

New Docents bring vitality to Kotzschmar tours

FOKO's second round of Docent training program under the tutelage of Ray Cornils and David Wallace has introduced five new people to the ranks of Kotzschmar Docent. Our graduates this year represent a wide range of backgrounds but all have an enthusiasm for the organ and promoting its splendor to others.

Training consists of three, three-four hour sessions of sharing information about the Kotzschmar Organ, its history and specifics about the workings of pipe organs, and how to make it relevant to the general public.

Clarissa Brown of Brunswick, brings a strong background in organ theory and playing. Her knowledge gives a depth of understanding that assists the others in their learning. **Joyce Freeman**, a retired school principal from Cape Elizabeth, has a background in choral and instrumental music and finds knowing about the Kotzschmar a wondrous experience.

David Kirstein, a resident of Scarborough, has volunteered for several duties and decided that being a docent was the next step in his enthusiasm for the organ. **Michael Hetzel** from Brunswick is an engineer and finds the intricacies of the organ likened to "a big machine." Our youngest docent is **Seamus Gethicker**, a middle school student, from Bath. He plays the organ, has experienced our *Kotzschmar 4 Kids* program and was stationed at Kotzschmar, Jr. in the lobby at our October Silent Film.

Several of our new docents have already lead tour groups or assisted with events this fall. FOKO welcomes them to our team of ambassadors. If you have an interest in becoming a docent, please email Elsa at volunteer@foko.org.



DEUX DOCENTS DOING DUTY: SEAMUS GETHICKER AND DAVID KIRSTEIN

From the Executive Director



It is difficult to believe that we are approaching yet another *Christmas with Cornils*. It seems only yesterday we were singing "The Twelve Days of Christmas" to Ray! This past summer brought us an outstanding lineup of artists, many of whom had never performed on the Kotzschmar. We were fortunate to hear **Isabel Demers, Chelsea Chen** and **Ahreum Han** for the first time, and welcomed back **Thomas Heywood, Felix Hell** and **Dave Wickerham**. Ray stepped in at the last minute for **Stephen Tharp** who cancelled due to health reasons. What a treat that concert was. And Ray and the Festival Brass ended the season with a tribute to Ray's father.

2011 is just around the corner and our spring lineup promises to be stellar as well. **Rob Richards** will be back for *Kids, Kartoons & Kotzschmar* in February. We're partnering with the Children's Museum & Theater to offer discounts to their membership to this family concert and discounts to the Museum if you attend the concert.

Ray will be joined by baritone **Aaron Engebret** and violinist **Mark Paxson** for the annual *Bach Birthday Bash*. Ray will join Lionheart and the Portland String Quartet in collaboration with Portland Ovations in May.

Our spring series ends with **Cameron Carpenter** in April. We'll be helping Cameron celebrate an important birthday! Tickets to this concert would make great holiday gifts!

As we look ahead to the Centennial of the organ, we have chosen to begin the Centennial celebration in September 2011. We have many collaborations planned throughout the 2011-2012 concert season and some great surprises along the way. We'll be announcing the season later in January so stay tuned!

May this season bring to all peace and harmony.

—Kathleen Grammer



BREAKWATER STUDENTS ENJOYED AN EVENING AT THE SILENT MOVIE WITH TOM TRENNY IN OCTOBER



2011 Winter/Spring/Summer

Sun, Feb 20, 2011 Kids, Kartoons and Kotzschmar
2:00 pm **Rob Richards**, Disney's El Capitan Theatre organist, Hollywood

Tues, Mar 22, 2011 Bach Birthday Bash
Two performances
2:00 and 7:30 pm **Ray Cornils**, Municipal Organist
Aaron Engebret, baritone, **Mark Paxson**, violin

Sat, Apr 16, 2011 Celebrity Concert
7:30 pm **Cameron Carpenter**, Organist

Sun, May 15, 2011 Phil Kline's "John the Revelator" with
3:00 pm **Lionheart, Ray Cornils** and the **Portland String Quartet** - A Portland Ovations presentation

Tues, May 17, 2011 Meet the King of Instrumenets
10:30 am Youth concert, grades 3-6

The 99th Summer Series will include **Sophie-Véronique Cauchefer Choplin** on August 2 (our Celebrity guest last spring, who had to cancel for health reasons).

