



Portrait of a Spring Chest Organ

aud 20.016

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American Record Guide (David Mulbury - 2001.05.01)

This instrument dates from about 1730, is designated the largest baroque organ in Westphalia, and is notable for its spring chests--an expensive type of construction very seldom found today. The organ is in critical need of a renovation along historical lines, and this disc is apparently intended to promote one in the near future.

Kraemer's program has been designed to display as much as possible of this interesting and valuable 45-stop instrument, which was last worked on by the firm of Paul Ott, Gottingen, in the 1950s. But most of the music is of only marginal interest. The two tedious, run-of-the-mill partitas eat up almost 23 minutes; and except for the Walther and Buxtehude, the remainder is third-rate baroque gebrauchsmusik.

The playing is often elegant and spirited, but also sometimes routine; and Kraemer's registrations, while there are plenty of different combinations, could be more interesting. The sound fidelity is excellent and the booklet nicely produced, even if the English translation is abominable. Complete registrations are listed.