J. K. F. Fischer

Chaconne in F

Edited for
two-manual organ
with pedals by
John Zielinski
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Johann Kaspar Ferdinand Fischer (c.1656 – August 27, 1746) was considered one of the finest keyboard composers of his day. Handel and Bach held him in considerable esteem – high praise indeed! *The Well-Tempered Clavier* undoubtedly draws some of its inspiration from Fischer's *Ariadne musica*, a collection of preludes and fugues.

Unfortunately, most of Fischer's keyboard music is lost, but one piece that has thankfully survived and established itself in the standard repertoire is the *Chaconne in F*. My edition arranges the piece between two manuals and adds some pedaling. The Baroque organs of southern Germany during this period were quite humble compared to their grandiose northern cousins. Even the largest southern organs rarely possessed more than two manuals, a handful of principal ranks, perhaps one reed, and a short pedal board with a sixteen-foot flute and the ability to couple the Hauptwerk division to the pedals.

For that reason, I've kept the registration quite simple, adding the pedals in a few discrete places where depth of sonority seemed appropriate. The South German school favored melodic grace and harmonic clarity, drawing its inspiration from French and Italian aesthetics. This music has a lightness of being that requires a lightness of registration.

---John Zielinski, 11/8/2020