



Number 24

MMM H UPDATE

April 2019

From the President

Our 2019 Season, extending from April through December, includes widely varied events, and features outstanding musical programs, superb artists and reasonable ticket prices. This exciting programming encompasses weekday and weekend performances; classical, traditional and operetta repertoire; and solo and ensemble artists.

The Wednesday Evening Organ Recital Series has long been recognized as the premier showcase for organ performance on an historic instrument in the nation. The 2019 fifteen-week series begins on May 22 and continues through August 28. Extraordinarily talented organists from across the United States and Germany will perform on the Great Organ.

This year's season will also include: a Children's Event; an Open Console Day; a Piano Recital; a Fourth of July Concert; the Methuen Young People's Theatre performances of the Gilbert and Sullivan operetta "Ruddigore"; the Fall Scholarship Fund Organ Recital with Salt Lake City Mormon Tabernacle Organist Richard Elliott; a Voice, Piano and Organ Concert; the Christmas Open House; and the "A Merry Music Hall Christmas" concerts.

We sincerely appreciate your interest, patronage and financial support. Thank you for helping us to maintain the fine performance tradition at the Music Hall, and to continue to preserve the Great Organ as a stunning example of the "King of Instruments".

Ed Sampson

MMM H on the Internet

The MMMH website (www.mmmh.org) provides: detailed information on all Board of Trustees-sponsored recitals and concerts; a description and stop list of the Great Organ; a history of the Music Hall; and mail order information about available CD, SACD and DVD recordings.

Also: YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

MMM H Telephone

To contact us by telephone via voice mail, please call (978) 685-0693.

Where we are

The Methuen Memorial Music Hall is located at 192 Broadway (Route 28) in Methuen, Massachusetts. Methuen lies between Lawrence, Massachusetts to the south and Salem, New Hampshire to the north. It is 28 miles north of Boston.

The two principal interstate highways in the area are Routes 93 and 495. From Route 93, travel to Exit No. 48 for Route 213. Go east on Route 213 and exit at Route 28. Turn right at the end of the exit ramp and head south on Route 28 about 1/2 mile through Methuen center to the Music Hall on the right. From Route 495, travel to Exit No. 47 for Route 213. Go west on Route 213 and exit at Route 28. Turn left at the end of the exit ramp and head south on Route 28 about 3/4 mile through Methuen center to the Music Hall on the right.

A Brief History

The Great Organ was originally built during the years 1857 through 1863 by the firm of E. F. Walcker et Cie., Ludwigsburg, Württemberg, Germany for the Boston Music Hall. This first concert organ in the United States exerted considerable influence on American organ design and construction during the latter part of the 19th-century.

Edward F. Searles (1841-1920) of Methuen purchased the instrument in 1897, rebuilt it and erected it in a specially built concert hall designed by the English architect Henry Vaughan (1845-1917). In 1947, G. Donald Harrison (1889-1956) of the Aeolian-Skinner Organ Company of Boston completed an extensive tonal reconstruction. Today, the organ's resources include: four manuals; five divisions; 85 stops; 116 ranks; and 6,088 pipes.

We are a Nonprofit Organization

The Methuen Memorial Music Hall, Inc. is a private, nonprofit organization established to preserve the famed Great Organ. It was incorporated in 1946 under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and was granted a tax-exempt status in accordance with Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code in 1949. Financial contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

2019 Organ Recital Series

Fifteen Wednesday Evenings at 8:00 P.M.
Doors open at 7:30 P.M.; Tickets at the door
Adults: \$12.00; Children: \$5.00

May 22 Young Artists
Paige Busse, Marshall Joos, Colin Lopus,
Benjamin J. Pajunen and Joshua Pak
Works by Mendelssohn, Dupré, Bonnet, Messiaen,
Salomé, Karg-Elert, Gigout and Jongen
Sponsored by Dick Kenney

May 29 Richard Gress
Macon, Georgia
Works by Bruhns, Bach, Reger, Franck and Duruflé
Sponsored by Randy Steere

