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# The Hunchback of Notre Dame

1923 silent film

With special accompaniment by James Kennerley on the Mighty Kotzschmar Pipe Organ



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## The Hunchback of Notre Dame

October 2020

Music Pre-recorded on the Kotzschmar Organ at Merrill Auditorium

Portland, Maine



The **Kotzschmar Organ** is one of the grandest and most celebrated pipe organs in the world. Its home is in the historic Merrill Auditorium in the Arts district of Portland, Maine. With incredible power and range, the Kotzschmar offers an annual concert series featuring top guest artists from around the world.

The organ's 7,101 pipes are arranged in 104 ranks and played from 239 stop knobs on the organ console. Its windchest is 9 feet tall, 7 feet wide, and 54 feet long, large enough for approximately 50 people to fit inside even when the organ is being played. The Kotzschmar's main organ chamber is 60 feet long, 16 feet wide, and 40 feet tall, big enough to hold about six tractor-trailers.

The *Kotzschmar Organ* was built into the Merrill Auditorium, originally known as Portland City Hall Auditorium, when the building was constructed in 1912. Publishing Magnate Cyrus H. K. Curtis, founder of the Saturday Evening Post, commissioned the Austin Organ Company of Hartford, Connecticut, to construct and install the organ, gifting it to the city. He named the organ after his music teacher, Hermann Kotzschmar, a man he greatly admired and respected. Kotzschmar, a German native, lived in Portland from 1848 until his death in April 1908. He had a pivotal and lasting influence in Portland's rich cultural life.

In 1981, the Friends of the Kotzschmar Organ was founded to maintain, protect and preserve the organ and inspire passion for its music. In 1995, with the organ nearing its 100th birthday, the Friends came to realize that this grand "King of Instruments" was in desperate need of critical repairs. The Friends pulled together and, with the help and support of grant funding and many generous donors, were successful in raising the more than \$2.6 million needed to return the Kotzschmar to its true musical splendor.

In 2012, the Kotzschmar was removed and a complete professional renovation commenced. The work took more than two years to complete. The fully revitalized organ was dedicated on September 24, 2014, a triumph for the Friends, the City of Portland, and other Kotzschmar devotees around the country and world.

The Friends of the Kotzschmar Organ, a volunteer-driven organization, continues to ensure the sounds of the Kotzschmar can be enjoyed by future generations.







Hailed as “a great organist” displaying “phenomenal technique and sheer musicality” (Bloomberg News), James Kennerley is a multi-faceted musician, working as a conductor, keyboardist, singer, and composer. His performances are known for their illustrious flair and thrilling virtuosity, subtlety and finesse, drawing on the full resources of the instrument. James’ YouTube performances have enjoyed worldwide popularity and millions of views globally.

In 2019, James was named Director of Music at Saint Paul’s Church, Harvard Square, presiding over the world-famous choir of men and boys. He was appointed the Municipal Organist of Portland, Maine, in 2017, following a unanimous vote from the Search Committee and the City Council. A native of the United Kingdom, he has held Organist and Choirmaster positions at Saint Ignatius of Antioch Episcopal Church, New York City and the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin, Times Square.

He is also part of a team of musicians at Park Avenue Synagogue in New York City, one of the foremost centers of Jewish music and liturgy in the world.

Mr. Kennerley made his Carnegie Hall solo début in 2016 with the celebrated ensemble the Sejong Soloists. Performances last season included concerts at Alice Tully Hall, the Frick Collection, the Metropolitan Museum’s MetLiveArts series, and in the Lincoln Center White Light Festival. He has also given concerts at Washington National Cathedral, Saint Patrick’s Cathedral, Princeton University, the Royal Albert Hall, Saint Paul’s Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, and other major venues throughout the United States and Europe. He was a featured artist on recordings with the Grammy- nominated Choir of Trinity Wall Street including Handel’s *Messiah* and *Israel in Egypt*, and Monteverdi *Vespers*, as well as a recording of Julian Wachner’s *The Snow Lay on the Ground*. Mr. Kennerley was a prizewinner at the 2008 Albert Schweitzer International Organ Competition, and a finalist at the inaugural (2013) Longwood Gardens International Organ Competition.

Mr. Kennerley holds degrees from Cambridge University and The Juilliard School. He has studied the organ with David Sanger, Thomas Trotter and McNeil Robinson, and harpsichord with Kenneth Weiss, Peter Sykes, and Richard Egarr. He holds the prestigious Fellowship of the Royal College of Organists diploma.

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Friends of the Kotschmar Organ

*Presents*

# THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME

A 1923 SILENT FILM

JAMES KENNERLEY

PORTLAND'S MUNICIPAL ORGANIST

October 2020

Pre-recorded at Merrill Auditorium, Portland, Maine

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Directed by Wallace Worsley

Produced by Carl Laemmle and Irving Thalberg

A Universal Studio's 1923 "Super Jewel" Movie

Set in medieval Paris, Victor Hugo's powerful historical romance *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame* has resonated with succeeding generations ever since its publication in 1831. It tells the story of the beautiful gypsy Esmeralda, condemned as a witch by the tormented archdeacon Claude Frollo, who lusts after her. Quasimodo, the deformed bell ringer of Notre-Dame Cathedral, having fallen in love with the kindhearted Esmeralda, tries to save her by hiding her in the cathedral's tower. When a crowd of Parisian peasants, misunderstanding Quasimodo's motives, attacks the church in an attempt to liberate her, the story ends in tragedy.

