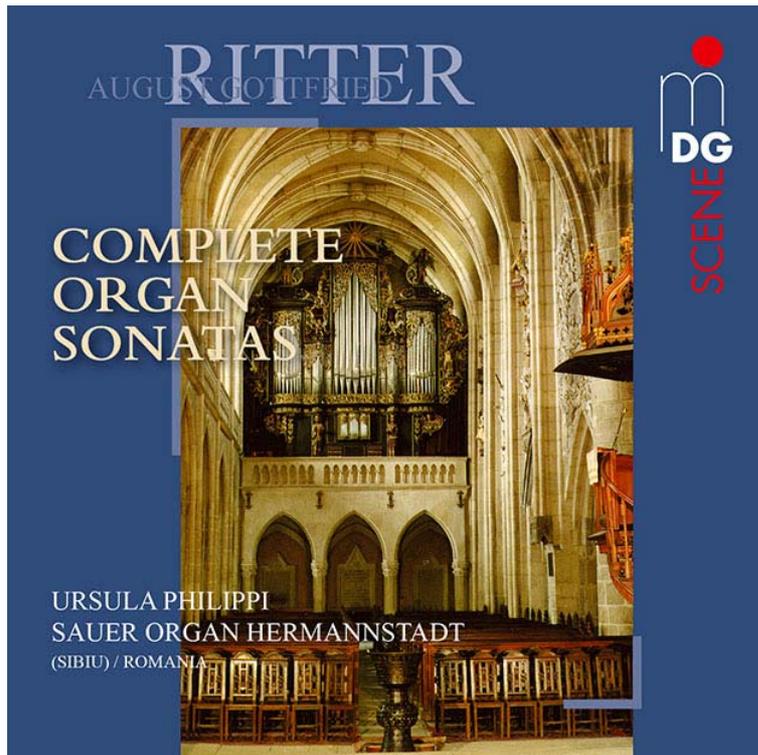


NEW • NOUVEAUTE • NEUHEIT

MDG
SCENE



08/17-(5)

August Gottfried Ritter
(1811-1885)
Complete Organ Sonatas
op. 11 D minor, op. 19 E minor
op. 23 A minor, op.31 A major

Ursula Philippi
Sauer organ (1915), Hermannstadt
(Sibiu), Romania

1 CD

MDG 320 0866-2

UPC-Code:



German-Rumanian Negotiations

The present CD is a rare find on three counts: it is a complete recording of August Gottfried Ritter's four organ sonatas, they are performed by Ursula Philippi, the leading German-Rumanian artist of our time, and she presents them on her home organ, the monumental romantic Sauer organ in Hermannstadt / Sibiu, Transylvania.

Enthusiastic Welcome

During the middle years of the nineteenth century, public enthusiasm for Ritter's brilliant organ sonatas equaled that with which Sarate's or Liszt's concertos were welcomed. These one-movement concert pieces required and still require the highest concentration and technical brilliance from the organist, according to the motto "If you've got it, flaunt it."

Organ Authority

Ritter was an authority in everything that had to do with organs and the organ playing of his times in his roles as organ virtuoso, improviser, composer, organ-building specialist, and teacher. Born in Erfurt in 1811, he was appointed to the esteemed organist's post at the venerable Merseburg Cathedral at the age of thirty-two before moving on to a similar post in Magdeburg. After his inauguration of the famous organ in St. Mary's Church in Lübeck in 1854, he was regarded as Germany's top improviser.

Sensational Restoration

This recording follows on the sensational restoration of the legendary Sauer organ in the Hermannstadt church. During the communist dictatorship this organ received neither the proper maintenance nor underwent major changes. Since its restoration a few years ago this uncompromisingly magnificent instrument can once again be called on for exceptional recordings such as this one.

Prizewinning Mastery

Ursula Philippi is Transylvania's top organist. A native of this region of Rumania, she was one of the last of many rising young musicians who was able to study organ there. In 1990 she was appointed to an instructorship at the renowned Klausenburg/Cluj Conservatory. Her recording "Transylvanian Organ Landscape" on the MDG label (including this organ in its unrestored state!) received the German record Critics Prize.