audite

Bach and the North German Tradition Vol. I

aud 92.547

EAN: 4022143925473

4 0 2 2 1 4 3 9 2 5 4 7 3

Choir & Organ (Douglas Hollick - 01.05.2010)

Organ CDs - Bach and the north german tradition Vol. 1

CHOIR & ORGAN ★★★★

These discs provide an interesting contrast of playing styles. Kynaston plays the large late 18th-century organ in Amorbach Abbey, with a more recent fourth manual by Klais. Winters plays a new organ in early 18th-century Thuringian style, while Neu plays a new organ by Hendrik Ahrend.

Kynaston's recording is reissued from 1994, a fine sound if sometimes lacking in clarity. This is recognisably English playing, and none the worse for that, with a Passacaglia & Fugue starting quietly and with lots of stop changes. Indeed the impression of the disc as a whole is of someone used to using a sequencer! He is at his best musically, and with less fussy registration, in the C minor Fantasia & Fugue (BWV 537) which is given a fine performance. A worthwhile curiosity is Reger's arrangement of Bach's harpsichord Chromatic Fantasia & Fugue, using the full resources of this organ to great effect.

Winters is more period-style conscious, but often in a highly mannered and sometimes rhythmically disorganised way. The organ sounds gorgeous, but apart from one chorale prelude and the principal choruses of the preludes and fugues his registrations never get beyond 8ft and 4ft, leaving one wishing for more colour. The Vivaldi-Bach D minor Concerto is perhaps the most satisfying work here, and unlike Kynaston Winters uses exactly the registrations Bach asks for in the short opening section. Unfortunately the idiosyncrasies of his playing rule out a recommendation.

Neu is playing the smallest organ, but conjures the greatest range of colour – often ravishingly beautiful. Hendrik has learned his craft well from his father Jürgen. Here we have not just Bach, but also Buxtehude and Böhm, and two chorale partitas of the latter provide a feast of organ sounds. His playing is stylistically aware, sensitive to the individual works, and the programme is thoroughly enjoyable and strongly recommended.

»audite« Ludger Böckenhoff • Tel.: +49 (0)5231-870320 • Fax: +49 (0)5231-870321 • info@audite.de • www.audite.de