



Tientos y Glosas - Iberian Organ & Choral Music from the Golden Age

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Early Music Review (D. James Ross - 01.08.2015)

REVIEW
This CD of freely composed works and diminutions of originals is performed by Martin Neu on the 1735 Orchardo organ of the San Hipólito Church in Córdoba. This instrument was recently dismantled and completely rebuilt, restoring its original tuning and temperament but preserving most of the original pipework, so it is able to produce some startlingly original timbres to enhance the music of 17th- and 18th-century Spanish composers Diego Xaraba, Manuel Rodrigues Coelho and Francisco Correa de Arauxo. Drafting in the ensemble officium to provide vocal alternatims allows Neu to present some of the music in a liturgical context, although the CD's promise of Organ and Choral Music from the Golden Age is a little disingenuous as the singers only supply plainchant and two short sections of albeit beautiful polyphony. The highlight for me was Arauxo's Tiento on Morales' Batalla, a work which has been unfortunately lost. Neu makes fabulous use of the venerable instrument's trumpet stops to evoke the full excitement of the 17th-century battlefield.