

Adam J. Brakel

Concert Organist

PRESS QUOTES

*"An absolute organ prodigy with the technique and virtuosity that most concert pianists could only dream of....
The Franz Liszt of the Organ."*
(National Public Radio, Florida, August 2007)

"One of the most talented organists in the world."
(The Chicago Tribune, March 2014)

*"One of his country's outstanding talents in classical organ music...not just possessing virtuosity, but a mature empathy remarkable in
so young a performer"*
(The Sequencer, United Kingdom, August 2010)

"All power to virtuoso organist...we were treated to a virtuoso performance of some of the most demanding works in organ literature."
(The Hexham Courant, United Kingdom, September 2010)

*"A Young Man with a phenomenal talent...His G Major Prelude and Fugue BWV 541 ...beautifully played, and the Liszt piano
transcription was absolutely phenomenally played"*
(Litchfield Review of St. Chad's Cathedral recital
Birmingham, England, September 2010)

*"Spellbinding Virtuosity, keen sense for phrasing and line, superb rhythmic control, contrapuntal and linear clarity, and a fine sense of
color. He is highly capable of communicative lyricism, a sure grasp of musical structure and counterpoint, and incendiary virtuosity"*
(The American Organist, October 2014)

PROFESSIONAL REVIEWS

*"The artistry of Adam Brakel is truly beyond what can be said of a young man. He touches each note with understanding and passion
and the resulting sound is brilliant. He has an all-consuming ability to communicate the essence of every piece he plays. He is like those
greats before him -- a force to be reckoned with. Make no mistake -- this young man will surely have a most distinguished career."*
(Robert Hebble - distinguished concert organist/pianist/composer, March 2011)

*"As Visiting Professor at Peabody, I have had the opportunity during my three visits in the past academic year to observe Adam's
boundless enthusiasm, eagerness to progress, and capacity for hard work. He is to be commended for his devotion to the art of
performance, and to music itself."*
(Dame Gillian Weir, international concert organist, February 2010)

"Because of his enormous vitality and scorching organ technique, Adam Brakel has to be the incarnation of Liszt and Paganini..."
(Dr. Fred Moleck, editor, GIA Quarterly and GIA Publications, May 2011)

“As a musician, Adam is first class and, as an organist, a technician of remarkable ability. However, what I have admired most about him is his quenchless enthusiasm for music and the repertoire he plays. His passion to communicate this to others and his tenacity for learning and conquering some of the most difficult literature written for organ only fuels this zest. Adam is about to record the formidable Etudes by Jeanne Demessieux for commercial release, itself a project that belies a resolve to climb and represent to others the Everests of the repertoire. He has the zeal and facility to make this a landmark recording within his field”

(Dr. Jeremy Filsell, Artist in Residence, Washington National Cathedral and International Concert Organist and Pianist, December 2010)

“He came, he played, and tamed the beast...Not since 1951 when E. Power Biggs came and played the dedicatory recital has there been this much excitement about an organ recital here at First Lutheran Church.”

(Steve Middlebrecht, Music Director, First Lutheran Church, Carlisle, PA, September 2009)

“Adam’s playing is hair-raising, rhythmic, and musical - something that most young players don’t possess.”

(Donald Fellows, Director of Music, St. Paul Roman Catholic Cathedral, Pittsburgh, PA, March 2006)

“His Bach Trio Sonata sparkled with delight and energy and the Liszt transcription was played with commanding authority. He has a formidable technique which he brings to all of his music making, coupled with a refined sense of musicianship. The registrations he selected were highly creative and brought out the best sounds of the organ. His comments during the recital endeared him to the audience...”

(Dr. John Sherer, Director of Music/Organist, Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago, IL, March 2011)

“What impresses me is his deep insight into the repertoire - his technical mastery would be somewhat hollow without this, his utter commitment to music and his wide-ranging knowledge which comes-across during incredibly pleasant and relaxed conversation.”

(John Keys, Director of Music, St. Mary’s Church, Nottingham, United Kingdom, September 2010)

“Adam Brakel’s performance at St. James’, Los Angeles, was breathtaking in every way: sublime musicianship, engaging program, imaginative registrations and all under the control of a flawless technique. His standing ovation was well-deserved.”

(Jim Buenomani, Director of Music/Organist, St. James in the City Episcopal Church, Los Angeles, CA, January 2012)

“He does to the organ what Glenn Gould did of the piano.”

(Kevin Calloway, Director of Music, First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, MI, January 2011)

“Not since Leonard (Bernstein) have I seen someone with the fire in their eye like Adam.”

(Dennis Johnson, colleague of the late Leonard Bernstein, bass soloist, St. Mary’s Episcopal, Stuart, FL, December 2010)

“Adam Brakel’s recital at National City Christian Church more than hit the mark in every way. Knowing what diverse audiences we have, Adam offered us a wide range of repertoire that brilliantly showed what the pipe organ could do. The program went from subtle and elegant to hair-raising and fiery, with every piece being played with flair, jaw-dropping technical facility, stylistic integrity, and the utmost musical sensitivity. For me, his was the perfect, and perfectly played, organ recital!”

(Charles Miller, Minister of Music and Organist, National City Christian Church, Washington, DC, October 2013)