music? The composers are imitating the opera récit, its precursor, the air de cour, and the faithfulness to text found in the French

give the modern player a respect for the essentially vocal origins of this music. Definitely, there are organ pieces which mimic instrumental idioms: harpsichord, viola da gamba, trumpet, etc, but they represent only one side of the literature. It is hoped that an awareness of ties to the text (present or not) will

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ORGAN PEDAGOGY AND THE ROMANTIC OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY SPIRIT

Wm. A. Little

The following address was delivered at the Fifth AGO National Conference on Or-gan Pedagogy in Worcester, Mass., June 24, 1990.

At first or second glance, or even at tenth or 15th glance, the threads that bind organ pedagogy to the Romantic Spirit of the 19th the closest scrutiny will fail to reveal the presence of a relationship where none inherlimited application in illuminating the mysteries of heel-toe pedaling, legato touch, or Kantian imperatives nor Hegel's theses and antitheses would appear, even to the incross-bar phrasing. In truth, of course, even formed observer, to have more than the most seem tenuous at best. Neither the the

aspect of an art so integrally bound up with the spirit of its time be immune to its influ-ence? Clearly, it should not, and conse-quently I think it may be worthwhile to ex-plore, if only briefly, the impact of the Romantic Spirit on organ pedagogy: first, to determine in what ways it manifested itself; secondly, to see how it affected the develop-ment of the literature for the instrument; its pulse beat. Music was the great universal religion of the Romantics, and the musician its annointed priest. Why then should any which might serve a useful purpose today and, thirdly, to ascertain whether any lespedagogy should have remained unaffected by it. In the first place, music lay at the very On the other hand, so pervasive was the Romantic Spirit in the 19th century that it is core of Romanticism, with sacred music as not unreasonable to think that even organ may be drawn from these matters

musical textbooks and tutors published be-tween 1750 and 1800. On the face of it there was nothing new or novel about textbooks as such, and certainly there was no scarcity which mark the latter half of the 18th century, one had direct and far-reaching implications for the development of organ music of them -- tury. Nonetheless, in the Enlightenment, of them in the early mind the startling increase in the 19th century. Specifically, I have in Among the many innovative phenomena ly years of the 18th cen-in the Golden Ages of nlightenment, with their and their faith the number of in the their

> perfectability of man, it could reasonably be expected that the textbook would play a par-ticularly vital role as a didactic vehicle. And somewhat later time this distinction became marked only made between textbook and tutor, although so it did, but here a distinction should be ata

deavor, by learning and applying certain fundamental rules and principles.

The practical tutors, on the other hand, were written for those who wanted to learn for their works; counterpoint and composi-tion are academic disciplines, where mascentury or Kirnberger in the 18th—could presume a relatively sophisticated audience tery is developed through intellectual enretical texts-On the one hand, the authors of the theo--whether Kircher in the

to perform, and consequently their authors had to direct themselves to an audience sometimes radically different in its musical and intellectual orientation. The principal aim of the tutors was to show how rather than why, and in both style and language they were governed by the need to be clear direct

Between 1737 and 1784 Michel Corrette, the French organist and composer, produced some 17 tutors for an entire galaxy of instruments, from the harpsichord to the hardy-gurdy, from the violin and guitar to the flûte à bec.

of an Organist, published in 2007, Clavierschule, in 1789, both of which have been recently translated. Altogether, the number and quality of instrumental tutors that appeared in Germany in the second half pearance of not one, but several major futors, all within the space of about a decade in mid-century was wholly without parallel. Simply to cite the most eminent, there was Marpurg's method for the claver in 1750, and the claver in 1750. Trompeter- und Paukenkunst. Roughly equal in importance were Daniel Gottlob Türk's book, On the Most Important Duties of an Organist, published in 1787, and his 1756. Only a few years later, in 1770, Altenburg wrote his great Musikalische Trompeter- und Paukenkunst. Roughly Quantz's method for the flute in 1752, C.P.E. Bach's treatise on the clavier in 1753 and 1762, and Leopold Mozart's Violinschule in In Germany no similar single figure dominated the field, but several of the authors of instrumental tutors were among the most distinguished musicians of the day. The ap-

