

Josef Gabriel

RHEINBERGER

Zwölf Fughetten strengen Stils

Twelve Fughettas in strict style

für die Orgel / for the organ

op. 123a

herausgegeben von / edited by
Martin Weyer

Einzelausgabe aus Band 40 der Gesamtausgabe (Kleinere Orgelwerke)
Separate edition from volume 40 of the Complete Works (Smaller organ works)

Sämtliche Werke · Complete Works



Carus 50.123/10

Das Werk der vorliegenden Ausgabe ist aus Band 40 der Rheinberger-Gesamtausgabe entnommen. Für das Vorwort und den Kritischen Bericht verweisen wir auf die Gesamtausgabe.

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Zehn Trios für die Orgel op. 49 (Carus 50.049)
Zwölf Fughetten strengen Stils op. 123b (Carus 50.123/20)
Zwölf Charakterstücke für die Orgel op. 156 (Carus 50.156)
Monologe. Zwölf Stücke für die Orgel op. 162 (Carus 50.162)
Meditationen. Zwölf Orgelvorträge op. 167 (Carus 50.167)
Miscellaneen. Zwölf Orgelvorträge op. 174 (Carus 50.174)
Zwölf Trios für die Orgel op. 189 (Carus 50.189)

The present edition is taken from Vol. 40 of the Complete Edition of the Works of Josef Gabriel Rheinberger.

For the Foreword and the Critical Report please refer to the Complete Edition.

Rheinberger's organ music is published in the Complete Edition in three volumes and one supplementary volume:

Vol. 38: Organ music I (Organ sonatas 1–10) (Carus 50.238)
Vol. 39: Organ music II (Organ sonatas 11–20) (Carus 50.239)
Vol. 40: Organ music III (Smaller organ works) (Carus 50.240)
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Zwölf Fughetten op. 123a
Zehn Trios für die Orgel op. 49 (Carus 50.049)
Zwölf Fughetten strengen Stils op. 123b (Carus 50.123/20)
Zwölf Charakterstücke für die Orgel op. 156 (Carus 50.156)
Monologe. Zwölf Stücke für die Orgel op. 162 (Carus 50.162)
Meditationen. Zwölf Orgelvorträge op. 167 (Carus 50.167)
Miscellaneen. Zwölf Orgelvorträge op. 174 (Carus 50.174)
Zwölf Trios für die Orgel op. 189 (Carus 50.189)

Aufführungsdauer / Duration: ca. 22 min.

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Vorwort

In der Zeit vom 16. 4. 1883 bis zum 9. 1. 1884 schrieb Rheinberger 24 *Fughetten strengen Stils* op. 123, mithin zwischen der achten Orgelsonate op. 132 und dem ersten Orgelkonzert F-Dur op. 137. Sieht man von den frühen *Zehn Trios für die Orgel* op. 49 (1869/70) ab, die primär didaktischen Zwecken dienen sollten, so stellt op. 123 seinen ersten wichtigen Beitrag zum Typus des kleinen Orgelstückes dar. Es scheint bezeichnend zu sein, daß dieser Typus erst in das Blickfeld des Komponisten geriet, nachdem er schon acht Orgelsonaten geschrieben hatte. Die ambitionierten Orgelkomponisten des 19. Jahrhunderts taten sich generell leichter mit größeren konzertanten als mit kleinformatigen Werken; Friedrich Blumes schon 1931 getroffene Feststellung, die Orgelmusik im 19. Jahrhundert sei „vollends in zwei Richtungen gespalten, nämlich eine kirchlich-epigonenhafte ... und eine romantisch-konzertante“ (Friedrich Blume, „Die evangelische Kirchenmusik“, in: *Handbuch der Musikwissenschaft*, Potsdam 1931, S. 161) trifft cum grano salis noch immer den Sachverhalt, so sehr sie im einzelnen auch der Differenzierung bedarf.

