

Trillium 900

A RECORDING BY
ORGANIST RODNEY BARBOUR OF THE
III MANUAL RODGERS ORGAN AT
ST. BARNABAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
IN CINCINNATI, OHIO.

Compact Disks that demonstrate organs often miss the boat when it comes to genuine musical appeal.

Some CD's are made to "sell organs". Music is chosen to show off certain aspects of an instrument to the taste of the organ company or the church who is sponsoring the production of the CD.

Recent CD's produced by the Rodgers Instruments LLC have featured the playing of Dan Miller, a fine musician with a genuine talent at making music on the organ. When I heard that a new 900 series CD would be available soon, I was surprised, since I am very satisfied with the one already available on which Miller performs.

Opening the newest CD, Rodgers P/N:00876099 I found that this was a CD played by Rodney Barbour, who holds a MMus -Organ Performance from the Conservatory of Music, Cincinnati

There compositions are performed in the organ of a worship service. Barbour's printed commentary expresses his thoughts about each piece and then lists certain stops and voice combination to listen for.

Recitals today are often classed as being played to the audience or to organists. This recording by Barbour is neither. Barbour is playing the music to fulfill his destiny as a musician. Every phrase, every single note is played with feeling and expressive control. Hearing the finale note of the Te Deum by Jean Langlais leaves one wishing for more, and heading to the CD player to play the entire CD just one more time.

Barbour plays the organ as an orchestra, using the expressiveness of the instrument and the richness of the stops to make music. In the Bell Prelude of

Joseph Clokey a chime sings a phrase, a phrase echoed on another chime of a different timbre. Every detail is thought through and is in its place as it should be. His playing makes one think of the masters no longer playing, Alexander McCurdy, Clarence Dickinson, William Carl and others of the Golden Age of the Organ.

While there are those that feel the need for demonstration CD's that are filled with popular hymn tunes and organ repertoire that people will recognize, there is a need for CD's like this that hold appeal to the organist and musician, containing music that makes one listen and say, "Where can I get that? Who wrote it?"

The lush beauty of Jesus the Very Thought of Thee as arranged by Emma Lou Diemer sent me hunting into my organ music library.

Barbour's approach to the use of MIDI voices from the organ Voice Palette™ and the PR-300 Voice Module can lead us all into a better understanding of how MIDI can become part of our music making and enhance what we do as musicians.

While trying to describe the effect of the playing of In My Life Lord, Be Glorified, I suddenly realized that it and the entire recording are suffused with a sense of mystery and grandeur.

The recording engineer, John D.S. Adams of Stonehouse Sound in Toronto has done a masterful job of capturing the sound of the organ and putting it on disk.

Noel Jones

TRILLIUM 900 CD, AVAILABLE FROM YOUR LOCAL
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