> unprecedented of the 18th century was as amazing as it was

sented an intent to broaden the base of musical activity in the general cultural life of the time, but it also clearly represented a breakdown in the venerable Guild system, according to which the admission of candiguarded terrain of professionals, passed on the secrets of their skills in a fully structured relationship. truths no longer the privileged possessor of arcane point, however, it constituted a tacit ac-knowledgment that the artist-performer was process rigorously dates was highly selective and the initiation the book. This development may have reprefor anyone who wanted to learn to play an instrument and had the money to purchase thrown open and revealed in minute detail What had hitherto been controlled. More to their skills in a carethe was closely now

shift, it is on Given the magnitude of this pedagogical uff, it is only natural to try to determine

half of the 18th century was an era of general deterioration in the field of church music, he argues that it is "most often in these periods of decay that the significant textbooks are written, since oral instruction suffices during a time of prosperity, and only important principles are codified. But when good teachers and models become rare, the need arises for the transmission of even the most self-understood details." edition of Türk's Duties of an Organist, Bernard Billeter offers one plausible explanation which might account for the organ tutors, but which does not apply in broader terms. Based on the premise that the second what caused it. In the commentary to his facsimile-reprint

tutors recorded in the entire period. Equally, if not more important, the world of music, otherwise, flourished during the second half of the century: the works of Gluck, Haydn, peared during those years were for instru-ments other than the organ—there were, in fact, no more than a half dozen or so organ century is certainly on the mark, but the pre-ponderance of instrumental tutors that apchurch music in the latter half of the 18th Billeter's assessment of the situation in t, and countless other composers tes-the health and prosperity of secular and prosperity edecades.

In truth, the appearance of these numerous tutors was part of a larger pan-European cultural pattern in the latter part of the century, with its powerful dual emphasis on the systemization of knowledge and on the development of cogent educational principles. Never before in the history of Western civ-

Never before in the history of western civilization had so much energy been expended on assimilating and systematizing the vast totality of human knowledge. This was the era of the great encyclopedists, not only in France, but also in Germany and England. The great French Encyclopédie in 34 volumes (1751-80) involved some of the greatest minds of the age. It was dwarfed, however, by its two German counterparts: Zedler's Lexikon ran to 68 volumes (1732-54), but even it was eclipsed by J.G. Krüntz's Universal-Lexikon, which at final count came to a colossal 242 volumes. (I might add here that both German encycloped dias are mines of information, still virtually untapped by either musicologists or organ historians.) Finally, in England the Encyclopedia Britannica began to appear in 1768, and only a few years earlier, in 1755, Dr. Johnson had completed his Dictionary of the

English Language.

While the encyclopedists were laboring to While the encyclopedists were laboring to compile their lexicographical monuments, a number of other major European thinkers were pondering educational reforms that would be commensurate with the advances being made in science and technology. In France Jean Jacques Rosseau's Emile ou de France Jean Jacques Rosseau's Emile ou de I'éducation (1762) was a landmark work, and in Germany the foremost spokesman for new directions in education was Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi, who lived and wrote well into the 19th century (he died only a month before Beethoven, in 1827).

During the final years of the 18th century

During the final years of the 18th century one further movement began to circulate in the European literary and artistic community. Romanticism was both the outgrowth of rationalism or classicism and simultaneously a clear reaction against it. The lines of demarcation between the two, if they can be said to exist at all, are impenetrably murky. Yet even as the Romantic Spirit spread across Europe, even as it became the dominant aesthetic force on the continent, it continued to defer any precise definition.

Continued to defy any precise definition.

Nevertheless, scholars have spent the better part of a century and a half in attempts to formulate a definition, all with more or less varying degrees of failure. Be that as it may, I think there are one or two characteristics of Romanticism that are generally present and particularly relevant to today's topic. Specifically, Romanticism was marked by an infinite longing or yearning, which had no specific goal or object. In many ways it was an infinite longing for the Infinite. Throughout the movement there was a continuous striving after the ineffable, symbolized by the vague wistful longing for the elusive blue flower. The clear boundaries of time and space melted and became obscured as the Romantics yearned for distant ages and remote climes.

"Out of such concepts grew the emphasis on education. In the Romantic sense this meant the development of all innate faculties in an approach to infinite perfection." In the words of the Athendum, the quasi-official organ of the Romantic movement, "Only through education (Bildung) does man become truly human, since education represents an attempt at encompassing the totality of human experience."

Thus by the turn of the 19th century the various key pieces were in place: the systemization of knowledge, the growing concern with both the practical and spiritual education of man, and the longing to become part of the infinite universal experience. All these now combined to shape the development of the new century in almost every facet of existence, not only including music, but especially music.

The low estate into which organ and church music had fallen after the death of Bach was recognized by a number of contemporary writers, but it was not until very late in the century that men like Voigt, Türk, or Knecht actually began to do anything to remedy the situation.

remedy the situation.
Between 1795 and 1798, Justin Heinrich Knecht published his Vollständige Orgel-Knecht published his Vollständige Orgelschule, a work aimed primarily at improving organ performance skills. Whereas Türk, in his Duties of an Organist had been motivated by evangelistic concerns, Knecht's concerns were entirely practical, and his Vollständige Orgelschule still stands as one of the great milestones in the history of organ pedagogy.⁵

of organ pedagogy.⁵
Whatever one may think of Knecht as an aesthetician or composer—and his published organ works do not suggest that he was more than a mediocre talent—his Orgelschule deserves credit as the first comprehensive method for the organ. To be sure, Knecht had predecessors, such as Samber, Sonnenkalb, Prixner, the Wegweiser (Speth?), and a number of others, but all of them had more or less existed in a vacuum, and none of them, with the exception of Samber, demonstrated anything more than the most modest of pretensions. Knecht, however, was a product of the encyclopedist generation, and his intent was to furnish a vast six-part pedagogical treatise which might legitimately take its place beside Dom Bédos's L'Art du facteur d'orgues. In large measure he succeeded.

