



Windlines

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

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

Principal Chorus: "INSPIRATION"

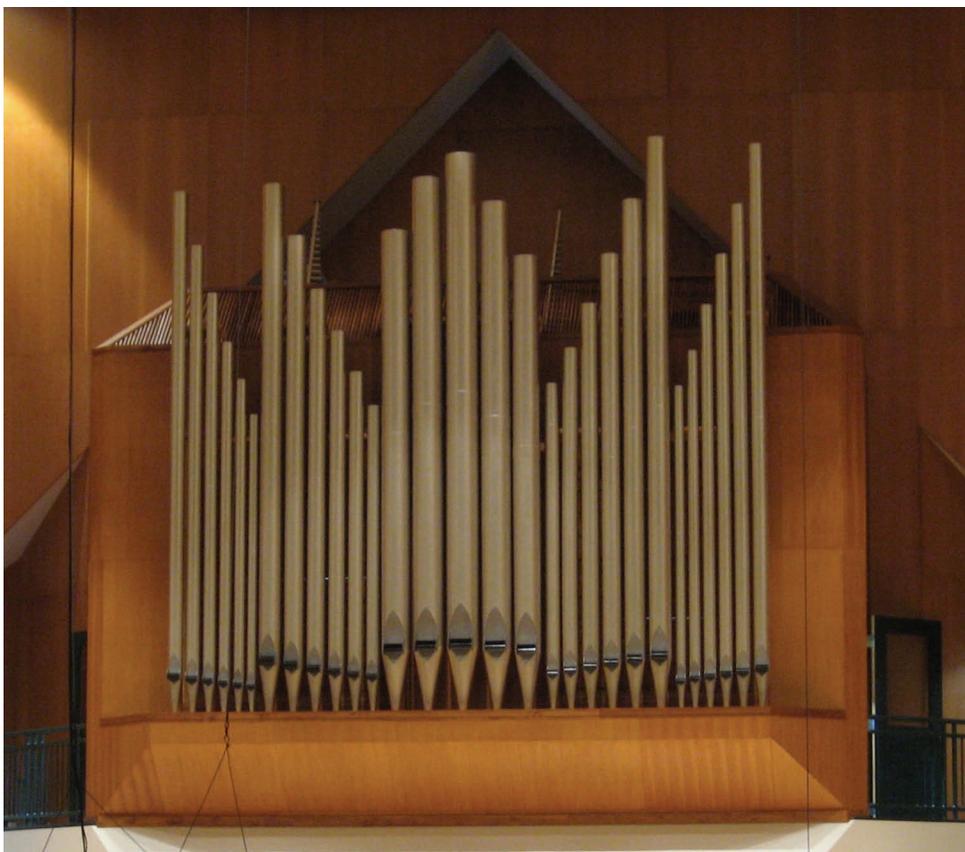
We look for inspiration in times of challenge and adversity. National celebrities are not the only sources of such inspiration, for many times, the very people around us every day are performing amazing feats of courage, skill, compassion, and kindness. For instance, many of you know the extraordinary journey my wife has traveled ever since our first days in Norman in 2006. Although she has been out of the hospital for over a year now, she continues to suffer, the latest being daily chronic migraine headaches for the last six months. The way she continues moving on with grace and dignity serves to inspire me every moment of each day. We hope and pray that healing will visit us soon.



Here at the Institute, I am very inspired by the fantastic work of our staff and students. You will be learning more about the amazing installation process of the "Mini-Möller" in Sharp Hall in this issue of *Windlines* as well as in the days ahead. The dedication of John Riester, Bob Wilhelm, visiting professionals, and our students has been outstanding. When you visit us, you will discover for yourselves how the spirit of true restoration and innovation has inspired their superb work.

Our ever-growing group of talented and hard-working students inspires me. Here at the AOI, our students function as a family unit; they work hard together and play hard together. We have enjoyed many fine organ performances this semester in degree recitals as well as our monthly series. We will welcome our newest undergraduate student in January—a transfer student from Juilliard—and it appears as though we will have a healthy crop of auditionees in spring. The word is getting out about the American Organ Institute! I hope this news inspires you.

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Shop Notes

Over the last month, the students and staff have been moving the Mini-Möller from the AOI shop into Paul F. Sharp Hall. With the assistance (and muscle) of the Organ Clearing House of Boston, Mass., the major components are installed at this time. Onsite wiring, winding, and other finish work continues into December. It was exciting to see the reaction as the façade went in, transforming the 'big box' in Sharp Hall into a visual statement.

Stay tuned for news on 2009 events in Sharp Hall!

—John Riester, AOI Shop Manager

Installed façade on the Mini-Möller. (Above) With lots of muscle and scaffolding, the three sets of manual 16' pipes from Opus 5819 were installed on Nov. 18. These pipes were painted for the temporary "Mini-Mo" and will be stripped to original finish with the final installation

At the AOI – Winter 2008

Nov. 30, 2 p.m., Gothic Hall. Bradley Fitch, Doctoral degree recital.

