

... themselves afresh with this inspired treatment. The recital
... the inevitable Widor Toccata, as an initial draw.

... THOMSON

... ATIONS AND REFLECTIONS

... sons at St Thomas's, Heigham, Norwich
... CD 1046 [74:51]

It is refreshing to review an organ CD which includes original works by mainstream composers. The performance of Hindemith's First Sonata is itself sufficient reason for buying this disc, and works by J.S. Bach, N.W. Gade and Flor Peeters are no less engagingly. The 2-manual Richard Bower organ, of classical design, sounds well in this repertoire, but it was a pity to include Howells's *Paeon*, which was written with the older organ in mind (here as elsewhere, the glittering upper-work would perhaps have been handled more carefully).

... K

... ES (DUPRÉ: TROIS PRÉLUDES ET FUGUES; TROIS ... ES; ALAIN: TROIS DANSES)

... Rost, Schuke organ, Neubaukirche Würzburg
... Classics OC 679 [58:30]

'Don't play my music like an étude' was Messiaen's advice, and I think the same should apply to the works of his teacher Dupré – surely the Busoni



... his master's bipolarity, and exploits the organ with less turgidity.

... ANDREW THOMSON

... SAINT-SAËNS: SYMPHONIE NO.3 'ORGAN SYMPHONY'; ... PIANO CONCERTO NO.4

... Daniel Roth, Cavallé-Coll organ, Saint-Sulpice, Paris; Jean-François
... Heisser, 1874 Erard piano; Les siècles / François-Xavier Roth (dir)
... Musicales Actes Sud ASM 04 (distrib. by Harmonia mundi) [61:22]

★★★★★



Formed in 2003 by François-Xavier Roth with the cream of young musicians, the orchestra Les siècles aims 'to offer a new approach not only to repertoire, but also to the very nature of the concert form'.

These fine live-recorded performances display a fresh and very musical response to Saint-Saëns's music. In Symphony no.3 the 1862 Cavallé-Coll organ of Saint-Sulpice takes its impressive place among the array of period orchestral instruments. The slow movement and finale show the effectiveness of the organ writing achieved by such intelligent French restraint – every note and chord is so telling. Heisser's fluent performance of the brilliant if rather superficial Piano Concerto no.4 is enhanced by an Erard piano of 1874.

... ANDREW THOMSON

... GREAT EUROPEAN ORGANS NO.83

... Daniel Cook, St Bees Priory, Cumbria
... Priory PRCD 1052 [77:50]

★★★



The St Bees organ (Willis, 1899) is important for