

*L'Organiste moderne* Louis James  
Alfred Lefébure-Wely



*Marche* (C major);  
*Verset* (F major);  
*Boléro de Concert*  
(Op.166); *Verset* (G  
major); *Sortie* (E flat  
major); *Andante* (Op.122); *Offertoire* (D  
minor); *Noël varié*; *Verset* (D major);  
*Offertoire* (C major); *Pastorale* (C  
major); *Offertoire* (F major); *Pastorale*  
(G major); *Sortie* (B flat major)

Ursula Hauser plays the Ladegast  
organ (1871) in Schwerin Cathedral

Although the combination of  
Lefébure-Wely's music and a German  
Romantic organ may seem rather  
unusual, the result is pleasantly  
surprising. The Ladegast organ at  
Schwerin is, of course, a majestic and

versatile instrument, and Hauser  
draws many effective and imaginative  
tone colours from it to bring these  
pieces to life. Much of the music will  
be well-known to readers, but the  
milder tone colours of this organ,  
compared to the fiery French sounds  
typically associated with Lefébure-  
Wely's music, help overcome some of  
the bombast of the louder pieces. The  
gentler pieces are played with  
considerable charm and exhibit some  
delightful solo stops. The playing is  
assured with a strong sense of the  
character of each piece and highly  
effective use of varied tempi across the  
disc. The accompanying booklet  
contains a lengthy and unapologetically  
positive but well-researched account  
of Lefébure-Wely's life and music and  
makes a cogent argument for its  
performance on this particular style of

instrument. While one's prior opinion  
of Lefébure-Wely is likely to dictate  
reaction to this disc, admirers of his  
music will find much to enjoy here.

**Martin Clarke**