

CD, DVD & Book Reviews

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CD Reviews

A number of members have queried how I receive and review discs. Over the course of years, I have built up a considerable number of contacts. We have valued members who send me their releases. The proviso of inclusion is that it must be organ or organ music related, the organ being the prime part of the recording. When a disc arrives it is catalogued into my system, and I try to listen as soon as possible after receipt. That uncovers the infrequent disc that does not play. Later I will listen again, looking at the jewel case booklet. I will then make notes about the recording. Sometimes research is required to find where an organ is located. I will often try to see if the church has a website, particularly if the disc celebrates a restored instrument (in turn that has led to the discovery of bespoke postage stamps). Faulty discs I query with the issuing company. Our Editor has the right to alter, resize or re-arrange sequences of reviews, I work in the sequence I receive items.

**Höchsterwünschtes
Freudenfest**
Querstand VKJK1818



This church is at Störmthal, south east of Leipzig. The parish in 1722 renovated the church and included a new organ built by Zacharias Hildebrandt, an apprentice of Gottfried Silbermann. When it was completed, J S Bach was called to examine the organ. Since that time various updates have taken place, but in 2008 Eule organ builder restored the instrument to the original 1723 state apart from the addition of a pedal Posaune, 12 manual and 2 pedal stops. Annette Herr is Cantor and Organist for solo works. At the start and on track 21 the church bells are demonstrated. Track 21 is a choral and orchestral performance of BWV194 with organist Christiane Bräutigam. Tracks 22–28 are a spoken history and demonstration of certain ranks. Tracks 2–18 and 29–31 solo organ – mainly J S Bach, but also works by C P

E Bach, Mozart, Krebs and Buxtehude. Beautifully presented comprehensive booklet with this splendid recording.

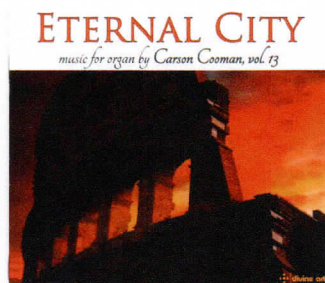
**Aus der Neuen Welt
(From the New World)**
Querstand VKJK1908



This features brothers Markus and Pascal Kaufmann playing duet on the Kern organ in Dresden's Frauenkirche. Their programme comprises three works. Two by Antonin Dvorak – *Humoreske Op 101/7* and the *New World Symphony Op 95* that the brothers have transcribed for organ. I have to admit when listening to the second movement – Largo – I am always reminded of a TV advert originally at Gold Hill in Shaftesbury filmed in 1973 for a well-known make of brown bread. Their third work is by Franz Liszt *Saint Francis of Paula walking on the water S175*. The 2005 Kern organ was built to replace the Silbermann destroyed in 1945. The instrument was chosen to reflect the romantic period of the music. Pascal

Kaufmann is a church musician in Augustusberg (Saxony) while Markus is the Cathedral organist at Queninburg. Good recording.

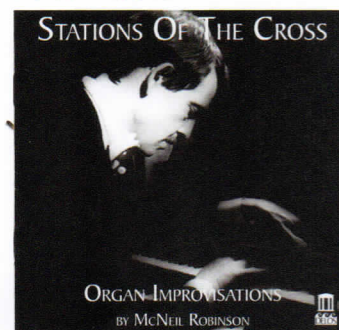
**Eternal City, Volume 13 of
Music for Organ by Carson
Cooman**
Divine Art DDA25200



ERIK SIMMONS

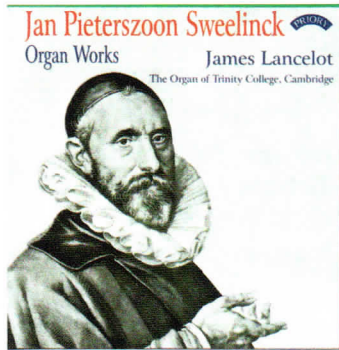
The player is Erik Simmons using the Hauptwerk system which had recorded the organ of Pfarrkirche, St Peter & St Paul, Görlitz. That 4/83 organ was built by Mathis in 1997 & 2006. Carson's music is always good to listen to – nine works. The oldest pieces are *Three Voluntaries* written in 1999, the rest were written in 2017/2018 – *Trilogy on B-A-C-H*, 3 movements; *Eternal City* (disc name), 2 movements; *Sonatina No 5*, three movements; *Introitus in D*; *Rhapsody in A*; *Two Contrasts*; *Acclamation* finishing with *Radegund Variations*. Interesting.

**Improvements on the 14
Stations of the Cross,
McNeil Robinson organist**
Delos DE3549



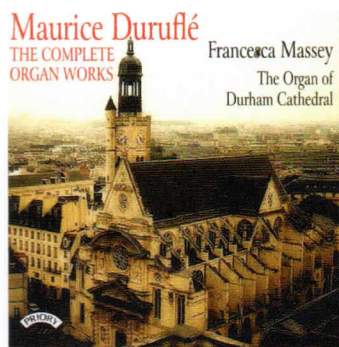
Two releases on the same subject, but totally different. Issued first was Delos – and the improvisations are based on themes provided by Ned Rorem. This recording was made in 2006, and has a narrator for each of the passages of text before the music illustrates the section. The recitalist is McNeil Robinson who was organist of the recorded organ until 2014 when Dr Andrew Yeargin took over. Sadly McNeil Robinson passed away in 2015. In the booklet the organ merits a single line – location only St Mary the Virgin, New York City – a 1932 Aeolian Skinner revised between 1988 and 2002 by Mann & Trupiano, 4m/63ss, 92 ranks. The specification can be found at:
<http://www.nycago.org/Organs/NYC/html/StMaryVirgin.html>

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck
– played by James Lancelot
PRCD1228



James has recorded 14 compositions by this composer on the Metzler of Trinity College Cambridge. He has dedicated this recording to the memory of Sir David Willcocks as it was David's gift to him of a recording by Gustav Leonhard in 1973 that sparked his love of music. James' selection ignores the well-known pieces to play mainly Toccatas and Fantasias. Interesting disc.