Auf diesem Hintergrund sind Rheinbergers Beiträge op. 123, 156 (*Zwölf Charakterstücke*), 162 (*Monologe*), 167 (*Meditationen*), 174 (*Miscellaneen*) und 189 (*Zwölf Trios*) um so bedeutender, als sie die Kluft zwischen zünftig-epigonaler und konzertant-virtuoser Orgelmusik überbrücken. Zugleich bieten sie eigenständige Lösungen jenes Problems, das als Entweder-Oder die Orgelmusik dieser Jahrzehnte überschattete: Wie konnten Tradition und Innovation miteinander verbunden werden? Es fehlte ja weder an unpersönlich-anachronistischer Polyphonie noch an wohlfeiler „romantischer“ Stimmungsmusik; nicht wenige Komponisten (stellvertretend sei Gustav Merkel genannt) bedienten beide Bereiche separat und zwangsläufig mit wenig überzeugenden Resultaten. Nicht so Rheinberger: Die souverän gehandhabte Fugentechnik („Fughette“ ist ein sympathisch-bescheidener Diminutiv, allenfalls durch die relative Kürze der Stücke gerechtfertigt) verbindet sich in op. 123 bruchlos mit einem zeitgemäßen Personalstil, der sich vor allem durch seine Harmonik und seinen „poetischen Gehalt“ auszeichnet und damit einer Aufgabenstellung genügt, die Beethoven geradezu prophetisch für das ganze 19. Jahrhundert vorformuliert hatte: „Eine Fuge zu machen ist keine Kunst ... Aber die Phantasie will auch ihr Recht behaupten, und heutzutage muß in die althergebrachte Form ein anderes, ein wirklich poetisches Element kommen“ (Zit. nach: Josef Müller-Blattau, „Die Fuge“ (II), in: *Das Musikwerk*, hg. von Karl Gustav Fellerer, Köln 1968, Heft 33, S. 7).

Rheinberger hat sein Opus 123 in zwei Hefte zu je 12 Fugen (op. 123a und b) unterteilt. Die 24 *Fughetten*, im Schwierigkeitsgrad zwischen leicht und mittelschwer liegend, sind vierstimmig bis auf eine Ausnahme (Nr. 4 in op. 123a ist dreistimmig). Dem „strengen Stil“ wird Genüge getan nicht nur durch die generell herrschende Poly-

phonie, sondern auch durch spezielle Fugenkünste wie z. B. Thementumkehrungen (Nr. 2 in op. 123a, Nr. 10 in op. 123b) oder Engführungen (Nr. 7 in op. 123a, Nr. 12 in op. 123b). Gleichwohl sind alle Fughetten von polyphoner Scholastik weit entfernt. Die atmosphärische Dichte etwa der H-Dur-Fuge (Nr. 11 in op. 123b) mit dem diffizilen 9/8-Takt sucht ihresgleichen ebenso wie der elegische Ton der es-Moll-Fuge (Nr. 5 in op. 123b) oder die bravuröse a-Moll-Fuge (Nr. 10 in op. 123b).

Für die Organistenpraxis kommt als Gewinn hinzu, daß alle Fughetten auch auf mittleren, ja kleinen (auch einmanualigen) Instrumenten darstellbar sind. Es genügt weithin, beim Registrieren pseudobarocke Schärfen zu vermeiden. (Eine Einfärbung mit Streichern ist im Piano- und Mezzoforte-Bereich sicherlich zu wünschen.) Die Farbenskala reicht vom sanften Piano der BACH-Fuge (Nr. 3 in op. 123a) bis zum mehrfach verlangten „Vollen Werk“ (das ggf. auch die Manualtrompete einschließt), wobei auch „Helle Register“ (Nr. 10 in op. 123a) einbezogen werden. Registerwechsel und dynamische Nuancierungen bilden eher die Ausnahme; mit einem Schwellwerk hat Rheinberger ohnehin nicht gerechnet. Ob als gottesdienstliches Vor- oder Nachspiel oder, vielleicht zu dritt gebündelt, im Konzert: Die Fughetten sind allemal praktikable Gebrauchsmusik auf hohem Niveau. Im Orgelunterricht können sie für C-Prüfungsanwärter gute Dienste leisten.

Mit seinen zwanzig großen Orgelsonaten hat Rheinberger (der ja nicht sehr alt wurde: 1839–1901) das Vorhaben, alle 24 „wohltemperierten“ Tonarten zu verwenden, nicht verwirklichen können. Hier, in den 24 *Fughetten* des op. 123, ist diese Vollständigkeit gegeben. Eine wie auch immer geartete Tonartenfolge ist nicht erkennbar, auch in den Skizzenbüchern nicht, die eine andere Abfolge der Stücke aufweisen. Denkbar wäre, daß Rheinberger bescheidenerweise gar nicht mit *Bachs Wohltemperiertem Clavier* konkurrieren wollte. Wie auch immer: Für die Orgelmusik – nicht nur des 19. Jahrhunderts – ist op. 123 ein Glücksfall.

