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LATVIJAS
NACIONĀLĀ
BIBLIOTĒKA

NO 1986. GADA 31. JŪLIJA – 3. AUGUSTAM
11TH LATVIAN SONG FESTIVAL

ORGAN RECITAL
by
BRIGITA MIEZE

St. James the Greater Church, London Road
Wednesday, 30th July 1986, 7:30 p.m.

28

PROGRAMME

- Chorale "Now thank we all our God"
(composed for the Doma Cathedral
in Rīga) Franz Liszt
(1811-1886)
- Fugue, Chorale and Epilogue Herbert Howells
(1892-1983)
- Suite Gothique Leon Boëllmann
(1862-1897)
Introduction-Choral
Menuet Gothique
Prière à Notre Dame
Toccata
- Fantasia on a Latvian Folksong Helmers Pavasars
"Kaŗavīri bēdājās" (Soldiers (b. 1903)
were grieving)
- Rīga Landscape Romualds Jermaks
(b. 1931)
- Passacaglia "Pūt, vējiņi"
(Blow Wind) Romualds Jermaks
(b. 1931)



BRIGITA MIEZE was born in Latvia. She studied piano with prof. H. Brauns and organ with prof. N. Vanadziņš at the Latvian State Conservatory of Music in Rīga and graduated as a concert organist, chamber orchestra soloist and in music education. She studied further with prof. Jiri Reinberger at the Prague Academy of Music.

Brigita Mize was soloist with the Latvian State Philharmonic and concert organist on the Walcker organ in St. Mary's Cathedral, Rīga. She has given over 1000 concerts in Europe, Asia, America, Australia and the Soviet Union, including one, in 1978, on the only pipe organ in Siberia, in Novosibirsk. In 1977 she competed in the 13th International Festival for Organ and Chamber Music in Kamien Pomorski, Poland, and was voted 'Artist with best interpretation' by over 13,000 radio listeners. She has recorded 8 albums and also taught organ and piano at the Latvian State Conservatory of Music in Rīga.

Since 1982 Brigita Mize has lived in West Germany, where she teaches at the Westfalen-Lippe State Music Academy (Münster Branch) and is Assistant Professor of Organ at the Westphalian School of Music in Münster.

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL in Rīga (commonly known as the Dom Church) was founded in 1215, after an older wooden church had been destroyed by fire. In 1522, when Rīga became a Lutheran city, the cathedral became a Protestant church. The originally luxurious interior was destroyed during the disruptions of the early Reformation, and the present interior is mostly Classical and Baroque in style. The church is now part of the Rīga Historical and Navigation Museum and is designated as a concert hall. Its organ is one of the most magnificent in Europe. The original instrument was built by Jacob Rab in 1601, incorporating some 16th century pipework. In 1882-3 the E.F. Walcker Company of Ludwigsburg, Germany, was commissioned by the municipality of Rīga to build the biggest and best organ in the world.

Liszt wrote the chorale "Now thank we all our God" for the dedication of the new organ, which then carried 124 registers, 4 manuals and pedal board, with a total of 6826 pipes. Despite three restorations (1897, 1907 and 1961), the organ remains the same with the addition of one register, and ranks as a monument to the art of organ-building and playing in the Romantic period.

€0,10

HELMERS PAVASARS was born in Lejasciems, Latvia. He studied violin, music theory, practical composition and conducting at the Latvian Conservatory of Music in Rīga, and became a professor there in 1940. The Second World War forced Pavasars to leave Latvia for Pinneberg, Germany, where he became Music Director at the Baltic University. He moved to London in 1954, where he worked as organist to several congregations until his retirement. The "Fantasia on a Latvian Folksong" is a beautifully melancholic work based on the song "Soldiers are grieving", whose text "Labāk manu galvu ņēma nekā manu tēvu zemi" (Rather take my life, but not my homeland) describes fear of imminent danger to their homeland.

ROMUALDS JERMAKS graduated from the Jāzeps Vītols Latvian State Conservatory of Music in 1962, having studied composition with the great symphonist, Jānis Ivanovs. He now teaches at the Conservatory and is one of the foremost contemporary composers of organ music in Latvia. His greatest work for organ is the "Concerto for Organ and Chamber Orchestra". He combines active, vigorous images with more lyrical moods, and has achieved great skill in exploiting the organ's diverse possibilities.