



Press information:

Max Reger
(1873-1916)

Organ Works

Variations and Fugue Op. 73
Introduction, Passacaglia and Fugue, Op. 127

Bernhard Haas
at the Rieger Organ
of the Konzerthaus in Vienna

The organ always played an important role in Max Reger's musical career. At the age of thirteen he was already organist in his Bavarian home town; later he served at other churches, including St. Thomas's Church in Leipzig, where he also taught the organ. Reger's organ compositions reveal his fascination for his great model, Johann Sebastian Bach. Baroque models lie behind the use of musical forms such as passacaglia and fugue, and also influence Reger's polyphonic movement structure. Reger did not compose neo-Baroque music, however, but instead greatly expanded music's harmonic and melodic spectrum.

The Variations and Fugue, Op. 73 build up a grand intensity illuminating all facets of Reger's musical cosmos. He once again concentrates the quintessence of his organ polyphony in the Introduction, Passacaglia and Fugue, Op. 127.

The Rieger Organ of the Konzerthaus in Vienna was built in 1913, still during Reger's lifetime. Since its restoration during the years 1980-82, it has been one of the music metropolis's favourite organs.

Bernhard Haas has established himself at the peak of the organ world for some years now, having proven his extraordinary qualities as a prize winner at the Bach Competition in Wiesbaden and the Liszt Competition in Budapest, amongst others. He has been a jury member at international competitions and already taught at several renowned music academies; he is soon to receive an appointment as Professor in Vienna. His Reger interpretations are especially noted for their sensitive registration and consistent tempo disposition, besides, of course, their technical brilliance. We know from contemporary sources that Reger himself placed great value upon the singing quality of each harmonic and melodic turn. Bernhard Haas consistently realises this approach, allowing us to intensively experience the colourful richness of Reger's compositions.

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