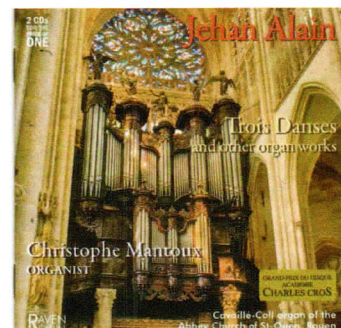
Maurice Duruflé – Complete Organ Works, played by Francesca Massey at Durham Cathedral
Priory PRCD1230



The cover of this recording has the church Saint-Etienne-du-Mont pictured, and then the words The organ of Durham Cathedral. One has to read the text to find that Duruflé was organist at Saint-Etienne from 1930 to 1975. The description of 'Complete Organ Works' presumably in this case means works originally written for the organ and not composer transcribed works for the organ. I recognised

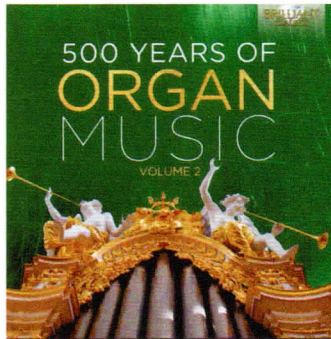
Francesca's name from her time at Windsor and was pleased to see her appointment in September 2019 as Director of Music and Organist at Rochester Cathedral. The complete works comprise – *Op 2 Scherzo, Op 4 Prelude, Adagio and Choral variations on Veni Creator, Op 5 Suite, Op 7 Prelude and Fugue on name of Alain, Op 12 Fugue, Op 13 Prelude*. Two works without opus numbers – *Meditation and Chant Donne*. Most enjoyable!

Jehan Alain, Christophe Mantoux, Abbey Church of St-Ouen Rouen
Raven OAR163



Raven advise this famous recording, now with more of Alain's organ works added, is newly produced as a 2-CD set. Originally produced as a single CD in 1992 by the French label, Studio SM it received a Grand Prix du Disque. It was reissued in 2009 by Motette as their 13651 but now deleted from the Motette catalogue and at the time of compiling these notes, not found on the various websites that sell CDs. It is always a pleasure to listen to this organ, and the booklet is to Raven's high standard. Disc 1 has *Trois Danses, Petite Pièce, Choral Cistercien, Intermezzo*. Disc 2: *Première Fantaisie, Lamento, Berceuse sur Deux Notes qui Cornent, Deuxième Fantaisie, Choral Dorien, Andante, Climat, Choral Phrygien* and *Postlude pour l'Office de Complies*. Very enjoyable.

500 Years of Organ Music
Brilliant Classics 96139,
released April 2020, Volume 2. Price £79 – 50 CD box set. (*Volume 1 was released back in 2016, reference 95310*)



Our member Ray Sellers of Lincoln was the first to advise me about this box set. 50 CDs is a massive box by any standard – and it is not just CDs – to complete the information one has to go onto the internet to download a 159 page PDF. The web site is www.brilliantclassics.com and search for the title. Inside the box there is a 13-page booklet outlining 500 years of organ music. Each CD is in a cardboard sleeve with the composer name, birth and death date, name of the work, player name, organ and the date of recording. The sleeves are colour coded to sections: RED covers – Discs 1 to 21 – Renaissance & Early music - 57 composers – 21 different organs – 19 players; BLUE covers – Discs 22 to 35 Baroque & Classical – 20 composers plus 'unattributed', 13 organs, 11 players; MAUVE covers – Discs 36 to 50 Romantic and 20th century- 33 composers, 16 organs, 10 players. Organs recorded are – 2 from Belgium, 1 Finland, 2 French, 3 German, 33 Italy, 6 Netherlands, 2 Spanish and one USA. The recordings were made from 2013 onward. The PDF sets out the organ history and specification for each disc. PDF pages 1 to 126 set out

organ specifications and notes about the organs. PDF pages 127 to 159 is the full track listing, no details about the music. 50 CDs and 862 tracks of organ music. It has taken a very long time to play, but at least one can do so in stages. WOW!

Invocazione brillante – Organ music by Carson Cooman
Divine Art DDA25265



This May 2020 release is played by Philip Hartmann on the organ of Pauluskirche. Philip is the District Cantor for the Ulm Deanery and has been church musician since 1991. This disc provides the history of organs in this church from 1910 to the current 4/86 instrument following Thomas Gaida's work in 2015. This recording is on the organ itself, unlike many other Divine Art CDs, that use the Hauptwerk system. 13 of Carson Cooman's compositions are performed, written between 2000 and 2019, all really good music. Great disc!

Nomine – Orgellandschaften & Lieblingsstücke recordings

In the area of the north of Lower Saxony there are around 250 historical organs dating back six centuries, they claim it is the richest organ landscape in the world – covering East Frisia, Oldenburg, Stade and Lüneburg. Nomine eV has set itself the goal of extensively researching this