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JAMES KEALEY **Press Notices**

RECITAL REVIEWS:

NASHVILLE, TN

“Kealey played the church’s 136-rank Möller (with additions by Luley), exploring the instrument’s resources tastefully and effectively with a program of Demessieux, Tallis, Howells, Whitlock, Duruflé, and Willan, topped off with Sowerby’s *Carillon* — all played with thoughtful registrations and solid musicianship. Kealey’s record as the 2022 NYACOP first-prize and audience-prize winner and his 2021 inclusion in *The Diapason*’s top ‘20 Under 30’ are obviously well deserved.”

Carl W. Berg, Nashville AGO; appeared in *The American Organist*, August 2026

LAS VEGAS, NV

“The chapter presented James Kealey, winner of the AGO’s 2022 NYACOP, in the Paul S. Hesselink Recital Series at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Kealey earned his MM degree at Eastman in 2020 as a student of David Higgs. His program included works by Bach, Tallis, Howells, Franck, Farrington, Hurd, and Duruflé. Kealey’s sure technique and innate musicianship brought the music to life, and the appreciative audience responded well to the many colors of the fiery Beckerath organ.”

Dorothy Riess, *The American Organist*, August 2025

SAN FRANCISCO, CA 2024 AGO NATIONAL CONVENTION

“... a deeply satisfying performance of repertoire familiar and foreign.” ... “[Kealey] used the organ beautifully, finding its color without pushing it out of character ...” ... “The audience rose to its feet... giving well-deserved praise to a highlight of the convention.” *The American Organist*, October 2024

RECORDING REVIEW:

RHAPSODIC. James Kealey, organist.

Pro Organo 7305

Hook & Hastings/Andover organ of St. Joseph’s Cathedral, Buffalo, N.Y.

“We open with Percy Whitlock’s chef d’oeuvre, the first movement of the Sonata in C Minor. The registrations are immaculate, with balanced choruses and limpid solo voices, stunning reed battery, and glorious crescendos and decrescendos. The pacing is exciting, the rhythmic execution spotless. All-important pauses allow the thunder to roll down the nave. This important composition, in short, is given a masterful treatment.”

“The next piece is Frederick Delius’s *On Hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring*, arranged for organ by Eric Fenby. The sonic impressions of the original — colorful solos on a bed of strings — are conveyed well in this performance; one is enveloped in warm sound. Again, Kealey’s sense of registration is infallible, along with his pacing and expression.”

“We end with the Franck Choral in E, which is rendered with all the authenticity anyone could wish for, including a radiant Vox Humana. The instrument is ideal for this piece, rendering the distinctive Franck sound extremely well.”

“All told, this is not just a prize recording but also a big step in an impressive career. The choice of repertoire and instrument is superb, and the performances are top-notch. Congratulations yet again.”

Jonathan B. Hall, *The American Organist*, July 2024