

OLIVIER LATRY
Press Notices

AMERICAN REVIEWS

HOUSTON (National Convention of The American Guild of Organists) – “The young organist of Notre-Dame in Paris ... played an exquisite program ... He was assured, controlled, and always allowed the composer’s voice to be heard. Another standing ovation left no doubt as to the enthusiasm of the audience.”

The American Organist

HOUSTON – “[Latry] played with plenty of virtuosic flash, yet he always subordinated his technical wizardry to the music. He projected a beguiling calm that added quiet authority to his interpretations ... elegant virtuosity.”

The Houston Chronicle

LOS ANGELES – “brilliant, rapturously received recital ... culminated with enough razzle-dazzle to bring the audience – consisting of many admiring organists as well as organ aficionados – to its feet. ... consummate artistry ... a superb colorist.”

The Los Angeles Times

COSTA MESA, CA, Segerstrom Center for the Arts – “Latry is the model of the tasteful, lucid French musician, and he has an ear for beautifully shaded color and clean articulation.”

The Los Angeles Times

SEATTLE, Benaroya Concert Hall – “Latry is a master of the organ. Technically impeccable, his playing is notable for expressiveness, dynamic range, the seamlessness of his transitions, and the huge range of tonal color he finds and exploits in the instrument ... an evening in a class of its own.”

Crosscut.com, October 2010

BOSTON – “ORGANIST LATRY’S BOSTON DEBUT IS A TRIUMPH” “No organist comes with more impressive credentials than Olivier Latry.”

The Boston Globe

NEW YORK CITY – “Mr. Latry’s readings were excellent, unhurried yet intense.”

The New York Times

NEW YORK CITY – “... brilliant instrumentalist ... splendidly clear, steady and buoyant Mr. Latry is clearly a superior organist.”

The New York Times

CLEVELAND – “Music, musician and instrument merged harmoniously ... Commanding the console like a magician, [Latry] smoothly blends orchestral colors and shades a wide range of dynamics. So skillful is his registration that the instrument’s 4,041 pipes sing, breathe, phrase and articulate like a magnificent choir. ... He performs with calm control, and from memory. ... The audience was thrilled.”

The Plain Dealer

ATLANTA – “Organists and lovers of organ music flocked in droves to The Cathedral of St. Philip on Tuesday to hear a recital by ... Olivier Latry. The reasons for Latry’s meteoric rise were made clear ... He displayed brilliant technique, allowing him to negotiate obstacles that would send paroxysms of terror through lesser organists.”

The Atlanta Constitution

PORTLAND, ME – “Latry is, quite simply, the finest organist I have ever heard. ... What makes him so special is his clarity. There is no fog of sound. Every note is perfectly clear and released so rapidly that Latry can play Rachmaninoff-like two-hand chord progressions as rapidly as a virtuoso on the piano. He also knows his way around the organ, using stops that are not only unusual, but satisfying and perfectly suited to the music. He has a way of building a crescendo that is inimitable, while his fortissimos shake the foundations of City Hall. ... Latry demonstrated his mastery of improvisation with variations of “Now Thank We All Our God,” which earned a standing ovation from a larger than usual audience.”

Portland Press Herald

KANSAS CITY – “[Latry] certainly played like one of the world’s greatest organists, with disciplined vigor tempered with tenderness, as well as prodigious virtuosity.”

The Kansas City Star

OBERLIN, OH – “Mr. Latry is a master. This concert was organ playing at the highest level one could hear anywhere.”

ClevelandClassical.com, 2010

GREENSBORO, NC – “... brilliant playing ... a remarkable ability to breathe life into his phrases ... Witnessing this creation unfold was an astounding and exhilarating experience.”

Greensboro News & Record

BIRMINGHAM – “... Olivier Latry will be a force in music for a long time to come.”

Birmingham News

LAWRENCE, KS – “Rarely does one hear such effortless technical assurance as that demonstrated ... by Olivier Latry ... But his performances ... also evinced a fine sense of musical shape and an engaging urgency.”

The Kansas City Star

RICHMOND – “Superb, refined playing ... there cannot be any question about this musician’s mastery of the organ.”

Richmond Times-Dispatch

RICHMOND, 1995 Regional Convention, The American Guild of Organists –

“... a stellar performance. After demanding an encore, the audience rewarded this virtuosic performance with a standing ovation.”

Richmond Times-Dispatch

EUROPEAN REVIEWS

“The applause broke out starting from the first chord, with a warmth which speaks volumes about the joy and satisfaction of the public. Olivier Latry ... is truly one of the great hopes of the French contemporary organ.”

La Voix du Nord

“... the interpretation of the young Olivier Latry [was] full of poetry, of leaps, and pungency.”

Le Monde

“... he already possesses an irreproachable technique and gifts of interpretation worthy of a great master of the organ. But above all, he is a totally phenomenal improvisationalist, with unbelievable superior talent and imagination.”

Lahti Organ Festival

RECORDING REVIEWS

The Philadelphia Orchestra, Christoph Eschenbach, conductor, Olivier Latry, organ
Camille Saint-Saëns *Symphony No. 3 “Organ”*, Francis Poulenc *Organ Concerto*,
Samuel Barber *Toccata Festiva* (ONDINE CDE-1094-5)

“...everything is first-rate: the instrument, the orchestra, the hall, the performer, the conductor, and the recording. ... It is as if the Barber has never before been adequately heard. Latry’s performance is stellar; every nuance Dobson has provided is there in his registration and tempos, and it makes clear what Barber had intended. ... It is difficult to praise this lavish production enough; one simply must hear it, and to hear it is to have it. Five of five stars!”

The American Organist

In Spiritum (DG 477 5418GSA) – Organ music of César Franck

“Definitive, informative, persuasive, engaging, intensely musical, flawless ... Words simply cannot begin to do justice to M. Latry’s consummate artistry. He is in the music and the music in him. Every organist and organ enthusiast needs to have this disc to know these works for the first time. Buy it now.”

Organists’ Review, February 2006

“This spiritual journey could not be piloted by a more sympathetic guide than Olivier Latry, titulaire at Notre-Dame, Paris. He brings the full splendour of the cathedral’s romantically voiced organ to bear on a satisfying programme of Franck’s large-scale organ music.”

Gramophone

Midnight at Notre Dame (DG 474 8162)

“Sizzling sounds abound. ... Latry’s mastery of both instrument and repertoire is undeniable. I recommend [“Midnight at Notre-Dame”] to even those who have an aversion to organ discs or transcriptions.”

Gramophone

Oliver Messiaen Complete Organ Works (DG 471 480-2)

“... Olivier Latry plays [the organ of Notre Dame, Paris] as it were a living thing, coloring every nuance, conjuring up every combination requested by Messiaen, enhancing and bringing to life each harmonic and rhythmic twist. Just perfect.”

Organists’ Review

“... Latry once received the considerable accolade of being described as ‘the new Marcel Dupré’ by ... Messiaen. ... finely judged ... thrilling. Completely committed and inspiring performances ...”

Choir & Organ

“... his playing has a contained quality, meticulously phrased and scrupulously graded in attention to details of registration and articulation ... sense of reverence for the music ...”

Gramophone

“... Latry sets the new standard.”

“Oliver Latry also seems completely in synch with the composer’s evolving rhetoric over nearly 60 years’ worth of music.”

Fanfare

“... one is aware of his ability to communicate effortlessly all the nuances of Messiaen’s writing with apparently uncontrived ease.”

Choir and Organ

“Even those of us fortunate enough to have observed Latry at work and to have heard him speak — wondrously impressive in the power of his musicianship though he is — will be freshly awed by this achievement.”

Organists’ Review