



Seven Eight Artists

DEXTER KENNEDY

Organist

Long Biography

As the winner of the Grand Prix d'Interprétation at the 24th Concours International d'Orgue de Chartres, **DEXTER KENNEDY** has established himself internationally as "one of the greatest organists of our times" (*Iceland Monitor*). Praised for his "prodigious technique and grand style musicality" in *The American Organist*, his concert programs present performances that are fiery and historically informed, exciting both music connoisseurs, as well as people who have never experienced the organ in a concert setting.

Mr. Kennedy is an active recitalist throughout both Europe and North America, having performed in great cathedrals, churches, and concert halls including Notre-Dame de Paris; Berliner Dom; St. Bavokerk, Haarlem; Slovak Philharmonic Hall, Bratislava; Chartres Cathedral; Grossmünster, Zürich; Chichester Cathedral; Hallgrímskirkja, Reykjavik; Basilica of St. Nazaire, Carcassonne; St. George's, Hannover Square, London; Auditorio Manuel de Falla, Granada; San Luigi Dei Francesi, Rome; St. Willibrordus Basilika, Echternach, Luxembourg; and Bergen Cathedral. His performances have been heard at the St. Albans International Organ Festival, the 51st Bratislava Music Festival, the Bergen International Organ Festival, the London Handel Festival, the Montreal Bach Festival, the Arizona Bach Festival, the Conference of Roman Catholic Cathedral Musicians, and two regional conventions of the American Guild of Organists. In 2017 he was the lone American to be invited to perform at the Catédral Primada of Bogotá, Colombia, for the Bach en Bogotá Festival, where he performed for an audience of over 2,000 people as part of the first organized performances of Bach's complete organ works in the country's history. In 2022 he performed the complete works of César Franck in celebration of the composer's 200th

Dexter Kennedy, organist

anniversary, and his playing has been broadcast nationally on the American Public Media's Pipedreams program. In demand as an orchestral player, Kennedy frequently performs with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, most recently joining the orchestra for a tour of Japan in November of 2022, and recorded Strauss' Eine Alpensinfonie which was recently released as part of Deutsche Grammophon's 7-disc anthology with music director Andris Nelsons. Other recent concert highlights include the University of Dubuque; the University of Utah; Holy Rosary Cathedral, Toledo; Cornell University; and Arizona State University. He has also performed for many American Guild of Organists chapters in recent seasons, including Richmond, Kansas City, Southern Nevada, and Charleston.

As a church musician, Kennedy currently serves as Director of Music at Trinity-by-theCove Episcopal Church in Naples, Florida. Previously he was Assistant Director of Music and Organist of Christ Church Grosse Pointe (MI), where he traveled with the Christ Church Choirs to England and Wales in the summer of 2014, Spain in 2016, to the UK in 2017 for choral residencies at Salisbury Cathedral and Westminster Abbey, and again in 2018 at Durham and Canterbury Cathedrals. Additional choir tours as a freelance accompanist have taken Kennedy to the organ benches of St. Peter's Basilica; La Sagrada Familia; Stephansdom, Vienna; St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin; and St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle.

Dexter Kennedy holds the Artist Diploma from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, where he was a pupil of James David Christie. He holds a Master of Music Degree from the Yale School of Music and Institute of Sacred Music, where he was a recipient of the Robert Baker Award, as well as the Mary Baker Prize for Excellence in Organ Accompaniment. Kennedy has also studied under Olivier Latry, Martin Jean, Jeffrey Brillhart (improvisation), Arthur Haas and Webb Wiggins (harpsichord), and has attended several international organ festivals where he has coached with many distinguished European artists. Dexter Kennedy is a rising teacher, having taught at both the College of Wooster and Oberlin College Conservatory. In his spare time, he enjoys golfing and following the professional sports teams of his native Detroit. More information about Kennedy and his schedule can be found at his website, www.DexterKennedy.com.

Dexter Kennedy is represented by Seven Eight Artists.

Current as of February 2023.

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