



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: Organ Works

aud 97.484

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American Record Guide (Mulbury - 2004.03.01)

The inescapable implication arises that this recording will include all of Mozart's organ works. In reality, Mozart left us no genuine solo organ works, unless we count two minuscule Versets, K 154a. There are many eyewitness accounts of Mozart's organ performances and of his consuming interest in the organs of cities he visited, but on those occasions he improvised, and he evidently never composed for the instrument per se (the 17 Organ Sonatas with instruments represent, of course, a distinctly separate body of literature).

None of this diminishes the interest of these works recorded by Martin Sander or should detract from his impeccable performances. In fact, several are substantial masterworks from Mozart's last year (Fantasias K 594 & 608 and Andante in F, K 617), as well as the magnificent, dark Adagio and Fugue in C minor, best known in its version for strings.

Sander is one of the finest young virtuoso organists of Europe. He is on the teaching staff of the conservatories in Heidelberg and Frankfurt. He plays here the Metzler organ in the Parish Church at Hopfgarten im Brixental (Tyrol), a recent and beautiful instrument of 44 stops. All of his registrations are listed in the brochure.

There is an unmistakable authority in his playing – a combination of rhythmic integrity, intensity of expression, clarity of articulation and absolute evenness and polish of technique.

Recorded sound is natural and luminous, and the notes are excellent.