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JENS KORNDÖRFER
Press Notices

Novara, Italy (Basilica of San Gaudenzio) "The sublime organ artistry of Jens Korndörfer: between Romanticism and 20th-century virtuosity"

"Korndörfer combines monumental technique with profound musicological insight … His signature style lies in his ability to transform the organ into a polyphonic orchestra, achieved through masterful management of registration and absolute control over dynamics."

Bruno Busca, **CorriereBit,** *June 2026*

Prague, Czech Republic (St. James Basilica) "The Paganini variations by Thalben-Ball for pedal solo were played … at a devilish pace, the chord parts, despite all their enormous difficulty, sounded as natural as if they were a completely simple matter."

Jan Hora, **KlasikaPlus,** *August 2026*

Singapore "Korndörfer commanded the Klais organ with a performance that was both musically profound and technically thrilling."

Singapore Symphony Orchestra, *March 2026*

Durham NC (Duke Univ. chapel) "… a master musician with a superb command of musical styles, firmly-rhythmic drive, and intimate knowledge of organ registrations appropriate to the music being performed. Korndörfer didn't play to show off his technique (although his is clearly equal to any challenge), but rather to make the audience aware of the organ's tonal capabilities." … "Korndörfer's articulation was perfectly suited to the Chapel's reverberant acoustic: every line was clean and clear." … "Korndörfer's masterful playing, using the organ's full sound palette, showed that this Romantic-era work [Rheinberger 'Introduction and Passacaglia' from the Sonata No.8 in E minor] is easily part of the Flentrop's tonal language."

Geoffrey Simon, **www.CVNC.org** January 2019

Sts. Martyrs-Canadiens, Quebec

"[His] concert thrilled the audience. Amazed by his virtuosity, many were also enchanted by the transcriptions."

Mixtures, *May 2013*

Pro Organo Recital Series, Ottawa

"Colorful and exciting playing … three wonderful transcriptions … stunning encore."

ORGAN Canada, *March 2013*

"The concert opened with the Sinfonia from Cantata 29 by J. S. Bach in a transcription by Marcel Dupré. This very exciting piece drew the listener immediately into the majestic sound of the Cathedral organ, as it built toward full organ at the end … Korndörfer found creative and imaginative ways to communicate his sonic vision. His frequent use of the sanctuary organ was particularly effective … As an encore, we were treated to the Pilgrim's Chorus from *Tannhäuser* – and what a treat it was! As often happens, it ain't over till it's over: the encore was stunningly beautiful, a real highlight, and the perfect ending to a very satisfying recital."

Pipelines, *December 2012*

Conservatory, Bayreuth

"Dramatic, solemn, straightforward: Jens Korndörfer delivered a brilliant performance of French organ music … The scope of the highly impressive program was terrific: it covered the highly dramatic impetus of Tournemire's *Victimae paschali,* the meditative peace of Franck's *First Chorale in E Major,* the convincing humour of Vierne and Dupré, the exquisite solemnity of Widor, Messiaen's experimental bird studies, and the gregorian simplicity in Duruflé. With his phrasing, the dynamics and the registration, Korndörfer … led the evening in a most varied way. The evening was a resounding plea for French organ music."

Nordbayerischer Kurier, *January 20, 2012*

Canadian International Organ Competition 2011, Gala Concert

"A prodigious technician, [Korndörfer] produced audacious effects in The Offering, the last one of *12 Etudes for Small Organ* by William Albright."

La Presse, *October 17, 2011*

St. Laurentius, Meeder

"Brilliant and fascinating art of the organ. A German from Montreal fascinates in the Laurentius church in Meeder … Korndoerfer demonstrated what the organ from 1812 – supposedly in need of repair – could do. [Charles Ives' *Variations on America*] was the glorious finish of a concert experience that was received enthusiastically."

