

# Pipe Lines

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE KOTZSCHMAR ORGAN

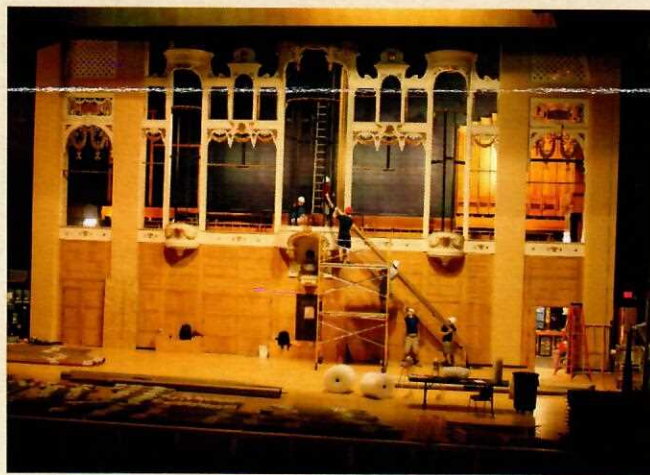
101ST SEASON OF CONCERTS

FALL 2013

FOKO's 32ND YEAR

## The Kotzschmar Organ's Great Turn-On

The staff of Foley-Baker, Inc. has been working for much of the summer at Merrill Auditorium installing the renovated structure and mechanical components of the Kotzschmar Organ. After they removed the organ from the hall last summer, they spent ten months on the renovation, both meticulous and monumental. With that work complete, the instrument (minus the



FAÇADE PIPES HAVE BEEN SENT OUT FOR REFURBISHING WHILE THE CHESTS AND PIPES ARE BEING REINSTALLED.

pipes and console) was shipped to Portland.

All summer, the crew has been swarming over the organ, hoisting large pieces into place, tightening screws, accomplishing thousands of air-tight connections. Last week, they announced that the organ was assembled to the point at which they could turn on the blowers and start the process of testing the mechanical and pneumatic components. Starting the blowers for the first time is

a momentous event in a project of this magnitude. It's the first test of all those air-tight joints, and the first indication of the success of the project. All reports are positive.

With summer's end, the physical installation is complete. The Air Chest, all the windchests which contain the thousands of valves that operate the organ's pipes, and the mighty heap of Expression Boxes give the organ chamber the look of a condominium complex awaiting residents.


During the winter, as the schedule in the Auditorium permits, the staff of Foley-Baker will return several times to accomplish the huge job of wiring all the electrical parts, and preparing the organ for the arrival of the renovated pipes in the summer of 2014.

It has been a pleasure and a thrill to witness the progress on this remarkable project. Foley-Baker has brought to the task a team of energetic and highly skilled workers. Their devotion to Portland's treasured organ is palpable, and the quality of the work is without equal. Because of their dedication, it's a pleasure to report that the project is on schedule. Portland's audiences can look forward to a big surprise as they hear the organ in its renewed condition.

— John Bishop, Chair  
Organ Committee



JOHN BISHOP DEMONSTRATING HOW A PIPE SPEAKS AT SEPTEMBER'S *SHOW & TELL*

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## From the President



I am constantly amazed at how well known the Kotzschmar Memorial Organ is in the world of knowledgeable music aficionados; and I am also amazed at how many people know what we are doing by renovating this incredible instrument.

This past summer, I received a phone call from someone from Boston, whose nephew from San Francisco has been studying organ at summer programs at Interlochen, Michigan and Westminster Choir College, New Jersey. He is a young man in his teens who is interested in becoming an organist and wants to continue his studies at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia. He had heard about the Kotzschmar and asked to see it during his visit to Portland. He had the opportunity to go through the organ while Foley-Baker was working on part of the re-installation at Merrill Auditorium, and was full of questions about what we were doing. A young man from the west coast, studying in Michigan and New Jersey and he knew about the Kotzschmar. Imagine that!