Eminently serious in tone, panoramic in scope, and illustrated with hundreds of examples and exercises, the three published parts of the Orgelschule (all that Knecht completed) lead the student step by step to a level of considerable virtuosity. Unlike many authors of organ methods Knecht presumes a relatively advanced keyboard technique even in the beginning organ student.

sumes a relatively advanced keyboard technique even in the beginning organ student. Knecht provides a lengthy discussion and numerous exercises for the three modes of pedaling: all toe (the "natural" mode), alternate toe-heel for each foot, above and below pedal C, respectively (the "artful"/kunstvolle mode), and the use of toe-heel, ad libidum (called the "mixed" mode). Having dwelt on these approaches in some detail (we are told that Abbé Vogler preferred the "artful" mode). Knecht concludes—and this is 1795—that the last of the three is the preferred mode—a decision in which most of Knecht's major successors in the 19th century concurred. It is also worth noting that Türk, writing ten years earlier—in 1787—had also unequivocally recommended the "mixed" mode of toe-heel.

Knecht is tireless in his discussions, not only of pedaling, but of fingering, phrasing, articulation, and registration. He also devotes considerable space to questions of plainsong and Protestant hymnody, and he supplies specifications for a number of major European organs. Among his musical examples he includes numerous chorales and

plainchant settings, but for the most part his examples consist of secular movements: rondos, adagios, and cantabiles. There is also both an oboe and a flute concerto (rather persuasive evidence of Rinck's familiarity with Knecht's work). All in all, Knecht provided his contemporaries with a massive volume of information that could be had nowhere else at the time from a single source. Even today Knecht's Orgelschule remains invaluable as a primary source for students and scholars alike.

Between publication of the final volume of Knecht's work in 1798 and the appearance of the first volume of Kittel's Angehender praktischer Organist in 1801 lay a space of only three years, but the two works are radically different in every way. Knecht, with his cool detached style and his focus on performance, represents the final expression of 18th-century pedagogical thought about the organ. And although the third part of his work is devoted to treatment of choral awhole is on the development of the technically skilled performer.

cally skilled performer.

Not so with Kittel, for whom the education of the church musician constitutes something of a sacred trust, and for whom the chorale and its treatment stand at the center of all matters relative to the organ. Such exotica as rondos or flute concertos would have horrified Kittel, who ventured only warily into the perilous waters of the stylus fantasticus. In short, Knecht remained firmly enchored in the 18th-century traditions of the Enlightenment, while Kittel exuded in his own rather primitive way the budding Romantic Spirit.

The first decade of the 19th-century—

The first decade of the 19th-century—during which Kittel's work appeared—was one of profound upheaval in Europe: Napoleon's armies marched across the continent, and in the course of various victories and defeats the Holy Roman Empire itself finally came to an inglorious end. These were not good years for the average citizen, and they were particularly difficult for the church musician. Years of neglect and frequently aggressive indifference had eroded the organist's standing and integrity, both within the musical fraternity and the community at large. With little organ music permitted beyond introducing, interluding, and accompanying the chorale, younger musicians saw little point in devoting their lives to an instrument and profession for which there was little use and less respect. And now in wartime the very churches themselves were routinely usurped for barracks, stables, or munitions warehouses. Even Kittel's church in Erfurt was requisitioned for two years for the storage of hay.

Clearly, Kittel's Angehender praktischer Organist was dictated by a deep concern for the profession. It is, however, not actually a tutor in the traditional sense of the word, but rather a loosely structured articulation of the author's musical program. Conversational in tone and leisurely to the point of distraction, Kittel cajoles his readers; he exhorts them "to study Nature, because Nature is the mother of art... Surrender your whole being to the impressions of the beauties of Nature around you, and dare to decipher the secret laws, according to which this great Mistress has reigned for eternities in the essence of things." Despite the breathless prose, Kittel remains resolutely silent about what specific practical benefits are to be derived from such study. (Doubt-

less, to raise such questions would have struck him as caviling.) He perceives the organist's role as a kind of holy calling, "no less important than that of the preacher (I.4)." For Charles Brown—in a recent dissertation on Kittel's tutor—and presumably for most readers who have seriously engaged the text, it is "neither practical nor basic, [but rather an appeal] to the organist's emotions—his soul, as it were . . . [in which Kittel sets] a new tone of idealism." Sounding this eager tone of idealism, Kit-

tel makes an impassioned and historic call for "assistance from above," by which he means the government, on whom he calls for the establishment of public institutions for the training of organists and cantors.

for the training of organists and cantors. Kittel's call for help was echoed by others in various parts of Germany, who recognized the plight of church music and made similar appeals. In Prussia, Wilhelm von Humboldt and Carl Zelter urged the king to establish schools specifically to train organists and church musicians, and in the second decade of the new century a number of such schools were finally set up. In his now famous decree King Friedrich Wilhelm III announced that the time had come—after the ravages of war—for the state to "replace through spiritual powers, what it had lost in physical powers."

