



Windlines

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

September 2009 (Volume 3, Number 1)

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

Dean's Message

The OU ARTS DISTRICT is eagerly anticipating our unique organ party, "Old Wine, New Bottles." Ever since the grand M. P. Möller Opus 5819 arrived on our campus, we have looked forward to sharing our program and this one-of-a-kind instrument with our friends and supporters in a very tangible and exciting way. Our team has created a unique and very special weekend showcasing our students, faculty, amazing guest artists and remarkable instruments. We want to pay homage to our heritage and embrace our exciting future.



This is an event like no other and is not to be missed. We here at OU are committed to building one of the most comprehensive organ programs anywhere. We look forward to seeing you and sharing what we have done and where we are going. Come be a part of the magic. There are many opportunities for you to share and invest in the future of our program ... but seeing and hearing is believing. Don't just learn about it from a friend ... come hear it, see it and touch it in person.

Make your plans and sign up now to join us Oct. 2 through 4. Come visit what we consider to be the premiere fine arts college in the Heartland of America. Come celebrate our pipe organs and the American Organ Institute. Come visit OU ... your fine arts destination ... five schools, 1,100 student majors, 200 expert faculty and two magnificent concert organs. See you soon.

— Dean Rich Taylor
Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts

Principal Chorus

We believe in our motto "Honoring the past, embracing the present and fostering the future." It has been my hope and vision for the concept now named the American Organ Institute to become a reality for the sake of future generations. A unique convergence of skills, talent and personalities has and will revitalize the pipe organ art in all its dimensions. I am pleased to report that this convergence and the resulting exciting revolution is happening right now in America's heartland at the University of Oklahoma. New ground has been tilled, new talent discovered and new sounds have been heard. A new school year is beginning and the AOI is bursting at the seams with new growth. Come and see what the talk is all about Oct. 2 through 4 for our "Old Wine, New Bottles" gala events. Come and see for yourself how we have truly honored the past, embraced the present, and thereby fostered the future! Your presence and support is crucial to the future of the institute.



We have developed a series of concerts that shows off our instruments in ways that everyone can enjoy. Order your tickets now to be a part of this historically important moment in the world of the pipe organ! Ticket packages and individual tickets are available by calling the Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts Box Office at (405) 325-4101. Further information is available at <http://aoi.ou.edu/gala> or by calling the AOI at (405) 325-7829. See you soon in the OU Arts District!

— Professor John Schwandt, AOI director

At the AOI – Fall 2009

Noon, Tuesday, Sept. 22, Sharp Halls. Museum of Art Noontime Concert featuring AOI Students (no admission charge)

American Organ Institute Gala Events (for more information, visit <http://aoi.ou.edu/gala>)

Thursday, Oct. 1

8 p.m., Sharp Concert Hall. OU Wind Symphony and Symphony Band with the Möller Municipal Organ

Friday, Oct. 2

2:30-4p.m., AOI Shop. Behind-the-Scenes Open House: Tours of the AOI Shop led by student organists (no admission charge)

6 p.m., Sharp Concert Hall Stage. Gala On-Stage Reception

8 p.m., Sharp Concert Hall. *Kaleidoscope Concert*, Peter Richard Conte, guest organ soloist

Saturday, Oct. 3

10:30 a.m., Sharp Concert Hall. "Peter and the Wolf" and other favorites, R. Jelani Eddington, guest organ soloist (no admission charge)

2 p.m., Sharp Concert Hall. *Divine Reflections: Choral Masterworks*, featuring University of Oklahoma choirs, John Schwandt and American Organ Institute students

6 p.m., Gothic Hall. *Grand Salute to a Grand Lady*, Donald Dumler, guest organ soloist

8 p.m., Sharp Concert Hall. *Be Silent No More!* Silent Movie *Metropolis* featuring Clark Wilson, guest organ soloist

Sunday, Oct. 4

10:30 a.m.-noon, AOI Shop. Behind-the-Scenes Open House: Tours of the AOI Shop led by student organists (no admission charge)

1:30p.m., Pitman Hall. *Uncorking a Magnum: Moving the Mighty Möller*, lecture and presentation by John Bishop (no admission charge)

3 p.m., Sharp Concert Hall. *All Star Blockbuster*, featuring the Möller Municipal Organ, R. Jelani Eddington, John Schwandt and Clark Wilson, organ; Jeongwon Ham, piano; and special appearance by OU Jazz Ensemble members

8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, Sharp Concert Hall. Holiday Pipes Concert featuring Professor John Schwandt, organist

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.

