



Windlines

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

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



PICTURES TAKEN DURING THE DECEMBER 2007 REMOVAL OF THE G. H. HILLE MEMORIAL WURLITZER BALABAN 2 IN CANFIELD, OHIO

Clockwise from left: Organ Clearing House employees making easy work of the main switch stack, console being removed through picture window, console going on a sleigh ride around the house, organ donor Brad Hille and son with theatre organist/technician Clark Wilson at the console just before the removal, Bob Wilhelm after a long day of unwiring. **Further information about the Wurlitzer and its removal coming soon to <http://aoi.ou.edu/>**



PICTURES OF MOLLER OP. 5819 IN THE PHILADELPHIA CONVENTION CENTER

(Left) No detail was left unturned; the ingeniously built miters on the 32' Bombarde evenly support the weight to prevent the pipes from bowing.

(Right) Great Mutation Chorus [2-2/3', 2', 1-3/5', 1-1/3', 1-1/7', and 1'].



Did you know....

That this and past issues of *Windlines* are available online at <http://aoi.ou.edu/>? To request notification when the newest newsletter is available, send your e-mail address to aoishop@ou.edu. You can also ask to be added to an e-mail list to receive notice in advance of upcoming AOI sponsored events.

At the American Organ Institute - Spring 2008

February 27, 8:00 p.m., Gothic Hall, *Phantom of the Opera* silent movie with organ accompaniment by Dr. John Schwandt. (Limited seating. Call the Fine Arts Box Office for tickets: 405-325-4101)

March 6, 12:00 p.m., Gothic Hall. Monthly noontime recital featuring AOI students and supporters.

April 3, 12:00 p.m., Gothic Hall. Monthly noontime recital featuring AOI students and supporters.

April 6, 7:00 p.m., McFarlin Memorial United Methodist Church. Dr. Catherine Rodland (Faculty, St. Olaf College). Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Noack Pipe Organ.

May 1, 12:00 p.m., Gothic Hall. Monthly noontime recital featuring AOI students and supporters.

Accommodations on the basis of disability are available by contacting the College of Fine Arts Box Office at 405-325-4101.

Technician's Corner

January 18, 2008

I was recently asked by several different friends, all in the course of a couple of days, "What do you do all day at AOI?" Their inquiries got me to thinking that perhaps readers of *Windlines* might be interested to know what a routine day in the AOI Pipe Organ Shop is like. While I may go into the shop with a mental "to do" list, there's always something unexpected happening and we're always busy to say the least.

Friday, January 18th started early for Director John Schwandt and Shop Manager John Riester. Both met at 7AM at their favorite breakfast restaurant, Sunny Side Up, for a last minute review of the AOI 2008 Budget that both would present to Dr. Eugene Enrico, Dean of the College of Fine Arts at 9AM.

At 9AM I met Braden Reece for a shop tour and introduction. Braden is a Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering student who attended Dr. Schwandt's October 2007 *Phantom of the Opera* silent film presentation in Catlett Music Center. Braden was intrigued and inquired about taking lessons and then helping out in the shop. Braden has already earned an associate's degree and is in his Junior year at OU. After a successful meeting with Braden, he signed up to begin assisting in the shop on Monday, January 21st.

At 11:30AM the AOI management team (Schwandt, Riester, Wilhelm) along with Dr. Enrico, David Nordyke of the university's Architectural & Engineering Services group, and Mike Kelly and Randall Foster of Kaighn Associates Architects met during a working lunch to review the general chamber specification for what AOI has dubbed the "Mini-Moller". With the magnitude and scope of the Opus 5819 Project requiring an extended timeline to complete, the Mini-Moller will provide an interim solution utilizing the "unit" mechanical action and ranks of Opus 5819 (see our website at <http://aoi.ou.edu> for additional details). This meeting concluded with an on-site review in Sharp Concert Hall to examine in greater detail some project concerns.

Leaving Sharp Concert Hall, John Riester and I headed back to the AOI Shop so that we'd be there by 2PM to meet graduate assistant Craig Sproat. Craig and the other graduate assistants are cleaning and preparing fourteen Möller reservoirs for the AOI-AIO Reservoir Releathering Seminar in May.

At 3PM John Riester and I met with Sean Richards of Byzantium Bindery to discuss how best to stabilize and store the 30+ rolls from the Möller's Artiste Roll Player. Sean came highly recommended as he has preserved many of the University's priceless documents and books including those of Galileo (<http://digital.libraries.ou.edu/histsci/books/1466.pdf>) and Charles Darwin among others (<http://digital.libraries.ou.edu/histsci/>).

