

## ABOUT THE PERFORMERS



RAY CORNILS is the City of Portland's 10th Municipal Organist. Known for his highly diverse programming, he concertizes throughout the United States and abroad. He has performed at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., the Wanamaker Organ at Macy's in Philadelphia, the Spreckels Organ in San Diego as well as at the International Festival of Sacred Music in Quito and Portoviejo Ecuador. He has been a featured recitalist for conventions of the American Guild of Organists and the Organ Historical Society.

In addition to his solo work, he performs regularly with the Portland Symphony Orchestra (PSO) as both harpsichordist and organist, including solo concertos such as Samuel Barber's *Toccata Festiva*, all six of Bach's *Brandenburg Concerti*, Poulenc's *Concerto Champetre*, Poulenc's *Concerto for Organ, String and Tympani*, Saint Saëns' *Organ Symphony* and Joseph Jongen's *Symphonie Concertante*.

For thirty years Ray served as Minister of Music at First Parish Church, UCC in Brunswick. His church choirs performed concert tours in England, Wales, Ireland and Ecuador and Portugal. Each spring Ray mounted a massive production involving church choir members, singers from the community and members of the Portland Symphony Orchestra as well as instrumentalists and soloists from the Boston area.

Known for his teaching skills with all age groups, Ray is in integral part of FOKO's education program, working with elementary and middle school students in a classroom setting. He has taught high school students through the *Young Organist*, and was a member of the music faculties of Bowdoin College, the University of Southern Maine and the Portland Conservatory of Music, where he taught organ, harpsichord and related classes.

Born in Sterling, Illinois, Mr. Cornils was trained at the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music and the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. He has studied organ with Robert Reeves, Fenner Douglas, William Porter, Yuko Hayashi and has done post-graduate studies with Dame Gillian Weir. He studied harpsichord with William Porter, Lenora McCroskey, Rhona Freeman and Lisa Goode Crawford.

An active member of the American Guild of Organists, Ray has held many leadership roles, including Convention Coordinator for the 2014 National AGO convention in Boston.

Following tonight's concert, Ray will retire.

## ABOUT THE PERFORMERS (CONT.)

### KOTZSCHMAR FESTIVAL BRASS

TRUMPET	Betty Rines, Robinson Pyle, Dana Russian, Greg Gettel
FRENCH HORN	John Boden, Nina Allen
TROMBONE	Nic Orovich, Mark Manduca, Sebastian Jerosch, Tom Michaud
TUBA	Jobey Wilson
PERCUSSION	Nancy Smith, John Tanzer
HARP	Jara Goodrich



KOTZSCHMAR FESTIVAL BRASS is comprised of brass and percussion instrumentalists, many of whom perform with the Portland Symphony Orchestra. They have frequently performed with Ray Cornils, including at the opening concert of the American Guild of Organists Regional Convention, to rave reviews.

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DR. JANE HAGNESS, organist, conductor, lyric soprano, and composer received her Master of Music degree in voice from the University of Kentucky, her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in voice from Shenandoah Conservatory, and a second Master of Music in Church Music Organ from Shenandoah Conservatory. She is the Minister of Music at First Parish Church in Brunswick, ME where she serves as organist and directs five vocal ensembles in addition to The Parish Ringers. She has performed several voice and organ recitals, has two articles published in the Journal of Singing of the National Association of Teachers of Singing, and has presented a paper at the International Congress of Voice Teachers in Paris, France. She has composed several sacred works for solo voice and varying instruments and choral arrangements. She especially enjoys hymn composition.

## ABOUT THE PERFORMERS (CONT.)



THE PARISH RINGERS, one of two handbell choirs of First Parish Church in Brunswick, was formed in 1974. The group plays for church services, weddings, and does a number of special concerts each year. The 13 ringers — of whom most have been ringing for more than 15 years (and many for more than 30) — play 66 bells and chimes covering a 5 ½-octave range. They have performed throughout New England, at numerous festivals of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers, on the Portland Symphony Orchestra's "Magic of Christmas" programs, and for many years as part of FOKO's "Christmas with Cornils."

### THE PARISH RINGERS

Sally Adair	Carolyn Bryant	Heidi Leland
Anne Barnes	Dottie Cattelle	Karen Leland
Jo Bradley	Jane Connors	Sally Stevens
Sidney Briggs	Alisa Hughes-Stricklett	Liz Waldo

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CHORALART was Founded in 1972 by volunteer singers committed to excellence in choral performance, ChoralArt today comprises three ensembles: a symphonic ChoralArt Masterworks, a 50-voice ChoralArt Singers, and the ChoralArt Camerata. All three auditioned ensembles perform to high artistic standards. ChoralArt Masterworks sings annually with the Portland Symphony Orchestra; ChoralArt Singers performs a series of Christmas at the Cathedral concerts to nearly 2000 enthusiastic patrons; and the ChoralArt Camerata sings repertoire from Renaissance to modern, including music of various other ethnicities.

ChoralArt is known for distinctive performances of choral classics; the Singers have presented among other works notable performances of Handel's *Messiah*, Bach's *Mass in B Minor*, and Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*. The Singers have premiered nearly a dozen commissioned works during the past 25 years and have made a commitment to diverse and innovative programming.

ChoralArt Masterworks has sung with the Portland Symphony Orchestra traditional symphonic literature—Verdi's *Requiem*, Vaughan Williams' *Dona nobis pacem*, and Haydn's *The Creation* among them—as well as more adventuresome literature: Bernstein's *Kaddish Symphony* and Janáček's *Glagolitic Mass*. ChoralArt Masterworks sang Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem* in 1991 with distinguished

## ABOUT THE PERFORMERS (CONT.)

guest conductor Robert Shaw. The newest ensemble, ChoralArt Camerata, has performed to favorable critical review.



Music Director Robert Russell joined ChoralArt in 1979 at the time he was named assistant professor and director of choral music at the University of Southern Maine. A native Virginian who studied in North Carolina and Colorado, he earned a DMA degree in choral conducting from the University of Colorado. He retired from USM in 2015 and is devoting his principal musical energies to ChoralArt.

For more information: [www.ChoralArt.org](http://www.ChoralArt.org)

## CHORALART SINGERS

### SOPRANO

Dawn Anderson

Sarah Bailey

Nancy Etnier

Anne Grady

Heather Guilfoyle

Molly Harmon

Judy Harrison

Erin Y. Morrison

Marilee Pillsbury

Heidi Seitz

Bronwyn Sewell

Joyce Walworth

Genie Wheelwright

### ALTO

Aileen Andrews

Ann L. Elderkin

Andrea Graichen

Tracy Hawkins

Pam Jackson

Abra Mueller

Jodi Fitzgerald Nichols

Ginny Pomeroy

Barbara Sutcliffe

### TENOR

Stuart Bailey

Zach Gagnon

Wesley D. Johnson

Darrell Leighton

Brad Longfellow

Patrick Martin

Joseph Seale

Simon Smith

David White

### BASS

Peter Blackwell

James Bucknam

Michael Crosby

David Emery

Gordon Gayer

Marshall Green

Mark G. Johnson

Lars Loren

Nathaniel Menifield

John Nichols

Peter Plumb

Juergen Renger

Robert Stoddard

Richard Sullivan