

Ulrike Theresia Wegele

St. Paul's Rock Creek Church, a congregation with a history stretching back to 1712, was the site for a recital by German-born organist Ulrike Theresia Wegele. Her program began and ended with fine performances of major works by Bach: the *Prelude and Fugue in C Major* (BWV 547) and the *Tocatta, Adagio and Fugue in C Major* (BWV 564). Her

performance of the "9/8" prelude had an infectious dance-like sense of rhythm. The fugue, one of Bach's contrapuntal masterpieces, features the techniques of inversion, stretto, and augmentation of the fugue subject—the augmentation saved for the climactic concluding section in which the pedals are finally called into play.

Wegele, who currently resides in Austria, played compositions by two Austrians and one Croatian composer for the middle of her program. The only familiar name among this trio is Anton Heiller, known to American organists for his work as a performer and teacher, but whose work as a composer deserves more attention. A movement from his *In Festo Corporis Christi* was preceded by works by Tibor Nemeth and Franz Zebinger—both completely unknown to this reviewer. Zebinger's colorful work, using an extended

tonal vocabulary, seemed similar to the great organ works of Czech composer Petr Eben.

The recital featured a relatively recent (2004) organ by Lynn Dobson of 21 stops. The church is fairly small and, with a rather tightly packed AGO crowd, was less generous acoustically than one might have wished.

PAUL BARTÉ