June 5 Isaac Drewes
Rochester, New York
Works by Parker, Hampton, Widor, Franck, Whitlock
and Reger
Sponsored by Christopher Morss

June 12 Eric Plutz
Princeton, New Jersey
Works by Hollins, Purvis, Mendelssohn, Hirten, Flagler,
Widor and Vierne
Sponsored by Edward S. and Susie W. Rowland

June 19 Jonathan Vaughn
Greenwich, Connecticut
Works by Wagner, Mozart, Saint-Saëns, Whitlock, Chen
and Willan
Sponsored by The Savings Bank

June 26 Christa Rakich
Bloomfield, Connecticut
Willoughby Frederick and Emma Jacobson Watts
Memorial Organ Recital
Works by Buxtehude, Dahl, Woodman, Boulanger,
Cooman and de Jong

July 3 Sarah Simko
Shelby Township, Michigan
Works by Bach, Vierne, Ritter, Bingham, Karg-Elert and
Ives
Sponsored by Minette M. Sicard

July 10 William Ness
Lancaster, Massachusetts
Works by Sowerby, Schumann, Laurin, Reger, Franck
and Dupré
Sponsored by Nashoba Analytical, LLC

July 17 John Walthausen
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Works by Brahms, Bach, Liszt, Debussy, Florentz and
Franck
In Memory of Kenneth T. Morse

July 24 Kevin Neel
Reading, Massachusetts
Works by Ropartz, Bach, Mendelssohn, Hampton,
Tournemire, Persichetti and Briggs
Sponsored by William H. Drury

July 31 Julian Wachner
New York, New York
Summer Scholarship Fund Organ Recital
Works by Mouret, Duruflé, Bach, Copland and Wachner
Sponsored by the Law Office of Arthur J. Broadhurst

August 7 Janet Yieh
New Haven, Connecticut
Works by Mendelssohn, Vierne, Beach, Laurin, Elgar,
Thalben-Ball and Widor
Sponsored by the Demoulas Foundation

August 14 Mary Dolch
Concord, New Hampshire
Works by Bach, Dupré, Wammes, Reger, Cochereau
and Duruflé
Sponsored by Campbell Steward

August 21 Anne Laver
Rochester, New York
Works by Vierne, Sweelinck, Bingham, Mozart, Pärt,
Sowerby, Buck and Rheinberger
Sponsored by Adrienne Pavur

August 28 Rudolf Innig
Bielefeld, Germany
Works by Bach, Mendelssohn, Bruckner, Parker,
Barber and Ives
Sponsored by Michaud Insurance Agency, Inc.

2019 Special Events

Saturday, April 27, 10:00 A.M.
Children's Event
Leonardo Ciampa, organ
Boston, Massachusetts
Contest-Winning Children's Stories in English, Spanish
or Italian
Doors open at 9:30 A.M.
Free Admission

Saturday, May 18, 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
Open Console Day
An opportunity for area organists and organ students

to play the "Great Organ".
For sign-up and open schedule times, e-mail:
owenbar@juno.com

Friday, May 31, 8:00 P.M.
Piano Recital
Hugh Hinton
Winchester, Massachusetts
Steinway Model D "Concert Grand"
Doors open at 7:30 P.M.
Tickets: \$10, available at the door

Thursday, July 4, 2:00 P.M.
Red, White and Blue Festival
A Fourth of July Concert
Raymond Nagem, Organ and Leonardo Ciampa, Piano
New York, New York and Boston, Massachusetts
Steinway Model D "Concert Grand"
Free Admission

Saturday, September 7, 2:00 and 7:30 P.M.
Sunday, September 8, 3:00 P.M.
Methuen Young People's Theatre
Gilbert and Sullivan: "Ruddigore"
Adults: \$10.00, Children: \$5.00
Advance Tickets: Mail order, with check made payable
to MYPT, after August 1 to Mrs. Janet Jaber, 205 Forest
Street, Methuen, MA 01844-2333.
(Please specify if tickets are to be held at the door or
mailed back. A stamped return envelope is
appreciated.) Any remaining tickets will be available
for purchase at the door.

