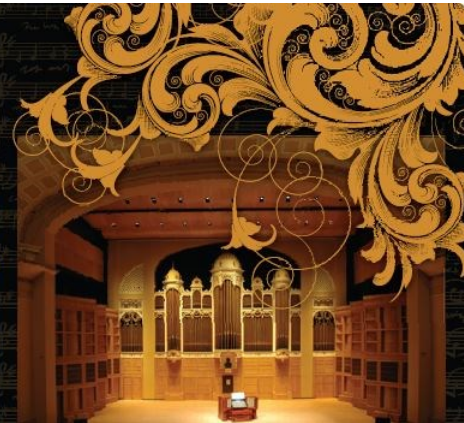


# Pipe Lines

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE KOTZSCHMAR ORGAN



106th Season of Concerts

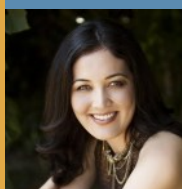
Summer 2018

FOKO's 37th Year

## PORT CITY ORGAN EXPO

Tuesdays in August

Join us for pre-concert talks at 6:30 and performances at 7:30



**Chelsea Chen**  
August 7, 2018

With playing described as "stunning" and possessing "lovely lyrical grandeur" (Los Angeles Times), Chelsea Chen has electrified audiences throughout the United States and Asia.



**Kotzschmar Organ Day**  
August 11, 2018

A celebration of "The People's Organ" featuring local organists and tours.  
Saturday, August 11, 2018, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Tours: 12:00 and 4:00 p.m.  
Free and open to the public



**Nathan Avakian**  
August 14, 2018

Renowned for his tasteful blending of twenty-first century virtual instrument technology with theatre organ music, Nathan creates performances that satisfy contemporary musical tastes and pay tribute to the historical legacy of the theatre organ.



**Walt Strony**  
August 21, 2018

Walter Strony is one of America's premier concert organists and is one of few organists equally at home playing both theatre and classical organ. He is the only living organist to have been twice voted "Organist of the Year" by the American Theatre Organ Society.



**James Kennerley and Brass**  
August 28, 2018

Following his dynamic debut concert, James Kennerley returns to the Merrill Stage to explore the powerful musical combinations of the Kotzschmar Organ and brass.

## Contact PortTix for Tickets

207-842-0043 ♦ [www.porttix.com](http://www.porttix.com) ♦ 20 Myrtle Street, Portland

September 26, 2018  
"Impressions"  
Jean-Willy Kunz and Jazz Quintet



October 30, 2018  
Silent Film: *Nosferatu*  
With James Kennerley



December 18, 2018  
Christmas with Kennerley



March 20, 2019  
Bach Birthday Bash  
With James Kennerley



## From the President



The renaissance of the Kotschmar Organ continues! Just when we thought it couldn't get any better than the September 2014 re-dedication of the refurbished organ, we recently experienced our new organist, James Kennerley, who brought a level of thoughtfulness and energy that exceeded all expectations (and we had high expectations). So after a month of patting

ourselves on the back, it is time to take an inventory. We have a world class instrument that is in tip top shape, and we have a new municipal organist who brings artistry, buzz, and connectivity beyond our traditional core audience. We have accomplished most of our aggressive goals. So a huge thank you is in order to our Board, Advisory Board, friends, supporters and donors.

By now you are sensing that there is something else – a goal yet to be realized. Yes, and this may be the most challenging goal: Increase the awareness, increase the audience size, and the level of support for the organ. We have to get our message out to an expanded audience. For our traditional concerts, we can count on 300 of our core audience to attend no matter what. But we firmly believe that this organ, and this organist, and this venue should draw a diverse audience of 1,000+. We will continue to honor the traditional organ music that we all know, best expressed by the music of JS Bach. But we will build and experiment to move that needle to a more healthy and sustainable attendance number. There are several way you can help.

