



Windlines

A newsletter of the American Organ Institute at the University of Oklahoma

March 2010 (Volume 3, Number 3)

<http://aoi.ou.edu/>

SPECIAL APPEARANCE - ONE PERFORMANCE ONLY
Critics define Brett Valliant's performances as "exciting," "refreshing," "unorthodox, and astonishing."
BRETT VALLIANT, organist



Performance full of surprises from many music genres on the magnificent OU Möller Municipal Organ

8 pm Saturday, March 20
Sharp Concert Hall, Catlett Music Center
in the OU Arts District!

Tickets at the Door Only
\$10 Adults \$7 OU Faculty, Staff, Students and Senior Adults

For additional information about the OU American Organ Institute and upcoming organ events visit <http://aoi.ou.edu>

For Mr. Valliant's biography/discography <http://www.brettvalliant.com>

The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity institution. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please call (405) 325-2081.

Principal Chorus



There have been so many exciting things happening at the AOI that is difficult to enumerate all of them in one article. Rather than make such an attempt, I would like to focus on one facet of our development: curriculum. As we strive to provide the most comprehensive organ education available, curriculum advances are important markers in achieving this goal. Drafting new curriculum and courses is an extensive process in and of itself. Add to that the many levels of approval and remonstrance that must occur within a major research university hierarchy such as OU, and one can understand why the massive curriculum development we have undertaken is not accomplished overnight. Despite the arduous nature of the process, I am happy to report some progress.

ORGAN TECHNOLOGY:

The AOI at OU leads the world with a ground-breaking organ technology program whose mission is to graduate students who can become the most innovative organ builders and technicians entering the profession. The BMA with Organ Technology emphasis degree is nearly through the approval process and we hope for it to be officially "on the books" by fall 2010.

While we currently offer Master's level organ technology through the College of Liberal Studies, work has begun on a Master's degree with organ technology emphasis through the Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts and the School of Music.

Once in place, these will be the only such degrees currently offered in the United States.

CHURCH MUSIC:

The innovative and relevant church music program developing at OU will produce a much-needed new breed of musician for the worshiping community. Musicians capable of synthesizing the many styles and genres into a new and appropriate church music fitting different denominational identities while demonstrating the giving spirit of a nurturing servant. This will be accomplished by a curriculum emphasizing improvisation, arranging, composition, along with the expected practical applied skills of organ, piano, and choral techniques. Additionally, practicum courses demonstrating the administrative and pastoral duties of parish musicians will be included. The AOI already leads the country with three formal internship programs at major churches in Norman. Our goal, pending additional staff, will be to have an internship at every major denomination in the Metro area. These internships have positioned the AOI at the forefront of providing students the necessary practical experience alongside an innovative and relevant curriculum. We are pleased to be attracting so many fine aspiring church musicians here at OU. In partnership with the Choral area and joined in committee by a number of my fine colleagues, the following degrees were drafted and submitted for the first round of approvals along with new course proposals as outlined above:

- MM – Organ with Church Music Emphasis
- MM – Choral Conducting with Church Music Emphasis
- DMA – Organ with Church Music Emphasis
- DMA – Choral Conducting with Church Music Emphasis

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At the AOI — Spring 2010

- Mar. 20, 8 p.m., Sharp Concert Hall.** Brett Valliant Concert. (See Ad)
- Apr. 1, 5 p.m., Sharp Concert Hall.** Andrea Printy, Masters Recital
- Apr. 16, 6 p.m., Kerr Gothic Hall.** Kenneth Vigne, Masters Recital.
- Apr. 25, 6 p.m. Sharp Concert Hall.** Olivia Buthod, Masters Recital.

Ticket information and accommodations on the basis of disability are available by calling the Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts Box Office at (405) 325-4101.

Principal Chorus Cont'd from page 1

THEATRICAL ORGAN:

Another unique facet of the AOI is the inclusion of the theatre organ in our overall curriculum. Although theatre organ is already being taught to performance majors (selected performances are a part of the BM, MM, and DMA repertoire requirements), our vision has been to offer a specific degree emphasis on theatrical organ for those students wishing to focus their musical creativity on popular music and silent film accompaniment. With the amazingly versatile 3/14 "Mini-Mo" on campus, OU is uniquely positioned to offer such degrees.

