

The Organ Symphonie – Germaine Labole

Germaine Labole, (1896-1942)

Labole was a student of Marcel Dupré, and was organist of St. Martial in Bordeaux, France. She wrote one Symphonie (Bornemann) for organ, in b-minor – a difficult but beautiful work. There are four movements: Prélude, Fugue, Aria and Final. In true French tradition, one theme runs through the entire work, changing slightly but still recognizable. This kind of writing gives the work strength, unity and cohesion. The theme first appears in the opening measures of the Prélude:



in the Fugue, it changes to 4/4 time, altered rhythmically, and is slightly extended:



in the Aria, the theme is not explicitly stated, but the melodic cell of the first 3 notes of the theme appears regularly in the accompaniment. The theme returns recognizably in the Final over and over and in many different ways – some recognizable from listening, others by analysis:

In the very opening measures of the introduction:



Repeatedly in the accompanimental figure:



Finally in the major on the last page:



As far as I know, this symphonie has not been commercially recorded, so as part of the research I have prepared a recording. At the time of the writing of this entry, a MP3 recording of the entire work could be accessed at:

http://toccata-duo.typepad.com/toccata/labole_germaine/index.html

This site is a LEGAL repository of private recordings of organ music. The site's owner pays royalties based on the number of downloads, so the copyright owners are getting their fair share. Further information about this procedure can be obtained here:

<http://toccata-duo.typepad.com/toccata/2005/02/index.html>

Please address any corrections to this entry or send further information on Germaine Labole to me at [gigwro \(at\) adelphia.net](mailto:gigwro@adelphia.net)