



Windlines

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

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

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA SCHOOL OF MUSIC

SUTTON ARTIST SERIES
"UPON REQUEST"
JOHN SCHWANDT
and Friends!

Holiday Pipes



Performed on the spectacular C.B. Fisk, Opus 111
Mildred Andrew Boggess Memorial Organ

8 pm Friday, December 10
Grayce B. Kerr Gothic Hall
Catlett Music Center, 500 W. Boyd Street, Norman

FINE ARTS BOX OFFICE (405) 325-4101
\$8 adults \$5 students, faculty/staff, senior adults

Limited number of special **IN THE ORGAN LOFT** tickets available for \$20.
Ask the Fine Arts Box Office for details.

Come request your favorite holiday tune and hear it woven into an improvisatory seasonal tapestry!

IN THE OU ARTS DISTRICT!



Positif Chorus

The approach of the holidays often brings mixed emotions for organists. The joy of the season is offset by a great deal of work and preparation in order to make the holidays happen. At the AOI, our students and staff balance such end-of-semester activities as papers, exams and juries with the rigors of multiple performances and responsibilities at the churches we serve. For me, the stretch between Thanksgiving and Christmas is filled with many road trips to supervise and execute Christmas tunings for the churches that are in partnership with us, in addition to my responsibilities as organist at St. Matthew United Methodist Church in Midwest City. It is my hope that all of us might pause to contemplate how fortunate we are to be able to do the work we do — work that has the capacity to benefit those who take time to stop and listen to the music. I also hope you will take a moment to note the many exciting

events that are unfolding over the next few months here at the American Organ Institute:

- During **"Holiday Pipes"** —an annual tradition in its fifth year— Dr. John Schwandt weaves holiday themes submitted by the audience into a musical tapestry. Join us this year on Dec. 10! (See above)
- The AOI continues to celebrate the rich diversity of musical styles in the organ repertoire. On Feb. 26, we will present a **pops concert** with internationally renowned organist **Simon Gledhill** playing the versatile Möller Municipal Organ in Sharp Concert Hall.
- In January, the newest restoration project completed in the AOI shop, a **1924 Hinners** instrument of one manual and five ranks, will be installed in a practice room in Catlett Music Center.
- Over the break, OU Facilities Management will also prepare another practice room for a **new instrument**, made possible by the estate of Mildred Andrews Boggess, noted organ professor at OU from 1941 through 1976. (Stay tuned in a future newsletter for more information on this new practice organ.)
- This is the first holiday season where there will be **six student interns** at local churches. (And there are at least two more positions in negotiations that should be started by next fall.)
- We celebrate and encourage both new students who are just finishing their first semester at OU and students who see the end of their studies at OU nearing and are starting to plan for what comes next.

It is amazing how music can melt away stress. Music is an uplifting gesture from performer to listener. Whether you're performing for or enjoying holiday music this year—in the OU ARTS DISTRICT or anywhere else—it is my hope that it brings you great joy and fulfillment.

—John Riester
Shop Manager

Diping In...

On a cold New England December night last year, I received an unexpected phone call from Dr. Schwandt – a blast from the past, if you will. I had the extraordinary opportunity to study with him at a week-long summer program two years prior, which led to an audition at the AOI for my MM work. Ultimately, I chose another path at that time, but on this occasion, Dr. Schwandt wanted to know why I had not yet submitted an application for my DMA. It had crossed my mind more than once, but the lack of a sacred music degree at OU kept me from applying. Things change, though, and the program which had just been planted a few short years before was now flowering and growing rapidly, including the introduction of a new church music emphasis. One month later, I was at the console of the Fisk in Gothic Hall for my audition and moved to Norman in the summer to begin my coursework in the fall semester.

Having been so convinced that I would be elsewhere, why the sudden, decisive change of heart? The AOI truly “has it all,” even if the phrase sounds tongue in cheek. In lessons, Dr. Schwandt has challenged me to think more critically and, more importantly, listen with an even more scrutinizing ear. His approach encourages critical analysis, and the questions he poses inevitably lead to more questions, and so the process continues. The introduction of a church music curriculum provides coursework that will equip me for a career either in church work or academia, and the performance standards Dr. Schwandt maintains ensure the possibilities of a performance component to my career. Having the opportunity to teach secondary organ students and work in the AOI shop as part of my graduate assistantship was the icing on the cake; this invaluable experience has furthered my understanding of our art and how we interact both with people and the instrument. Working on portions of Möller Op. 5819 (for Sharp Hall) in the organ shop has given me an immense appreciation for the craftsmanship and hours of painstaking work invested in making “Mini Mo” available to the greater OU community. It is my hope that my continued growth in the program will allow me to share this wonderful art with students, listeners, and worshippers alike, both in the greater Norman area and beyond.

—Adam Pajan



Adam Pajan is a first-year doctoral student at the AOI and director of music at St. Mark's Roman Catholic Church in Norman, Okla.

Please update us on your accomplishments and successes! Send in your news announcements by Feb. 1 for the next issue of *Windlines*, due out in March. Alumni news can be mailed to the American Organ Institute, 2101 W. Tecumseh Rd., Suite C, Norman, OK 73069-8253 or e-mailed to aoi@ou.edu

Alumni News

Mildred Andrews student and University of Oklahoma alumna Dorothy Young Riess, M.D. recently presented a lecture-recital at First Presbyterian Church, Santa Barbara, Calif., sponsored by the local AGO Chapter. For her program of Bach, Bossi, Wagner-Liszt, Howells and Kreisler, Dr. Riess narrated interesting anecdotes about the composers and their music prior to each selection. An accomplished speaker and performer, She had an early concert career after studies at OU and with Marcel Dupré at Fontainebleau, France. After her MM's recital at Yale University, she made a life-changing decision to go into medicine, graduated from OU medical school at age 38, and spent the next 30 years in that discipline. Upon retirement in 2000, she returned to the organ and performed on “Pipedreams Live from Las Vegas” for the AGO Region IX Mid-winter Conclave in 2006. She will celebrate her 80th birthday with a recital at The University of Nevada, Las Vegas, May 6, and will be a featured performer at the AGO Region IX Convention in San Francisco in July (the 59th anniversary of her 1952 first-place NYACOP win in that same city).



Happy Holidays

From the faculty, staff, students and volunteers at the AOI!



Join the ranks...

You have the chance to invest in our future. Gifts to the American Organ Institute will ensure that students have the best creative and educational opportunities available. Donations post-marked before Jan. 1, 2010 are deductible in 2010. In addition to cash gifts and pledges, there are several other gift methods you can use. For more information, contact the AOI by phone at (405) 325-7829, e-mail at aoi@ou.edu or mail at 2101 W. Tecumseh Rd., Suite C., Norman, OK 73069-8253.

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