



# WINDLINES

The newsletter of the American Organ Institute at the  
University of Oklahoma School of Music

Summer 2012 (Volume 5, Number 3 )

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

## Message from the Director

Dear friends of the AOI,

Each issue of our newsletter is an opportunity for me to reflect on the past and consider where we might be by the time of our next publication. As you will read, we have marked many milestones in just the past few months, including another graduation ceremony and a bevy of competition victories. Our students have been enormously successful and I am greatly honored that so many outstanding young organists have chosen to come to OU, where they become part of a long line of fine musicians stretching back decades.

I do not take lightly the fact that my predecessors include Clark Kelly and the legendary Mildred Andrews. I'm thankful that Dr. Kelly is still a very active member of our community and provides me and my students the benefit of his insight and experience. I wonder regularly what Miss Andrews might have to say about the growth of this program that exists on the foundation that she built. I know she would be pleased by the success of our students, and it is fitting that their abilities are honed in part on the instrument that bears her name.

At the same time, I am mindful that so many of our accomplishments are due not only to honoring venerable traditions and historic methods, but in the very pioneering spirit that is at the heart of the state of Oklahoma. Here, on what was wide rolling prairie, a stake was driven in the name of education. Forward-thinking leaders toiled to create an oasis of learning, scholarship and culture. Nothing was seen as impossible, and freedom from hidebound tradition allowed new ideas to prosper. That spirit is still strong today.

The rise of the American Organ Institute tracks the much larger ascent of the University of Oklahoma under the leadership of President David Boren. The AOI is very unique within the pipe organ community, but as a program at OU it is only one of many new initiatives that have grown vigorously in the fertile environs of this great institution.

Success takes hard work and dogged determination — both part of the core ethos of Oklahoma. Our faculty and staff have thrown their backs into the tasks of creating a complete working pipe organ shop, building new degree emphases and raising the community support necessary for sustained growth. A shared vision makes work lighter and hope abundant.

You will see that we have many exciting things planned in our near future. There's more than can be contained in this brief newsletter. I encourage you to visit [aoi.ou.edu](http://aoi.ou.edu) regularly to learn more about where we have been and where we are headed. Come enjoy the programs we offer, see the pipe organ in a new way and join us as we continue to strive for excellence.

—John Schwandt



## Mark your Scores!

8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 31,  
Gothic Hall, Boggess Memorial  
Organ, Boggess Concert Series,  
Christopher Marks

8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 26,  
Sharp Hall, Hallowe'en Silent  
Film, *The Cat and the Canary*,  
Clark Wilson, theatre organ

8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7,  
Gothic Hall, Boggess Memorial  
Organ, Sutton Concert Series,  
*Holiday Pipes*, John Schwandt

8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 25,  
Sharp Hall, Boggess Concert  
Series, Walt Strony, theatre organ



\*For a complete list of up-to-date events visit: <http://aoi.ou.edu/events.html>

## Fanfare



(From Left: Chris Ganza, Adam Pajan and John Schwandt; Mayu Hashigaya pictured at right)

Mayu Hashigaya, following in the footsteps of John Schwandt and Jeremy Wance, was named an E. Power Biggs Fellow of the Organ Historical Society and will attend their national convention in Chicago. Mayu, a native of Yokohama, Japan, is the second student to pursue a master's degree in organ with an emphasis in organ technology at OU. Congrats to all three!

This past academic year brought numerous accolades and prizes for OU students. In September, in conjunction with the national convention of the American Institute of Organbuilders, Adam Pajan presented his concert as the winner of the 2011 Arthur Poister Competition. Pajan also received the Stan Kann Scholarship from the American Theatre Organ Society and competed in the semi-final round of the NYACOP.

Chris Ganza was particularly successful in competitions, winning the Albert Schweitzer Competition, the Ruth and Paul Manz Competition and the John Rodland Competition, while also competing in the finals of the Poister Competition. Ganza received his master of music degree in May, and will remain at the AOI for doctoral studies.



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is now on **facebook**.