Dec. 12, 8 p.m., Gothic Hall. "Holiday Pipes" \$8 Adults \$5 Students. Dr. Schwandt will improvise on audience-submitted holiday favorites. (See flier on Page 2)

Events are free and open to the public, unless otherwise noted. Accommodations on the basis of disability are available by calling Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts Box Office at (405) 325-4101. Keep up-to-date of new events on the AOI website: aoi.ou.edu

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I'd like to think that the AOI represents hope and positive change for the organ world. We face many challenges in these times of uncertainty, especially in raising the considerable funds necessary to ensure the future of the Institute. However, I fervently believe that something that has the potential like the AOI will ultimately succeed. I am inspired to have faith! Together, we are paving a new and brighter future for the organ. As we invite persons who have been blessed in this life to be inspired to partner with us in this world-unique vision, I would also like to invite our dear readers to consider the same challenge. No gift is too small. Regardless of our political persuasions, President-elect Obama's campaign proved that many people united together around a common vision could indeed accomplish the impossible. Dear readers, we can do this too. Now that the students are coming, help us succeed for their sake and for the sake of the future—become a partner with the American Organ Institute at the University of Oklahoma! You can either be inspired to give a gift yourself or inspire someone else to leave a legacy at the AOI. Yes we can!

In this season of giving thanks, I invite our dear readers to consider how you might express your gratitude to your friends and loved ones—these are our true treasures. I am inspired by all of you and your support of our important work at the AOI. Happy Thanksgiving! Happy Holidays!

—John Schwandt, AOI Director



Diping In...

As a freshman at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, I had no idea that at the end of my four years I would end up in Norman, Okla. pursuing a Masters in Pipe Organ Performance. However, when it came time to choose a graduate school, Oklahoma University appealed to me the most; OU offered a holistic organ program, with opportunities to play different styles of instruments, expand my knowledge of organ technique and repertoire, and learn about organ building.

I have been working at the American Organ Institute shop for my Graduate Assistantship. Prior to coming to OU, I had had some experience working on pipe organs – this past summer, I had the opportunity to intern at C.B. Fisk in Gloucester, Mass. While I learned a lot at Fisk (woodworking, reed-pipe boot cutting, wiring, the basics of voicing, rafter-vacuuming, etc.), I was not prepared for the challenge of my first project in the shop: the power pneumatic.

When Bob Wilhelm first told me I would be rebuilding the power pneumatics of the Möller toy counters, my response was “Okay. What's a power pneumatic?” (A power pneumatic is a book-like mechanism that, when signaled, allows a mallet to strike a drum, gong, etc.). The job seemed fairly straightforward compared to some of the tasks I'd had at Fisk. However, rebuilding the pneumatics proved to be a frustrating task; there were more pieces to the puzzle than I had expected!

I'm still working on the pneumatics, but will hopefully be done within the coming week. I have learned a lot from this process. Not only have I learned how the pneumatics and toy counters work, I've realized just how much attention and meticulousness is necessary to restoring these simple devices. Now I've just got to learn how to incorporate the Chinese Woodblock, Cymbal, and the other percussive instruments of the toy counter into my playing. That should be interesting!

—Andrea Printy

INNOVATIONS...

We join in celebrating Dr. Schwandt's latest record releases. His new CD, *Tapestries*, features a varied program with everything from Buxtehude's “Praludium in C” to Polla's “Dancing Tambourine”, all performed on a superb eclectic instrument built by one of our friends, Stephen Russell.

Perhaps for the first time ever, a Fisk organ can be heard on a rock album! After hearing Dr. Schwandt accompany a silent film in Gothic Hall, the popular rock group “Shiny Toy Guns” approached Dr. Schwandt about recording some organ tracks for their upcoming album. Always open to new things, Dr. Schwandt agreed. Shiny Toy Guns' new album entitled *Season of Poison* is available at stores near you. Dr. Schwandt's improvisation skills were put to work before and during the song “Blown Away.” The song title was inspired by the group's experience hearing the awe-inspiring sounds of a real pipe organ in the resplendent acoustics of Gothic Hall. We think the fact that a group of rockers accustomed to electronic everything was blown away by the pipe organ is exceedingly cool! Way to go, Dr. Schwandt!

The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity institution. 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>). This publication is issued by the University of Oklahoma. This newsletter is printed at no cost to the taxpayers of the State of Oklahoma.

Address change, correction, e-mail update, or other request? Contact the AOI by phone at (405) 325-7829 or e-mail aoi@ou.edu



Möller “Artiste” player rolls protected: One unique aspect of Opus 5819 is a paper roll player. The rolls were not in good condition when received. The storage boxes were in shreds and the rolls showed years and years of use. As it will be several years before the roll player is restored to operation, the prime interest was to stabilize the rolls from further damage until they can be properly restored. New boxes have been constructed in the style of the old, and a restoration plan has been established.