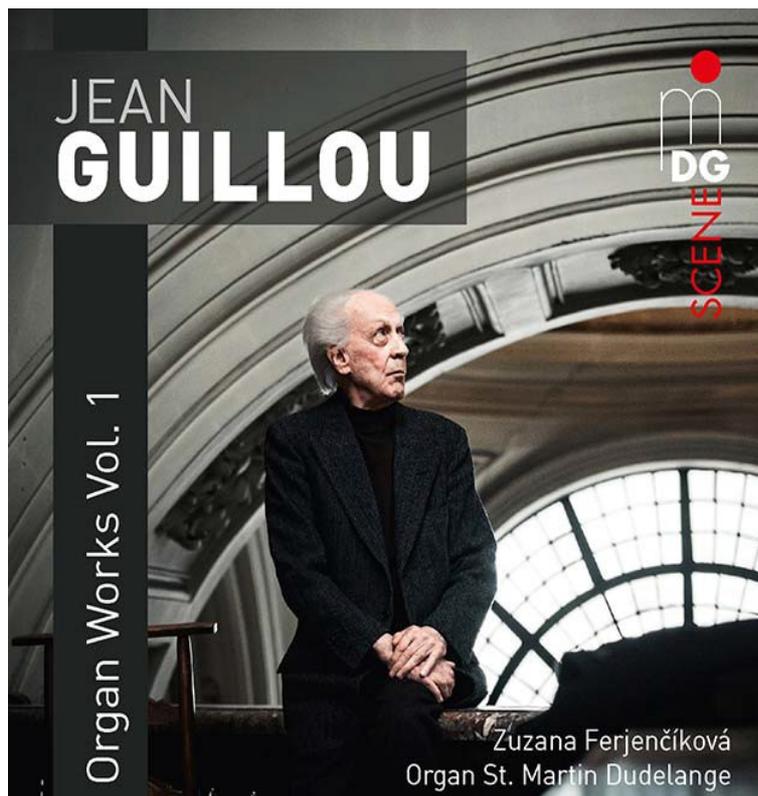


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10/18-(6)

Jean Guillou (*1930)

Organ Works Vol. 1

Fantaisie pour Orgue op. 1
La Chapelle des Abimes pour orgue op. 26
Säya (L'Oiseau bleu)
Hymnus op. 72
Moussorgsky: Tableaux d'une Exposition
(transcribed by Jean Guillou)

Zuzana Ferjenčíková

Stahlhuth-Jann-Organ St. Martin,
Dudelange (Luxemburg)

1 Hybrid-SACD

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RECORDING

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Absolute Affinity

Sensational organ transcriptions have made Jean Guillou famous far beyond his native France. His command not only of organ playing but also of the piano and composition is demonstrated by the absolutely boundless technical and intellectual demands posed by his oeuvre. In Zuzana Ferjenčíková Guillou now has found more than just a worthy heir: the first volume in our series featuring Guillou's organ works includes a recording premiere and reveals the profound emotional affinity uniting these two exceptional artists.

Multifaceted Virtuosity

Guillou's op. 1 "Fantaisie" rightfully forms the beginning. Dedicated to his teacher Marcel Dupré, this first work by the young composer promised great things. Independence in spirit and a pronounced sense of sound along with fascinating virtuosity would also distinguish his later works: "Säya ou l'oiseau bleu," born of an improvisation on a simple Korean motif, and "Hymnus" for the gigantic Cologne Cathedral exhibit other facets of this multifaceted composer.

Perennial Popularity

However, this time the focus is on *Pictures at an Exhibition* after Mussorgsky. It is not least through Ravel's genial orchestral version that this cycle has continued to enjoy the greatest popularity over the years. Guillou far transcends Ravel, and now and again he allows himself compositional interventions: a linking piece here, a counterpoint there. In this way a completely new work is produced that also tonally is a virtuosic tour de force.

Three-Dimensional Sonority

This is hardly surprising: Guillou can also claim to have contributed to the development of organ design. He inspired the construction of numerous new instruments, in Brussels, Rome, and L'Alpe d'Huez. For this first volume Zuzana Ferjenčíková has selected the mighty Stahlhuth/Jann organ in St. Martin in Dudelange, Luxembourg. The seventy-eight speaking stops of German and French coloration in the...allow the interpreter to fulfill her new, deeply romantic vision of the works in an ideal way. Conclusion: in the three-dimensional rendering on this high-resolution Super Audio CD the organ, room effect, and interpretation make for a fantastic experience!