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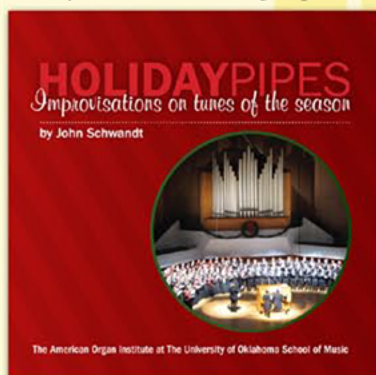
## New Collection!

At the close of 2011, the American Theatre Organ Society formally concluded an agreement transferring their entire archive to the AOI. Containing thousands of individual items, including rare recordings, photos and original correspondence, the collection is a comprehensive account of the history of the theatre organ in America. Here at the AOI, it will be known as the American Theatre Organ Collection, within the larger American Organ Institute Archive and Library. We are pleased to report that the complete contents have now been safely transferred to the AOI. Over the coming years, the entire collection will be sorted, cataloged and preserved so that it will be available to researchers from around the world. A grant from the ATOS will provide two graduate assistantships to help accomplish this task – one from the Organ area, and one from the School of Library and Information Sciences. We are pleased to announce the appointment of James Richardson, master's student in Organ, and Bailey Schreier, master's student in Library and Information Science (pictured at right). We also wish to thank Jim and Dolores Patak, who were the guardians of the collection for many years, along with the Board of Directors and the members of the ATOS, for entrusting us with this priceless collection.



## Hot off the Press!

We are happy to announce the production of a second CD by the AOI. *Holiday Pipes: Improvisations on*



*tunes of the season* is a compilation of selections from John Schwandt's annual *Holiday Pipes* concert. Copies are available for a donation of \$20. Contact us by email or telephone, or look for them at the coming *Holiday Pipes* concert.

The American Organ Institute at The University of Oklahoma School of Music

## From the Shop

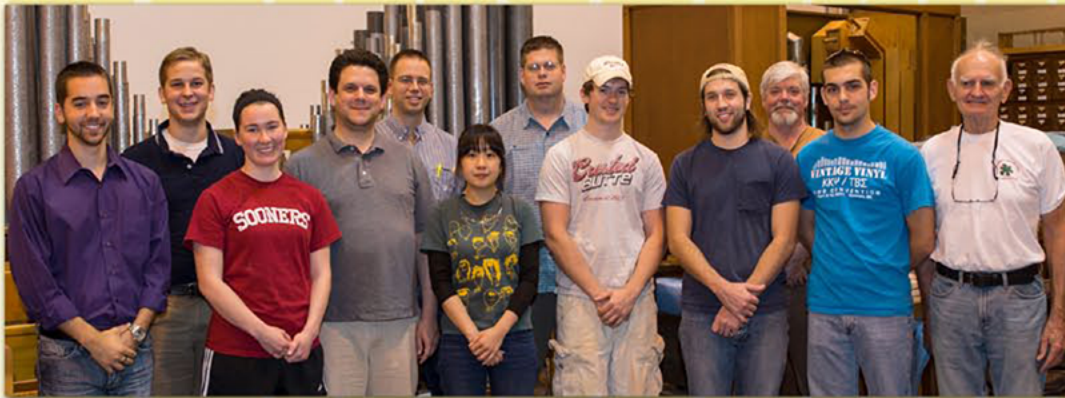
It has been another exciting year at the AOI Shop, where every year seems to bring new and wonderful progress!

The new courses in Organ Technology have entered the rotation. Fundamentals of Organ Construction and Design was offered in the fall of 2011, and Organ Construction and Design I (with the tongue-in-cheek abbreviation of OCD I) was offered in the spring of 2012. OCD II will complete the rotation this fall. These courses have syllabi based on that of the Fellowship exam offered by the American Institute of Organbuilders, and are thus extremely comprehensive and rich in information. Our guest instructors included Peter Batchelder and Charles Kegg (pictured above right). Summer is a time of increased activity because we don't have to balance an academic calendar along with a project calendar. There are a total of nine students spending the summer working in the Shop, and we are fortunate to have such enthusiastic and committed individuals as part of our family.