I was at the Glimmerglass Opera Festival in Cooperstown, New York in August. There is a group of opera lovers from all over the United States who convene there every summer and discuss all manner of musical issues. One of the members of the group, a retired professor at the University of Rochester who learned about organs at the Eastman School of Music, asked what we were doing with the Kotzschmar since he knew I was involved. I was surprised to learn how much he knew about organs in general and the Kotzschmar in particular. He wanted to know when we would be finished with the project and when it was completed, could he come to Portland to see what we had done. I told him to stay tuned and look for news about the opening celebration in the fall of 2014 and I would make sure he got an "inside look."

These are two examples of the reach of the Kotzschmar in the musical world and the attention it brings to Portland. I receive many questions of this kind and I am constantly amazed that what we have and what we have accomplished draws so much attention. FOKO deserves a lot of credit for having created such community interest, and also in maintaining this unique musical instrument.

— Laurence H. Rubinstein

## Annual Giving

It is because of your gifts that FOKO is able to take the Kotzschmar through this renovation, bring great artists to Portland and continue to expand our educational outreach. Thank you! Please include FOKO in your giving this year.

## From the Municipal Organist



Several years ago when I first knew that the Kotzschmar would be undergoing a two year renovation, I wondered what the period without the organ would be like. Whereas I never really thought I'd be sitting on the back porch twiddling my thumbs I was not sure what this time away from City Hall would be like. Well – I've most definitely not been idle.

The year since the 100th anniversary celebration and the removal of the organ from Merrill has gone incredibly quickly. It has been filled with numerous educational projects in schools as well as many opportunities to play concerts, both near and far.

It is always a joy and honor to play the world's largest pipe organ at Macy's in Philadelphia. In late June I joined Peter Richard Conte, Christian Elliot, the Wanamaker Organ Festival Chorus and Brass ensemble for several concerts on Wanamaker Organ Day, a spirited celebration of music sponsored by the Friends of the Wanamaker.

The fabulous E. and G. G. Hook organ at St. John's Catholic Church in Bangor is one of the finest instruments by America's pre-eminent 19th century organ builder. Dating from 1860, the instrument, combined with the church's ample acoustics, is a worthy partner in memorable music making. A month before I played a concert for the Organ Historical Society on an 1864 Hook in Burlington, VT.

I've enjoyed concertizing on the instruments at both St. Luke's Cathedral in Portland and the beautiful Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Lewiston. Both instruments are inspiring to listener and performer. I look forward to returning to them this December for two Christmas With Cornils concerts.

The summer rounded out with concerts in Bar Harbor on a sweet instrument at St. Saviour's Church and First Parish UCC in Brunswick. Both churches have a history of summer organ concerts which provide a beautiful midday respite of music and enjoyment.

Playing concerts on such a wide variety of instruments, many people asked if I played the same program. The answer is "no". Each program is tailored to the instrument, acoustics and audience. Over the summer, there were a few repetitions of literature, but each program was unique.

A great teacher in the art of programming was Douglas Rafter, Portland's 7th Municipal Organist. His inspired playing, imaginative programming, and prodigious memory delighted so many people who heard him play the Kotzschmar Organ for over seven decades! Doug, we miss you. May your vision of music that touches our hearts and souls continue to thrive.

Onward and upward!

— Ray Cornils

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## From the Executive Director



The summer has flown by even in the absence of a full summer concert series! We roasted Felix Hell with "warmer than usual Maine summer weather" and Ray paid tribute to Douglas Rafter with a very moving concert, sharing some of his personal reminiscences of their exchanges over the years.

I attended the Wanamaker Organ Day in Philadelphia where Ray performed on several concerts throughout the day. I spent most of the day leaning on the "men's watches" counter as there were no seats left! It was thrilling to hear this grand instrument and to see the reactions of shoppers that just happened to come in the store. I talked with a couple from Michigan attending the 35th Annual Homebrewers Conference. It was their first time in Philadelphia and they hadn't seen anything of this historical city. They just happened to come to Macy's and were enthralled by the sounds of the organ. A young man overheard our conversation and said that he comes back every year for this event as he grew up experiencing the sounds of the Wanamaker. He had all the facts and figures and was very proud to share his connection with this instrument!