Die vorliegende Ausgabe ist ein Auszug aus Band 40 der Rheinberger-Gesamtausgabe (*Kleinere Orgelwerke*), Stuttgart 1998, CV 50.240. Der Notentext dieses Bandes wird unverändert übernommen. Für Fragen der kritischen Revision und für eine zusammenhängende Darstellung von Rheinbergers freien Orgelstücken sei auf das Vorwort und den Kritischen Bericht dieses Bandes verwiesen.

Marburg, im Sommer 1999

Martin Weyer

Zwölf Fughetten strengen Stils für die Orgel

1.

Josef Gabriel Rheinberger, op. 123a (1883)

Maestoso ♩ = 60 Volles Werk

Manual

legato

Pedal

6

10

14

18

System 18: Treble and bass staves. Treble staff contains eighth and sixteenth notes with various accidentals. Bass staff contains eighth and sixteenth notes. A large watermark 'Carus' is visible across the system.

22

System 22: Treble and bass staves. Treble staff contains eighth and sixteenth notes with various accidentals. Bass staff contains eighth and sixteenth notes. A large watermark 'Carus' is visible across the system.

26

System 26: Treble and bass staves. Treble staff contains eighth and sixteenth notes with various accidentals. Bass staff contains eighth and sixteenth notes. A large watermark 'Carus' is visible across the system.

30

System 30: Treble and bass staves. Treble staff contains eighth and sixteenth notes with various accidentals. Bass staff contains eighth and sixteenth notes. A large watermark 'Carus' is visible across the system.

34

System 34: Treble and bass staves. Treble staff contains eighth and sixteenth notes with various accidentals. Bass staff contains eighth and sixteenth notes. A large watermark 'Carus' is visible across the system.

2.

Andante ♩ = 76 Starke Register

Measures 1-4 of the musical score. The treble clef contains whole rests. The bass clef begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic, playing a half note G₂, followed by a sequence of eighth and sixteenth notes. A third bass clef line is present but empty.

Measures 5-8 of the musical score. The treble clef plays a half note G₂, followed by eighth and sixteenth notes. The bass clef continues the melodic line. The third bass clef line contains whole rests.

Measures 9-12 of the musical score. The treble clef plays a half note G₂, followed by eighth and sixteenth notes. The bass clef continues the melodic line. The third bass clef line contains whole rests.

Measures 13-16 of the musical score. The treble clef plays a half note G₂, followed by eighth and sixteenth notes. The bass clef continues the melodic line. The third bass clef line contains whole rests.

16

19

23

27

rit.

3.

Andante ♩ = 66 Sanfte Register

First system of the musical score. It consists of a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 3/4. The tempo is Andante, and the metronome marking is ♩ = 66. The piece is in the 'Sanfte Register' (soft register). The first measure is marked with a piano (p) dynamic. The melody in the treble clef begins with a half note B-flat, followed by a half note A, and then a half note C. The bass clef has a whole rest in the first measure. Below the staff, the letters 'B A C H' are written under the first three notes of the melody.

Second system of the musical score, starting at measure 7. The melody continues with eighth and sixteenth notes. The bass clef has a whole rest in the first measure of this system.

Third system of the musical score, starting at measure 13. The melody continues with eighth and sixteenth notes. The bass clef has a whole rest in the first measure of this system.

Fourth system of the musical score, starting at measure 19. The melody continues with eighth and sixteenth notes. The bass clef has a whole rest in the first measure of this system.

25

32

38

44

4.

Moderato $\text{♩} = 72$ Sanfte Register

First system of the musical score. It consists of three staves. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a 3/2 time signature. The middle and bottom staves are grand staves (treble and bass clefs). The middle staff begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic marking. The music features a series of chords and melodic lines, with a large slur covering the first four measures of the middle staff.

Second system of the musical score, starting at measure 7. It continues the musical themes from the first system, with various melodic and harmonic developments across the three staves.

