

Schnitger – Stade

Bach and Schnitger in the Underworld: Mutations

Underlying these pieces, one can say almost distant, is the hand- and foot-gripping instrument of the well-known Schnitger organ in Stade. Until now, this instrument had behind it the creation and the history that led to certain changes in the work. In this century something new happened: the concrete pipe material was transferred into a digital number sequence. The mediator is the new instrument: the computer. It has not only digitized the instrument but also note values of classical, in this case Bach's works. The pipes and the notes are now available to the computer for creative processing. "Algorithms" are imposed on it, the structure of which is composed in the computer itself.

All this has happened here with Bach's F Toccata and Bach's Prelude in B minor. The variations of the above mentioned kind could be continued quasi infinitely, in addition also mutations of the so-called register and the manual distribution. Completely new combinations arise from the given starting material.