

**MAX REGER**  
**1878-1916**

**Chorale Fantasia on “Ein’ feste Burg’ ist unser Gott,” Op. 27**

Max Reger is an ultimate transformer of themes. All of his several chorale-based Fantasias have so far stood the test of time as well as have the Lutheran tunes on which they are based. The one on “A mighty fortress” is indeed a fortress, a wall of sound that celebrates the tune as well as Reger’s creativity in transforming it into a complete hymn for organ solo. Reger provides treatment of all phrases of all four stanzas of the hymn (Straube’s edition actually inserts the hymn text where each phrase appears) – in D Major – but Reger occasionally interrupts the proceedings with a heraldic phrase here and there – in B-flat. And as expected with Reger, there is little rest for organ, organist, and listener.