Work has begun on drafting BM & MM Organ with Theatre Organ emphasis degrees. Stay tuned for more details on this exciting new avenue for study.

As you might surmise, innovation and relevancy are guiding lights for all of us at the AOI. In summary, we believe that having these contrasting areas of organ study effectively "under one roof" encourages students from different areas of interest to learn from each other and makes real the liberal arts model within the organ program. Thank you to all our readers for your continuing interest and support of this bold new initiative on behalf of the future of the pipe organ and its music.

May the renewal of spring bring to you and yours a sense of new energy and hope for the future. Spring is a time for new growth and as we prepare for some more fabulous auditions, I will look forward to giving you a report on the continuing growth of our organ "family" here at the AOI.

My every best wish,
JS

Piping in...

In 2008, I graduated from St. Olaf College with a church music degree, and came to the University of Oklahoma to study organ performance. I still remember telling my boss at the Information Technology office at Olaf that once I graduated, I would never work with computers again if I could help it, because I was going to find my fortune as an organist. Coming to OU however, I was told that half of my Graduate Assistantship would be in the IT office at the School of Music. When I changed from a split GA to a full organ GA after Spring 2009, the AOI charged the students with designing a new website, and I found myself volunteering with three other students for this task.



Since I was the only one who knew how to code (which is a generous description, considering the last time I'd dabbled in HTML was in middle school in 1999), I chaired the committee. I found myself up late at night and early in the morning online reading about everything that's changed in the last decade. We kept missing the deadlines as we discovered more and more material that we hadn't known about, until finally on Jan. 27, 2010 we were ready to launch. Because the AOI continues to grow and expand, the website still gets updated every week with new information and functionality.

Even though in this past year I've learned a lot about website design, what I've learned about organ building in documenting all the shop procedures and interviewing students and staff about their projects has surprised me even more. Once I graduate from OU, I plan on never doing anything computer related again, but something in the back of my mind doubts that very much.

Come see what we've done at <http://aoi.ou.edu/>!

—Kenneth Vigne

The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity institution. The American Organ Institute is a program within the Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts (<http://finearts.ou.edu>) and the School of Music (<http://music.ou.edu>). This publication is issued by the University of Oklahoma. This newsletter is printed at no cost to the taxpayers of the State of Oklahoma.

At the Shop...

One of the most exciting developments currently in process at the AOI Shop is the student-led rebuilds of two smaller instruments: the 1/5 Hinners "Style No. 5" Opus 2686, and the 2/2-1/2 Möller "Artiste", Opus 10736. Organ technology Masters student Jeremy Wance is student leader of the Hinners restoration project, and technology and performance double major Brennan Ebeling is student leader of the Artiste renovation.

The Hinners Opus 2686, originally built in 1924 was received by the American Organ Institute in 2008 in extremely good condition—a case of preservation by neglect. Upon initial assembly of the instrument, Wance found a large amount of penciled graffiti in the calcant (person who pumps an organ bellows) chambers. Study of these markings have given the AOI great insight into the history of this instrument and the church in which it resided. The project approach is a conservative restoration. Graffiti and other distinctive marks will be retained. Eventually, this organ will be installed in a practice studio with both a functional hand-pump and blower.



C. B. Fisk Opus 111 in Gothic Hall is a unique instrument to play on because it has non-standard keyboards and a non-standard flat-parallel pedalboard. Students have long complained that about difficulty in transferring repertoire learned from a practice instrument to performing on the Fisk. Organ technology major Brennan Ebeling's Sophomore year project included proposing how to revise the 2/2-1/2 Möller Artiste to be closer to the Fisk's specifications. Most importantly, the keyboards and pedalboard will be replaced with ones modeled after the Fisk design. In addition to these changes, the stoplist will be slightly altered, removing excessive higher pitches. The switch stacks will be replaced with a Peterson relay, which in addition to its obvious function, was chosen to give technology students access to another type of relay (the Mini-Mo used a Z-Tronics system).

See you in the Fall!

During summer break, there will be no issue of *Windlines*. The next issue will be fall 2010.