Endless Suspense
The mezzo forte has a full and warm sound – a gentle crescendo, swelling only a little, before the music fades away into a murmuring pianissimo. Changing colours develop without the slightest break, and the queen of instruments builds up endless suspense on its way to the magnificent fortissimo in Georg Muffat's passacaglia. Andreas Sieling presents the Alte Meister collection in Karl Straube's romantic edition on the historic Sauer organ in the Berlin Cathedral.

Sensational Effect
A sensation! In 1904 Karl Straube, who had just been appointed to the post of music director at St. Thomas's Church in Leipzig, published his edition of music by Bach, Walther, Pachelbel, Buxtehude, and others – all of them old-fashioned composers still known at most from instruction in theory. He had now adapted them to the organ's modern capabilities, so that they absolutely had to meet the taste of the times. Detailed instructions for playing and registering the organ, of course the employment of the crescendo pedal for the production of mighty intensifications by constantly adding new stops, novel stop colors, and sophisticated changes of tempo endowed the baroque masters with an enthralling orchestral effect that had never been imagined or heard before in this way.

Historical Monument
“Of course one should no longer play it this way today – but it was simply fun to do so.” These words were uttered by a student of Karl Straube who had long been interested in the renaissance of historical music and would even prepare the ground for today’s knowledge in the field of historical performance practice. And precisely this fact makes this edition so valuable today; it offers an impressive glance at a performance practice that went on to attain historical status in its own right.

Multichannel Home
Andreas Sieling, the cathedral organist in Berlin, has a “home organ” enabling him to draw on immense resources to his heart’s desire. With its more than a hundred stops assigned to four manuals, Rückpositiv, and Pedal, the instrument offers an absolutely endless wealth of sound. When the organ was constructed by the famous Wilhelm Sauer Workshop in 1905, it was Germany's largest organ. Fortunately, it has maintained its original form until the present day, so that this room-filling multichannel recording indeed is able to offer an authentic look at the interpretation history of baroque organ music at the beginning of the twentieth century.

Charles Tournemire
Pièce symphonique op. 16
Dix Pièces, Petite Rhapsodie improvisée, Adagio op. 19,1, Improvisations
Andreas Sieling, Sauer Organ
Schola der Berliner Domkantorei
Tobias Brommann, cond.
MDG 946 1514-6 (Hybrid SACD)