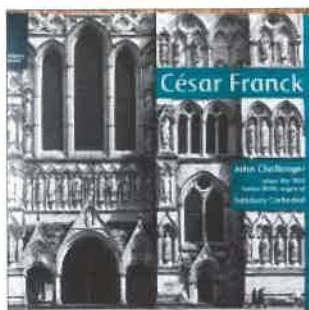


Widor: Complete Organ Music - Symphonies 1-10:
Opp 13, 42, 70, 73/
Marche nuptial Op 64 no 6/
Marche américain Op 31
(arr Marcel Dupré)/
Suite latine Op 86/
Trois Nouvelles pièces
Op 87/Bach's Memento
Joseph Nolan
★★★★★ Signum SIGCD 596
[8xCDs]

This is virtually a self-recommendable set, and it is comprehensively to be obtained by all lovers of organ music and especially by lovers of the late 19th-early 20th century French organ school.

Joseph Nolan's undertaking of the complete symphonies has been issued a disc at a time over several years, but this boxed collection is well worth acquiring in full for the eminently worthwhile additional items. As regular followers may know, Joseph Nolan has used Dr John Near's performing editions, so the scholarship behind these performances is exemplary, and the general excellence of the recorded sound needs no further recommendation.

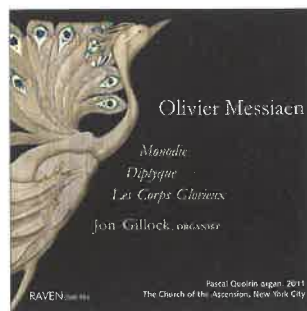
The interested reader will need no second bidding to add this greatly significant boxed set to their collection, no matter how many other versions of these individual masterworks they may possess. This release is additionally further enhanced by a splendidly informative and knowledgeable booklet notes by Ates Orga. **James Palmer**



César Franck:
Organ Works:
Pièce héroïque; Prélude,
Fugue et Variation;
Cantabile; Trois Chorals
pour Grand Orgue (No 1 in
E major; No 2 in B minor;
No 3 in A minor)
John Challenger, organ of
Salisbury Cathedral
★★★★★ Salisbury
Cathedral CD [69'23"]
Available from Salisbury
Cathedral Shop (£12.50)
or online.

John Challenger is the assistant director of music at Salisbury Cathedral, and this very good new release is the first album to be released independently by the Cathedral, with all

proceeds from sales of the recording going to help support the Cathedral's important music work. This album was recorded prior to the dismantling of Salisbury's famous Father Willis instrument, which was built in 1876 and is currently undergoing major restoration. In this new recording, John Challenger plays organ works by Franck, an eminently suitable choice of repertoire for this famous instrument. His performances are uniformly excellent, and the recording is equally first-rate. A highly recommendable issue, not least for the good cause to which money raised by the sales of the disc will be put. **James Palmer**



Messiaen:
Les Corps Glorieux;
Monodie; Diptyque
Jon Gillock, Pascal Quoirin
organ, Church of the
Ascension, New York City
★★★★★ Raven OAR 984
[c.71']

Just as admirers of Beethoven's symphonies and concertos will more than probably have several

recordings of those works in their collection, so the enthusiast for organ music and especially the music of Olivier Messiaen ought to possess more than one version – not least for the subtle varieties of registration, acoustic and timbres of those instruments which have been selected on which the performances have been captured.

In such circumstance, this fine new recording of Messiaen's masterpiece from the earlier part of his career (*Les Corps Glorieux* dates from 1939 – completed just one week before World War II broke out), played and recorded on the new (2011) Pascal Quoirin instrument in New York ought to have a special place in any collection.

Gillock both knew and studied with Messiaen, so the personal connections with the composer this artist had ought not to be gainsaid; Gillock's readings possess a musical veracity which is wholly admirable – in particular, his account of the final movement, *Le Mystère de la Sainte Trinité*, is particularly compelling – but what makes this CD additionally valuable is the inclusion of the two shorter individual pieces, *Monodie* and *Diptyque* (1963 and 1968 respectively) which could well form introductions to Messiaen's music for those unfamiliar with it, and keen