

## From the Municipal Organist Hymn Sing opens Celebration

The Community Hymn Festival was a wonderful way to begin the Centennial Celebration Year of the Kotzschmar Organ. The rousing singing of 1,000 voices joining in hymns of various styles and traditions led by organ, brass, percussion, African drummers and saxophones was a truly uplifting experience.

Thanks go to the many members of the Portland Chapter of the American Guild of Organists who planned, played, conducted, led, organized

and participated in this event. I especially wish to express my immense gratitude to the hundreds of choir members from throughout southern Maine who formed the core of the singing and who so beautifully sang several hymn-based anthems.

The hymn festival hearkened back to the first decades of the Kotzschmar when every Sunday afternoon the Municipal Organist played a concert that included community hymn singing. Both Cyrus H. K. Curtis and Hermann Kotzschmar fully understood the power of music and its importance in building community. I felt their shining presence as so many of us gathered on September 25 to sing and celebrate in joyful song.

With immense gratitude, —Ray Cornils



THE CHORAL ART SOCIETY'S ROBERT RUSSELL, ONE OF SEVERAL CONDUCTORS DURING THE HYMN FESTIVAL, TOOK THE PODIUM TO LEAD THE CHORUS AND AUDIENCE IN WILHOUSKY'S FAMOUS ARRANGEMENT OF "THE BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC" TO THE ACCOMPANIMENT OF MUNICIPAL ORGANIST RAY CORNILS AND BRASS CHOIR.



250 MEMBERS OF 26 CHURCH AND SYNAGOGUE CHOIRS FORMED THE CORE OF SINGERS AT THE FRONT OF MERRILL AUDITORIUM, WHILE ANOTHER 700+ FOLKS JOINED IN AT APPROPRIATE TIMES AS INDICATED IN THE EXTENSIVE AND DETAILED HYMN FESTIVAL PROGRAM.

Photos by Russ Burleigh

## Kotzschmar Korner



Barbara Blanchard Garsoe, 92, of Cumberland, attended the Hymn Sing with Connie and Peter Bingham. As a child in the '20s and '30s, she recalls that church and Sunday School, which were mandatory, took up three hours of a Sunday, followed by a

long lunch. Then, if the conditions of the dirt road (now Route 9) into Portland permitted, the family would attend a Kotzschmar concert. She loved the music, and the adventure of the trip into the big city. At the Hymn Sing, Mrs. Garsoe stood for nearly every hymn, as she didn't want to miss anything!

## Docent Spotlight

David Kirstein is a retired biomedical research administrator and a former volunteer firefighter. He has served on the boards of several community and civic organizations and continues to serve in Portland. David says he has long been an enthusiastic listener of pipe organ music, and upon moving to Portland ten years ago, was pleased to learn more about the Kotzschmar Organ and an opportunity to learn more by becoming a docent. Some of his most rewarding experiences as a docent are: watching young people learn about the instrument, seeing their eyes light up and listening to Ray Cornils explain the workings of the organ and play for the visitors.



ture, I was thrilled with that too. When, as a freshman at Westminster Choir College, I discovered that choral and organ music in the context of worship could be absolutely transcendent, my career path became obvious. After about five years as an active church musician, I pursued graduate study at Northwestern University. With some passing work as a teacher, I have happily continued my work in church music.

## Board's Eye View - continued from page 3

piece was an exciting discovery. My piano teacher was also the choral director at my high school so I accompanied the choir and developed a love of choral music. Between the starting piano lessons and entering high school I discovered the organ. I was thrilled with the seemingly endless musical possibilities and as I became more familiar with organ litera-



# Pipe Lines

The official newsletter of the Kotzschmar Organ

## The PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

HALLOWEEN SILENT FILM NIGHT

Friday, October 28, 7:30 pm  
Organist **Scott Foppiano** returns to accompany this Halloween Silent Film favorite. Come in costume and join in the fun! Don't miss the **Portland Ballet** Prelude.

