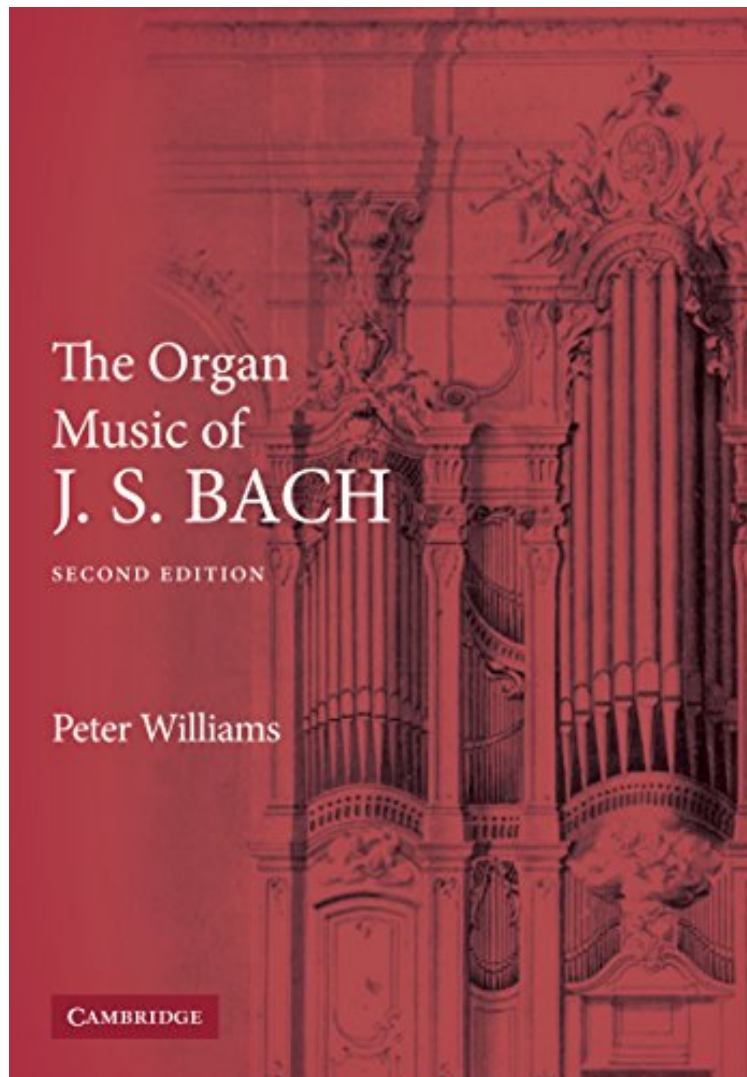


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The Organ Music of J. S. Bach

Peter Williams

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Peter Williams : The Organ Music of J. S. Bach before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Organ Music of J. S. Bach:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Great ScholarshipBy Edward GreeneThis is an exhaustive and comprehensive account of Bach's organ music -- all of it, every single piece that can be accounted for. Peter Williams begins with BWV 525, the organ sonata in E-flat major and the first piece in the order of the Bach Werke Verzeichnis and goes through every piece in numerical order. It's really a reference book, so don't try to slog through it from cover to cover. It's easy to look up a specific item if you know the BWV number. If you don't, prepare yourself for a long search, because there is no index of individual titles. There are helpful introductions to different types of pieces, group by group -- the trio sonatas, preludes and fugues, concertos, chorale settings, etc. The discussion of each individual

piece begins with its manuscript and publication history. (Surprisingly little of Bach's organ music exists in autograph -- some of the pieces have come down to us only as copies of copies.) Then comes a description of the piece's musical content, with copious illustrations and examples. These are especially helpful in quoting all the chorale tunes which Bach used. The first copy which came in the mail was seriously defective: the binding was split and pages were coming loose. But as soon as I let know, they promptly sent a replacement which was in perfect condition. I'm a happy customer. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Must have for organists performing Bach By Organist/Grandma If you are a serious performing organist you need all three volumes of this work. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Emil If you are an organ student or a professional organist you should read this book

This is a completely revised 2003 edition of volumes I and II of *The Organ Music of J. S. Bach* (1980), a bestselling title, which has subsequently become a classic text. This edition takes account of Bach scholarship of the 25 years prior to publication. Peter Williams's piece-by-piece commentary puts the musical sources of the organ works in context, describing the form and content of each work and relating them to other music, German and non-German. He summarises the questions about the history, authenticity, chronology, function and performance of each piece, and points out important details of style and musical quality. The study follows the order of the Bach catalogue (BWV), beginning with the sonatas, then the 'free works', followed by chorales and ending with the doubtful works, including the 'newly discovered chorales' of 1985.

'... indispensable to all organists and Bach-lovers ... any player will benefit from the greater understanding of the music a study of these volumes will provide.' *Brio* ... far more accurate, comprehensive and stimulating than any earlier account of its topic ... a magnificent step forward in the field of Bach organ literature.' *Notes* About the Author Peter Williams (1937-2016) was an internationally renowned Bach scholar and performer. He held the first Chair in Performance Practice in Britain at the University of Edinburgh, where he was Director of the Russell Collection of Harpsichords and latterly Dean of Music. He was also the first Arts and Sciences Distinguished Chair at Duke University, North Carolina. He was the author of many books, including *Bach, Handel, Scarlatti 1685-1985* (Cambridge, 1985), *The Life of Bach* (Cambridge, 2003) and *J. S. Bach: A Life in Music* (Cambridge, 2007).