At last the tide was beginning to turn, and in 1822 the Royal Academic Institute for Church Music was established in Berlin. It was the first permanent institute of its kind in Germany to be supported by state funds. 'I The training of church musicians now moved from the private or religious sector into the civil sector, and one further link was forged in the chain that bound church and state. It also represented the next important step from the systemization of learning to its institutionalization.

During the first two years of its existence the Institute was headed by Zelter, who was also director of the Berliner Singakademie and Mendelssohn's teacher for theory, counterpoint, and composition. On Zelter's terpoint, and composition on Zelter's death in 1832 the directorship passed into the hands of August Wilhelm Bach, Berlin's leading organist, and organ teacher of Mendelssohn, Carl August Haupt, and many

Under Bach's direction and that of his successor, August Haupt, the institute attracted organ students from all over Europe, England, and the United States. Among Haupt's German students were Otto Nicolai (1828), Ludwig Thiele (1831), Otto Dienel (1833), and Wilhelm Middelschulte (1886), and some of his more prominent American students were John Knowles Paine, Philip Hale, Charles Converse, and Clarence Eddy.

Hale, Charles Converse, and Clarence Eddy. At precisely the same time that final details were being worked out for the Royal Institute for Church Music in 1821, another movement was set in motion which would deeply influence the course of piano and organ pedagogy through the remainder of the century. At Zelter's recommendation, the Prussian government invited the famous but controversial piano pedagogue, Johann Bernhard Logier, to come to Berlin, and under a royal appointment he taught there, using his Method from 1822 to 1826.

Logier's appearance on the pedagogical scene was hardly surprising; it represented yet one further manifestation of the broad Romantic wish to integrate the arts through methodology. In the early years of the century, with its rapid technological advances,

Logier's method had a particular appeal, since it employed technological means to achieve artistic ends. The fascination of the Romantics with new methodologies and their potentials spread across Europe like an epidemic; as Arnold Schering noted, "a methodological fever had taken over Paris" in the teens and twenties. He might equally well have said the same about Berlin.

Logier perceived and exploited the two great pedagogical weaknesses of his time: the boundless Romantic infatuation with virtuoso technique and the idolization of prodigies. ¹⁵ To achieve his goals Logier devised the chiroplast, a mechanism used to guide the fingers. Secondly, he adopted a plan involving simultaneous instruction, whereby several pupils played, each at his own instrument as part of a classroom program. In sum, Logier claimed that he could transform even "a retarded child" (ein geistesschwaches Kind") into a virtuoso.

It was an age of naive beliefs and wellnigh infinite credulity. An era that could acclaim Franz Mesmer and Phineas T. Barnum obviously had little difficulty in accepting Logier. Spohr was entirely taken in, and so for a time was Friedrich Wieck (Clara Schumann's father). Such doubters as Ignaz Moscheles and Franz Liszt (who sarcastically called the "guide de main" the "guideane") were distinctly in the minority.

Operating under royal aegis, Logier's success in Berlin was assured. Moreover, his students from elsewhere in Germany regularly promoted his methodology when they returned home, and thus his influence spread throughout the country. As Schering put it, "During the third decade of the century the country was wholly under the influence of his reforms and during the fourth decade it was predominantly so." So thoroughly did Logier's system dominate German piano pedagogy in the first half of the 19th century, that Gustav Schilling in his Universal-Lexikon der Tonkunst (1835-37/1849) could refer to it as a "National-system."

One of Logier's Berlin students, the organist Carl Freudenberg, opened one of the more successful Logier schools in Breslau in 1823, but when he looked back on it in his memoirs nearly a half century later, a note of sober reality seems to have crept in, "After four months of instruction we received our teaching certificates which empowered us to go forth into the world and—in keeping with Logier's Method—to strew plenty of sand in people's eyes."