Friday, September 13, 8:00 P.M.
Fall Scholarship Fund Organ Recital
Richard Elliott
Mormon Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah
Doors open at 7:30 P.M., Tickets at the door
No Advance Sale Tickets
Adults: \$12.00, Students: \$5.00
Sponsored by The Salem Five Charitable Foundation

Sunday, October 27, 3:00 P.M.
Voice, Piano and Organ Concert
Neil Ferreira, Tenor; Fred MacArthur, Piano and Organ
Steinway Model D "Concert Grand"
Tickets; \$10, available at door

Friday, November 29, 7:00 to 9:00 P.M.
Christmas Open House
Seasonal Music on the "Great Organ",
Christmas Carol Sing-Alongs, Raffles and
Light Refreshments
Free Admission
Donations to the Organ Restoration Fund

Saturday, November 30, 7:00 P.M.
"A Merry Music Hall Christmas"
Ray Cornils, organ
Robinson Pyle and Greg Gettel, trumpets
Reserved Seating: Adults: \$20, Children: \$5
Advance Ticket Sales information at www.mmmh.org
website after November 1

Sunday, December 1, 3:00 P.M.
"A Merry Music Hall Christmas"
Ray Cornils, organ
Robinson Pyle and Greg Gettel, trumpets
Reserved Seating: Adults: \$20, Children: \$5
Advance Ticket Sales information at www.mmmh.org
website after November 1

Recital Series Subscriptions

Series subscriptions to all fifteen Wednesday evening
Organ Recitals are available at substantial savings.
Subscription rates are \$125.00 for an individual, \$225.00
for a couple and \$400.00 for an organization (admits
6). Tickets purchased at the door are priced at \$12.00
for adults and \$5.00 for children under 12 years of age.
Subscribe using the order/contributions form.

Scholarships

Every year, the Board of Trustees of the Methuen
Memorial Music Hall, Inc. is proud to support the youth
of our local communities by awarding scholarships to
promising young musicians. The scholarships are
awarded to graduating high school seniors from the
Greater Merrimack Valley who plan to major in a
music-related field at college in the fall. The
scholarship program began in 1974 with an award of
one scholarship of \$200. Now, the Trustees regularly
award two scholarships of \$1,000 each. In some years
an additional scholarship has been able to be offered
through support from the Methuen Young People's
Theatre. To date, 87 students have received a total of
\$86,200 in awards. Scholarships have gone to students
majoring in a range of music-related fields including:
music; instrumental or vocal performance; music
education; composition; musical theater; and
acoustical engineering. These scholarships are made
possible by the continued support of the public
through attendance at the scholarship concerts at the
Music Hall, and through donations to the corporation's
Scholarship Fund.

A \$1,000 2018 scholarship was awarded to Lily
Chartrain, from Salem, New Hampshire, where she
graduated from Salem High School. Her principal
instrument is the flute. She also plays piano and cello.

Musical accomplishments and experience for Lily have encompassed a broad range of school and community activities and programs. She excelled as well in her academic accomplishments at Salem High. Lily is attending George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia with the goal of earning a master's degree in music education and embarking on a career as a music teacher.

Recital Series Programs Available

If you would like a folder listing all fifteen recital programs of the Organ Recital Series, check the appropriate line on the order/contributions form and include a stamped, self-addressed business size envelope.

Edward F. Searles Society

The Music Hall Board of Trustees has established the Edward F. Searles Society to recognize individuals who have remembered the Music Hall through planned giving. By including the corporation in your estate planning, you will help to ensure the future of the Music Hall and our programming for years to come. Opportunities for planned giving are numerous, including: bequests; life insurance; trusts; annuities; and retirement plans. If you have included the Music Hall in your estate planning, please let us know. For further information on this significant way to show your loyal support of, and confidence in, the future of the Music Hall, check the appropriate line on the order/contributions form.

Bequest of Steinway Model D Concert Grand Piano

It should not be surprising that Mr. Searles' "Serlo Organ Hall" was the home of several pianos through the years. Keyboard technique and dexterity are usually developed on a piano before transitioning to the organ. Pianos at the hall have included: a Chickering Concert Grand; a Steinway Model D Concert Grand on loan; a Steinway Model O Living Room Grand; a Steinway Model L Living Room Grand; and a Steinway Model B Music Room Grand.

