

The Organ at St. Francis de Sales, Philadelphia, PA
Organ Specifications (1980)

Great - with Ventil

16' Montre
 8' Principal
 8' Flute a Cheminee
 8' Gamba
 4' Octave
 4' Block Flute
 2 2/3' Twelfth
 2' Fifteenth
 1 1/3' Larigot
 IV Fourniture
 III Cymbale
 16' Contra Bombarde
 8' Trompette
 8' Bombarde
 4' Clairon
 4' Bombarde
 8' Trompette en chamade
 4' Trompette en chamade

Swell - With Ventil

16' Bourdon
 8' Montre Conique
 8' Viol de Gamba
 8' Viol Celeste
 8' Gedeckt
 4' Octave
 4' Flute Harmonique
 2 2/3' Nazard
 3' Doublette
 III Plein Jeu
 IV Cymbale
 16' Bombarde
 8' Trompette
 8' Hautbois
 8' Vox Humana
 4' Clarion
 Chimes
 Tremolo

Choir

8' Deuce Flute
 8' Bourdon
 8' Flute Celeste
 4' Koppel Flute
 2 2/3' Nazard
 2' Block Flute
 1 3/5' Terz
 1' Stiffnote
 16' Dulzian
 8' Cromorne
 4' Trichter Regal
 Zimbelstern

Solo (Bombarde)

8' Principal Open
 Diapason
 8' Double Bourdon
 8' Viol de Gambe
 8' Viola Celeste
 8' Cello
 4' Octave
 4' Flute Harmonique
 8' English Horn
 8' Clarinette
 8' Major Tuba
 8' Bombarde
 8' Hilferty's Horn

Positive* (*prepared for)

16' Quintaton
 8' Montre
 8' Bourdon
 4' Prestant
 4' Quintadena
 2' Quarte de Nazard
 II Cornet
 V Mixture
 16' Bombarde
 8' Trompette
 8' Chalumeau
 4' Clarion

Pedal - With Ventil

32' Contre Bourdon
 16' Soubasse
 16' Principal Bass
 16' Montre
 16' Bourdon
 16' Lieblich Gedeckt
 (Sw.)
 10 2/3' Quint
 8' Octave
 8' Viol de Gamba
 8' Flute
 4' Bourdon
 2' Flute
 V Grand Mixture
 32' Contre Bombarde
 16' Bombarde
 16' Basson
 8' Bombarde
 4' Clairon
 4' Schalmel
 16' Trompette en chamade
 8' Trompette en chamade



Flor Peeters (b. 1903), the well-known Belgian organist, teacher, and composer, has presided at the console of the organ in Mechelen Cathedral, Belgium, since 1923, where he has given annual international masterclasses in organ since 1968 under government sponsorship. United States audiences know him through his many recitals here as well as from recordings he has made of his own music. Many of his compositions are in the active repertory of organists worldwide. The present **Trumpet Tune**, dedicated to American Frederick Tulan, is No. 6 of the Six Lyrical Pieces, Op. 116 (1967). The jolly but regal melody shows off the splendid en chamade trumpet in the St. Francis de Sales organ. In A-B-A form, Trumpet Tune opens with a **bold statement of the theme** followed by an expressive cantabile before the recapitulation of the tune.

The Praeludium und Fuge in G-dur (BMV 541) of Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) dates from his *early days* in Leipzig. One of two such works in G major, BMV 541 shows Bach in a *joyous* mood. The prelude is noted for its toccata-like arpeggios and the *fugue* for its dance-like rhythm which builds in intensity to the *final entry* of the fugue subject in stretto.

Cesar Franck (1822-1890) was born in Belgium, but lived most of his life in France where he was organist at the Church of Sainte-Clotilde in Paris for 30 years prior to his death. The Trois Chorals were composed in the year of his death, with the third in A minor being the most varied of the set. Franck's *compositional style* was influenced by the magnificent organs built by Aristide Cavillé-Coll, whose influence is indeed present in the instrument heard on this recording. This rhapsodic work displays the chorus reeds, strings and celestes, and the orchestral reeds, which of course do not exist in organs of an earlier design.

Louis Vierne (1870-1937) was a pupil of

Franck, Widor, and Guilmant whose influences are evident in Vierne's symphonic style. Almost totally blind for most of this life, Vierne became organist of Notre Dame de Paris in 1900 where he died at the console while preparing to improvise on a theme submitted in Braille. Vierne's six organ symphonies are among the most lovely and difficult of the genre. His most famous piece is perhaps the Carrillon de Westminster, Op. 54 No. 6, dedicated to famed English organ builder, Henry Willis. Vierne's debut recital in the United States was February 1, 1927, in New York. The Berceuse in No. 19 of Vint-quatre pièces en style libre dating from 1913. Six of these were heard at Vierne's 1927 concert. The quiet rocking effect presents a lovely interlude between the Franck and Widor works heard in this program.

