St John's College Chapel, Cambridge - 1.10pm

Thierry Mechler

The Programme

Symphonie No 8 in B minor, Op 42 No 4

Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937) In its scale and its technical difficulty, Widor's Symphonie No 8 is one of the pinnacles of the organ repertory, worthy of comparison, as one writer put it, with Beethoven's Hammerklavier Sonata and Liszt's Sonata in B minor. The last of the four symphonies of 1887, it opens with a wide-



ranging and dramatic sonata form movement with a mighty development section and an irregular recapitulation. This is answered first by a more intimate moderato cantabile, in which the melodic line is accompanied by broken chords on the voix celeste, and then by a scherzo-like allegro. The theme of the subsequent variation movement appears first in the pedals and is developed with great contrapuntal ingenuity. An adagio with a restless central section then leads into the final, a movement whose brilliant and spirited writing brings not only this work to a close, but also rounds off the eight

symphonies which are so intimately tied up with Widor's work in his early years at Saint Sulpice in Paris.

The Performer

Born in 1962, Thierry Mechler studied organ with Daniel Roth at Strasbourg. In 1981 he won first prize at the Concours International de Paris, followed by a period of study with Marie-Claire Alain. He also studied the art of improvisation with Jacques Taddei and has won many prizes and awards.

Thierry Mechler is highly regarded as a teacher, and is invited each year to numerous festivals throughout the world. In 1991 he was appointed as titular organist of the Cathedral St Jean in Lyon.

Concert promoted by Cambridge Summer Recitals

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