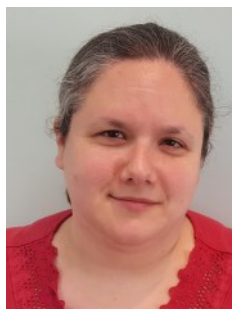
First, attend our events. Do this even when you are not sure if your favorites will be played. The programming will be compelling, and the execution will be artistic and professional, whether it is James, or a gifted guest organist at the console.

Second, let us know what you are thinking. We traditionally had only limited abilities to connect with our audience. That will change for the better eventually, but in the meantime, reach out to us.

Third, be open minded as we look to broaden the following of the organ with interesting guests and creative collaborations. In Maine we are blessed to have access to a vibrant cultural scene. You can depend on us for a 1<sup>st</sup> class performance with professional artists, who are putting on a live event for you. Bring a friend. I want to assure you that you can with confidence, tell them that they should set aside their pre-conceived notions. A Kotschmar event is a worthwhile investment of your time.

-Tom Cattell

## From the Executive Director



One of the fun parts of my job is discovering what I have come to think of as "Kotschmar Connections": the stories of how the Kotschmar Organ has touched the lives of the people of Portland, and beyond, in sometimes unexpected ways.

A few weeks ago, I received a phone call from a lady at the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Auditorium in Melrose,

Massachusetts. She was looking to chat a bit about pipe organs, specifically Austin pipe organs, as there is an Austin installed in the auditorium there in Melrose. At first, I was a bit puzzled as to why she called us at FOKO, but as she told the story behind their instrument, my curiosity, and my imagination, were piqued.

The Melrose organ was installed in the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Auditorium in 1919, and is Austin Opus 851. The organ was a gift from, and consequently named after, a Mr. John Slayton, who gave the funds for the instrument in honor of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country during the First World War. There were, however, some specific instructions that went along with his generous gift: the organ had to be built by Austin, and it had to be in a similar style to the Kotschmar. Apparently, Mr. Slayton was an organ enthusiast who made several trips to Portland to hear our organ, and he liked it so much that he wanted the people of his community to have a similar experience. To further strengthen the "Kotschmar Connection", the Melrose organ was dedicated in 1919 by Will MacFarlane (Portland's Municipal Organist from 1912-1918 and again from 1932-1934).

This brought to mind an early conversation that I had with our current Municipal Organist, James Kennerley. Even while growing up in England, he had heard of the Kotschmar and knew that it was an instrument of note. This knowledge about the organ was one of the things that prompted him to apply for the position of Municipal Organist. Once again, I found myself marveling at the power of the Kotschmar – not at the thrilling music that it produces this time, but at the impact that it has had on people.

I have to wonder who else has been inspired by the Kotschmar over the years, and where that inspiration has led. And, more importantly, as we plan our upcoming concerts, tours, and events, who will the Kotschmar Organ inspire next?

With warm wishes,  
-Brooke Hubner

## Tours

Would you like to see behind the façade of the Kotschmar Organ? Join us for a tour at noon on July 31st or August 23rd. Tours are also available after each of FOKO's August concerts.

## From the Municipal Organist



It was a beautiful spring day on June 13 of last year. I awoke to the lilting sounds of seagulls and the salty aroma of the ocean. As I made my way to Merrill Auditorium early in the morning I wondered what I was actually getting myself into. In a couple of hours' time I would be performing my audition for the position of Municipal Organist, and in that short time I'd need to tame one of the wildest, largest, and most renowned pipe

organs in the world and perform a 45-minute audition for the committee.

It obviously went fairly well and, as they say, the rest is history. I was humbled and overjoyed to be announced the Eleventh Municipal Organist. Being a City position it wasn't until several months later in September that the Mayor was able to finally bestow the title. We had to keep everything under wraps for what seemed like a lifetime!

