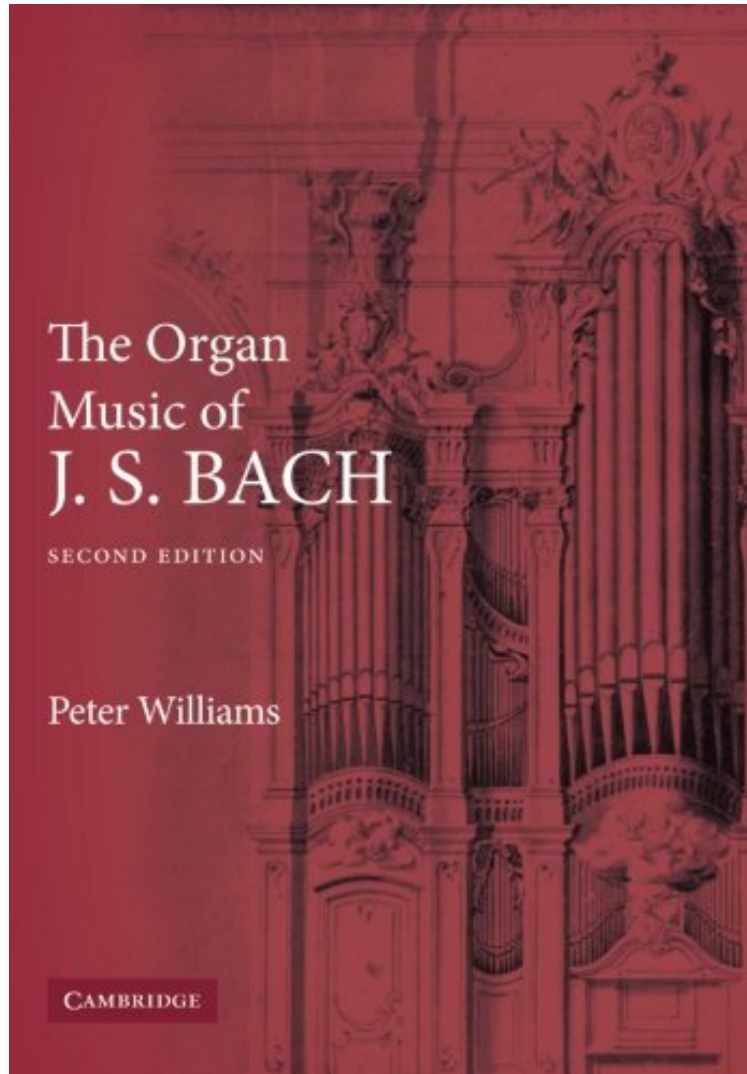


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## The Organ Music of J. S. Bach

*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 Emi If you are an organ student or a professional organist you should read this book

Taking account of Bach scholarship of the past twenty-five years, the first two volumes of Peter Williams's classic study of Bach's organ works are fully revised. This work is a piece-by-piece commentary on this ever-popular repertoire, demonstrating the music's unique qualities and how we might hear and play it today. The book follows the order of the Bach catalog (BWV): beginning with the sonatas, followed by the "free works" and the chorales, and ending with the doubtful works, including the "newly discovered chorales" of 1985.

"This masterful revision of a book first published in 1980 confirms Peter Williams's towering status in the field. The book is a wonderful reference and guide for the performer and scholar alike." Times Literary Supplement, Martin J. Smith "This work belongs in every organist's library. The analysis progresses in order of the BWV listings, and every work is thoroughly examined in light of the most recent and highest scholarship. The foundation of every organist's repertoire is Bach, and this work will shed some new light and perhaps provide new interpretive inspiration on many familiar works." - Music Educators Journal, "For Your Library" About the Author Peter Williams (1937-2016) was an internationally renowned Bach scholar and performer. He was Professor of Performance Practice and the first Director of the Russell Collection of Harpsichords at the University of Edinburgh, Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor at Duke University, North Carolina, and John Bird Professor at the University of Wales, Cardiff. He wrote numerous books on the organ, organ history and organ repertoire. The first edition of *The Organ Music of J. S. Bach* was published in 1980 (Volumes 1 and 2) and 1984 (Volume 3).