Neue Presse Coburg, *June 14, 2011*

St. Michaelis, Hof

"Jens Korndörfer [had been chosen] to open the Heidenreich-Festival – an excellent choice; an exceptional beginning … For half an hour, the performer literally pulled out all the stops of the instrument and traveled through a kaleidoscope of styles and sounds. This was a comprehensive preparation for [Liszt's] half-hour long *Fantasy and Fugue on Ad nos ad salutarem undam* … [Korndörfer] seemed to urge Liszt's symphonic organ poetry from the house of God into the theatre. Indeed, the theme is a hymn from Meyerbeers 'Le Prophète' – and Jens Korndörfer at the console of the Heidenreich-organ turned into the conductor of a grand opera."

Frankenpost, *January 24, 2011*

Stadtkirche, Hersbruck

"World-class organist from Lauf … Numerous friends of the organ experienced a magic moment of organ music performed by a high profile concert organist."

Pegnitz-Zeitung, *January 2011*

Heilig-Geist, Mannheim

"Korndörfer is a thoroughly convincing performer: his technique is accomplished, and at the same time he is sensitive and brilliant. This is organ music as a real treat – and it resonates far beyond the concert."

Mannheimer Morgen, *January 13, 2011*

"Korndörfer established himself as a highly accomplished organist – and as a virtuoso. Bach's *Toccata, Adagio and Fugue in C Major* was performed in a very coherent way (and with a considerable amount of playful bravura) … The first movement of Widor's *Sixth Symphony* developed into an intoxicating and opulent festival of brightly glowing colours, in which the Göckl-organ could shine in its full glory … Dupré's elegant, playful and colourful *Variations sur in Noel* were the striking finish of the program."

Die Rheinpfalz, *January 2010*

St. Martini, Stadthagen

"Glorious performance by a star of the organ from Montreal … The public … was transfixed by the master's grandiose art … Young and old were visibly fascinated by the modest artist's performance in Stadthagen."

Schaumburg-Lippische Zeitung, *July 2010*

St. Johannis, Lauf

"Simply entrancing and deeply moving. One could have heard a needle drop … Jens Korndörfer is brilliant in all facets of organ music, in the well-known as well as in the completely unexpected." ***Pegnitz-Zeitung,*** *June 2, 2009*

St. Hedwig, Bayreuth

"Jens Korndörfer, American by choice, shone as master of his profession in Bayreuth's Hedwig Church. Already in the first work of the evening [Buxtehude's *Prelude, Fugue and Ciaconne in C*], Korndörfer convinced [his audience] entirely by his extremely clear and technically impeccable playing and the detailed registration … Korndörfer rewarded the prolonged applause with a cheerful march by Haydn."

Der Neue Tag, *June 19, 2009*

"Jens Korndörfer enthused the public with a well-planned, dramatic program … One felt that Korndörfer did not rehash a worn out interpretation of a standard work [Bach's *Toccata in d*] but presented his very own interpretation."

Nordbayerischer Kurier, *June 15, 2009*

Bayreuth Conservatory "ORGANIST CREATES WAVES OF EXCITEMENT"

"In his 29 years, organist Jens Korndörfer already made a name for himself far beyond his country's borders … And the visit to the Bayreuth Conservatory paid off tremendously for the numerous public. In this concert, everyone got their money's worth, for in his musical journey from Bach to Messiaen, Korndörfer covered the most diverse compositions and styles … In the last work of the evening, Korndörfer could once again display his entire skills. Sergei Prokofiev's Toccata op. 11 in an arrangement by Jean Guillou requires a perfectly polished technique and a high-speed motion sequence for hands and feet, which Korndörfer mastered to the highest degree. Not surprisingly, the public let him go only after showing their rapturous appreciation and being finally treated to none other than Widor's famous Toccata from the *Fifth Symphony.*"

Nordbayerischer Kurier, *January 17, 2008*

St. Martin, Nienburg "AN UNPARALLELED ORGANIST"

"Jens Korndörfer delivered a brilliant performance at the organ in St. Martin. The artist, who has received numerous awards and honors, captivated his audience by the refinement of his registration, through perfect precision and his musical sensitivity. He elicited colors of sound from the instrument that had not been heard in the last ten years … The public followed with breathless concentration and rapturous applause, flavoured with shouts of 'Bravo!'"