Through the bequest of the late MMMH patron William A. Goodwin (1930-2013), we have acquired a Steinway Model D Concert Grand. The instrument is massive, being 9 feet long and weighing 990 pounds. We have enlarged the stage to accommodate the addition of the piano. This piano is well suited to the 300,000 cubic feet volume of the hall.

While the piano currently sounds wonderful in the hall, it could benefit from some work on the key action, damper action and casework. Accordingly, the

Trustees have embarked on a fundraising campaign to underwrite this work. The estimated cost to rebuild the Model D is \$32,000. Your contribution would help make this a reality. Please see the order/contributions form. The events on May 31 and October 27 will be the first Board of Trustees-sponsored programs featuring the Steinway Model D Concert Grand.

Recital Endowment and Sponsorship

One recital of our fifteen-week Wednesday Evening Organ Recital Series is a specially designated, named recital. Any individual, family, organization, or corporation may establish a named recital by making an endowment contribution to permanently underwrite the production cost of such a recital. This is a unique way to honor a family member or friend, to recognize a group, or memorialize a deceased loved one.

We also offer individuals, families, organizations and corporations the opportunity to underwrite any of the non-endowed recitals of our series on an annual basis. See the order/contributions form.

The following were memorialized in 2018.

Donald Foss	Chandler Holmes Noyes
George S. Krajian	Anthony Spitalere
Jim Long	Everett Wagner
Lee W. Malone	Hilda Wagner
Jean Lois Mathes	Emma Jacobson Watts
Joe McCook	Willoughby Frederick Watts
Kenneth T. Morse	

Music Hall Rentals

The Music Hall may be rented for wedding ceremonies, meetings, concerts and recitals. The hall provides a truly magnificent venue for any such event. For rental rates and date availability, contact us through the website at <<http://www.mmmh.org>>.

MMMh Appeal

In the final analysis, it is only through the ongoing financial support of you, our patrons and benefactors, that the Music Hall continues its rich legacy of performance, entertainment and enrichment. We thank you for all that you have done, and for what we hope you will continue to do, to assist in covering the cost of operations and capital improvements of the "Great Organ" and the Music Hall.

Your contribution to our "MMMh Appeal" would be greatly appreciated.

Please see the order/contributions form.

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Our Mailing Address

Send the order / contributions form, your check and any requests for further information to:
Methuen Memorial Music Hall, Inc.
Post Office Box 463
Methuen, Massachusetts 01844-0463

Order / Contributions Form

CUT ALONG DASHED LINE

Methuen Memorial Music Hall, Inc.

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____
for the items and/or contributions indicated below.

2019 Organ Recital Series Subscription

___ Individual \$125 (admits 1)
___ Couple \$225 (admits 2)
___ Organization \$400 (admits 6)

\$_____ MMMH Appeal Contribution

\$_____ Scholarship Fund Contribution

\$_____ Steinway Model D Rebuild Contribution

___ Organ Recital Series Program Folder

___ Scholarship Application Information

___ Recital Endowment and Sponsorship
Information

___ Edward F. Searles Society Information

___ Please keep me on the mailing list.

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City or Town _____

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2019 MMMH UPDATE



The Great Organ



Photograph by John D. Woolf, 2011

Originally in the Boston Music Hall

E. F. Walcker et Cie.
Ludwigsburg, Württemberg, Germany
Opus 200, 1863

Aeolian-Skinner Organ Company, Inc.
Boston, Massachusetts
Opus 1103, 1947

4 manuals, 5 divisions, 85 stops, 116 ranks, 6,088 pipes

Great:	24 stops	38 ranks	2,302 pipes
Swell:	16 stops	19 ranks	1,147 pipes
Choir:	10 stops	12 ranks	702 pipes
Positiv:	13 stops	17 ranks	1,037 pipes
Pedal:	22 stops	30 ranks	900 pipes