This summer, the AOI will complete the renovation of a fourth practice organ. Möller Opus 10827, a three rank "Artiste" model, was treated to a full re-leathering, new switching system, refinishing, new keyboards, revoicing, and the addition of an 8' Principal bass. We are also making a few improvements to the 14-rank "Mini-Mo," including installation of new keyboards, one of which incorporates second touch, which is commonly used in popular music performance and silent film accompaniment.

The most noteworthy project in the shop is the complete renovation of the Great division of Möller Opus 5819. A generous gift from Will Webster has allowed this project to proceed in earnest. Our first task was to restore the main Diapasons chest. This seven-rank chest holds the 16' Double Open (from 4°C), the 8' 1st, 2nd and 3rd Diapasons (from 4°C), the 4th Diapason (from 8°C), and the 4' 1st and 2nd Octaves. That's a lot of tone on one wind-chest! The renovation of this windchest serves as a template for all of the windchests to come, and we are very pleased with the results. Hearing this chorus speak for the first time in many years has been quite thrilling, and we anxiously await the day when the entire division is playable on the shop floor!

—John Riester, Shop Manager



Most of our summer crew, from Left:

James Richardson  
Nolan Reilly  
Elizabeth Tooley  
Jeremy Wance  
John Riester  
Mayu Hashigaya  
Dan Sliger  
Jeff Brown  
Chris Norman  
Jim Cullen  
Austin Kitch

## Congratulations!

The students, faculty and staff of the AOI salute our recent graduates! Chris Ganza and Susan Johnson received their master of music degrees in organ performance this May. Additionally, David Conley received his M.M. this past December. We are pleased that Chris will be remaining at OU to begin his doctoral studies, and we wish Susan and David well as they pursue their careers in the great wide world! Pictured at right are Vicki Schaeffer, Chris Ganza, John Schwandt, Susan Johnson and Jeremy Wance.



# Open House...



On May 6, the AOI hosted its fifth Annual Open House, showcasing its shop facilities and current projects to interested members of the general public. This event has proven to be very popular with the larger community, and we were pleased to welcome visitors from as far as Dallas and Tulsa! Our guests were able to hear the renovated Great Diapasons chest at close range and inspect the renovation of the three-rank Möller Artiste. As they wandered through the shop at leisure, guests enjoyed delectable treats, thanks to our beloved "Organ Mom," Cindy Pullin.

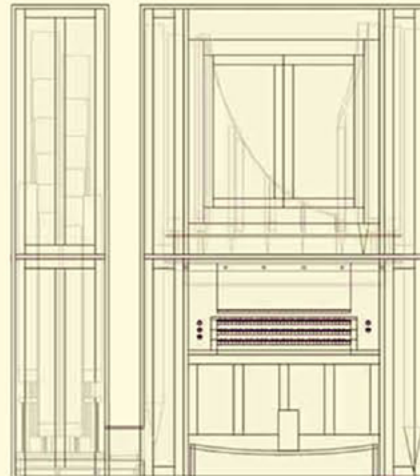
Of particular note was the Möller roll perforator in the left foreground. Acquired by the AOI in 2009, along with the entire collection of master rolls, the perforator is undergoing restoration so that it will operate for the first time in decades. In the form of the perforator and master rolls, the AOI possesses a true treasure of American musical history, for the rolls faithfully reproduce musical performances that are nearly a century old. Thus, modern audiences will be able to hear historic performances in real time. Watch this newsletter or our website for an announcement of next year's Open House and plan to join us!

## Wahl Practice Organ Under Way



The AOI happily anticipates delivery of a new 4-stop mechanical action practice organ currently under construction by Wahl Organbuilders. With its contrasting full-length unison sounds and the provision of a third coupling manual, it will be a pleasant and valued addition to the current suite of practice organs. This instrument was made possible by a bequest from the Mildred Andrews Boggess Estate.

More information is available at: [www.wahlorganbuilders.com](http://www.wahlorganbuilders.com)



**Manual III**  
8 Claribella  
4 Flute\*

**Manual II**  
8 Principal  
4 Flute\*

**Manual I**  
coupling manual

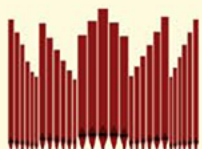
**Pedal**  
16 Subbass

**Couplers**  
III/P  
II/P  
II 8ve/P

Key compass: 61/32

\*alternatively available

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