Die Harke, *July 10, 2007*

St. Mary, Kerpen-Sindorf

"Korndörfer's program included pieces by Albinoni, Duruflé, Wagner, Andrew Lloyd Webber and Puccini … The pieces that Korndörfer performed resulted in sheer elation among the public." ***Sonntags Post,*** *August 5, 2007*

St. Petri, Kulmbach "A PALETTE OF MUSICAL COLOURS"

"Jens Korndörfer's technical skills shone in his organ recital in St. Petri … Korndörfer interpreted the extremely technically challenging three-movement composition [Duruflé's *Suite*] with passion, vitality and musicality. His convincing formal conception left no desires unfulfilled."

Bauerische Rundchau, *June 26, 2007*

St. Johannis, Lauf

"Korndörfer's playing possesses a rare, amazing clarity and transparency in the voice leading, subtle articulation and phrasing; all draped in differentiated, sensitive sound colouring … It is not difficult to predict a great international career."

Pegnitz-Zeitung, *February 2007*

Church of Our Saviour, Bad Kissingen

"The 26-year-old Jens Korndörfer, a young and virtuosic emerging talent, sat at the keyboard of the Steinmeyer Organ … He mastered the challenging oeuvre [Widor's *Sixth Symphony*] brilliantly and with bravura. The enthusiastic applause was rewarded with Dupré's Toccata [*Vespers for the Virgin Mary*]."

Saale-Zeitung, *August 3, 2005*

City Church, Bayreuth

"Without a doubt, Korndörfer possesses both sensitivity and virtuosity for romantic organ music; he enthralls the public not only through a high degree of expression and technical skills, but also through a fantastically graded romantic registration. Jens Korndörfer is capable of realizing the various facets of French organ music in a marvelous way."

Nordbayerischer Kurier, *July 2005*

Notre Dame, Villeneuve-sur-Yonne "SPECTACULAR OPENING OF THE ORGAN FESTIVAL"

"Last Sunday the festival welcomed Jens Korndörfer, a confirmed rising star … Korndörfer took possession of the organ … and it was a perfect match."

June 21, 2005

RECORDING REVIEWS

WINDOWS OF THE SPIRIT **Organumclassics OGM 191036**

Jens Korndörfer plays the Sanctuary Organ of First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta, GA (IV/112 Klais/Schlueter, 2018) **Organum-Classics.com** **Grooves-Inc.com**

"Korndörfer ... is a virtuoso in the grand Romantic tradition, plumbing the depths of demanding repertoire with no trace of empty display, rather creating performances that are deeply musically satisfying as well as exciting … *Windows of the Spirit* is a riveting work, inspired by the Tiffany stained glass windows at First Presbyterian, that displays the essence of [Pamela] Decker's style, with its wildly virtuosic passagework, evocation of the dance … Here Korndörfer shows his true musically informed virtuosic prowess in a brilliant performance. Max Reger's *Phantasie über den Choral 'Ein feste Burg'* provides plenty of opportunity for performer and instrument to prove their mettle. This performance fulfills every requirement. Clarity is maintained throughout; the threads of *cantus firmus* and counterpoint remain distinct even in the most convoluted passages. Korndörfer finds the right balance of tempo, registration, and phrasing to make this a most satisfying and thrilling performance of this complex work. Wagner's *Overture to 'Der fliegende Holländer'* as transcribed by Edwin H. Lemare brings the program to thrilling close. Korndörfer achieves some phenomenal, seamless crescendos and diminuendos between *ppp* and *fff* that demonstrate both the performer's registrational skill and the instrument's capability, both through proper voicing and tonal relationships … This recording is highly recommended for playing that is superior both technically and musically, showcasing one of the finest organs in the Southeast."

James Hildreth, ***The American Organist,*** *December 2020*