

The American William Humphreys Dayas (1864–1903) studied with Liszt, was friends with Busoni and became a major piano-teacher, spreading the message of Liszt's music to his students in Helsinki, Wiesbaden, Cologne and Manchester, where his short life came to an end. Dayas left only a handful of compositions, but they include two major organ sonatas – passionate, Lisztian works that have remained completely unknown until now. Dayas also arranged for organ the *Thème varié* for piano four hands by another forgotten American composer, Arthur H. Bird (1856–1923), a further important addition to the late-Romantic organ repertoire.



WILLIAM HUMPHREYS DAYAS Organ Music

Organ Sonata No. 1 in F major, Op. 5 (1886)

- 1 I Präludium –
- 2 II Andante –
- 3 III Introduzione (quasi Fantasie):
Poco più Andante –
- 4 IV Fuge (Allegro moderato)

20:55

6:57
5:17
2:38
6:03

Var. 3 Allegro

1:01

Var. 4 Più moderato

1:22

Var. 5 Allegro moderato

1:22

Var. 6 Andante ma non troppo

1:37

Var. 7 Moderato maestoso

1:16

Fuge Moderato

3:54

ARTHUR H. BIRD arr. DAYAS

Thème varié (1889)

- 5 Thema Andante ma non troppo
- 6 Var. 1 Poco allegro
- 7 Var. 2 Poco più allegro

15:15

1:31
1:18
0:54

Organ Sonata No. 2 in C minor, Op. 7 (1888)

30:38

- 14 I Maestoso–Allegro –
- 15 II Adagio–Allegretto–Adagio –
- 16 III Maestoso–Allegro energico –
- 17 IV Fuge (Moderato)–Più allegro–
Allegro–Molto allegro

10:26

6:57

4:11

9:04

Jan Lehtola, Walcker Organ of St John's Church, Helsinki

TT 65:48

FIRST RECORDINGS

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