

Italian Organ Masters

Sergio de Pieri

The organ of
Toorak Uniting Church,
Melbourne, Australia

move

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de Pieri

Major master organist Sergio de Pieri takes us through an enjoyable and authoritative account of minor masters. We are treated to a wide range of emotional contrasts – from happy 16th century dances, through reflective canzonas to the more austere ricercari, via a chirpy Zipoli pastorale and the ever popular *Aria detto Balletto* of Frescobaldi. An excellent introduction to early Italian organ music.

1 Giovanni Gabrieli (1557-1612)

Fantasia del 6° tono 2'56"

2 Giovanni Gabrieli

Ricercare del 10° tono 4'28"

3 Anon.

16th century dances 3'23"

Ocelino, bel ocelino / Le forze d'hercole / Fusi pavana piana / Saltarello del Re

4 Domenico Zipoli (1688-1726)

Toccata All'Elevazione 4'20"

5 Girolamo Cavazzoni (1525-1560)

Hymnus – Christe Redemptor omnium 2'53"

6 Andrea Gabrieli (c1515-1586)

Toccata del x tono

7 Domenico Zipoli

Pastorale 3'41"

8 Girolamo Frescobaldi (1583-1643)

Aria detto Balletto 4'40"

9 Andrea Gabrieli

Canzon Francese detta Martin Menoit 3'31"

10 Giovanni Battista Martini (1706-1784)

Toccata per il "Deo Gratias" / Largo / Toccata in C 8'27"

Produced by Martin Wright and Douglas Lawrence
Photographs by Howard Birnstihl

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Sergio de Pieri was born in Treviso in 1932. He graduated from the Conservatorium of Music Benedetto Marcello, Venice with a diploma in organ and composition.

He came to Australia in 1962 and taught organ at the University of Melbourne Faculty of Music for ten years. In 1963 he was appointed organist of St Patrick's Cathedral, and was chiefly responsible for reviving local interest in the organ and its true repertoire. In the early '70s he founded the Festival of Organ and Harpsichord in Melbourne, a musical event which continued until 2005 as the Melbourne Autumn Music Festival.

In 1972 Sergio de Pieri returned to Italy, teaching at the Conservatorium of Music Benedetto Marcello in Venice, and was appointed chief organist of Santa Maria Gloriosa die Frari Cathedral. He has also been involved in an intensive concert circuit which has taken him to the USA, Australia and Europe including the Eastern bloc countries. His recitals are received warmly by the public and critics. He is artistic director of the Organs of the Ballarat Goldfields Festival.

The organ of the Toorak Uniting Church, Melbourne, is heard here for the first time on record. It was built in 1978-9 by Peter Collins of Redbourn, St Albans, England. The interment is divided on either side of the south window: the pedal organ (which boasts a 32 foot reed stop) is behind the led hand case, while the swell is at the base and great at the top of the right hand case (seen in the photograph). There are two manuals, 34 stops, 46 ranks, and mechanical action. The casework, made from Brazilian cedar, is embellished with pipe shades carved in sugar pine and designed by English artist John Brennan.



... a most enjoyable and authoritative account by a master, Sergio de Pieri ... we are treated to a wide range of emotional contrasts – from happy 16th century dances, through reflective canzonas to the more austere ricercari, via a chirpy Zipoli pastorale and the ever-popular Aria detto Balletto of Frescobaldi. This recording can be thoroughly recommended as an excellent introduction to early Italian organ music.

*Paul Singleton,
Victorian Organ Journal, 1982*