While some rolls are in very good condition, others are in very poor condition. Sean detailed the process he would employ to stabilize the rolls until such time as a formal restoration can be achieved, prior to putting the rolls in service. Sean would also investigate the possibility of placing the rolls in the University's archival vault; a highly secure, environmentally controlled facility. A few days later Sean reported back to John Riester that the Möller rolls, unique and specific to Opus 5819 and not replaceable, would have a dedicated storage shelf in the library collections vault.

The end of the day would bring several visitors to the AOI Shop. First would be Stephen J. Russell, founder and director of Russell & Company Organ Builders (<http://www.russellorgans.com>). Stephen was in town visiting with Dr. Schwandt and they dropped by for Stephen to see first-hand how the shop's set-up was progressing.

A prospective student was also visiting OU and organ student Marc Donnelly brought her by the AOI Shop for a quick tour. The prospective student is planning on further education and is auditioning at several colleges and universities with exceptional music programs.

Currently there are four OU students, each spending at least ten hours per week, working in the AOI Shop. Preparing work for them and monitoring their excellent progress in an ongoing task. The past couple of months have seen several contractors in the shop performing electrical service, pneumatic service, and other installations. Planning for the May reservoir releathering seminar and restoration activities related to the Mini-Möller are ongoing activities. While I know John and I both arrive at the shop each day with a list of things we hope to accomplish, we both end our 8+ hour days wondering where the time has gone.

Robert E. Wilhelm, Jr.

Piping in...

(Editor's Note: With each issue of *Windlines*, a current or former organ student will be asked to write a guest column. Masters student Jaime Carini comes to OU via The University of Tulsa.)

Beginning my secondary organ studies with Dr. Schwandt in the Fall of 2007, I never dreamed I would now be OU's newest organ major. I earned my bachelor's degree in piano performance and music theory and began my studies at OU as a dual-masters candidate in piano performance and musicology in August 2006. When I decided that I wanted to audition for the Masters degree in organ performance, I had studied piano for twenty years and organ for only three months.

Why make the switch? First, studying organ adds a fresh set of skills to my training as a pianist and creates additional opportunities in my musical career. It requires a different perspective to thinking, hearing, and interacting with music than piano does because the sound sustains rather than decays. Second, Dr. Schwandt is an entirely persuasive and charismatic individual who couples musical ability with solid pedagogy. Under his tutelage, I am learning more than how to be a good organist. I am becoming a better musician and have even seen my piano performance improve as a result of my organ studies. Third, the organ program at OU emphasizes comprehensive musicianship, a philosophy that all accomplished musicians once adhered to but that has flagged in both organ and piano programs at major conservatories in the twentieth century. OU organ graduates will be able to improvise, compose, accompany religious services, perform concert music, and work in the organ shop. It is thrilling to know that by acquiring these skills, I am following in the footsteps of great musicians like J. S. Bach and Albert Schweitzer.

The organ shop is an exciting place to be, and I learn something new every time I step through the door. As progress on the mini-Möller installation accelerates, special technicians from all over the country travel to Norman to lend us their expertise. Just last week, we learned how to releather reservoirs from an expert based in Lancaster, PA. This week, consultants from Chicago are in town to examine the pipework for a condition report. All of this activity creates a learning laboratory for the organ majors and enriches our educational experience beyond measure.

These qualities—an innovative curriculum enriched by a working organ shop—are creating a swell of enthusiasm for the program here at OU. Colleagues in my hometown of Tulsa share in this excitement. I trust that these qualities, unique to OU, will attract others to study and perform here just as they convinced me, a pianist, to plunge into a new world of musical exploration through the pipe organ.

Jamie Carini

Positive to Great

Please update us on your accomplishments and successes! Send in your news announcements by May 1 for the next issue of *Windlines* due out in June. Alumni news can be mailed to John Schwandt, 500 E. Boyd, Room 138, Norman, OK 73019, or e-mailed to jschwandt@ou.edu

Created by the Oklahoma Territorial Legislature in 1890, the University of Oklahoma is a doctoral degree-granting research university serving the educational, cultural, economic and health care needs of the state, region and nation. The Norman campus serves as home to all of the university's academic programs except health-related fields. Both the Norman and Health Sciences Center colleges offer programs at the Schusterman Center, the site of OU-Tulsa. The OU Health Sciences Center, which is located in Oklahoma City, is one of only four comprehensive academic health centers in the nation with seven professional colleges. OU enrolls almost 30,000 students, has more than 2,000 full-time faculty members, and has 20 colleges offering 152 majors at the baccalaureate level, 160 majors at the master's level, 80 majors at the doctoral level, 38 majors at the first professional level, and 18 graduate certificates. The university's annual operating budget is \$1.2 billion. The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity institution. (11/15/06)

The American Organ Institute is a department within the Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts (<http://finearts.ou.edu>) and the School of Music (<http://music.ou.edu>).