



Pipe Lines

The official newsletter of the Kotzschmar Organ

98TH SEASON OF CONCERTS

SPRING 2011

FOKO's 30TH YEAR

Cameron CARPENTER ON THE KOTZSCHMAR ORGAN

The *Los Angeles Times* critic called him “the most accomplished organist I ever witnessed.” The Russians called him “an exorbitant virtuoso who plays with wild passion,” and the *New York Times* called him “a maverick organist with glib fingers and Astairelike footwork.” You will call him unbelievable!

Friends of the Kotzschmar Organ presents the internationally famous CAMERON CARPENTER, Saturday, April 16th, at 7:30 pm in Merrill Auditorium. The most controversial organist in the world—sometimes referred to as “the bad boy of the organ”—Cameron will dazzle you with his flawless and awe-inspiring keyboard prowess and astonish you with his profound musical intelligence.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear him live at Merrill Auditorium! Tickets are available through PORTTIX at 207-842-0800 or online at Porttix.com.



How dry I am



In the last hundred years we have all gotten used to central heat. Gone are the days of huddling around a hearth to stay warm. We come home from work, flip on the lights, and nudge the thermostat. (At least I nudge it—I know people who crank it!) And when we heat our houses, our workplaces, and our concert halls, we remove moisture from the air. Too bad, because moisture is good for us.

The effects of winter dryness are not limited to the human body. Our wooden furniture, our roofs, and staircases expand and contract as humidity changes—nails work loose and glued joints come apart. If humidity never fluctuated, the legs and stretchers of your dining room chairs would never come loose.

Here in coastal New England we experience some of the country's most extreme seasonal humidity changes. Imagine how that affects a pipe organ. A monumental instrument like the Kotschmar Organ has thousands of moving parts made of wood and leather. There is a huge wooden structure that supports the organ, and all the vessels that contain the pressurized air within the organ are made of wood. When a joint lets loose a wind leak is the result. Wooden wedges that hold reed tongues in place shrink and the pipes stop speaking. Keyboards get rattley. Stoppers in wooden pipes shrink and fall and those pipes stop speaking. And after all, pipe organ leather is skin. It dries out and becomes brittle just like your sore hands in February, taking years off its useful life.

Adding humidity to a room makes us breath easier and helps keep our skin from cracking. It keeps the legs on the chairs, and makes the pipe organ stable.

The Friends of the Kotschmar Organ Organ Committee is studying the possibility of adding an internal humidification system to our treasured instrument. Pipe organ specialists have developed new systems that introduce humidified air to the interior of the organ through the organ blower. The blower is operated at a very slow speed when the organ is not being used so a stable level of humidity inside the organ can be maintained at all times. This would eliminate the huge seasonal swings that have caused so much wear on the organ's structure and actions, leaving the instrument more stable, requiring less long-term maintenance, and allowing it a longer life time between major repair and renovation projects. The cost of installing such a humidification system is minimal when compared with the cost of pipe organ renovation.

Curt Mangel, curator of the famous Wanamaker Organ in Philadelphia (the largest musical instrument in the world) has developed a general design for these systems and has supervised their installation in the Wanamaker Organ and the magnificent instrument at Woolsey Hall of Yale University. Recently, Curt visited Merrill Auditorium at the

From the President



We are in for a real treat on Saturday, April 16 at 7:30! **Cameron Carpenter** will be playing the Kotschmar Organ as part of the Friends of the Kotschmar Organ Celebrity Series. When Cameron Carpenter plays the organ, the only thing you know to expect is that his playing will be extraordinary.

The last time Cameron played the Kotschmar Organ, he greeted patrons as they arrived at Merrill Auditorium to get a feel for the mood of the audience and what they might want to hear. He also played a duet with himself! That's right; Cameron played the organ portion and recorded himself right from the console. During the concert, he started the recorded organ portion and then ran over to a grand piano on stage and played that part live. Who knows what he will do on April 16th! This concert will be a great way to introduce your friends to the Kotschmar Organ. Don't miss the Cameron experience. Get your tickets today!

