

Cooman: Companions

Carson Cooman, Gaida organ
(2013), Pauluskirche, Ulm,
Germany

Divine Art DDA 25241 [78:21]

★★★★



With ten first recordings of works by nine composers from six countries, Carson Cooman's *Companions* is a remarkably coherent recital, the resulting kaleidoscope reflecting back on the organist-composer's own eclecticism and accent on direct communication. Bernard J.D. Heyes's expressive *Organ Symphony no. 15* forcefully illustrates that, as do Thomas Åberg's characterful *Three Short Fantasy Pieces*, and Cooman's own *Recitative*, a miniature making much of the Gaida organ's substantial Flauto mirabilis stop. Carol Williams's Scriabin-quoting *Prismatic*, Tate Pumfrey's Eucharist-influenced *Sursum Corda* and

◀ Carlotta Ferrari's tolling *The Grave of Keats* provide contrast aplenty in a satisfying, well-recorded disc with good booklet notes by Cooman.

MICHAEL QUINN