



Seven

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This is the second recording by these musicians to come my way. The first, four years ago (S/O 2014), was of a jazz Requiem. This one has a few moments of jazz style, but mostly it is a thoughtful and fascinating work that ruminates on seven little poems (no translations) by theologian Bastian Rutten. After each movement is a brief interlude, all based on the same melody but each in a different mood and style.

I wasn't fond of trombonist Hansjörg Fink's small-bore, slow-vibrato tone in the first recording, but those elements seem less prominent here. Most prominent is the fantastic, 149-stop Seifert organ of St Marien Basilica in Kevelaer, built in 1907, severely damaged in WW II, and restored by 1981. It makes an incredible array of sounds, from the minuscule to the huge. My favorite is a big, breathy pedal sound—probably a 32-foot pipe—where the gust of air doesn't last long enough to produce an actual pitch. Superb recorded sound.

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Hansjörg Fink, tbn; Elmar Lehnen, org
Audite 97737—64 minutes

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