



11/17-(4)

J. S. Bach (1685-1759)
Fantasia and Fugue BWV 542
Trio Sonata BWV 529
Sinfonia BWV 29
Partita BWV 768

Ben van Oosten,
Grote Kerk Breda (NL)

1 CD

MDG 316 0127-2

UPC-Code:



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LC06768

Knight Light

Ben van Oosten has been virtually showered with awards and honors for his recordings of French romantic organ music, for which he has even been dubbed a knight. In this light the historic audio achievement now being released by MDG for the first time on CD is all the more interesting: four organ works by Johann Sebastian Bach performed by the Dutch virtuoso on the organ in the Grote Kerk in Breda for an LP when he was only twenty-eight years old. Quod erat demonstrandum: van Oosten also knows his Bach.

Fantastic Fugue

Van Oosten got off to a truly magnificent start with the Fantasia and Fugue in G minor BWV 542. One can imagine how the members of selection committee were blown away when Bach applied for the post of organist at Hamburg's Jakobikirche with a performance of this work. It was certainly not because of the "Kaffeewasserfuge" that Bach was not successful: he withdrew his application when he learned that the business-minded local authorities expected the payment of a larger sum of money from the lucky winner.

Multitasking Marvel

The six Trio Sonatas number among the absolute highlights of Bach's extensive oeuvre. It is with the finest art that the organ assumes the independent voices otherwise assigned to several instruments – a form of chamber music still very much loved during Bach's times. From the three undoubtedly authentic Partitas Ben van Oosten selected BWV 768, the longest and profoundest of them, probing this work's intricate structure in what is an absolute listening must!

French Twist

And then a little bit of French influence also ends up being felt: Marcel Dupré's organ transfer of the Sinfonia from the "Rathauswahlkantate," once derived by Bach from the Prelude of the Partita in E flat major for violin solo. Ben van Oosten's quick hands produce a genuine organ concerto and energetic forces so impressive that they seem to want to go on forever. The four-manual organ at the Grote Kerk in Breda, the result of the combination of several historical organs, contributes its share to this magnificent sound event – even then recorded by MDG in the finest digital technology and now too enthralling listeners from start to finish!

Camille Saint-Saëns: Complete Organ Works
Ben van Oosten,
Cavaillé Coll Organ La Madeleine Paris
MDG 316 1767-2 (3 CDs)

Louis Vierne:

- Compl. Organ Symphonies MDG 316 0732-2 (4 CDs)
- 24 Pièces de Fantaisie MDG 316 0847-2 (2 CDs)
- 24 Pièces en style libre; Messe basse op. 30 & 62,
Trois Improvisations etc. MDG 316 1011-2 (3 CDs)

Alexandre Guilmant :

Complete Organ Sonatas
Cavaillé Coll Organ St. Ouen Rouen
MDG 316 0340-2 (3 CDs)

