

Pipe Lines

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE KOTZSCHMAR ORGAN

105th Season of Concerts

Winter 2017

FOKO's 36th Year

KOTZSCHMAR

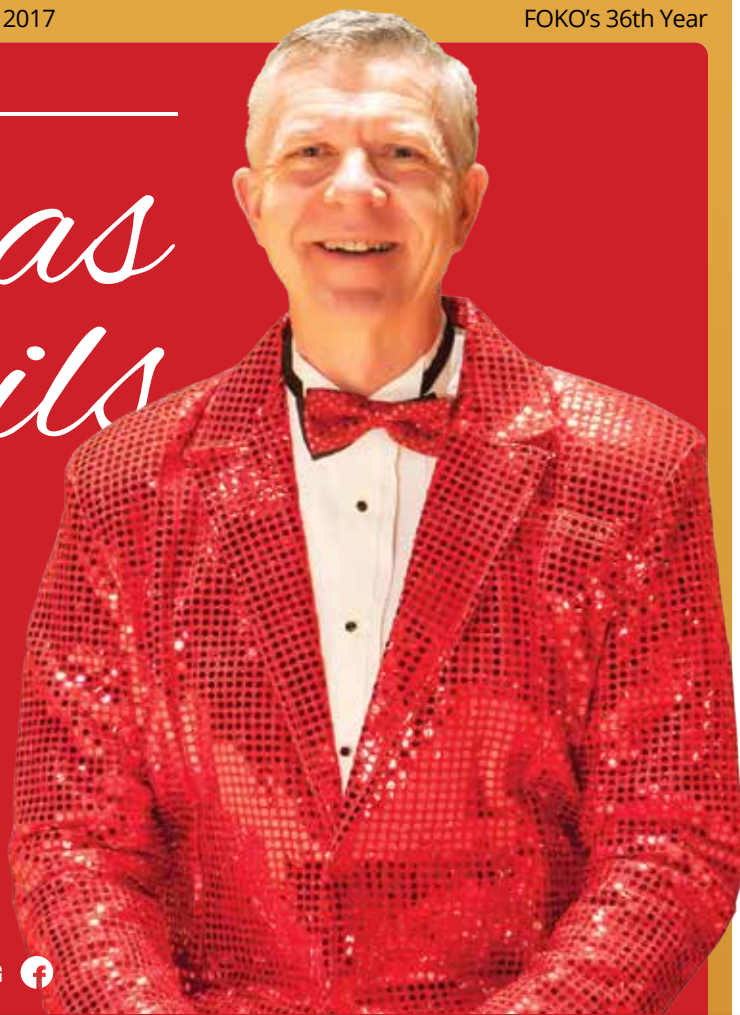
Christmas WITH Cornils

TUES, DEC 19 7:00 PM
MERRILL AUDITORIUM
Public reception to follow concert

RAY CORNILS
*with KOTZSCHMAR FESTIVAL BRASS,
PARISH RINGERS, CHORALART SINGERS*

TICKETS: PORTTIX.COM 207-842-0800

INFO: FOKO.ORG 



**RAY CORNILS' 28th AND FINAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT
AS PORTLAND'S 10th MUNICIPAL ORGANIST!**



From the President



This has been an historic year for FOKO, and for your Municipal Organist of 27 years, Ray Cornils. For those of you who have been distracted, Ray plays the mighty Kottschmar for the last time as the Municipal Organist on Tuesday, December 19th at Merrill. Kottschmar Christmas with Cornils promises to be compelling, and will probably sell out. There will be a reception for Ray after the concert; come to the rehearsal hall after the event and say good-bye.

The FOKO board of directors approached Ray earlier this year to find out how he wanted to be honored. As a result of several conversations, we are now offering a way to make it more likely that we will all remember Ray and his efforts on our behalf.

The board has designated a portion of FOKO's endowment as the "Cornils Ambassador Fund." We will use the income from this fund (as defined by our annual spending policy) to promote the Kottschmar Organ in the community to create better awareness of one of Portland's "crown jewels". We can also use the funds to continue the education and outreach programs of which Ray was an integral part. Currently, between the funds initially designated, and funds specifically raised since the summer, there is over \$172,000 in this fund. Please consider making a potentially tax deductible contribution to this fund. This will continually remind the community of Ray's legacy, and of the musical instrument he loves.

— Tom Cattell



Save the Date!

**Wednesday, April 18, 2018
at 7:30 p.m.**

Meet Portland's 11th Municipal Organist, Mr. James Kennerley, at his Portland debut concert!
More information coming soon to www.foko.org.

From the Executive Director



The past year or so has been a very exciting time for me, and an exciting time for FOKO as well. I have gotten to meet so many wonderful people and have learned so much since joining this organization. These experiences have given me a much deeper understanding and appreciation for the history of the Kottschmar and the people who have been part of its story.

I have had the privilege of meeting some incredible musicians over the past several months. I have met some teenage organists whose skill and calm poise on the big stage at Merrill Auditorium was not only impressive, but also made me recall with chagrin my own trepidation in front of much smaller audiences as a piano student at their age. Two local organists played a duet during Kottschmar Organ Day that featured a whole section played only by their four feet, which wowed me at the time and still does, many months later. I have met veteran performers who bring their music to instruments around the globe, and their enthusiasm and praise for the Kottschmar has been both heartwarming to hear and an affirming reminder of how lucky we are to have this instrument in our city.