Sponsored by  
**JOSEPH'S**

## And the Glory: Masterpieces for Chorus & Organ

Sunday, November 6, 3:00 pm  
Join the **Choral Art Society** Masterworks and Singers, conducted by **Robert Russell** and accompanied by **Ray Cornils** on the Kotzschmar Organ.

Choral favorites for chorus and organ including Brahms, Handel, Fauré, Haydn and others.





## Kotzschmar's 25th Year

August 22, 1937, fell on a Sunday, so Alfred Brinkler, Municipal Organist, chose Wednesday, August 25 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the installation and dedication of the Kotzschmar Organ.

Dr. Francis W. Snow, noted organist and choir master at Trinity Church, Copley Square, Boston, was the featured soloist, joined by the famed Curtis String Quartet of Philadelphia; Jascha Brodsky and Charles Jaffe, violin, Max Aronoff, viola and Orlando Cole, violoncello. Dr. Snow performed the "Dorian Toccata" by Bach, "Scherzo in E Flat" by Gigout, "Scherzo" from Symphony II and "Carillon de Westminster" by Vierne while the quartet provided an interlude of Smetana's First String Quartet in e minor.

In 1937, in the midst of the depression that gripped the world, the Curtis Institute suspended its program of completely subsidized summer studies, recital opportunities in New York, and extensive tours for their most promising students.

However, Mary Louise Curtis Bok, daughter of Cyrus Hermann Kotzschmar Curtis, had welcomed the Curtis String Quartet to the Camden-Rockport area for the past eleven summers. The Quartet and the Carlos Salzedo Harp Colony constituted a summer program for promising young students from the Curtis Institute.

In 1936 Mrs. Bok remodeled a large boat barn in Rockport, creating a one-hundred seat concert hall, complete with special sound-proofing and a huge ebony fireplace for cool August evenings. Since the Curtis String Quartet was already in Camden-Rockport, Maine, Dr. Brinkler honored the "Curtis Connection" by inviting the Quartet to share in the festivities surrounding the Kotzschmar Anniversary Concert. Surely this combination of talents—Dr. Francis Snow and the Curtis String Quartet—ensured a successful 25th anniversary celebration for the Kotzschmar Memorial Organ.

The Quartet went on a tour of Europe during the fall semester that year, resuming concerts in Philadelphia and New York in the early spring of 1938. Mrs. Mary Ann Kotzschmar passed away on May 16, 1937, and it would be fitting to assume that she was remembered at that 25th Anniversary Concert, also. —Janice Parkinson-Tucker

## A satisfied Tour-ist

Yesterday I attended Ray's tour of The Mighty Kotzschmar. Wow. What an interesting time. I'd never been in a wind chest before! Not many people have. Pretty amazing when he plays and the walls move and ears pop ... and you look around and lots looks old and you know it needs repair and you hope it doesn't break and go crazy while you are inside. Not that I have an active imagination or anything. I found it fascinating. Also, I admired Ray's ability to involve the children in his talk, as well as the rest of the audience. That's a set of skills that doesn't exist in a lot of musicians.

—Cynthia Baughman

## From the Organ Committee

On Wednesday September 7, more than two years of work by the Organ Committee of the Friends of Kotzschmar Organ came to a head when Portland's City Council voted unanimously to approve a motion to allow the revenue stream from a Merrill Auditorium ticket surcharge be applied to the renovation of the organ. The motion was sponsored by Councilor, John Anton, Chair of the Finance Committee.

The surcharge was put in place in 1995 to help pay for the renovation of the Auditorium which will soon be paid off some four years ahead of schedule. The continuation of the surcharge will fund a \$1.5 million bond, up to \$1.25 million of which will be added to funds raised by FOKO. The remaining \$250,000 will pay for repairs and upgrades to Merrill Auditorium.



JOHN BISHOP (2ND FROM LEFT) AND ORGAN COMMITTEE MEMBERS ON INSPECTION TOUR

On Wednesday, September 8, Mayor Nicolas Mavedones, FOKO President Bruce Lockwood, executive director Kathy Grammer and Municipal Organist Ray Cornils held a press conference on the stage of the Auditorium to announce the decision, and to announce that Foley-Baker, Inc., organ builders of Tolland, Connecticut, has been chosen to perform the renovation of the organ.