Even given the success of Freudenberg and his Breslau school, it was overshadowed by the pedagogical achievements of Johann Friedrich Schneider and the school he founded in Dessau in 1829, also based on Logier's principles. One of the most prominent schools of its kind in Germany, it attacted a host of gifted students, and until it closed its doors in 1846 it remained under Schneider's innovative but autocratic directorship. Before settling in Dessau Schneider had established his reputation as organist of the Thomas-Kirche and municipal director of music in Leipzig. His Handbuch des Organisten, published in 1829–30, remains one of the outstanding pedagogical texts of the century.¹⁸

Unlike Kittel or Rinck, who, except in their musical training, were largely autodidacts, Schneider's outlook was sophisticated and academically informed. He was

also a member of a distinguished family of musicians and organists: his brother, Johann Gottlob, was organist of the Sophien-Kirche in Dresden and one of the great virtuosos and organ teachers of his time. Friedrich Schneider himself was equally at home in either church or theater. Consequently, it is not surprising that his Organ Method is not, like those of so many of his predecessors, myopically focused on the treatment of the chorale. By no means does he neglect the chorale, but for the first time among the tutors Schneider takes a genuinely balanced position in his discussion of it.

In and of itself, this point reflects one of the important changes taking place in Germany in the sphere of church music and thus of organ pedagogy. Gradually, but only gradually, greater latitude was being restored to the role of the organ within the context of worship. From a contemporary viewpoint the process moved at a glacially slow pace, but with the perspective of a century and a half it is clearly discernible.

Returning for a moment to the chorale, Schneider gives lie to Frotscher, who in his History of Organ Playing maintains that the organist of the Romantic period viewed as his task the portrayal of the chorale in "musikalischer Malerei" or "musical painting." Not so, says Schneider, who confronts the issue head-on, "The organist is not to attempt to paint (as it were) what has been sung in the line just finished or about to commence; for example, to whimper in semitones at the word sorrowful; or when thunder is mentioned to storm away with unisons... that would be utterly ridiculous; such painting is of no use whatever; the sentiment is the object: the organist must make his entire playing conformable in every respect to the leading sentiment experts almost verbatim that some point in the third part of his Theoretisch-praktische Anleitung zum Orgelspielen of 1839.²¹
In practical terms Schneider discusses the

In practical terms Schneider discusses the three modes of pedaling and provides exercises for each, but, like Knecht, he concludes that "the mixed method, which always selects according to circumstances from each particular one that which is most appropriate, is the best."²²
Schneider also discusses in some detail

Schneider also discusses in some detail the technique for substitution, in both manuals and pedals, in order to produce a smooth and continuous legato, "the principal thing to be attended to is that the progression of each single part be not injured in its connection, wherefore in fingering especial care must be taken that this be not lost sight of; this is properly speaking the first principle." All this was some 30 years before Lemmens's Ecole d'orgue, and certainly Schneider was not the first to argue

One final point, regarding Schneider, since it is endemic to virtually all tutors of the period. Simultaneously, it is also one of the central issues that distinguishes the organist of the Romantic era from the organist of Bach's time: namely the relationship of the performer to his instrument and the relationship of the performer to his audience.

For Bach and his contemporaries the organ was an instrument dedicated to God, and the organist's performance or his interpretation of a chorale represented an expression of faith, articulated in musical terms. In the Romantic era, however, that relationship between artist and divinity shifted signifi-

cantly. It was now the task of the organist, as Kittel and other organ pedagogues put it, "to speak to the hearts and intellects of those present, not with words but with musical sounds. The organist should entially the same stance. It is now seen as the organist's duty to establish and maintain a relationship with his audience, whereas eardeavor to prepare, maintain, and fix this serious mood in the souls of those present."24 Schneider, Rinck, and others take essenperformer seeks to edify and to be evocative, he further runs the risk of transforming the organ into a utilitarian instrument.

Schneider's Handbook is one of the most reasoned and lucid of the tutors that apradical one: from a theocentrically oriented position in the 18th century to an anthropocentric position in the 19th. And now, as the lier the organist's relationship had been ex-clusively with God. Thus the change was a

peared in the first half century, a period in which the appearance of organ tutors grew from a trickle to a torrent—as can be seen from the appended list.

Nonetheless, there is plenty of wheat among the chaff, and the place he occupies in 19thand necessity, he unfortunately produced far more than his native gifts could sustain. writer, driven simultaneously by ambition and necessity, he unfortunately produced nence in the organ world. An indefatigable gradually attained—more through industry than genius—a position of remarkable emigogy in the first half century as did Rinck. Rising from the most humble beginnings, he gradually attained—more through industry mantic era was a more commited exponent of his art than Johann Christian Heinrich Rinck. Nor did the work of any other writer so clearly dominate the field of organ pedaassured century Certainly no organ pedagogue of the Roorgan music is both deserved and