Municipal Organist **Ray Cornils** is putting together another outstanding Summer Series featuring artists from around the world. This is another great opportunity to bring your friends.

Think of it, Cameron Carpenter and a superb Summer Series of concerts. I hope you are as excited as I am! If you haven't purchased your tickets for Cameron yet, I hope you get them soon so you can take advantage of hearing one of the most talented organists in the world!

See you at the concerts!

— Bruce Lockwood

invitation of the FOKO Organ Committee and has submitted a report and proposal for creating a system for the Kotschmar Organ. We think this is an important step for the long-term future of Portland's beloved Municipal Organ.

— John Bishop, Chair
Kotschmar Organ Committee

Kotschmar Korner

I had a delightful phone conversation with former board member, Franklin Talbot. He worked every Tuesday as the "clicker," counting the number of audience members as they entered the lobby. He also helped Wayne Lockwood (former board member, treasurer and father of current president Bruce) count the money from "the pipe." These days it's difficult for him to get to concerts but he keeps up with Kotschmar recordings and news. He said "we need music in our lives today more than ever."

—K. Grammer

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From the Executive Director



With Cameron Carpenter's concert around the corner as well as a new collaboration May 15th with **Portland Ovations**, the **Portland String Quartet**, **Lionheart**, a male vocal ensemble from New York City, and **Ray Cornils**, our spring season is a busy one, ending with our **Meet the King of Instruments** youth concert, May 17.

Then it's time to start thinking summer! The Kotschmar's 99th summer season begins July 12th featuring one of Portland's favorites, **Felix Hell**. **Stephen Tharp** joins us July 19th and we start up again with five Tuesdays in August, beginning with **Sophie-Véronique Caucherfer-Choplin**, co-titular organist at Saint Sulpice, Paris on August 2nd. Other performances include **James Jones**, organist, with **Anita Cirba**, principal trumpet of the Winston-Salem Symphony, **Chelsea Chen** and **Ray Cornils** with the **Kotschmar Festival Brass**.

Kotschmar 2011 Summer Series Special Ticket Offers

The seating for each concert will be general admission (no reserved seats) and tickets may be purchased through Porttix at the box office, on the phone 207-842-0800 and online at www.porttix.com. **Ticket prices for the summer series are:**

\$15 per person

\$25 for 2 adults

\$5 for students, ages 13-21

free for ages 12 and under

All children will need tickets to enter the auditorium.

If you purchase your tickets in person at the box office, there are no additional charges. If you order on the phone or online the \$3 Porttix service fee will apply (\$2 for students).

Our traditional "Pay What You Can" policy remains active with a limited number of tickets going on sale thirty minutes before each performance at a table in the lobby so that all may enjoy the glorious sounds of the mighty Kotschmar.

Kotschmar Konversations will be held from 6:30 to 7:00 pm in the Rehearsal Hall, a more intimate setting for both artist and audience members.

Something for everyone! I hope you'll join us this spring and summer to support these talented and dedicated musicians and performers.

— Kathleen Grammer

From the Municipal Organist



FOKO's education programs in schools around Portland have been very active this winter. In January and February I had the great opportunity to go back to the Loranger Middle School in Old Orchard Beach to spend three weeks in the classroom with 4th, 5th and 6th graders. Thanks to the great help and support of music teachers Lisa Andrade and George Shabo, we explored the wonderful world of the organ with Kotschmar Junior and the 3-manual Wurlitzer pipe organ that is housed in the school's auditorium. Working with several members of the Pine Tree Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society, who lovingly care for this fun instrument, the *Kotschmar 4 Kids* curriculum culminated with two concerts for the students of Loranger, Saco and Dayton school systems reaching over 700 students. It was a fabulous opportunity for so many students to learn about and hear the sounds and music of the pipe organ.

