

MARC-ANDRÉ HAMELIN

PIANIST

Performing Brahms 2 in June 2007

with Carlos Kalmar and the Grant Park Festival Orchestra

"Limited rehearsal and the 90-minute concert format prevented Kalmar from treating the crowd to more adventuresome fare. Still, any chance to hear Marc-André Hamelin performing live is an opportunity not to be missed.

With his blistering technique and exceptional musical gifts, the Montreal-born, Philadelphia-based pianist has long been pigeonholed as a virtuoso with unusual tastes in repertory; his many recordings for the British label Hyperion have reinforced that narrow image.

Lately Hamelin has broken free of such stereotyping, as his excellent recent disc of Haydn sonatas and parts of his Brahms Second Piano Concerto on Wednesday revealed."

"Matters improved considerably in Hamelin's impetuous, light-fingered account of the scherzolike second movement, which contained his most rewarding playing of the evening.

The Andante suited the dreamy, meditative side of his musical personality, nicely set off by the sensitive cello solo of Patrick Jee. The gracious finale brought more dancing passagework from Hamelin, but again one looked to the orchestra to provide real Brahmsian weight, depth and structural rigor."

- John von Rheim, CHICAGO TRIBUNE, June 14, 2007

with Michael Stern and the Kansas City Symphony Orchestra

"The first half of the program was devoted to Brahms' Second Piano Concerto, with soloist Marc-André Hamelin making his Symphony debut. This was not Brahms the juggernaut, but a poet's Brahms. It lasted nearly an hour and was nothing shy of fascinating.

Instead of a titanic struggle, the first movement was a rhapsodic exploration of inner mysteries. Hamelin had thunder when he needed it, but he was more apt to call upon his florid bouquet of colors and sweet fragrances. This served the first movement well, and gave the scherzo intimacy and élan."

- Paul Horsley, THE KANSAS CITY STAR, June 9, 2007

Colbert Artists Management Inc.

111 West 57th Street, New York, New York 10019
(212)757-0782 - Fax (212)541-5179 - West Coast (858)794-0182
E-mail: NYColbert@ColbertArtists.com