Technical Corner

The University of Oklahoma American Organ Institute has acquired another priceless treasure: the original Möller perforator and all known extant master rolls. First purchased from M. P. Möller Pipe Organ Company in the 1980s by James Weisenborne, they were later donated to the Music House Museum in Acme, Mich. The AOI recently negotiated with the museum to acquire these treasures.



The perforator, pictured left, converts the 26-1/2" wide master rolls into the standard 11-1/4" wide performance rolls. In early June 2009, Drew Mangus, Dan Sliger, Jeremy Wance and I made the trek to northern Michigan. We packed up the rolls and equipment over three days. The weight of the rolls and equipment required splitting the load into three

separate 26' trucks. Many hands (and muscles) sped up the unloading of

the master rolls, which weigh between 20 and 100 pounds each. Helping the four of us were Bob Wilhelm, Frank Wu, Craig Sproat, John Schwandt, Bob Shull and Bradley Fitch.



In the last picture, Jeremy Wance, left, catalogs the numbered rolls before passing them up to Dan Sliger, right. Master rolls, perforator, player rolls and other equipment will be just one of the many items on display at the AOI shop during the "Old Wine, New Bottles" gala.

— John Riester, AOI Shop Manager

Final note: In exchange for the acquisition of the perforator, rolls and other equipment, Professor Schwandt

will be providing silent movie accompaniment of the 1923 Lon Cheney classic *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* at the Music House Museum. If you are near Traverse City on Oct. 10, check out one of the showings with John Schwandt at the Wurlitzer organ. More info on tickets and location on the MHM web site musichouse.org



OU Combined Choirs perform a rousing chorus of "Oklahoma" accompanied by John Schwandt to close their April 2009 concert.



Piping in ...

This past summer I had the opportunity to work for the Friends of the Wanamaker Organ in Philadelphia. I was involved with several of their ongoing projects and gained valuable skills in the process. I learned the most, however, from helping to voice the pipes of the Wanamaker Organ Orchestral division.

This division has several ranks of flue pipes that are being voiced in the Friends' shop. Peter Batchelder, an eminent pipe voicer, is responsible for the tonal finishing of the division. I assisted him in his work by prepping pipes, which he would then finish. From this work, I saw how involved voicing really is and discovered how many various elements come together to make a pipe sound.

The voicing process itself is quite laborious. We had to take the immense space in which the Wanamaker Organ is located into account. To ensure that every pipe sounds right in the room, we took a few pipes from each set to the Orchestral chamber and voiced them there so we could use them as samples to follow later. Then we put the set on the voicing machine and voiced each pipe. After going over the entire rank, we took the pipes back to the pipe chamber and regulated the volume of each pipe while listening from various places in the room.

Now that I am back at the University of Oklahoma for the fall semester, I will be able to apply the knowledge I gained over the summer to the many exciting projects the AOI is undertaking. By combining my unique training in organ technology at OU with summer work at other locations, I have been able to strengthen the knowledge and skills acquired at OU. This combination of practical and theoretical understanding will be the foundation of my continuing work in the field of organ building.

— Brennan Ebeling

Brennan Ebeling, a native of the Philadelphia area, is starting his sophomore year this fall. He is pursuing a double major with Bachelor of Musical Arts in organ technology and Bachelor of Music in organ Performance degrees



Above: Brennan, front, with Peter Batchelder, center, working on voicing at Wanamaker Grand Court voicing room in Philadelphia.

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.

PS: In the News ... As local and national interest has been building in this innovative program and the upcoming gala here at OU, there have been many newspaper and television features. Check them out at <http://aoi.ou.edu/gala>