



Windlines

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

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

KEN DOUBLE, Theatre Organ and SKIP STINE, Trumpet



3 pm Sunday, Jan. 29
on the Möller Municipal Organ
Paul F. Sharp Concert Hall
Catlett Music Center

IN THE OU ARTS DISTRICT

FINE ARTS BOX OFFICE (405) 325-4101
\$9 adults; \$5 students, OU faculty/staff, senior adults

Principal Chorus

Dear friends:

Another calendar year has arrived, as well as a new academic semester here at the University of Oklahoma. As I sit and look at the calendar for the coming months, it seems there will hardly be a moment for us here at the American Organ Institute to stop and catch our breath. You will have already noted the concert by Ken Double and Skip Stine, which we have awaited with great anticipation, as these fine

musicians will showcase our beloved “Mini-Mo” in yet another unique combination of organ and trumpet, playing popular and jazz titles. That’s just the opening act for a semester full of fine concerts and recitals played by our faculty and students. I hope to see you at as many as your schedules or proximity to Norman will allow.

I’m also excited to announce that the Board of Directors of the American Theatre Organ Society has entered into agreement with the University of Oklahoma to create the American Theatre Organ Library at the American Organ Institute. This collection is based on the archive of the ATOS, which had been housed at the Rialto Theatre in Joliet, Ill, under the care of Jim and Dolores Patak. The Board of Directors sought a long-term home for their valuable collection, chronicling the history of the theatre organ, and discussions began more than two years ago, culminating in a final agreement signed just before winter break. As I write this, trucks have delivered the bulk of the collection to the Institute, and the process of unpacking has begun (pictures at right). Here, with the help of two graduate assistants funded by the ATOS, the entire collection will be sorted, cataloged, preserved and made available to researchers. I am thrilled and humbled that the AOI has been entrusted with preserving the record of this uniquely American art form. We look forward to hosting the ATOS Board of Directors at their mid-year meeting next month.

I’m also pleased to report that our students continue to excel in academics and performances. In December, two more students received their master’s degree in organ performance, and I’m happy to report that they have already found employment – continuing our 100 percent placement statistic. Doctoral student Adam Pajan has advanced to the semi-final round of the National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance (NYACOP), which will be held in May, followed by the final round in July at the national convention of the American Guild of Organists. Mildred Andrews Boggess was proud to have produced three winners of this prestigious competition, and we wish Adam all the best as he moves forward. Finally, I can announce that our curriculum for a degree emphasis in church music has been fully implemented; our new curriculum in organ technology began last semester.

Despite our constant movement, it would be greatly remiss of me if I did not take another opportunity to thank the many individuals across the country and around the world who continue to support the AOI. Our work to preserve and foster the culture of the pipe organ is made possible by those individuals who have been willing to step forward and join with us in many different ways, ensuring a bright future for this ancient and grand art form. The pipe organ is alive and well at the University of Oklahoma!

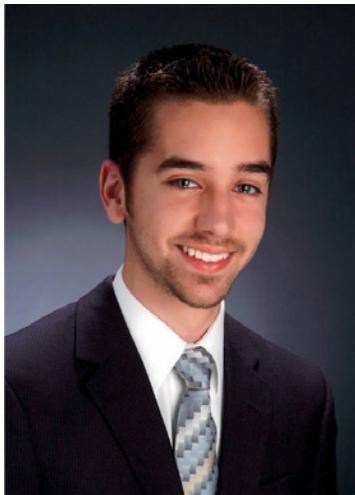
—John D. Schwandt, Director



First Impressions...

As my time at DePauw University was coming to a close, it was time for me to make the big decision: what do I do next? I knew I wanted to continue on to grad school, but choosing a place to live for at least two years is no small task. Fortunately, I had some goals in mind. One: I wanted to go somewhere where improvisation was fostered. Two: the teachers needed to love what they do and their students. Finally, I really wanted to go somewhere that I could learn about the *insides* of organs and not just how to play them. Fortunately for me, I had help and I was in luck. I was first

exposed to the American Organ Institute when Dr. Schwandt came to perform a live accompaniment to the original silent film *Phantom of the Opera* at DePauw University. Suffice to say, I was impressed, and after sitting through a masterclass with him, I knew I would enjoy being his student. My mentor and then teacher Dr. Edwards was well acquainted with the program at the AOI through Dr. Schwandt and encouraged me to apply. I looked into the program and learned the AOI had its own organ shop! Having once served as an extra set of hands on a project with the Muller Pipe Organ Co., I had become



completely enthralled by the intricacies of the instrument that I so loved to play. I learned more in those five days than I had learned in the three years prior that I had been playing the instrument. I came to visit the AOI in August and I knew OU was for me. The campus was beautiful, the music school was twice the size of the one I had known, the organs were awesome, and the shop was simply incredible. It almost seemed too good to be true. I auditioned and was accepted, and the next thing I knew I was making the 16-hour drive from Toledo down to Norman. After settling in, the school year promptly began and I started classes and working at the shop. A full semester later I am happy to report that the whole AOI experience lives up to all the hype. As a student, it is very exciting to be included in all of the new and exciting things happening at the AOI, such as our recent acquisition of the American Theatre Organ Society's archives. It is equally exciting being a part of a large and thriving studio ripe with concerts and camaraderie. Working in the shop provides great perspective to all of the effort and intricacies that goes into organ building; it is much easier to appreciate all of the time and effort when you are part of the process. The atmosphere here is indeed a positive one, one that "fosters the organist as a whole person and not just a musician"; I have made strides in my personal as well as musical life. I am confident I have made new lifelong friends and colleagues and I look forward to opening all of the doors presented to me by the AOI!

—James Richardson

Mark your scores...

An array of exciting concerts await you at OU this spring!

- 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 29, Sharp Hall: Ken Double, theatre organ and Skip Stine, trumpet.
- 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 5, Gothic Hall: Vicki Schaeffer, faculty recital.
- 8 p.m. Saturday, Mar. 10, Gothic Hall: Christopher Ganza, MM recital.
- 8 p.m. Friday, Mar. 16, Gothic Hall: J. Craig Sproat, faculty recital.
- 8 p.m. Monday, Mar. 26, Gothic Hall: Adam Pajan, DMA recital.
- 6 p.m. Friday, Apr. 27, Gothic Hall: Silviya Mateva, DMA recital.
- 4 p.m. Saturday, Apr. 28, Gothic Hall: Susan Johnson, MM recital.
- 6 p.m. Saturday, Apr. 28, Gothic Hall: Paul Watkins, Senior recital.

Engagements...

Pass on the word to your friends and family; Dr. Schwandt will be appearing around the country this spring!

- Friday, Feb. 17, Christ Presbyterian Church, Canton, Ohio – Silent Film
- Sunday, March. 25, Grand Avenue Temple UMC, Kansas City, Mo. – Concert
- Sunday, April. 1, East Lake UMC, Birmingham, Ala. – Lenten Lessons and Carols
- Sunday, April. 15, Vine Congregational UCC, Lincoln, Neb. – Concert
- Friday, April. 20, The Presbyterian Church, Sewickley, Penn. – Silent Film
- Sunday, April. 22, The Presbyterian Church, Sewickley, Penn. – Concert



Mayu Hashigaya wires new contact blocks and cleans key contacts for the Holtkamp "Martini" practice organ.

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:

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You also may email us at: aoi@ou.edu or call us at (405) 325-7829

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