ganisten (Op. 82) in 1827, then the First Three Months at the Organ (Op. 121, 1838), and finally, the Theoretisch-praktische Anleitung zum Orgelspielen (Op. 124), which began to appear the same year (though the manuscript had been completed in 1832). as well. The first of his didactic works was the Praktische Orgelschule (Op. 55), pub-lished between 1819 and 1821. This was fol-lowed by his Vorschule für angehende Orinto the forefront of organ pedagogy, not only in Germany, but in France and England tal of four tutors that together propelled him Between 1819 and 1839 Rinck wrote a to-

text never succeeded in locating a copy). Later in the century W.T. Best brought out an editranslated it into English (though him greatest fame. Of all four tutors it was the first that won im greatest fame. It was translated into rench in 1828, and in 1835 Samuel Wesley which became the standard English I have

but let me cite only three: first, the Praktische Orgelschule was Rinck's Opus 55; he had been publishing his organ works since fill recognized as a teacher and as a composer of organ music that was attractive and lay others gained such tance. There are, I heritage had been hopelessly tainly enhanced his public and professional through his teacher, Kittel of relatively within the technical capacity of a large body Looking at the Praktische Orgelschule one succession to J.S. -a full quarter century; he was already though by 1819 the potency of that why this are, I unskilled players particular wide and lasting accepthink, several Bach, he claimed apostutor over all which Secondly reasons

> match. tische Anleitung. A total of 544 people subscribed to a staggering total of 987 copies. By any standards that makes it a best-seller and undoubtedly an achievement no other gogical persuasion. Moreover, his exercises were appropriate and his examples pleasing. One measure of Rinck's popularity can where others succumbed to an alleged German inclination to prolixity, Rinck did not lies, I think, in Rinck's uncharacteristic reti-cence. Quite simply, it was not wordy; organ tutor before or probably since could be had by glancing at the list of subscribers for his final work, the Theoretisch-prokjunctively by any teacher of whatever pedawhich meant that his text could be used third reason why the Praktische Orgelschule have succeeded where others didn't did not,

schule had been reserved, the Anleitung is expansive, and it contains a wealth of informative material. Indeed, it is one of the most comprehensive sourcebooks for 19thbe the other way around century organ performance practices that I know. It also contains some of Rinck's most ingenious studies—including a remarkable Praktische Orgelschule. One wishes it might he the other way around. Where the Orgelleitung is much Unfortunately less known today than the and curiously, the An-

set of 17 variations on the C-major scale. In the course of his long career Rinck attracted a multitude of students, and a number of them, such as Julius Katterfeldt, Georg Vierling, and Friedrich Kühmstedt, went on to distinguish themselves in the field of church music. Adolf Friedrich Hesse only five months-he was 19 at the time. also made the pilgrimage to Darmstadt in October 1828, but he studied with Rinck for

tent but not virtuoso organists. Gradually, however, with the ascendency of music conservatories, the emphasis came more and the training of church musicians, of competent but not virtuoso organists. Gradually also one of the last who was not associated more to be placed on developing virtuoso with a specific institute or conservatory. teacher, Rinck's prime concern was with Rinck was unquestionably one of the lead-ag Organistenmacher of his time; he was

in Leipzig in April 1843. It was the brainchild of Felix Mendelssohn, and he served as its unnamed director through its formative years. Very shortly after Leipzig, conservatories were also established in other major urban centers such as Munich, Berlin, Dresden, and Frankfurt. The conservatories tracted The first conservatory in Germany opened goals were essentially different, and they atnever replaced the church music institutes; it was never intended that they should; their a different student body

The impact of the conservatories on organ studies was both considerable and farsince first and foremost, he umusician. At the same time, servatory in Germany was nurtured into being by Mendelssohn was entirely in keeping with the composer's character and outlook, and funded by the state. That the first conreaching. In the first place the conservatory was a wholly secular institution, founded the German conservatory system was also an organist of virtuoso caliber. gan studies were planted early and Thus the seeds for the secularization he was a secular however, l of or-leep in

One of the great advantages of the conservatories was that the organists of this new generation were once again assimilated into the larger fraternity of musicians. While the

> quently to a healthy diversity of opinion and approach. Again, it represented the Romantic emphasis on artistic and social integradent tion. the conservatory program exposed the stu-dent to a variety of teachers, and conseemphasis may still have been, of necessity technical brilliance. working toward a professional career in per-formance, and all competing to acquire ists, with other instrumentalists: pianists, violin 151 on preparation for a career in church music was now thrown into flutists, all roughly of the same age, all Still more important, the young organclose interaction the stu-

with composers kept up by supplying a whole new literature for the instrument that was both artistically reputable and technically demanding. Liszt's Ad nos was written in 1850, his B-A-C-H in 1855, and Reubke comerywhere. Small wonder, then, that organists too were emboldened to take up the challenge. Small wonder, also, that as ora raft of others regularly filled halls of all the major German Chopin. ganists developed virtuoso techniques spring of 1857. Just eleven years earlier, Rinck had died. Measured in musical terms, pleted his drive for virtuosity was in the air-Germany in the 1830s and '40s was awash ith virtuosos. Pianists such as Liszt, Thalberg, Tausig, Kalkbrenner, and Sonata on the 94th Psalm in the d the concert n cities. The -it was ev-