In March, I was back in the classrooms of the Breakwater School in Portland as J. S. Bach. We sang, listened, discussed, laughed and even danced! The following week those classes came to Merrill Auditorium to hear, tour and play the Kotschmar. A number of students sat down at the 5-manual console and played everything from a few measures of a piece they knew from piano lessons, to a brilliantly played Bach prelude.

Thanks to Stephanie Haywood, music teacher, Cheryl Hart, divisional director grades 3-8 and Molly Thompson, divisional director grades toddlers-2 at Breakwater for their support.

In April and May, David Wallace and I will present several lessons from the *Kotschmar 4 Kids* curriculum in 6th grade classrooms at Topsham's Mt. Ararat Middle School. I am delighted to see these school partnerships flourishing.

I thank the members of FOKO's Education Committee, our docents, Kathleen Grammer and Elsa Geskus for organizing and supporting these vital programs. Working with all of the students is an uplifting experience. (see photos on back page)

— Ray Cornils

2011 Spring and Summer Concerts

Sat, April 16, 2011, 7:30 pm - **Celebrity Concert Cameron Carpenter**, Guest Organist

Sun, May 15, 2011, 3:00 pm - **Phil Kline's "John the Revelator"** with **Lionheart**, **Ray Cornils** and the **Portland String Quartet** - A Portland Ovations presentation

99TH SUMMER SERIES

Tues, July 12, 2011, 7:30 pm - **Felix Hell**, Guest Organist

Tues, July 19, 2011, 7:30 pm - **Stephen Tharp**, Guest Organist

Tues, August 2, 2011, 7:30 pm - **Sophie-Véronique Caucherfer-Choplin**, Guest Organist

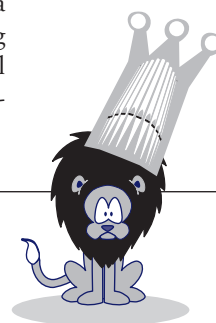
Tues, August 9, 2011, 7:30 pm - **Pops**, TBA

Tues, August 16, 2011, 7:30 pm - **James Jones**, Guest Organist, with Anita Cirba, Trumpet

Tues, August 23, 2011, 7:30 pm - **Chelsea Chen**, Guest Organist

Tues, August 30, 2011, 7:30 pm - **Ray Cornils**, Organist, with the **Kotschmar Festival Brass**

For details, please visit our new website at www.foko.org



Meet the King of Instruments

for grades 3-6

Tues, May 17-10:30 am
Merrill Auditorium

Special Adult Price \$5

Help support FOKO's
Education Programs

Concert for kids at Loranger Middle School in OOB

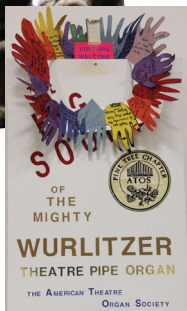


1. RAY CORNILS AT THE LORANGER SCHOOL WURLITZER ORGAN
2. MUSIC TEACHER GEORGE SZABO WITH RAY
3. RAY TALKS WITH LORANGER STUDENTS FOLLOWING THE CONCERT



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4. LORANGER SCHOOL AND THE WURLITZER ORGAN IS HOME OF THE PINE TREE CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

"Keepers of the Kotzsch"

STUDENTS FROM PORTLAND'S BREAKWATER SCHOOL TOUR THE KOTZSCHMAR AND TRY THEIR HAND AT THE FIVE-MANUAL CONSOLE



Leon and Cyrus, official mascots



LEON LIONWOOD (LEFT) AND CYRUS DU BEAR ARE THE BRAIN-CHILDREN OF DOCENT MICHAEL HETZEL TO SHOW STUDENTS SIZES OF PARTS OF THE ORGAN THEY CANNOT VIEW ON A TOUR.

Bach's Birthday

RAY CORNILS CELEBRATED THE MASTER'S 326TH BIRTHDAY WITH THE ANNUAL TRIBUTE CONCERT ON MARCH 22, WITH GUESTS VIOLINIST MARK PAXSON (LEFT) AND BARITONE AARON ENGBRETH