Charles Marie Widor (1844-1937) is most famous for his long tenure as organist at St. Sulpice, Paris (1869-1933), where his service playing and improvisations were legendary even in his own time. Widor's ten organ symphonies are not often heard as complete works on recital programs because of their length and difficulty. The most famous Toccata from the Fifth Symphony rivals Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D minor BWV 565 as the world's best known organ work. The brilliant Finale of Symphonie II, Op. 13, No. 2, brings this program to a stunning conclusion displaying the full tonal resources of the St. Francis de Sales instrument.

—William Marsh

Douglas Tester

Douglas Tester began his organ studies while in his teens under Dr. James Edward Hoy at the famed Settlement Music School in his native Philadelphia. Mr. Tester later studied privately with

John W. Tuttle and then with Robert Plimpton at The Philadelphia College of the Performing Arts, where he received his Bachelor of Music. While still a student there, Mr. Tester was appointed organist at historic St. Stephens Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. A frequent recitalist and accompanist in the Philadelphia area, he has appeared on numerous programs sponsored by The Merican Guild of Organists and with The Concerto Soloists of Philadelphia. Other notable appearances include those in California, Wisconsin, and world-famous Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, PA. Mr. Tester's recent activities include many appearances in public schools as a member of Young Audiences, Inc., whose program introduces music to young people. Now himself an instructor at The Settlement Music School, Mr. Tester has also recently been appointed organist at the Church of the Resurrection (Episcopal), Philadelphia. This program marks Mr. Tester's recording debut.

The Organ

Originally a 1911 Haskell instrument, the organ of St. Francis de Sales Church, Philadelphia, has been brought to its present state of magnificence by Bruce Shultz, present organist of this landmark church. The 93 ranks and 112 stops are controlled by a 4-manual Welte console once in the Bryn Mawr (PA) Presbyterian Church. Mr. Shultz favors principal and flue work in the style of G. Donald Harrison, who is remembered for his work with Aeolian-Skinner; the reeds are voiced similarly to those of Cavallé-Coll. This Romantic instrument nevertheless has an unusual clarity, despite the splendid resonance in this beautiful church, whose central dome towers 90 feet above ornate mosaics set into marble walls capped with polychromed terra cotta arches.

The positive organ was in the final stages of completion at the time this recording was made and is not heard on this tape. A whimsical touch in the specification is the designation of the Trompette en chamade stop on the solo organ division as Hilfertys Horn" in honor of the rector of St. Francis de Sales, donor of this most telling rank.

Acknowledgements

Direct-to-Tape wishes to thank the following for their invaluable assistance: The Rev. Thomas J. Hilferty, The Rev. Leo Oswald, Bruce Shultz, and Bob Gladden. Their kind and generous assistance was a major factor in the success of this recording.

Credits

Producer and Engineer: Bob Sellman
Artists and Repertoire Coordinator: William Marsh
Recorded May 30, 1980, at St. Francis de Sales Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
All rights reserved
(c)(p)1980/2003 Direct-to-Tape Recording Company

Direct-to-Tape Recordings

This Direct-to-Tape Recording was mastered using two Schoeps microphones. No limiting, equalization, or compression was using during the mastering or manufacture of this recording.

For a catalog of all Direct-to-Tape Recordings available visit our web site at

www.dtrmusic.com

or write to:

Direct-to-Tape Recording Company

14 Station Avenue

Haddon Heights, NJ 08035-1456 USA

email: sales@dtrmusic.com

The Organ at St. Francis de Sales Church, Philadelphia

Douglas Tester, organ

1. Peeters: Trumpet Tune 2:58
2. Bach: Prelude & Fugue in G 7:37
3. Franck: Choral #3 in A Minor 13:03
4. Vierne: Berceuse 5:08
5. Widor: Symphonie II: Finale 4:01

Producer and engineer: Bob Sellman
Artists & Repertoire Coordinator: William Marsh
Recorded May 30, 1980 at St. Francis de Sales Church, Philadelphia, PA



DTR8001CD



(c)(p) 1980/2003 Direct-to-Tape Recording Co.
14 Station Avenue
Haddon Heights, NJ 08035-1456
<http://www.dtrmusic.com>