As we enter a full FINAL year without the mighty Kotzschmar, we are certainly busy keeping you informed about the renovation and planning for the return season when we will once again revel in the glorious sounds of our beloved instrument.

Meanwhile, we continue to offer concerts at different venues in Lewiston, Portland and Kennebunkport, collaborating with a number of organizations to bring our audiences the music of the season and to continue our tradition of a Bach Birthday Bash.

In addition, Ray is busy with the education committee, expanding our school offerings. Board member, Elsa Geskus, is coordinating our educational outreach and curriculum revisions and enhancements are underway. As a result of a grant from the Maine Arts Commission, we will be taking the "Kotzschmarama," a day-long event of creative activities using various forms of art and media, movement and writing to explore the music of Olivier Messiaen, developed at the Breakwater School, to two of our partner schools this year.

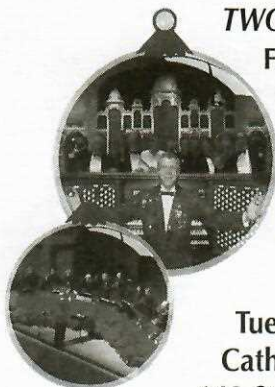
I look forward to seeing you throughout the season!

— Kathleen Grammer

## FOKO ON THE ROAD

### Christmas with Cornils

#### A KOTZSCHMAR CHRISTMAS



#### TWO PERFORMANCES

Festival Brass, Parish Ringers,  
Mary Schola, Bruce Fithian, *director*

Tues., December 10, 7:30 PM  
Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul,  
122 Ash Street, Lewiston

Tuesday, December 17, 7:30 PM  
Cathedral Church of St. Luke,  
143 State Street, Portland

## Bach Birthday Bash

Ray Cornils, Choral Art Society  
Singers, Robert Russell, *director*

Saturday, May 3, 2014, 7:30 PM  
South Congregational Church,  
2 North Street, Kennebunkport



Tickets available at [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com)

For details, call (207) 553-4363 or visit [www.foko.org](http://www.foko.org)

## A Final Tribute to Doug Rafter, Portland's 7th Municipal Organist



concert performer and accompanist.

A native of Wilmington, Vt., Mr. Rafter moved to Portland in 1971. As a concert organist, he had a repertoire of approximately 275 pieces of organ music memorized and performed 1700 organ concerts throughout the United States.

Douglas Rafter was Portland's Municipal Organist from 1976

until 1981, and during those years he entertained thousands of listeners with his interpretations of musical masterpieces, classical and popular alike. He had an enviable record, playing summer series concerts for 68 years. Thousands more will remember his Christmas preludes before the annual PSO Magic of Christmas concerts.

Rafter was most proud of the fact that after his first concert on the famous Kotzschmar Memorial Organ in August of 1936, he met Mrs. MaryAnn Kotzschmar. She was the widow of Hermann Kotzschmar, the famous musician to whom the instrument was dedicated in 1912. After the program she went on stage to compliment his playing and his technique. He was just 20 and she was 82.

Douglas L. Rafter died on Wednesday, July 3, 2013. He was 97.



# Kotzschmar renovation: on time, on budget



- PHOTOS COUNTER-CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:
- (1) 50 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE SHOW & TELL TO VIEW THE PROGRES OF THE RENOVATION.
  - (2) HOISTING THE CHESTS AND ACTIONS INTO THE ANTIPHONAL DIVISION IN THE CEILING OVER THE AUDIENCE.
  - (3) INSIDE THE ANTIPHONAL ABOVE THE AUDIENCE.
  - (4) SHINING SHUTTERS (LIKE VENETIAN BLINDS) FOR THE CHAMBERS UNDER EXPRESSION.

*continued below*



- (5) FOLEY-BAKER, INC. STAFF: DO THEY LOVE THEIR WORK?
- (6) PHIL CARPENTER, FB-I PROJECT MANAGER, GIVING A TOUR OF THE NEW WINDCHEST AT THE AUGUST SHOW & TELL
- (7) INCH BY INCH, PIPE BY PIPE.

PHOTOS COMPLIMENTS OF MICHAEL HETZEL, DAVID KIRSTEIN AND FOLEY-BAKER



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