Just prior to the Council meeting, Organ Committee Chairman John Bishop and Kathy Grammer gave Mayor Mavedones, City Manager Mark Rees, Councilor Edward Suslovic, and Assistant City Manager, Anita LaChance, a personal tour of the organ showing them the complexity of the organ and describing the scope of the planned renovation project.

In the past months, the Organ Committee has been working with the people of Foley-Baker to draft an agreement with the assistance and support of John Lightbody of Murray Plumb & Murray.

This exciting news ensures the next century of service from the Kotzschmar Organ, allowing us to "set back the clock" on its mechanical and musical life. We are all looking forward to the summer of 2012 when we will celebrate the organ's first century and prepare for the next as the organ goes dark for the beginning of the renovation project. Three cheers for the Kotzschmar Organ, and many thanks to all members of the organ committee who have worked uncommonly hard through this process. —John Bishop

<p>FRIENDS OF THE KOTZSCHMAR ORGAN, INC. P. O. Box 7455 Portland, ME 04112</p> <p>* Past President † Charter Board Member</p>	<p><b>Officers</b> Bruce Lockwood President Larry Rubinstein Vice President Richard W. Kurtz Treasurer Peter S. Plumb*† Clerk</p>	<p><b>Board</b> Eric Andrews John Bishop Thomas M. Cattell Donald Doele* John A. Fossett Peter Haynes Samuel M. Jones Richard W. Kurtz Bruce Lockwood Albert A. Melton Robert C. Crane* Peter S. Plumb*†</p>	<p>Juergen Renger Laurence Rubinstein Judith Stallworth James H. Strand Mark Terison Catherine Wygant</p> <p><b>Advisory Board</b> Linda Abromson† Russell I. Burtleight Chester W. Cooke Robert C. Crane* Robert Faucher</p>	<p>Stephen Garvin** Linda Gouws Myron Hager Terrie Harman Talcott L. Ingraham Dr. Sue Johnson Anita LaChance City Liaison William McCullough Jeremiah Newbury*† Charles Orem Janice Parkinson-Tucker Michael Stairs</p>	<p>Harold Stover* David Wallace John Weaver† John Wilcox Nancy Wines-DeWan</p> <p><b>Staff</b> Ray Cornils Municipal Organist Kathleen Grammer Executive Director</p>	<p>Robert Waters Curator Lisa Kay Moore Administrative Asst. Paul Mahony Media Relations Consultant</p> <p><b>Volunteer &amp; Education Coordinator</b> Elsa Geskus</p>	<p><b>www.foko.org (207) 553-4363</b></p>
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## From the Executive Director



The Kotzschmar Centennial celebratory season began by honoring a great American tradition: the community hymn festival, an integral part of the history of a municipal or civic organ, which was central to the life of the Portland community in the early 1900's. What better way to honor the gift to the city from Cyrus H. K. Curtis than 1,000 people coming together with area organists and choir directors to lead us in the singing of hymns from many traditions?

As we enter this year of celebration, we take time to reflect on how music over the century has continued to be an important part of our community events, holidays, family celebrations, national events both celebratory and mournful, and the impact those events have had on our lives and community. Without music, there would be little harmony.

When I was aspiring to become a musician and teacher during my college years, I thought if only the world could come together through music and share that aesthetic experience, many times a spiritual experience that takes us beyond our everyday world, perhaps there would be fewer wars, less poverty and starvation and more good will among all.

Hermann Kotzschmar epitomized this ideology in his life as a musician and teacher and the pipe organ given to the City of Portland in his memory continues to represent the same.