the two events happened light years apart. From the very outset the German conservatories attracted a highly gifted and highly motivated international student body. George Babcock of Boston, son of the piano builder, Alpheus Babcock, was enrolled in the first class of the Leipzig Conservatory when it opened in 1843, and 15 years later Arthur Sullivan and Dudley Buck were classmates in the class of 1858. This examthought and practice. With rare exceptions until about 1840 the musical traffic between England, Europe, and the United States had been one-way. From about mid-century on-American musicians, including organists, into the mainstream of European musical as pedagogical meccas for musicians from around the world. They also served to bring American musicians, including organists, ple illustrates in nuce one of the most significant contributions of the German conserva-tories; throughout the century they served best teachers ward, however, traffic the opposite direction, musical training firsthand American musicians decided to as more and began to move get their Europe's l more

cians, ists, w rope's most talented, with cally, in order to align themselves with American musical standards rose In practical terms native American musis, whether organists, pianists, were now forced to compete compete with the result that or violin-

servatories that sprang up from the 1860s onward. A glance at Matthews's Hundred Secondly, the German conservatories became the models for the new American conropean standards

servatories to German models.
The practice of music and Years of Music in America²⁵ more than confirms the indebtedness of American con-

The practice of music, specifically organ music, in the 19th century from Rinck to Reger underwent a series of draconian ger underwent a su Reger lay a period in which the ground rules of both theory and performance were in conphonic efforts of Kittel, Rinck, the cyclopean contrapuntal the cyclopean unpretentious homoand Co.,

century there are yet a few who can speak with firsthand knowledge of their work with Reger or Straube, but that will not long be the case. While still possible, these remaining voices of our collective memory should be systematically and exhaustively interperformance practice in the 19th century are still in their infancy. For the turn of 20th portant point is that studies in organ dency both here and abroad to play Men-delssohn as if it were early Widor. The im-Ritter all represent somewhat different approaches, and Lemmens is often at odds century German organ music today with rel-ative confidence, the substructure on which that confidence rests may be less secure than we might imagine. Schneider, Töpfer, and viewed and videotaped with all of them. Yet there is a frequent ten

plored. Here vast repositories of information still await even the most superficial examination. Such standard texts as Kittel's Angehender praktischer Organist or Rinck's Praktische Organist have long since century organ tutors is certainly one of the richest blessings that age could have left us—and one that urgently needs to be ex-For the earlier part of the century and be-fore, we must rely primarily on the organ tu-tors. And here, the abundance of 19thhave become shibboleths of the profession yielded up the bulk of their substance; they

where at name. 11010 cooperations of fresh insights, it also affords the opportunity to participate it also affords the opportunity to knowledge organ pedagogy. Here the potential for new knowledge and understanding lies everyin that never-ending quest for knowle that ultimately lies at the heart of the the still unplowed terrain of 19th-century Spirit. other tutors, however, constitute

ZOTES:

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1966), p. 1.
3. John C. Blankenagel, "The Dominant Characteristics of German Romanticism," PMLA lv,1 (March 1940), p Ö PMLA lv,1

1989 Justin Heinrich Knecht, Vollständige Orgel-schule für Anfänger und Geübtere (Leipzig: Breitkopf, 1795-98). Facsimile reprint, ed. Martin Ladenburger (Wiesbaden: Breitkopf & Härtel,

century and were in common use by the time of Rinck and Schneider. Peter Krams (Wechselwirkungen zwischen Orgelkomposition und Pedalspieltechnik [Wiesbaden: Breitkopf & Härtel, 1974], p 106) implies—incorrectly—that Türk ("p. 58 [sic]," actually p. 158) used these terms in his Duties of an Organist (1787).

7. Most prominent of those who differed from this position was Friedrich Wilhelm Schütze (#61), 6. Ibid., I, p. 43-53. The terms "natural" or "simple" (naturlich or einfach), "artful" or "artificial" (kunstvollk or künstlich), and "mised" (vermischt) were not used by Knecht (nor by Kittel or J.G. Werner [#71]). Nonetheless, these designations seem to have originated about the turn of the

modes (Handbuch zu der praktischen Orgelschule Leipzig: Arnold, 1858⁴, p. 63). position was Friedrich Wilhelm Schutze (#61), whose text remained in print for at least a half century. Schutze advocated the use of all toes as "the most natural, simple, and certain" of the various ipzig: Arnold, 1858", p. 63). Johann Christian Kittel, Der angehende praktis:

Maring, 1801), I, Ā

6: "Übergieb da Dein ganzes Wesen den Eindrücken der schönen Natur um Dich her und wage drücken der schönen Natur um Dich her und wage de igeheimnißvollen Gesetze zu entziffern, nach welchen diese große Meisterin seit Ewigkeiten in dem Wesen der Dinge waltet."

