of dialogues
- sound "symbolics" : ascending or descending melodies along with the described movements, numeric symbolic, representation of time
- Tone - light and Tone - matter combination
- common threads : rhythmic and melodic patterns used in several pieces : presentation topic, and "chant of the Lord's servant"

### **I - Presentation at the Temple 2'25"**

Seven groups of powerful chords embody the seven steps of the temple.  
The strong and low bass establish the "foundation" of this construction.  
The presentation is then declaimed, followed by a joyful whirlwind on the rhythm of Mary's dance.

### **II - The Virgin's Education 2'00"**

Two musical ideas succeed, borrowed from Bach's chorals symbolism : two melodies answer to each other, "Mary imitates Saint Anne", then the two melodies progress simultaneously , "Mary and Anne sing the same psalm"

### **III - The Virgin's Wedding 1'40"**

Sequence of variations on the "Mazel Tov", in a sound turbulence that recalls the dance of Mary at the temple.

### **IV - Annunciation 2'30"**

A keen bolt of chords, as a light beam, enlightens Mary from above.  
The angel appears, all in majesty. He doesn't come from this world, and the time is like frozen.  
His announcement is a message full of merriment which questions Mary. After a short dialogue, Mary can sing internally " I am the Lord's servant"

### **V - Visitation 2'15"**

Quickly played arpeggios spring in an unstable beat, as a shudder of joy.  
A sweet song that gives thanks to God reply to it.

### **VI - Escape in Egypt 1'40"**

A deluge of notes sounds like a dreadful warning. Joseph, informed in a dream, starts to march at the rhythm of a slow fugue (litteraly "escape"). At the end of the piece, an Egyptian tune echoes.

### **VII - Dormition 3'50"**

In the bass edge of the organ pedalboard, a slow respiration stands for the organic life of the Virgin.  
A slow and fine chant resonates, faraway echo of the "chant of the Lord's servant". Untill her last breath, Mary remains faithful to her vocation.  
In parallel, a counterpoint soars from the bass to the high, before it disappears : Mary fell asleep, her breath slows down and a more and more slow tempo symbolize eternity.

### **VIII - Assumption 1'50"**

Over a light and almost nebulous sound background, standing for the sky, a melody from the "chant of the Lord's servant" advances in an everlastingly ascending movement.  
The peak echoes lengthily, on a "mysterious" chord.

### **IX - Communion of the Virgin 2'30"**

A musical phrase takes over the pattern from the "Presentation at the Temple", but this time it's about the presentation of the Lord's body. Mary receives communion and meditates internally : the "chant of the lord's servant" is her song of thakngiving. The charity is the fruit of communion.  
Same construction for the communion of the Lord's blood.

Full duration of the piece 20'40"