I do not exaggerate when I say I have the best organist job in the country. The Kotschmar is a world-famous instrument of the kind that they just don't make anymore. The recent restoration has left the organ in tip-top condition. We have a superb Executive Director, Board, and an incredibly supportive audience. It's now time to maximize our efforts to get our message out into the wider community. Some of my colleagues recently performed an organ concert in London to over 4000 people. Even though we're dealing with technology that's over a century old and with repertoire that's sometimes hundreds of years old, people still love it. Our task is to find those people, and bring them to Merrill. We're also continuing the essential work of reaching out to young people through our education events, creating the next generation of FOKO supporters. I look forward to a time when our concerts are sold out, and we can do it!

It seems like a lifetime since my début concert back in April, but what an occasion that was. The organ sounded fabulous and it was a thrill to entertain you with some of the greatest music written for the instrument. Even as I sat there during the performance I couldn't help but think about my next program on the Kotschmar. And, speaking of which, we have an amazing lineup of artists for our August concert series, as well as all kinds of exciting things for the 2018-19 season. Read on for details about all of that.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank my extraordinarily talented, dedicated predecessor, Ray Cornils. Ray's tenure has been a source of inspiration to me for years, and it is with the greatest sense of pride that I carry on his work.

I can't wait to see you all in August!

With my very best wishes,

James

## Meet Opus 1e

Through a generous donation from Richard and Elisabeth Rowlands and the Portland Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, FOKO was able to commission the building of a "puzzle" organ.

The organ comes in 133 pieces, and when assembled, it is a two-octave, two-rank mechanical-action pipe organ with bellows that are easy to "pump" using your two hands. All the parts fit in a custom-built trunk with cushioned compartments to protect all the pieces. While the case plus organ pieces weighs about 90 pounds, there are wheels on the trunk help with mobility.

The original program, called *Orgelkids*, is based in the Netherlands and incorporates the building of a small, portable organ with various musical events and workshops. David Wallace discovered the information online, and presented it to the FOKO Education Committee several years ago.

*Orgelkids, USA* is a non-profit organization that was established in 2009 in Oregon and is directed by Erin Scheessele. They worked with Wim Janssen, a retired organ builder, who adapted the original plans from the Netherlands to the current model. FOKO's "Opus 1e" is only the fifth of these types of organ kits to be found in the United States.

FOKO is currently training "Ambassadors of the Organ" as we prepare for events for folks of all ages to put the puzzle together and make music. If you are interested in being an Ambassador, please contact FOKO. If you belong to a club, historical society, choir, church, or any other group that would like to book the organ for a visit, please contact the FOKO office for details. (207-553-4363). If you want to see the puzzle organ in action, we invite you to join us at Hadlock Field from 5:00-7:00 on June 29<sup>th</sup> for "Arts Outta the Park", an event hosted by Creative Portland, and on September 13<sup>th</sup> for Organ Day at Victoria Mansion.

The puzzle organ needs a catchy name. Send us your ideas and if you are the chosen submission we will have a ticket for you for one of the summer concerts. Send your creative ideas to [info@foko.org](mailto:info@foko.org).







Over 1,600 people attended Ray Cornils' final performance as Municipal Organist, including Mayor Ethan Strimling, who presented Ray with a key to the City and declared December 20, 2017 to be Ray Cornils Day.



Seventy students from the Edna Libby School visited Merrill Auditorium in April. Their visit included a brief concert, an art activity, and a tour through the wind chest. They sent some pretty amazing cards to say thank-you for their visit, and each and every student spelled "Kotzschmar" correctly!

*Photos courtesy of David Kirstein, Kue John Lor, and Richard Sawyer Photography*



In April, James Kennerley gave a truly memorable debut performance as Portland's 11th Municipal Organist.



# **FRIENDS OF THE KOTZSCHMAR ORGAN, INC.**

P. O. Box 7455  
Portland, ME 04112

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*Vice President*  
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Brooke Hubner  
*Executive Director*  
Kue John Lor  
*Administrative Assistant*  
Elsa Gekus  
*Volunteer Education Coordinator*

\*Past President  
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