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SCENE



Organ Works by Berlin Composers

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy
(1809 - 1847)

Otto Dienel (1839 - 1905)

Franz Wagner (1870 - 1929)

August Haupt (1810 - 1891)

Philipp Rüfer (1844 – 1919)

Andreas Sieling
Sauer-Organ, Berliner Dom

Hybrid – SACD **222**[®]
RECORDING

MDG 946 2161-6



LC06768

Berlin Hits

During the nineteenth century Berlin quickly developed from a muddy provincial backwater into a metropolis of world rank. Things went upward at the same pace in the arts and culture, and at their summit Wilhelm Sauer built his magnificent organ, which was dedicated along with the Berlin Cathedral in 1905. Cathedral organist Andreas Sieling has mined some choice nuggets of Berlin organ music from this extremely productive period, including some premiere recordings and an old Berlin hit in a really surprising recording.

Home Grown

Mendelssohn of course is a must. The Three Preludes and Fugues op. 37 by this composer who spent his formative years in Berlin are the oldest selections on this lovingly produced Super Audio CD. Mendelssohn received instruction in organ from the St. Mary's organist August Wilhelm Bach, who exerted unrivalled influence on Berlin's church music over the decades. Otto Dienel was also a Bach pupil; for his popular "Organ Recitals" at midday he skillfully linked classical forms such as the chorale setting with programmatic tones.

Lesser Known

Today Franz Wagner, August Haupt, and Philipp Rüfer will hardly ring a bell, even among organ experts. However, all three were very successful during their times. Haupt's Concert Fugue, recorded here for the first time, circulated from hand to hand as a copy until a former pupil in the United States had it published. Rüfer was also in great demand as a teacher; Karl Straube and Albert Becker numbered among his pupils.

Name That Tune

Andreas Sieling has a full musical arsenal available to him on "his" Sauer organ: 113 stops on four manuals and the pedal enable him to produce unmatched sound color. The outstandingly designed pneumatic action guarantees

virtuosic playing even amid heavy-duty chords, and the velvety rich sound of this masterful instrument especially finely brings out the quality of the compositions – and of course does so even more when experienced on this Super Audio CD in a genuine three dimensional sound. And then there is the encore, which (and here only this will be revealed about it) mixes some fresh "Berlin Air" into the cathedral's opulent sound color.

also available:

Alte Meister

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Theophil Laitenberger (1903-1996)

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Andreas Sieling, Schuke-Organ, Grunewaldkirche Berlin
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Organ and Choir Music Vol. 3
Wolfgang Baumgratz, Sauer-Organ, Bremer Dom
Andreas Sieling, Schuke-Organ, Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedächtnis-Kirche Berlin
Opus-Vocale
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Charles Tournemire (1870-1939)

Cinq Improvisations
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