July 12	August 2	August 16	August 30
July 19	August 9	August 23	

For details, please visit www.foko.org



Pipe Lines

The official newsletter of the Kotzschmar Organ

Christmas with Cornils

A KOTZSCHMAR CHRISTMAS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20th, 7:30 p.m.



Don't miss the unforgettable sounds of the mighty Kotzschmar Organ during this holiday season! Join **Ray Cornils**, the **Festival Brass**, **Parish Ringers** and **Musica de Filia**, **Jaye Churchill**, director, for another exceptional holiday experience on the Kotzschmar Organ.

Each year, new arrangements of familiar and new works create a theme that is woven throughout the program as each group brings exceptional performances to the Merrill stage.

Tickets are on sale through Porttix at the box office (noon-6 pm, Monday-Saturday), 207.842.0800 or via www.porttix.com. The box office will be open the day and evening of the performance.

In keeping with the Kotzschmar tradition, a limited number of seats will be available on a "pay what you can" basis (suggested \$15) at 7:00 p.m.

Thank you to **HeadInvest** for their continued sponsorship of this annual performance.



Board's Eye View —

Catherine Wygant



FOKO: Both you and your family have an incredible commitment to the arts. Why are the arts so important to you?

CW: The arts challenge you to explore the world through different lenses. Music opens a whole new window to the world by using your imagination and experiencing a performance that is unique and captured only in the time you share with the audience. It takes you away and lets you look at life outside of the day-to-day routine.

FOKO: What drew you to the FOKO Board – what interests you most about our programs?

CW: The organ is a unique gem for the city and it amazes me every time I hear it that one person playing this amazing instrument can fill the hall as if a whole symphony were present.

FOKO: What is your background in music?

CW: I know how to play a didgeridoo from Australia but beyond that my musical knowledge comes from my father, family, friends and fiancé.

KIDS, KARTOONS, AND KOTZSCHMAR
FAMILY MATINEE
 Sunday, February 20, 2011, 2:00 p.m.
 Merrill Auditorium, Portland, ME
 Including selections from
 Walt Disney's "Alice" series
 Rob Richards, organist
 (207) 553-4363 • www.foko.org
 Give the Gift of MUSIC!
 Tickets on Sale Now!
 www.porttix.com
 PortTix 207-842-0800

From the President



As President of the Board of the Friends of the Kotschmar Organ, I often find myself mentioning the organ in conversations I have with friends and professional colleagues. Even after serving seven years on the Board, I continue to be surprised by the number of people who are not aware that Merrill Auditorium in Portland, Maine, is home to one of the finest Austin symphonic organs in the world. Many of the programs sponsored by Friends of the

Kotschmar Organ are focused on this very issue, through our concert series, silent film events and education programs.

We purposely offer a variety of opportunities for people to hear the Kotschmar Organ in order to broaden our audiences as much as possible. Our education program began by sponsoring a school program, *Meet the King of Instruments*, and collaborating with a sixth grade class at Mt. Ararat School in Topsham, Maine. In recent years, it has expanded to curriculums for several other schools and an annual event, *Kids, Kartoons and Kotschmar*. This year, the Breakwater School in Portland will be "guardians" of the Kotschmar Organ and through this partnership they will learn more about this fine instrument. These students form our audience of the future and tend to increase interest among their parents.

Silent films have been a way to introduce another type of audience, one that features families and young professionals. Of course, Friends of the Kotschmar Organ also features several concerts each year with world-class organists who are very excited to have the opportunity to play the Kotschmar Organ. Preserving and promoting audiences for concert organists is an extremely important part of the mission of Friends of the Kotschmar Organ.