9. Charles S. Brown, "The Art of Chorale-

9. Charles S. Brown, "The Art of ChoralePreluding and Chorale Accompaniment as Presented in Kittel's Der angehende praktische Organist." Dissertation, Eastman School of Music,
1970, pp. V. VI.

10. Kittel, III, p. 95.

11. Max Schipke, "Geschichte des Akademischen
Instituts für Kirchenmusik in Berlin," Feetschrift
zur Feier des hundertjährigen Bestehens der
stautlichen Akademie für Kirchenmusik in Berlin
(Berlin, 1922), p. 7.

12. Josef Müller-Blattau, "Über Erziehung,
Bildung and Fortbildung der Organisten," Bericht
über die Freiburger Tagung für Deutsche Orgelkunst vom 27. bis 30. Juli 1926, ed. W. Gurlitt
(reprint, Kassel: Bärenreiter, 1973), p. 105.

13. August Wilhelm Bach (1796-1869) never
claimed relationship to J.S. Bach, and at most he
may have been collaterally related to the Thuringian Bach family.

14. Arnold Schering, "Das öffentliche Mu-

dung des Leipziger Konservatoriums,'' Festschrift zum 75-jdhrigen Bestehen des königlichen Konsersikbildungswesen in dung des Leipziger K Arnold Schering, 'Das öffentliche ildungswesen in Deutschland bis zur (" das Laivviour Konservatoriums,' Fests der Musik zu Leipzig (Leipzig: Siegel Festschrift zur Grün-

1918), p. 71.

15. Ibid.
16. Ibid., p. 73.
17. Carl Freudenberg, Aus dem Leben eines alten Organisten (Leipzig: Leuckert, 1872, p. 30.
18. Friedrich Schneider, Handbuch des Organisten (Leipzig: Hofmeister, 1829/30), #57; Theoretical and Practical Instruction for the Organ, trans. Charles Flaxman (London: Novello, 1837).
19. Gotthold Frotscher, Geschichte des Orgelspiels und der Orgelkomposition (Berlin-Schönbeberg: Hesse, 1936), II, p. 1127.
20. Schneider/Flaxman, p. 77. Flaxman's translation elichtic companyment.

21. Johann Christian Heinrich Rinck, Theoretischproktische Anleitung zum Orgelspiel (Darmstadt: Diehl, 1839), III, p. 2: "Hei dme Bestreben, den Choral mit Ausdruck zu spielen, hat jedoch der Organist sich sorgfältig vor aller musikalischen Malerei zu hüten" (In his endeavor to play the chorale with expression, the organist must be particularly on his guard to avoid all musical tion slightly paraphrased here 21. Johann Christian Heinrich

painting).

22. Schneider/Flaxman, p. 53. By Rinck's and Schneider's time these terms had become accepted parlance. See footnote 6. Flaxman translates, using the English term "artificial," which is slightly less felicitous than "artful."

23. Ibid, p. 14. Schneider's Italics.

24. Kittel, I, p. 4. Brown's translation (p. 48). See also footnote 9.

25. A Hundred Years of Music in America, ed. W.S.B. Matthews (Chicago: Howe, 1889), especially charter YVIII pp. 440. "Testitutions for

W.S.B. Matthews (Chicago: Howe, 1889), as cially chapter XVIII, pp. 410–48, "Institutions the Higher Musical Education." espe-ons for

Unless otherwise noted, all translations German are my own. from the

PEDAGOGICAL HANDBOOKS ORGAN TUTORS AND

A Preliminary Checklist

are notoriously sketchy. Even such standard reference tools as Whistling, Hofmeister, etc., made little prefense at inclusivity, but were quite selective about what they chose to include in their annual bibliographies. Moreover, organ tutors, like school texts, were generally regarded as ephemera; once their usefulness had been outlived, they were discarded. Consequently, the serious dearth of original tutors that have survived. several times, most recently in June 1990. Nevertheless, it does not pretend to completeness, nor, at this stage, total accuracy. German publication records for musical scores and tutors prior to 1910 Jahrhunderts in Deutschland (Regensburg: Bosse, 1941). It has been revised, expanded, and updated The following list was developed from a bibliography compiled by Michael Schneider and published in his Die Orgelspieltechnik des frühen 19.

> Any information regarding tutors not included in this list, or identification of errors, or any information on the whereabouts of tutors (other than the most familiar) cited in this list would be most welcome and greatly appreciated

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Wm. A. Little is professor of German at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. Dr. Little located the "lost" organ works of Mendelssohn and has edited that composer's complete organ works in five volumes for Novello & Co.