

MAURICE DURUFLÉ: Requiem and Suite for Organ. Choir of St. Ignatius Loyola, with Nancianne Parrella and Kent Tritle, organists, Kaaren Erickson, soprano, and Arthur Fiacco, violoncello. IV/68 Mander organ (1993). MS 1141 (available from www.saintignatiuslovola.org or www.msacd.com). The essential reviewer's dilemma is this: to put into words what is adequately expressed only in music. There are times when one is tempted to wring one's hands at the attempt to encapsulate what is heard into what one writes. Sometimes one is tempted to simply state, "You must hear this, and nothing else will suffice." Most listeners will never have the opportunity to hear Tritle's group or instrument live. For them, this recording must make do, and it does that very well. The choral part of the *Requiem* is unrivaled; there is not a misplaced breath, vowel, or consonant; there is no subtlety of volume that is not exploited. The organ accompaniment, a fitting partner to the choral parts, is exquisite and here performed sensitively by Parrella. The Mander organ, richly French and immense in scale, is recorded perhaps a bit too closely to take full advantage of the acoustic of the room. Said acoustic is later captured in Tritle's playing of the *Suite*, with its sensuous "Sicilienne" so passionately wrought as to be slightly suspect in this sacred space. All comes together for a sublime musical moment or two (or more) in this production. Don't miss it.

- James Hildreth, *The American Organist*, July 2007