Third system of the musical score, starting at measure 13. The music continues with complex harmonic structures and melodic patterns, featuring a large slur in the middle staff.

Fourth system of the musical score, starting at measure 19. This system concludes the piece with a final cadence, featuring sustained chords in the lower staves and a melodic line in the upper staff.

25

31

37

43

5.

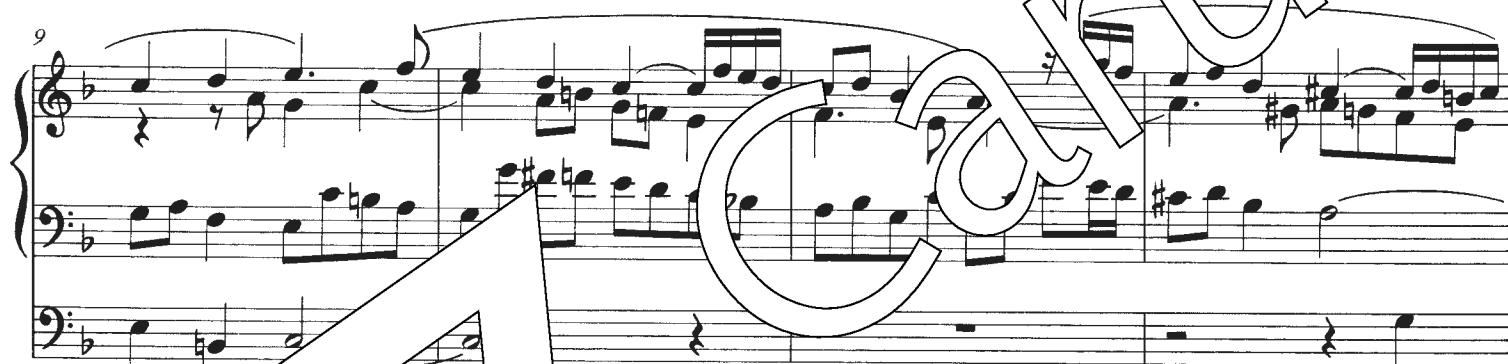
Andante molto ♩ = 63 Mittelstarke Register



First system of the musical score. It consists of three staves: a grand staff (treble and bass clef) and a separate bass staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is common time (C). The first staff begins with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic marking. The music features a complex texture with many beamed sixteenth and thirty-second notes, suggesting a rapid, flowing melody. A large, stylized watermark 'Carus' is visible across the middle of the page.



Second system of the musical score, starting at measure 5. It continues the complex texture of the first system with dense sixteenth-note passages in the upper staves and more rhythmic accompaniment in the lower staves. The 'Carus' watermark remains prominent.



Third system of the musical score, starting at measure 9. The musical notation continues with intricate sixteenth-note patterns and various rests. The 'Carus' watermark is still visible.



Fourth system of the musical score, starting at measure 13. The texture remains dense with many beamed notes. The 'Carus' watermark is still present.



Fifth system of the musical score, starting at measure 17. This system concludes the page with continued sixteenth-note passages and rests. The 'Carus' watermark is still visible.

21

25

29

33

37

più lento

6.

Andantino ♩ = 88 Mittelstarke Register



First system of the musical score. It consists of three staves: a grand staff (treble and bass clef) and a separate bass staff. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The time signature is 3/8. The first staff begins with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic marking. The music features a melodic line in the right hand of the grand staff and a supporting bass line in the left hand and the separate bass staff.



Second system of the musical score, starting at measure 6. It continues the melodic and harmonic development from the first system, with the right hand of the grand staff playing a more active role.



Third system of the musical score, starting at measure 12. The music shows further melodic elaboration and harmonic support across the three staves.



Fourth system of the musical score, starting at measure 18. This system concludes the page with a final melodic phrase in the right hand and a sustained bass line.

24

30

36

42

rit.

7.

Andante ♩ = 76 Starke Register



First system of the musical score, measures 1-6. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo is Andante with a metronome marking of ♩ = 76. The instrument is Starke Register. The first staff (treble clef) begins with a forte (f) dynamic. The second staff (bass clef) has a whole rest in the first measure. The third staff (bass clef) has a whole rest in the first measure.



