



# Windlines

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

February 2011 (Volume 4, Number 3)

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



## Principal Chorus

It is my great pleasure to send you greetings from the University of Oklahoma and the American Organ Institute.

I have now been professor of organ and director of the Institute for almost five years — all of which have been full of very exciting growth. Perhaps most remarkable is that our enrollment has gone from one to 26, of which 16 are organ majors in one degree track or another. Last year, three students received their master's degrees in performance — the first since 1998 — and this May we will graduate three more students. **The pipe organ is alive and well at OU!**

As you can imagine, all of our practice instruments, as well as **the magnificent Mildred Andrews Boggess Memorial Organ** (C.B. Fisk, Opus 111, 1999), are in constant and satisfying use. Additionally, the temporary installation of a portion of the landmark Möller organ from the Philadelphia Municipal Auditorium (Opus 5819, 1931) in Paul F. Sharp Hall has proven to be an exciting addition to our spectrum of instrumental capabilities. We greatly anticipate the complete restoration and installation of this instrument in the concert hall, giving us two of the finest concert instruments in the United States under one roof!

In a time of growth and great potential for the future, it is our deep desire to fully embrace the legacy of students and teachers that has brought us to the present. Just prior to my appointment in 2006, former students of Mildred Andrews Boggess met here on the campus for a reunion. Despite the uncertainty of the department's future at that time, it was by all accounts a deeply meaningful event. It is evident to us that it is time for another such gathering. **Thus, we are asking all organ alumni and friends of the program to reserve the date of June 11, 2011 for a day-long reunion event — whether you studied organ formally at OU or have been associated with the program through the years.**  
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Right: AOI students, faculty and staff at the first studio class, spring 2011.

*The University of Oklahoma School of Music Boggess Artist Series*

Pops concert featuring  
**Simon Gledhill**

**8 p.m. Saturday,  
Feb. 26**



**Paul F. Sharp  
Concert Hall**

Catlett Music Center  
500 W. Boyd Street, Norman

**Fine Arts Box Office  
(405) 325-4101**

\$8 adults \$5 students, faculty/  
staff, senior adults

For directions and further  
information, visit the American  
Organ Institute website:  
<http://aoi.ou.edu>

*In the OU ARTS DISTRICT!*

More exciting events in the  
upcoming months:

### **Student Recitals**

- 8 p.m. Thursday, March 3 — Adam Pajan
- 4 p.m. Sunday, March 20 — Jaime Carini
- 6 p.m. Thursday, March 31 — Julie Huang
- 6 p.m. Saturday, April 23 — Rachel Foster
- 6 p.m. Thursday, April 28 — Paul Watkins

### **AOI Showcase Concert**

- 8 p.m. Saturday, June 11  
Jelani Eddington and John Schwandt

*All events to be held in Catlett Music Center.  
See <http://aoi.ou.edu> for details.*

For tickets or accommodations on the basis of  
disability call the Fine Arts Box Office at  
(405) 325-4101.



## Piping In...

I have always cultivated a personal interest in organ. Growing up, I was drawn to contrapuntal music, so I naturally latched onto the organ as one of my favorite instruments. Unfortunately, I never had the opportunity to play an organ or even hear one played outside of the CDs I had acquired. Thankfully, this all changed when I began my master's program at OU.

After hearing the organ students practicing in Gothic Hall I decided to contact Dr. Schwandt to ask about lessons for beginners. I am happy to say that they welcomed me with open arms, and I began to study with Adam Pajan. Obviously we started at the beginning: learning about stops, pipes, manuals, finger substitutions, etc. It's not an exaggeration to say that the shoes were a bit of a surprise! But beyond all the basics, one of the things I appreciated most was the freedom to explore and experiment with my repertoire. I also became very appreciative of the thought and preparation that goes into the proper articulation for a piece based on the historical context. The skills I gained from perfecting articulations on the organ has made me a much better piano player as well.

Another important aspect of my experience centers around the unique organ that OU houses in the lobby of the Catlett Music Center. The Fisk Op. 111 in Gothic Hall has a mechanical action, which was an education in itself. The natural weight of the keys adds another element to the music. This historically constructed action truly gives you an appreciation not only for the intricacies of the instrument, but also for the centuries of builders, composers and players that became truly virtuosic on similar instruments in Europe. Overall, I couldn't have asked for a better experience. I still love the organ and I cannot wait to continue my study of the instrument.

—Benjamin Petty



Benjamin Petty is a first-year master's student studying voice at the OU School of Music.

The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity institution. The American Organ Institute is a program 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.

*Please update us on your accomplishments and successes!* Send in your news announcements for the next issue of *Windlines*. Alumni news can be mailed to the American Organ Institute, 2101 W. Tecumseh Road, Suite C, Norman, OK 73069-8253 or e-mailed to [aoi@ou.edu](mailto:aoi@ou.edu)

## Principal Chorus

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We have already sent letters to all known alumni. If you have not received a letter, please contact us, for we wish to include everyone! The date of the reunion is particularly auspicious as it falls one day prior to the opening of the Region VII Convention of the American Guild of Organists in Oklahoma City. **At the conclusion of the reunion day, we will present a gala dessert reception and an AOI Showcase Concert, to which we invite the general public.** Please put this on your calendar and look for more information in the coming weeks. In the meantime, I hope to see you at what promises to be a spectacular concert by Simon Gledhill!

—Professor John Schwandt  
Director, American Organ Institute

## On the Horizon

Wahl Organbuilders is pleased to have been contracted to build a four-stop mechanical action organ for the OU School of Music. As of this writing, the design is half done. Pipes are currently under construction with organ internal construction starting later in summer.

The stop list includes open eight-foot voices in each manual with balanced dynamic but contrasting tone qualities. A four-foot stop is available for either division, selectable with an either-or stop action. The four-foot is a hybrid stop transitioning from a capped bass sound to an open treble sound that can be used by itself or blending with either manual division.

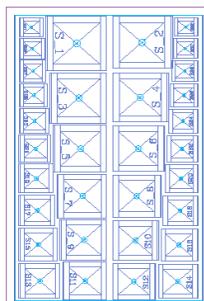
The pedal has a completely independent 16' subbass for fundamental support of all manual sounds. Normal couplers and a pedal octave coupler add to the versatility of the instrument. While the original contract calls for a bi-directional manual coupler (alternately coupling manual II to I or coupling manual I to II), the possibility of a third 'couple' manual is being explored in its stead.

The casework will be solid walnut of modern design with side facade pipes and front doors. The purpose of the doors is to allow the practicing organist to be able to avoid direct sound, allowing hours of quality work without aural fatigue. The pedal subbass will be located to the bass of the instrument in a compact and free-standing "tower" cage. The keyboard arrangement is being built to the Fisk Opus 111 dimensions but the 32-note pedalboard will have a parallel-concave geometry.

Delivery of this instrument is planned for the winter of 2012. Wahl Organbuilders is looking forward to working with the faculty, students and musicians of the OU School of Music as well as the resources of the American Organ Institute.

—Wahl Organbuilders

Visit [www.WahlOrganbuilders.com](http://www.WahlOrganbuilders.com) for current information as the construction progresses.



Wahl Organbuilders  
Four-stop Organ  
Preliminary Sketch

