

KEN COWAN
Press Notices

CONCERT REVIEWS

LOS ANGELES, CA “Cowan’s performance was stunning. [His] playing displayed understanding of the composer’s intentions and allowed one to hear the beauty of the various families of color on this glorious instrument. There was passion and fire in this virtuosic performance [Max Reger’s fantasia on *Wie schön leucht’ uns der Morgenstern*]. Cowan’s careful and wonderfully sensitive musical interpretation of all the variations, and in particular, the powerful texts of the concluding verses, moved this writer to tears.”

(The 2004 National Convention of the AGO in Los Angeles) *The American Organist*

DALLAS, TX “KEN COWAN SHOWS OFF THE ORCHESTRAL SOUNDS OF NEW ORGAN AT HIGHLAND PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH” “Cowan was at his most dazzling in transcriptions of Mendelssohn’s *Midsummer Night’s Dream Overture* and Liszt’s *Mephisto Waltz No. 1*. Sounds shifted, swelled and diminished in apparently limitless variety, all while Cowan dispatched dizzying arrays of notes.”

Scott Cantrell, The Dallas Morning News

CHICAGO, IL “... one of the most outstanding young organist on the scene today. His unassuming manner and his sure and relaxed technique hide a fiery yet totally musical approach to organ playing.”

The Diapason

PHILADELPHIA, PA “His playing was nothing short of superb.”

The Diapason

CLEVELAND, OH “All in all, this evening was one of the most memorable organ performances we’ve heard in years ...” (2009 National Convention of the Organ Historical Society)

ClevelandClassical.com

BUFFALO “His unassuming demeanor complements the dual nature of his playing – a combination of technical virtuosity and great musical understanding and sensitivity.”

(2004 Organ Historical Society Convention in Buffalo) *The Diapason*

PORTLAND, ME (Regional convention of the American Guild of Organists) “Mr. Cowan’s technical mastery, expressivity, musicality, and sheer brilliance thrilled the convention audience.”

The American Organist

JAMESTOWN, NY “ORGANIST GIVES WORLD-CLASS PERFORMANCE”

The Post-Journal

HAMILTON, ON “... an absolutely stunning recital by Ken Cowan.”

Organ Canada

“... let me assure you that we who heard this recital came away convinced of a glorious future for organ playing.”

The American Organist

KALAMAZOO, MI “COWAN GIVES MAJESTIC LIFE TO PIPE ORGAN”

Kalamazoo Gazette

“[There is] no doubt as to the player’s extraordinary muscle and aptitude.”

The American Organist

RECORDING REVIEWS

The Art of the Symphonic Organist Vol. 1 (JAV 141)

Ken Cowan plays the EM Skinner at the Parish Church of St. Luke in Evanston, IL

“Altogether this is one of the finest compact discs I have heard in some time, and I thoroughly recommend it.”

The Diapason

“This is a ‘must-have’ for those who seek excellence in performance and recording.”

The American Organist

“Ken Cowan’s performances show a good grasp of the musical architecture of the pieces and his perfect command of the registration changes means that colours and textures are seamlessly interwoven.”

Organists’ Review

The Art of the Symphonic Organist Vol. 4 (JAV 166)

Ken Cowan plays the Quimby Pipe Organ at First Baptist Jackson, MS

“Ken Cowan is one of the most brilliant young organists on the scene today. His program and performances here are certainly heroic, tailor made for this instrument, exploiting its seemingly limitless tonal resources. His ‘orchestrations’ of Wagner’s *Overture from Die Meistersinger* rival the original; the final pages are spellbinding in Cowan’s brilliance of execution. ... This is an organ of which the earlier legends of transcription such as Best and Lemare would be proud. Ken Cowan is as apt a candidate as any to inherit their mantle.”

The American Organist, June 2008

“The Quimby organ is a vast beast, but Ken Cowan is able to tame it in a programme that combines virtuosity and drive ... Cowan’s articulation is particularly evident, as is [his] ability to use the many tone colors of the instrument to best effect ... this is difficult stuff, but Cowan makes it sound easy, and very enjoyable ...”

The Organ, November 2007

“[The] Saint-Saëns, Moszkowski and Poulenc selections are arrangements by Cowan and they are splendid ... Cowan’s Poulenc piece flies along with the ease and speed of concert pianists ... an outstanding performance by the young artist.”

American Record Guide

Ken Cowan plays Romantic Masterworks (Raven OAR 903)

“... a virtuosic performance on the IV/110 Schoenstein organ in the First Plymouth Congregational Church in Lincoln Nebraska.” “The program opens with a delightful arrangement by Cowan himself of the Liszt *Mephisto Waltz No. 1*, a favorite of pianists that achieves real freshness with the greater colors of the symphonic organ, and the technical display is just as exciting as on a piano.”

Journal of the Association of Anglican Musicians, May-June, 2009

Ken Cowan plays organ works by Dupré, Roger-Ducasse, Bach, Lemare and Manari (JAV 129)
1930 Skinner organ, Saint Peter's Episcopal Church, Morristown, New Jersey

“When the artist is Ken Cowan, it is a given that the performance will be flawless and satisfying, that the registrations will show off the instrument to its best advantage, and that there will be a wide range of composers represented ... this recording surpasses expectations. Highly recommended.”

The American Organist

Great Organbuilders of America: A Retrospective-Volume 9 (JAV 118)

Ken Cowan plays the EM Skinner at Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church, Detroit Michigan

“I have never heard this performed with more virtuosity, nor with a more apt use of colour ... There is much to return to in this disc ...”

Organists' Review

“Cowan has that innate skill to turn the organ into an orchestra. Highly recommended.”

The Organ

A Midsummer Night's Dream (The Curtis Organ Restoration Society CD141602)

“... awe-inspiring technique ... the phrasing and registrations are superbly evocative.”

Organ Alternatives

“Mr. Cowan's performance has all the bravura and drama of the best orchestral recordings.”

Organ Alternatives