You can help with raising the awareness of the Kotschmar Organ and preserving the legacy of world-class organists playing in Portland, Maine. Each year Ray Cornils, our Municipal Organist, assembles one of the great holiday traditions in Portland, *Christmas with Cornils, A Kotschmar Christmas*. The program is filled with glorious holiday music, both traditional and new. It is the perfect event for you to invite friends to join you to see and hear a unique treasure that they may not know is located right in Merrill Auditorium.

— Bruce Lockwood

KO E-News

Tired of hauling recycled paper? Would you rather receive the newsletter via email? Sign up for our email list online at www.foko.org/newsletter

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www.foko.org (207) 553-4363

Breakwater School appointed "Keepers of the Kotsch"

In partnership with the Friends of the Kotschmar Organ (FOKO), Breakwater School recently accepted a symbolic guardianship of the renowned Kotschmar Organ, housed in Portland City Hall's Merrill Auditorium. As the first-ever "Keepers of the Kotsch," Breakwater will act as the official guardians of the magnificent "King of Instruments" through August 2012.

Breakwater Head of School David Sullivan proudly accepted the Key to the Kotschmar, presented on stage by FOKO during the Kotschmar Organ Halloween Concert on October 29. "At Breakwater we are always seeking ways to integrate the arts into our curriculum and to develop meaningful connections with the Portland community, and this partnership is rich with possibilities," said Sullivan.

Although the alliance is still in the early development stage, all K-8 Breakwater students have already visited Merrill Auditorium to meet Ray Cornils and learn about the Kotschmar. K Jr. (Kotschmar Jr.), the portable demonstration organ, arrived on November 6th at its new home in Breakwater's music room, where it will reside until December 10. Ray met with students before Thanksgiving break to introduce them to the world of the pipe organ.

About Breakwater School

Located in Portland, ME, Breakwater is an independent day school where students, pre-K through grade 8, are immersed in an inclusive, small school environment that bolsters their social and



STUDENTS AND FACULTY FROM BREAKWATER SCHOOL GATHERED ON STAGE BELOW THEIR NEWLY-ACQUIRED CHARGE TO CELEBRATE THEIR APPOINTMENT AS "KEEPERS OF THE KOTZSCH."

Kotschmar Korner

My seven year old son, Samson, attended the Halloween concert and witnessed our Head of School, David Sullivan, being presented with the key to the Kotschmar Organ. As adults we realize this is a symbolic representation of our relationship; a seven year old's point of view is much different.

A few weeks after the show he pressed me for an answer on how early Mr. Sullivan got up each

morning. I asked him why he needed to know. He replied, "Mommy, he must have to get up really early to go down to that hall, open the organ with the key, and come back before school starts."

Every day I come into school I see that key hanging on the wall and Mr Sullivan is already here on the playground. He must get up really early!"
 Dona Pfeffer

Annual Appeal 2010-11

As we enter this holiday season, giving the gift of music to family and friends can lift the spirits, bring joy and put smiles on the faces of all ages. Concerts and productions abound at this time of year and many continue their annual traditions. Some seek the same experiences each year, while others try new and different ones. Ray Cornils brings us a fresh *Christmas with Cornils* each year and this tradition is a favorite of many.

In order for these favorites to continue, we depend on your individual gifts each year. Ticket sales and concert admission fees cover approximately 35% of the total operating budget. Your individual contributions make up 43%.

If you've already given your gift or pledged this year, thank you! If not, please help us reach our goal of \$90,000 in annual giving by May 31, 2011. As of November 22nd \$39,000 has been pledged or given. Please join us in meeting our goal to sustain concerts, engaging guest artists from around the world, maintain the Kotschmar and support educational outreach. Thank you for your consideration as we look forward to another exciting season of great music on this magnificent instrument.

intellectual skills while nurturing their innate sense of curiosity and adventure. Our child-centered, integrated curriculum engages students in authentic learning experiences designed to expand core academic skills through challenging, hands-on projects that have real-world applications.



Meet the King of Instruments

for grades 3-6

Tuesday, May 17, 2011
 10:30 a.m.

Merrill Auditorium

School registration
 deadline:
 January 15, 2011