Second system of the musical score, measures 7-12. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo is Andante with a metronome marking of ♩ = 76. The instrument is Starke Register. The first staff (treble clef) begins with a forte (f) dynamic. The second staff (bass clef) has a whole rest in the first measure. The third staff (bass clef) has a whole rest in the first measure.



Third system of the musical score, measures 13-18. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo is Andante with a metronome marking of ♩ = 76. The instrument is Starke Register. The first staff (treble clef) begins with a forte (f) dynamic. The second staff (bass clef) has a whole rest in the first measure. The third staff (bass clef) has a whole rest in the first measure.



Fourth system of the musical score, measures 19-24. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo is Andante with a metronome marking of ♩ = 76. The instrument is Starke Register. The first staff (treble clef) begins with a forte (f) dynamic. The second staff (bass clef) has a whole rest in the first measure. The third staff (bass clef) has a whole rest in the first measure.

25

32

38

44

rit.

8.

Moderato ♩ = 80 Kräftige Register

This musical score is for a piano piece, measures 1 through 20. It is written in B-flat major (two flats) and common time (C). The tempo is marked 'Moderato' with a quarter note equal to 80 beats per minute, and the register is 'Kräftige' (strong). The dynamics start at mezzo-forte (mf). The score is arranged in three systems, each with a grand staff (treble and bass clef). The first system contains measures 1-4, the second system measures 5-8, the third system measures 9-12, the fourth system measures 13-16, and the fifth system measures 17-20. The music features a variety of note values including eighth, sixteenth, and thirty-second notes, as well as rests and ties. A large, stylized watermark 'CARUS' is overlaid diagonally across the middle of the page.

22

26

30

34

38

Adagio

ff

9.

Con moto $\text{♩} = 63$ Volles Werk

Measures 1-5 of the musical score. The piece is in 3/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The tempo is marked 'Con moto' with a quarter note equal to 63 beats. The first system consists of three staves: a grand staff (treble and bass clef) and a separate bass staff. The word 'legato' is written above the first measure of the grand staff. The music features flowing sixteenth and thirty-second note patterns in the right hand and sustained chords in the left hand.

Measures 6-10 of the musical score. The notation continues with similar melodic and harmonic patterns. The grand staff and the separate bass staff are used. The music maintains a steady, flowing motion.

Measures 11-15 of the musical score. The melodic lines in the right hand become more complex, incorporating some triplets. The left hand continues to provide harmonic support with sustained notes and chords.

Measures 16-20 of the musical score. The music features a variety of rhythmic values, including eighth and sixteenth notes, creating a sense of forward motion. The grand staff and the separate bass staff are used.

Measures 21-25 of the musical score. The final system shows the continuation of the musical themes. The notation includes various rests and melodic fragments. The grand staff and the separate bass staff are used.

26

31

36

41

47

10.

