

## RECORDINGS

**KLANGFARBEN: Einer französischen Salonorgel. Stefan Schmidt, organist. Rebuilt III/27 Reinhold Hansen organ of Motette-Verlag, Düsseldorf, Germany (1994). Motette CD 1279.** [Vierne: *Quatre-vingt Pièces en style libre*, op. 31.] Having overcome a pair of serious setbacks in the building process, the Motette-Verlag is today the proud owner of a very French salon or studio organ dedicated to—and adhering strictly to the style of—famed 19th-century Parisian builder Aristide Cavallé-Coll. Düsseldorf native and organist Stefan Schmidt ably demonstrates the varied tone colors (“Klangfarben”) of this twice rebuilt instrument in these superbly recorded selections from Vierne’s *Twenty-four Pieces in Free Style*. All goes well here aside from an occasional dynamic gradation that is inexplicably eliminated; both *Récit* and *Grand Orgue* are under expression, according to the insert, so one must look to Mr. Schmidt for an explanation for the omissions. Otherwise, he performs these harmonically rich and stylistically varied miniatures with élan. Organists looking for shorter and lighter alternatives to Vierne’s organ symphonies will do well to avail themselves of this disc, especially since commercial recordings of some of these selections are by no means plentiful.

JENNIFER KOLMES