



The Gabler-Organ in the Basilica Weingarten

aud 20.007

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Early Music Review (Andrew Benson-Wilson - 01.02.1997)

REVIEW Even confirmed organ-haters should give this one a try - and the magnificent Weingarten organ is, of course, a must for any organ-lover. Spread between, beneath and above (including a little Kronpositive high in the vaulted ceiling) the six west end windows of this sumptuous southern German baroque basilica, the organ is one of the architectural, engineering and musical wonders of its day. It is a wonderful experience to play - the organ console must be the most sumptuous ever made, with beautiful inlaid wood and ornate carving, and the organist can look over the music desk down the entire length of the church. Above the player's head are a carillon of bells, designed as large, pendulous grapes on a vine (Wein-garten). The programme is well suited to the instrument and the playing is confident and stylish. Organ builders and players (not to say listeners) will sympathise with the story that Gabler sold his soul to the devil to get the vox humana stop to work- the devil clearly gave good advice on organ-voicing