



06/18-(4)

**César Franck** (1822-1890)  
Organ Works

Ben van Oosten,  
Cavaillé Coll Organ St. Ouen Rouen

4 CDs  
(special price)

**MDG 316 2080-2**

**UPC-Code:**



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### Impressive Show

Ben van Oosten's impressive discography of French organ music has somehow neglected one very important person: César Franck. Now the Dutch organ wizard fills this glaring gap with a marvelous show of virtuosity on four CDs bringing together the whole of Franck's organ oeuvre, from his early efforts to the three great masterpiece cycles. Once again van Oosten performs on the legendary L'Orgue à Michel-Ange in St. Ouen's Cathedral in Rouen. Today this organ, one of Aristide Cavaillé-Coll's most magnificent instruments, is preserved in its original state.

### Enduring Friendship

Cavaillé-Coll and César Franck were close friends. Franck tested many brand-new organs in Cavaillé-Coll's workshop and wrote the *Trois Pièces* for the inaugural concert of the Trocadéro Organ on the occasion of the World's Fair in 1878. Good fortune for posterity: Franck's premiere manuscript with the original registrations is extant and offers outstanding insights into his idea of sound.

### Inimitable Symbiosis

This idea is shaped essentially by the colors of a symphony orchestra. As he wrote to Cavaillé-Coll, "My organ, it is an orchestra!" However, Franck's beginnings as a pianist – his ambitious father planned to have his talented son pursue a career as a piano virtuoso – are in full evidence: broad chords and accompaniment arpeggios like those in the *Fantaisie* in A major are rather untypical of organist's hands. It is thus that Franck developed a unique personal style

forming an inimitable symbiosis between the public concert world and sacred ritual.

### Encyclopedic Feast

Ben van Oosten conveys all of the above in remarkable fashion. The challenges in the field of playing technique are of course no problem for this Chévalier des Arts et des Lettres, and the manner in which he draws on the phenomenal resources of the St. Ouen organ make this encyclopedic survey of Franck's organ oeuvre an audio feast with addictive potential.

### Louis Vierne:

- 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)

### Camille Saint-Saëns:

Complete Organ Works  
MDG 316 1767-2 (3 CDs)

### Alexandre Guilmant :

Complete Organ Sonatas  
MDG 316 0340-2 (3 CDs)

