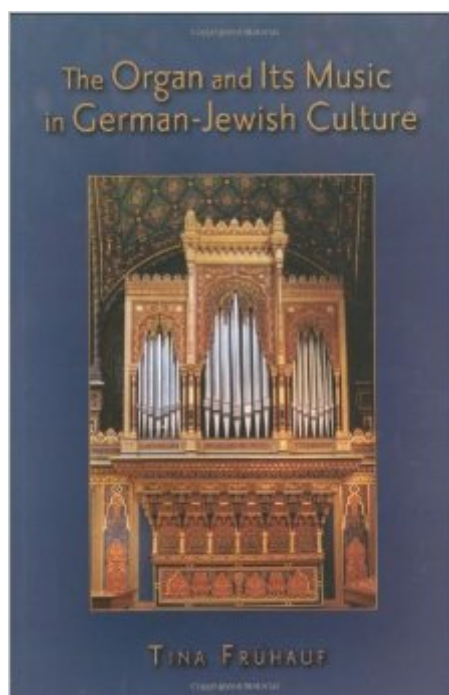


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The Organ And Its Music In German-Jewish Culture



Synopsis

The Organ and Its Music in German-Jewish Culture examines the powerful but often overlooked presence of the organ in synagogue music and the musical life of German-speaking Jewish communities. Tina FrÃ¼hauf expertly chronicles the history of the organ in Jewish culture from the earliest references in the Talmud through the 19th century, when it had established a firm and lasting presence in Jewish sacred and secular spaces in central Europe. FrÃ¼hauf demonstrates how the introduction of the organ into German synagogues was part of the significant changes which took place in Judaism after the Enlightenment, and posits the organ as a symbol of the division of the Jewish community into Orthodox and Reform congregations. Newly composed organ music for Jewish liturgy after this division became part of a cross-cultural music tradition in 19th and 20th century Germany, when a specific style of organ music developed which combined elements of Western and Jewish cultures. Concluding with a discussion of the organ in Jewish communities in Israel and the USA, the book presents in-depth case studies which illustrate how the organ has been utilized in the musical life of specific Jewish communities in the 20th century. Based on extensive research in the archives of organ builders and Jewish musicians, The Organ and Its Music in German-Jewish Culture offers comprehensive and detailed descriptions of specific organs as well as fascinating portraits of Jewish organists and composers. With an extensive companion website featuring full color illustrations and over 200 organ dispositions, this book will be eagerly read by performers, students, and scholars of the organ, as well as students and scholars in historical musicology and Jewish music.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

While it is a bit academic, the subject is something few people are aware of. It will help Jews get over their pre-disposition to dislike the organ and appreciate it for the grand and fabulous instrument it is.

This is a well documented description of a cultural feature that was essentially eliminated. A few escaped, but there must have been many very rich moments. Sound files would be a great addition.

This monograph on a scholarly topic -- the role of the organ in German-Jewish synagogues from the early 19th until the first decades of the 20th century, is a surprisingly revealing study that indirectly captures the emergence of liberal Judaism and the search for Jewish identity in this tumultuous period of German history. So not only musicologist but non-scholars with an interest in how liturgical music can reflect dramatic changes in both religious and secular identity will find this book worthwhile.

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