

## **Schnitger – Stade – digital**

### **Metamorphosis of an Organ**

In the classical performance of an organist, there are normally musical scores (e.g. of Bach or Widor) and instruments (e.g. an organ of Schnitger, Cavallé-Coll) for an adequate interpretation. Now you can adapt Bach to the French organ, Widor to the organ of Schnitger. A fundamental transformation of a traditional performance has taken place here. The present computer with its completely innovative possibilities is the instrument of this transformation. The instrument, here the organ of Stade, is digitized, the musical text is fed into the computer with the purpose of "interpretation". The computer works with the digitized organ and its registers and with the notes of the musical text by algorithms which produce always other results than the correct execution of the musical text and of the registration which is usually required. These results never aim at perfection, but they are always searching for possibilities of mutations using changes in the structure of the tones, the rhythm, the assignment of the manuals and the stops.

Maybe the results have a strange effect, but they show one of the principles of nature, aimed not at perfection and completion but at a combination of available elements always newly being reordered. The organ as a closed, addressable instrument is perfectly qualified for these algorithmic processes, executed by the computer. Hereby an original is substituted in the same way as the organ with its stops has substituted the sound possibilities of the classical instruments (e.g. Crumhorn) ranging up to the human voice (Vox Humana).