I have also learned so very much since joining FOKO. A lot of what I have learned is thanks to Mr. Ray Cornils, who, in addition to being a wonderful musician, is a patient and enthusiastic educator. He has told me the names and stories of some of Portland's past Municipal Organists, and I was pleasantly surprised when I recognized the name of Edwin Lemare (Portland's Municipal Organist from 1921-1923), who had been mentioned as a composer in some of my previous musical studies. Ray's knowledge of all that this organ has been through – expansions and alterations, repairs and renovation, good times and bad – has been fascinating and inspiring. As I think about all that this instrument has been through, and all of the people who have championed its cause from its installation in 1912 up until now, I feel a sense of pride in what has been accomplished, and a sense of excitement for what is yet to come.

I hope that you can experience this wonderful instrument for yourself and can join us for our upcoming concerts. December 19th will mark Ray's 28th performance of his Christmas with Cornils program, and will be his final performance as Portland's 10th Municipal Organist. We invite you to come back on April 18th to meet our 11th Municipal Organist, Mr. James Kennerley, as he gives his Portland debut concert. We will have many more concerts to announce in the upcoming months, and hope to see you soon at Merrill Auditorium!

With warm wishes,

— Brooke Hubner

From the Municipal Organist



The time has come for me to wish you farewell. On December 31 I will retire as Portland's 10th Municipal Organist. So, I hope to see you in December.

These past 27 years have been an incredible and fruitful journey.

During my first decade we expanded concert offerings, got many silent pipes and recalcitrant actions working again, and joined with the City and the other resident organizations (PSO and Ovations) as City Hall Auditorium was renovated. The FOKO board and I presented the needs of the organ throughout this process, and dramatically influenced the final results as Merrill Auditorium was renovated.

In the first decade of the 21st century, FOKO put into action its dream of having a significant outreach into local schools. Kotzschmar Junior was built, and Kotzschmar 4 Kids was developed and implemented. Over the years the curriculum was expanded into include both the sciences and arts. We have been instrumental in introducing a new generation to the majesty and wonder of the pipe organ.

During this decade Austin Organs replaced the instrument's aging second console, built in 1927, with a new, state-of-the-art, five-manual console. This greatly expanded the performer's ability to creatively use the vast resources of the Kotzschmar Organ. Towards the end of this decade we hosted a symposium which took a serious look at the future health of the instrument. This formed the basis for the major work of the third decade of my tenure – the complete renovation of the Kotzschmar.

The 100th anniversary in 2012 of Cyrus Curtis's gift of the organ to the people of Portland was a momentous event. Not only did it celebrate the past 100 years, but became the springboard which launched the comprehensive renovation of this national treasure. At the completion of this project, over two years later, we marveled at the renewed vitality and brilliance of this kaleidoscopic instrument. What a treat it is to hear and play! Meanwhile, the education committee was hard at work developing and expanding its offerings to both adults and children. Videos were made, and curricula were

published, so that the work of this organization could be spread far and wide.

It would be foolish to think all of this was one person's doing. The incredible staff and dedicated board members did much of the "heavy lifting" in each of these projects. What has been done stands as a testament to what we can do together during a time of vision and stability.

Over the years there have been so many great memories of making music on this incredible instrument. I cherish them greatly. However, what will probably live in my memory even longer are the many wonderful people (young and old) whom I have encountered as Municipal Organist: loyal audience members, inquisitive classroom students, musical colleagues, dedicated staff, hard-working board members and all the people, like you, who have supported and donated time and talent to the work of this great organization. It is to you that I offer my heartfelt thanks.

After nearly 28 years it is time for the responsibility of this instrument to move to another person's shoulders. In the coming months and years my husband David and I look forward to traveling and a slower pace of life. While we will maintain a home here in Maine, we will be in the Andes for good deal of time. I want to make room for James Kennerley, my successor, to spread his wings and soar. He will be a wonderful Municipal Organist. He has my full support.

So, thank you. New chapters await all of us.

— Ray Cornils



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Ray's Top 12

In the months leading up to Ray Cornils' retirement, we asked him to think of his Top Twelve Highlights from his time with the Kotzschmar Organ. You can read about these accomplishments at www.foko.org, but here are a few pictures to give you an idea of just a few of Ray's Highlights.



Study with Dame Gillian Weir



Magic of Christmas Camel



PSO Soloist



Renovation of the Kotzschmar



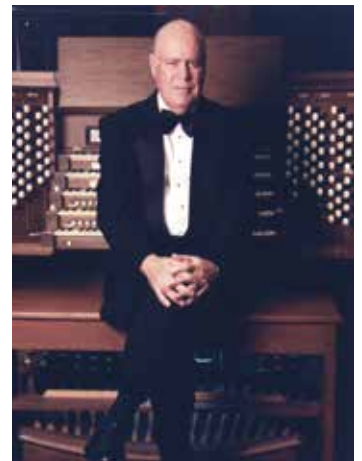
Christmas with Cornils



Teaching



In-School Curriculum



John Weaver – celebrating 50 seasons of concerts on the Kotzschmar