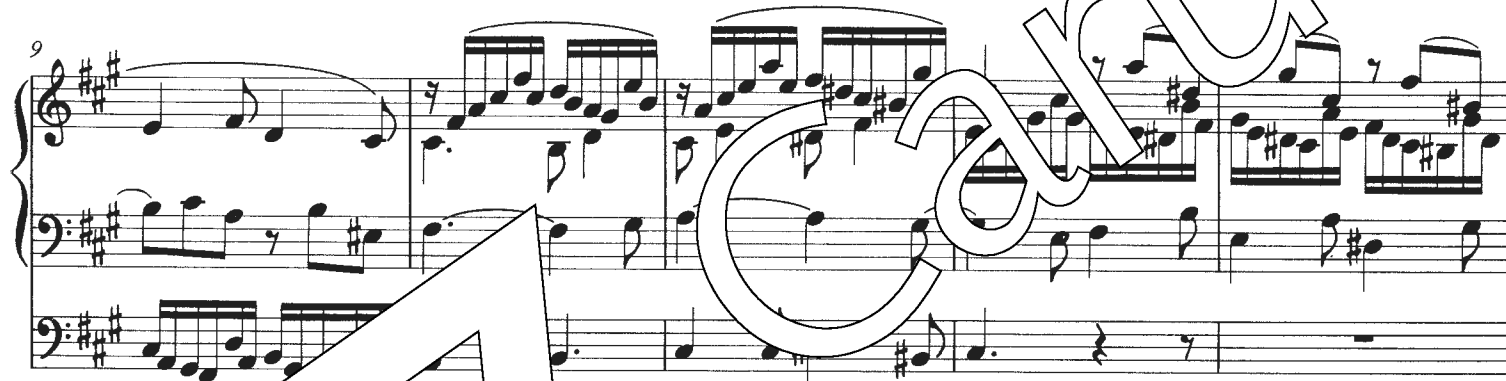
Con moto ♩ = 96 Helle Register



First system of the musical score. It features a grand staff with three staves. The top staff is a single treble clef. The middle and bottom staves are a grand staff with two treble clefs and one bass clef. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The time signature is 6/8. The first measure of the middle staff is marked with a forte 'f' dynamic. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some measures containing beamed sixteenth notes.



Second system of the musical score, starting at measure 5. It continues the musical themes established in the first system, with similar notation and dynamics.



Third system of the musical score, starting at measure 9. The notation includes various musical ornaments and dynamic markings, maintaining the 'Con moto' tempo.



Fourth system of the musical score, starting at measure 14. The music continues with complex rhythmic patterns and melodic lines across the three staves.



Fifth system of the musical score, starting at measure 18. This system concludes the piece with a final cadence, featuring sustained notes and a clear resolution.

23

28

32

36

40

This musical score is for a piece in D major, indicated by two sharps (F# and C#) in the key signature. The notation is arranged in five systems, each with three staves. The top staff is in treble clef, the middle in alto clef, and the bottom in bass clef. Measures 23-27 are the first system, 28-31 the second, 32-35 the third, 36-39 the fourth, and 40-43 the fifth. The music features a variety of note values including eighth, sixteenth, and thirty-second notes, as well as rests and ties. A large, stylized watermark 'Carus' is superimposed diagonally across the middle of the page, with a large 'A' below it.

Andante molto ♩ = 100 Sanfte Register

First system of the musical score. It features a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 6/8. The tempo is marked 'Andante molto' with a metronome marking of ♩ = 100. The piece is titled 'Sanfte Register'. The first measure is marked with a piano 'p' dynamic. The bass line includes the notes F, E-flat, C, and A. The melody in the treble clef begins with a half note F, followed by a series of eighth and sixteenth notes.

Second system of the musical score, starting at measure 5. The melody continues with a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, and the bass line provides a steady accompaniment.

Third system of the musical score, starting at measure 9. The melody features a half note followed by eighth and sixteenth notes. The bass line continues with a steady accompaniment.

Fourth system of the musical score, starting at measure 13. The melody continues with a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. The bass line provides a steady accompaniment.

Fifth system of the musical score, starting at measure 17. The melody continues with a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. The bass line provides a steady accompaniment.

21

25

30

34

39

rit.

12.

Allegro maestoso $\text{♩} = 52$ Volles Werk

ff

G A D E

6

10

14

18

The image shows a musical score for piano, measures 1 through 20. The score is written for three staves: Treble, Bass, and a lower Bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/2. The tempo is marked 'Allegro maestoso' and the metronome marking is $\text{♩} = 52$. The dynamic is marked 'ff' (fortissimo). The first staff has a melodic line with a slur over measures 1-4. The second staff has a bass line with a slur over measures 1-4. The third staff has a bass line with a slur over measures 1-4. The notes G, A, D, E are written below the first staff. The score continues with measures 6, 10, 14, and 18, each starting with a new system. A large, stylized watermark 'CARUS' is overlaid diagonally across the middle of the page.

22

27

31

35

40

rit.

Postscript

Rheinberger wrote his 24 *Fughetten strengen Stils* op. 123 between the 16th April 1883 and the 9th January 1884, that is, between the eighth Organ Sonata op. 132 and the first Organ Concerto in F major op. 137. Apart from the early *Zehn Trios für die Orgel* op. 49 (1869/70), which had been written primarily for teaching purposes, the pieces in the "strict style" op. 123 represent his first important contribution to the repertoire of short organ pieces. It appears significant that this type of music evidently did not attract the composer's attention until he had written eight organ sonatas. Ambitious organ composers of the 19th century generally seemed happier tackling large-scale works than short pieces. Friedrich Blume wrote in 1931 that 19th-century organ music was "totally divided in two directions, one of the church and epigonic ... the other romantic and for concerts" (Friedrich Blume, "Die evangelische Kirchenmusik," in: *Handbuch der Musikwissenschaft*, Potsdam, 1931, p. 161), and this observation, taken with a grain of salt, still holds true, although with some reservation in individual cases.

