

MARC-ANDRÉ HAMELIN

"The music came first, and the playing was revelatory, showing off facets of each composer that some pianists seem to forget. But the mechanical display could not be ignored: Hamelin commands tons - nay, acres - of technique, all of it used to articulate, color and enliven the intriguing music at hand."

- Daniel Cariaga, Los Angeles Times, May 10, 2003

"Music was in the forefront here, and Mr. Hamelin's compelling performances had you riveted for two hours. ... The audience listened raptly, then erupted in applause."

- Anthony Tommasini, New York Times, March 28, 2002

"Marc-Andre Hamelin is not a throwback to a bygone day of pianism, but a complete contemporary musician whose gift makes him fit the template of the 19th-century keyboard titans. ... It was playing that defined the romantic spirit and the joy of virtuosity."

- Daniel Webster, Philadelphia Inquirer, May 13, 2002

"Marc-Andre Hamelin gave a piano recital of consummate artistry. A large audience was held enthralled by a blend of virtuosity and musicianship, which proclaimed the unique qualities of the piano as an instrument capable of embracing a vast range of styles whilst presenting them in terms of scintillating colours and wide-ranging dynamics."

- Geoffrey Crankshaw, Musical Opinion, January-February 2003

"The variety of sound at Hamelin's disposal, the flexibility of line he introduced, made the piece into an opera of musical ideas running this way and that. The sound was slender and clear - you felt you were inside the score. ... Remember the name: Marc-Andre Hamelin, a pied piper worth following no matter where he might take you."

- Timothy Mangan, Orange County Register, May 11, 2003

"Pianist Marc-Andre Hamelin possesses extraordinary musical perception, and the ability to make his fingers express every nuance of it on the keyboard."

- Ilse Zadrozny, Montreal Gazette, April 28, 2003

"Pianist Hamelin was the hero of the event. He hardly broke a sweat as he journeyed through the incredible technical challenges, meanwhile finding a wonderful array of pianistic colors, ranging from a brassy brilliance to amazing, entrancing pastels."

- Wayne Lee Gay, Dallas Star-Telegram, January 24, 2003

"At the end, too, the ovation went on and on and he was called back for six encores. ... for though he seems to move with ease through passages of busy counterpoint, what most impressed in this performance were the imaginative details of color, weight and phrasing."

- Paul Griffiths, New York Times, December 5, 2000

"We were in on a secret: [Hamelin's] hands are among the wonders of the musical world. No living pianist is as capable of playing more notes more clearly in a shorter span of time. The youngsters in front of me periodically shook their heads because the man was doing things that they did not believe possible. ... Hamelin possesses too much intellectual energy to be considered a mere technician. The distinctive bite of his sound and the bravado of his programming are of a piece with his urge to compose, and the samples of his music that are available on recordings show a bracing mixture of virtuoso ferocity and jazz cool. Hamelin's legend will grow - right now there is no one like him."

- Alex Ross, New Yorker, December 18, 2000