

# *Preface*

This collection of short organ pieces is intended either for use in church services or for study purposes. Like my other recent collections of relatively easy to play organ music (the 15 Little Preludes and Fugues and the 30 Chorale Preludes), this volume strives to offer organists pieces for practical use and to introduce inexperienced organists to a primarily polyphonic style and an harmonically advanced, but still tonal idiom.

## *Form*

The 24 pieces collected here are grouped in 8 "Suites" of 3 pieces, each consisting of a Prelude, an Interlude and a Postlude. The Preludes can be used for meditative play before the service, or during the service, whenever there's a need for solo organ music. The Interludes are suitable as intonations before a choir piece or as short "fillers". The Postludes are meant for the end of the service, as festive closing pieces.

The Preludes and Interludes are mostly of an intimate nature, with slow tempi and soft dynamics. The Postludes are, as required of festive "Sorties", fast and loud - with one notable exception: the last Postlude, which is intended for funeral services, and which quotes the Gregorian antiphon "Lux Aeterna".

All 8 Suites can be used as little concert pieces too. Seen in this light, they can be regarded as miniature versions of my 3-movements Organ Sonatas, which are written using the same compositorial techniques as the present pieces, but on a much larger scale.

## *Performance*

The notation has been kept sober, with no indication of phrasing or articulation. That doesn't mean the music allows no variation in articulation, but the player is warned not to over-articulate. Since this volume of music contains far fewer neo-baroque elements and employs more of a romantic/impressionist style than its predecessors, a flowing legato style is in place here. As a way of self-limitation, I didn't use any note values smaller than an eighth note (quaver). One is reminded of the "15 Little Preludes and Fugues", where the same principle is applied.

The music generally requires an organ with 2 manuals and pedal, but many pieces can be played on a single-manual organ as well.

Dynamic indications are not to be regarded as absolute. "Piano" means a broad range between ppp and mp, and in the Postludes, dynamics up to fff can be used (Organo Pleno) rather than the indicated plain "forte". It all depends on the type of organ and the occasion.

In the Preludes and Interludes, the use of "mp", contrasting with "p" indicates the use of a solo voice, which should not dominate the other voices, but rather provide a contrasting, slightly more penetrating tone color.

I hope organists will find this music useful and worthy to be added to their repertoire.

Valkenburg, the Netherlands  
On the feast of Martha, Mary and Lazarus  
July 29, 2014

Rob Peters