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## THOMAS MURRAY Press Notices

**NEW YORK CITY** “Mr. Murray played this, and the whole program, with almost a conductor’s sense of tempo relationships and long-term pacing. His registrations were apt and had, without ostentation, a bold quality of definition and specificity about them.”

*The New York Times*

**CLEVELAND** “Murray’s elegant playing and astonishingly smooth control of the instrument had the audience out of their seats the moment his hands came off the keys ...”

*ClevelandClassical.com*

**BUFFALO** (Organ Historical Society Convention) “Murray received a richly deserved standing ovation for his expert playing and was able to bring out the best from this somewhat unusually designed and very fundamental-toned organ (Ward Memorial Organ, Central Park UMC).”

*The Diapason*

**CHICAGO** “... a thrilling performance by Thomas Murray ... a perfect match of organ, program and artist. Murray justly received a tumultuous standing ovation.”

*The Diapason*

**BOSTON** “Renowned for his scrupulous attention to color and the mechanics of registration, he communicated the essence of each phrase to an appreciative audience which responded with a standing ovation.”

*The Diapason*

**SAN FRANCISCO** “Murray played ... with a keen sense of style, and technique to burn. He’s more than an organist, he’s an artist.”

*San Francisco Chronicle*

**LOS ANGELES** “In the hands of a Thomas Murray the revival of the Romantic organ repertory, disparaged for several decades by Baroque organ proponents and faddists, seems assured ... his playing and registrations throughout the recital were superlative.”

*The Los Angeles Times*

**TOKYO** “Murray played with exquisite skill and colorful brilliance, together with a dynamism and variety of tempo which convinced the audience they were listening to a master organist ... I have attended several of the Great Organists Series concerts; this was the most impressive and unforgettable.”

*Ongaku no Tomo*

**ATLANTA** “Throughout the recital Mr. Murray displayed that hallmark of the finest musicians: technique equal to the greatest challenges yet placed in the interpretative service of the music. He demonstrated the rare ability to capture the distinctive style of each piece and the imagination to elicit registrations that both enthralled with their coloristic allure and illuminated through their musical appropriateness.”

*The Atlanta Constitution*

**MILWAUKEE** “ORGAN RECITAL IS A BIG SHOW” “... Murray, a calm, quiet sort of performer, left his mark on the music ... it was impossible not to feel the excitement, the splendid show of the recital ... the secret for his success is clear: he’s a thoughtful, careful artist, sure of his music and his technique.”

*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*

(Copland Symphony for Organ and Orchestra) “Delfs, Murray and the orchestra were very much on top of the notes and gave the piece the aggressive energy it requires.”

*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*

**ST. LOUIS** “With a performer, instrument, hall and program of the first order, last night’s concert ... was an occasion, and it ended with the audience on its feet applauding happily.”

*St. Louis Dispatch*

**NEW HAVEN** (Saint-Saëns *Symphony No. 3* with the Philharmonia Orchestra of Yale) “In the final movement Thomas Murray’s performance on the famous Newberry Memorial organ stole the show, culminating in a great apotheosis of sound.”

*New Haven Register*

**SPRINGFIELD, MA** “Using a multitude of colors he captured the essence of the symphonic organ in a masterful and artistic rendition which capped a truly superb recital.”

*The American Organist*

**HAMILTON, ON** “This remarkable performer gives the appearance of playing for himself, yet he’s a communicator par excellence. There are very few players who could not benefit from hearing his extraordinary skill in shaping phrases and in creating from them a momentum that carries a piece from start to finish with never a break in its artistic unity.”

*The American Organist*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** “... the secret of his success as an interpreter lies in his treatment of the organ as a great orchestra. His rendition of Maurice Duruflé’s *Suite, Op. 5*, which closed the concert, was a virtuoso romp that brought the audience to its feet.”

*The Washington Post*

**CLEVELAND, OH** “So natural was his musicality and so secure his technique that the music seemed to play itself.”

*Cleveland Plain Dealer*

## **RECORDING REVIEWS**

Great Organbuilders of America: A retrospective - Vol. 14

Thomas Murray, the Newberry memorial organ, Woolsey Hall, Yale University

“... commanding interpretations of the Mozart *F minor Fantasia*, Reger’s *Introduction & Passacaglia in D* and the Hindemith *First Sonata* from Thomas Murray ...” “... one has the inescapable impression of an enthralling partnership of instrument and player, both at the very peak of their considerable powers.”

*Choir and Organ magazine*

Elgar: Organ Music (Gothic Records)

“Murray’s performance and his handling of the immense resources of the Woolsey Hall organ are beyond superlatives.”

*American Record Guide*

“Ever a thoughtful musician, Thomas Murray approaches his task with seriousness and sensitivity ... As for the performances, they reveal consummate skill and artistry ...”

*High Fidelity*

An Elm Court Musicale (JAV Recordings)

“Thomas Murray’s beautifully judged interpretation ... warmly commended.”

*Organists’ Review*

The Longwood Gardens Organ, Volume 1 (DTR 8305)

“Professor Murray supplies a total workout and establishes himself as a thoroughly witty and entertaining Romanticist. As an icon of the advanced stages of the Romantic revival in organ performance DTR 8305 would be exceptional for its musical integrity and dignity. But in the abstract, Murray supplies rewarding listening in a varied recital which achieves its principal goal to demonstrate an unusual, enjoyable, instrument.”

*Fanfare*

“As usual, Murray is the consummate musician, the organist’s organist ... his towering technique negotiates the most difficult passages with ease, but always serving the music rather than drawing attention to it.”

*The American Organist*

Thomas Murray: Music of Schumann and Mendelssohn (JAV Recordings)

“The hallmark Murray performance traits bring this gorgeous music radiantly alive ... this is music-making of the highest order ...”

*Organists’ Review*