



Press Information:

**Guillou · Reubke ·
Bach**

Stefan Frank
Sandtner Organ of the
Basilica St. Ulrich & Afra,
Augsburg

Eccentrics of organ composition - that could well be the title of this CD. The contemporary organist and composer Jean Guillou is explicitly designated as such in the world of organ music; his Toccata, Op. 9 fully deserves this reputation, with its enormous richness of sound and expressive rhythmic terseness.

Julius Reubke emanates something of the dazzling brilliance of his teacher, Franz Liszt; his virtuosity and expressive power are in no way inferior to those of his teacher. It is, to be sure, a very bold idea indeed to base a psalm composition for organ on a prayer of revenge and then to translate this emotional content into music in a highly dramatic manner.

Finally we have Johann Sebastian Bach, who also wrote thoroughly unconventional works for the organ. There are complicated fugues and extended pedal solos in his toccatas and sonatas; moreover, one finds harmonic progressions that must have struck his contemporaries dumb.

These fireworks of symphonic sound require great technical virtuosity on the part of the organist. Stefan Frank, who has studied with Jean Guillou in Paris on a stipend, masters them with complete sovereignty on the magnificent Sandtner organ of the Basilica St. Ulrich & Afra in Augsburg.

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