As we continue to celebrate this centennial year with special concerts, collaborations and look to the renovation of the mighty beast, let us reflect on the true meaning of music in our lives and how it shapes our society. We are blessed to have such an instrument of this stature in our community. Let us continue to embrace its true meaning and help others to explore and experience its majesty. Join us in celebrating this great instrument and its place in the City of Portland. —Kathleen Grammer

## Board's Eye View - Albert Melton

**1. You have made an incredible commitment to the arts. Why are the arts so important to you?**

The arts (especially music) feed my soul. Hearing music, seeing paintings or sculpture, being exposed to compelling architecture, reading a good story all make me feel more complete as a human being. Those things give me a broader perspective on the world. When I make music or experience some other art form, in that relatively short time, I become my better self. I believe that because of the arts, lots of us find it easier to stay in touch with our better selves.

**2. What drew you to the FOKO Board – what interests you most about our programs?**

I was invited to consider being a member of the FOKO Board by Janice Parkinson-Tucker. She made a convincing case and, having attended lots of Kotzschmar concerts, I was already familiar with some of FOKO's work. Most interesting to me is the constant exposure to so many fine organists and so much compelling music made possible by FOKO. The continuing work to educate the community about the organ and its literature in general and the Kotzschmar Organ in particular is also of great interest to me.

**3. What is your own background in music?**

I started piano lessons when I was about eight. I was fascinated with the music I was studying so I didn't mind practicing – each new

Continued on page 4

## Centennial Season 2011-2012

The Centennial Celebration officially opened in the Fall of 2011 and culminates with the Centennial Festival in August 2012 - a year-long tribute to the Kotzschmar Organ.

Sun., Sept. 25, 2011  
**Community Hymn Festival**

Ringers, Choral Art Camerata,  
Ray Cornils, organ  
Sponsored by HEADINVEST

Fri., Oct. 28, 2011  
**Halloween Silent Film Night**  
*Phantom of the Opera*  
Scott Foppiano, guest organist  
Sponsored by JOSEPH'S

Sun., Feb. 12, 2012  
**Kids Kartoons and Kotzschmar Family Concert**, Rob Richards, guest organist, Christina Siravo, cartoonist

Sun., Nov. 6, 2011  
**And the Glory: Masterpieces for Chorus and Organ**  
Choral Art Society Masterworks  
Chorus, Robert Russell, conductor,  
Ray Cornils, organist

Tues., Mar. 20, 2012  
**Bach Birthday Bash**  
Joan Lippincott, guest organist

Tues., Dec. 20, 2011  
**Christmas With Cornils:**

Tues., May 15, 2012  
**Meet the King of Instruments for 3rd-6th grade students,**  
Ray Cornils, organ

**A Kotzschmar Christmas**  
Aaron Engebret, baritone,  
Kotzschmar Festival Brass, Parish

Tues., June 19, 2012  
**Scholarship Recipient Concert**

## Centennial Festival-Aug 17-22

The celebration continues with the Centennial Festival featuring silent film, pops and classical concerts, master classes, workshops and panel discussions. The final concert will be on August 22, 2012, 100 years to the day City Hall reopened with the newly installed Kotzschmar Organ.

Fri., Aug. 17, 2012  
**Silent Film with Tom Trenney**

Mon., Aug 20, 2012  
**The Three H's: Felix Hell, Tom Heywood & Fred Hohman**

Sat., Aug. 18, 2012  
**Performathon** celebrating  
**Maine Organists, Tours** of the Kotzschmar

Tues., Aug 21, 2012  
**Two Masters: John Weaver & Fred Swann**

Sat., Aug 18, 2012  
**Theater Organ Night**  
Walt Strony & Dave Wickerham

Wed., Aug 22, 2012  
**Kotzschmar Centennial: Ray Cornils, Peter Richard Conte and the Kotzschmar Festival Brass**



For details, visit our website – [www.foko.org](http://www.foko.org)

## Kotzschmar Kause—Two Grand Prize Trips

The successful drawing for one of two Grand Prizes at the March, 2012 Bach Birthday Bash may still be yours! Enjoy a six-night stay for two in Puerto Rico including air travel, or ... a three-day excursion to Philadelphia. Raffle tickets at \$20 each or 6 for \$100 are available at all FOKO concerts and also give you the chance to win themed baskets and Maine getaways at each



concert. YOU NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN! All monies from our goal of \$25,000 benefit our annual programs and education projects.