

THE AMERICAN ORGANIST

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THE ORPHEUS OF AMSTERDAM: Sweelinck and His Pupils. Gail Archer, organist. III/41 Fisk organ (1981) of Houghton Chapel, Wellesley College. Cala CACD88043. Known as "the maker of Hamburg organists," Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck was the primary influence in a school of organ playing and composition that culminated in the work of J.S. Bach. Two of Sweelinck's most gifted pupils were Samuel Scheidt and Heinrich Scheidemann. This colorful, lively program features works by all three masters, including the *Toccata in C*, *Malle Sijmen*, and a monumental *Ricercar* (Sweelinck), *Echo ad manuals duplex, forte & lene* and *Variations on Est-ce Mars* (Scheidt), and *Magnificat VII toni* (Scheidemann). Gail Archer's ebullient enthusiasm for this music is clearly evident. She elicits the technical brilliance, humor, and earthly and spiritual qualities inherent in the music. Her program reflects the prominent compositional techniques of the era: toccata-fantasy, echo effects, variation, thematic transformation, chorale setting, and secular song and dance settings. The celebrated Fisk at Wellesley is the ideal instrument for this repertoire. The symbiotic partnership of performer and instrument brings this ancient music to life in the 21st century.

- James Hildreth, *The American Organist*