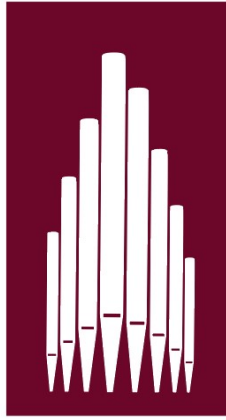
Lon Chaney's portrayal of the tortured hunchback Quasimodo, a disfigured, crippled and rejected man, elevated him to full star status in Hollywood after the film was released. Patsy Ruth Miller, a star of Silent Hall of Fame, played her most famous critically acclaimed role as Esmeralda. Other notable silent film stars include Norman Kerry and Ernest Torrence who deliver fine supporting cast performances as well.

This silent movie classic will be silent no more when Kennerley adds his magnificent playing to the film. The inspiration for the music he improvises will be from the great composers associated with Notre Dame Cathedral, like Louis Victor Jules Vienne.

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(Virtual Concert – see website for details)

### **Winter Solstice Concert (Tentative)**

Monday, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020 @ 7 p.m.  
(Virtual Concert – see website for details)

### **Lantz-Kargul Duo**

Sunday, Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021 @ 2 p.m.  
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### **VentiCordi Chamber Music**

Sunday, Mar. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 @ 2 p.m.  
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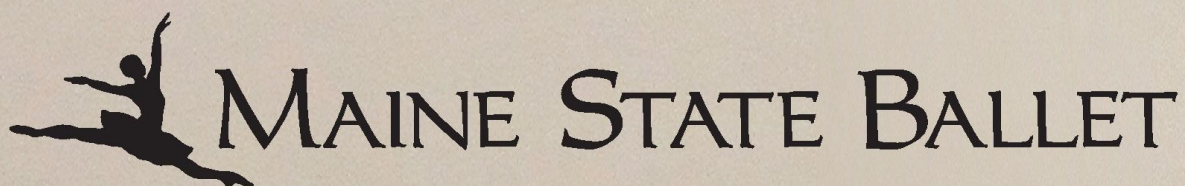
### **PSQ Concert III**

Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 @ 2 p.m.  
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For more information, visit us at [www.portlandstringquartet.com](http://www.portlandstringquartet.com)





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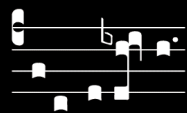
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## Annual Fund

Many thanks to all those who contribute to the Friends of the Kotzschmar Organ.  
This list includes gifts to the annual fund received between July 1, 2019 and October 8, 2020.  
Please call our office at 207-553-4363 or email [info@foko.org](mailto:info@foko.org) with any errors or omissions.

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*The Hermann Kotzschmar Society was established June 1, 2009, to honor contributions of \$1,000 or greater.*

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The following generous donors have made pledges to the Cornils Ambassadors Fund. This fund was created by the FOKO Board of Directors to allow anyone to contribute to honor the 27 year tenure and accomplishments of Ray Cornils as Portland's tenth Municipal Organist. These funds are used for the general purposes of the advancement of the Kotzschmar Organ and its programming. This list includes donations received from July 1, 2019 to October 8, 2020.

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JulieAnn Heinrich

***Doris Gallop Philbrick, Church Organist***

Julian Philbrick

***Richard & Anna Weagly***

John Brandt

## Special Thanks to:

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Paul Schnell

David & Nick Wallace

## Note from the Executive Director:

Welcome to our annual, re-imagined, Halloween event. It took some creative brainstorming to get to this place, and I am delighted with where we ended up.

I'm not sure I ever could have imagined putting the phrases "Kotzschmar Organ" and "Drive-In movie theater" into the same sentence, but here we are. This just might be one of the most daring adventures of the Kotzschmar Organ, if you take away the major restoration project of 2012-2014. I am delighted we could take this leap to keep our Halloween silent film tradition alive. I'm excited for this step because I believe it heralds even more innovative ideas for our organization.

We can't wait to be performing in front of live audiences in Merrill Auditorium. Until that time, we will keep finding ways to bring the music to you. Thank you for joining us for this very special event, at the Saco Drive-In or in your own home over Halloween weekend.


I don't like rushing time along, but I hope you are already planning to join us for our online *Christmas with Kennerley* event in December.

With much gratitude,

*Shireen Shahawy*

Executive Director, Friends of the Kotzschmar Organ

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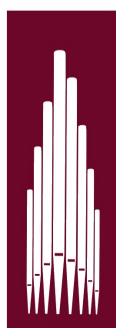


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