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RECORDINGS

CLAVIERÜBUNG LIVE! JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH: THE CLAVIERÜBUNG, Part III. Haig Mardirosian, organist. III/64 Létourneau organ (2001) of the Church of the Ascension and St. Agnes, Washington, D.C. Centaur CRC 2667. Haig Mardirosian is no stranger to readers of this journal. This recording proves that his skills as a virtuoso organist equal or surpass his verbal virtuosity. To record Bach's monumentally difficult *Clavierübung III* in live performance requires tremendous self-assurance, something the performer obviously possesses. Mardirosian's interpretations are energized, often riveting, flawless. While using a basically legato approach, he applies colorful articulations, rendering Bach's polyphony with clarity and brilliance. While far from being "romantic," his approach is not fettered by purist absolutism. He follows the standard order, omitting the four *duetti*. The fine Létourneau, while of English rather than North German disposition, is a capable partner in this venture, with its clear voicing, well-balanced ensembles, and lovely solo voices. The instrument's MIDI recorder was used during the live performance; audio playback for the CD recording occurred at a later time, in the wee hours to avoid extraneous noise.

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