Against this background Rheinberger's smaller pieces published in the collections op. 123, 156 (*Zwölf Charakterstücke*), 162 (*Monologe*), 167 (*Meditationen*), 174 (*Miscellaneen*) and 189 (*Zwölf Trios*) are all the more significant owing to the fact that they bridge the gap between the professional writings of an epigone and the more idiosyncratic music for concert performance. At the same time they offer individual solutions to the problem of how to combine the either-or of 19th-century organ music: how could tradition be combined with innovation? There was no lack of either of impersonal, and often monistic polyphony, or of well-crafted "romantic" music; numerous composers (among whom Rheinberger may be mentioned as typical) wrote in the former style, and others in the latter. Not so Rheinberger, whose sovereign command of the technique of fugal writing is evident in the "Fughette" and appealingly modest diminutive pieces. The relative brevity of the pieces is compensated in op. 123 with a personal style in tune with the time and distinguished above all by his harmony and "poetic content." Thus Rheinberger satisfies the condition which Beethoven had formulated prophetically for the entire 19th century: "Making a fugue is no art ... but imagination demands its right and nowadays to the old, traditional form must be added another, really poetic element." (Quotations from: Josef Müller-Blattau, "Die Fuge" (II), in: *Das Musikwerk*, ed. by Karl Gustav Fellerer, Cologne, 1968, vol. 33, p. 7).

Rheinberger divided his Opus 123 into two volumes, each containing 12 fugues (op. 123a and b). The 24 *Fughetten*, whose degree of difficulty lies between easy and moderately difficult, are in four parts (with one exception: no. 4 in op. 123a is in three parts). The "strict style" is emphasized

not only by the predominance of polyphony, but also by specific features of fugal artistry, for example the inversion of themes (no. 2 of op. 123a and no. 10 in op. 123b), and stretto (no. 7 in op. 123a, no. 12 in op. 123b). However, all the *Fughetten* are far removed from rigidly academic polyphony. Unique features of these pieces include the atmospheric compactness of the B major fugue (no. 11 in op. 123b) with its uncommon 9/8 rhythm, the elegiac character of the E flat minor fugue (no. 5 in op. 123b), and the bravura of the A minor fugue (no. 10 in op. 123b).

It is an advantage for many organists that these *Fughetten* can be performed on medium-sized and small organs (even single-manual instruments). In general, when choosing registration pseudo-baroque harshness should be avoided. (String colouring is undoubtedly to be desired in piano and mezzo-forte passages). The range of tone colours extends from the gentle piano of the BACH fugue (no. 3 in op. 123a) to the often demanded "full organ" (sometimes including the trumpet stop); the "bright registers" are also called for (no. 10 in op. 123a). Changes of registration and of nuances of dynamics are the exception rather than the rule; Rheinberger did not expect the swell organ to be used. Whether played as voluntaries before or after church services or, perhaps in groups of four, at concerts, the *Fughetten* are music for practical use on a high level. They are extremely suitable as material for organ teaching, particularly as short pieces.

In his twenty-four Organ Sonatas Rheinberger (who lived to no great age: 1839–1901) was unable to realize his intention of writing in all 24 "well-tempered" keys. Here, in the *Fughetten* op. 123, he achieved this completeness. No particular sequence of keys, even regarding their tonal characteristics, is recognizable, either in the sets of pieces as published or in the sketchbooks, where they occur in a different order. It is possible that Rheinberger was too modest to attempt to compete with Bach's *Wohltemperiertes Clavier*. Be that as it may, for organ music – and not only that of the 19th century – this op. 123 is a valuable acquisition.

The present edition is an extract from volume 40 of the Rheinberger Complete Edition (*Kleinere Orgelwerke*), Stuttgart, 1998, CV 50.240. The musical text has been taken unaltered from that volume. For the answers to questions concerning the editorial revision of this music and for a survey of Rheinberger's early organ pieces please refer to the Foreword and the Critical Report published in that volume.

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