

[05/06/2020]

Blick auf ein Jahrhundert – was für ein eminenter
(Looking across a century - what an eminent one)

Organist Paul Jacobs received review from *Pizzicato* on his recent CD release with The Cleveland Orchestra performing Bernd Richard Deutsch's Okéanos.

"The organ concerto Okéanos consists of four alternating slow and fast movements. The organ is juxtaposed with a large orchestra, expanded to include four percussion instruments, wind machine, celeste, and harp. The title Okéanos, meaning both "ocean" as well as origin of the world, conveys an idea of grandeur and breadth. Beyond the virtuosic solo passages the organ engages again and again in a dialogue with the highly differentiated orchestra. Intimate, tender moments are set off by ecstatic outbreaks, sharpened by tempi and rhythms. The title's association with water is brought to life by the effect of orchestral waves. The other movements represent air, earth, and fire.



Paul Jacobs is the only soloist in this collection. To date the only solo organ Grammy Award-winner and known for his marathon performance of all of Bach's solo works for organ, he is also gifted in the realm of modern music. Judging by the expressive shaping of the Okéanos solo parts, one senses his mastery of new music. He knows how to shift from airy phrases to passages of eruptive power. Jacobs allows himself to be swept away by the music while propelling it forward and is supported by the orchestra in exemplary fashion."

(Translated by Josephine Hemsing, 6/8/2020)

Original review link: <https://www.pizzicato.lu/blick-auf-ein-jahrhundert-was-fur-ein-eminenter/>