



Number 25

MMMh UPDATE

June 2020

From the President

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2020 season at the Hall. As in years past, our program includes varied events featuring outstanding musical programs presented by talented artists.

This year, the ongoing COVID-19 crisis presents some unique challenges for organizations like ours, which have forced us to think outside of normal routine. Our Board of Trustees has been working hard over the past few weeks to enable Live Streaming from the Hall. This incredible technology will allow us to present our scheduled summer recital series as planned, albeit virtually on YouTube. We have spoken with all 15 of our scheduled performers for the summer recital season, and with only a couple of exceptions, we have received an overwhelmingly positive and enthusiastic response. Recitalists who have expressed reservations about this format have already been offered a slot in next season's schedule. We are very excited to move forward with our concert series in this format and hope you'll join us virtually for as many performances as you can.

In addition to our showcase recital series, this season also marks the incredible 35th anniversary of the Methuen Young People's Theatre. Other highlights of our 2020 season include the Fall Scholarship Fund recital with Frederick Hohman, our annual Christmas Open house, and one of our yearly favorites, "A Merry Music Hall Christmas". When we can have live audiences, tickets will also be available for sale online at mmmh.brownpapertickets.com.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the passing of our long-time President, Ed Sampson. Ed was a fixture of the Methuen Memorial Music Hall and will be deeply missed. We are dedicating the 2020 season in honor of Ed for his endless strength to our mission. I must also acknowledge we have lost another longtime volunteer to the Hall. Elaine Morissette has also been a champion of the Hall and has put in endless hours to see that the Hall would go forward. We and the Hall will be eternally grateful to them both.

We sincerely appreciate your interest, patronage and

financial support. Thank you for helping us to maintain the fine performance tradition at the Music Hall. This year though we cannot see our way to have anyone in the Hall for the near future, we hope you will continue to think of us and help us in any way you can. Our Live Stream events will be provided free of charge to all; if you are in a position to help, please consider a financial donation to the Hall. You can donate securely via PayPal using the link on our website or by check in the mail. For up-to-date information, please visit our website at www.mmmh.org

Thank you. Stay safe and be well.

Chad P. Dow, President

Edward J. Sampson, Jr.

Edward J. Sampson, Jr. was elected to the Methuen Memorial Music Hall Board of Trustees in 1971, serving on the Board for forty-eight (48) years. During his time on the Board, Ed contributed in a multitude of ways, most notably by his leadership as the President of the Board for over forty (40) years. We, the Trustees, recognize the significant time and the "over and above" devotion to keeping the Great Organ functioning for this extended period of time, guiding us along as we continued. We deeply and sincerely thank Ed's beloved wife of fifty (50) years Kathleen for sharing Ed with us and understanding the time and effort he gave. He had a lifelong passion for classical organ music and organs. Born in Brockton, he attended Northeastern University, where he received Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and Master of Science in Electrical Engineering degrees. He then embarked on a fifty-year career as a system engineer at Raytheon Company in Bedford and Tewksbury. This is humbly the passing of an era. The Methuen Memorial Music Hall would not be what it is today without his influence and dedication.

Elaine M. Morissette

It is with extreme sadness that we also inform you of the recent passing of our fellow long-time Trustee Elaine M. Morissette. If you came to an event at the Hall you were greeted by Elaine. She accomplished much for the organization, particularly when it came to sponsorships. She will be greatly missed.

MMMh on the Internet

The MMMh website (www.mmmh.org) provides: detailed information on all Board of Trustees-sponsored recitals, concerts and events; 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. You can also find us on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

MMMh 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.

2020 Organ Recital Series

The Hall will not be open in the foreseeable future to our audiences. The 2020 series will be livestreamed on our You Tube channel

www.youtube.com/c/methuenmemorialmusichall

Please note new starting time

Fifteen Wednesday Evenings at 7:30 P.M.

The Board of Trustees is dedicating the 2020 series in memory of Edward J. Sampson, Jr.

May 20 Philip Pampreen
Dover, New Hampshire

Works by Reger, Bach, Bridge, Williams, Vierne and Pampreen

Sponsored by Richard A. Kenney

May 27 Frederick MacArthur
with Richard Watson, trumpet

Works by Guilmant, Hovhaness, Snow, Widor, Torelli, Bach, Elgar, Ewazen, Fletcher and Rinck

Sponsored by Christopher Morss

June 3 David Michael Kenney, Sr.
Hampton, New Hampshire

Works by Hensel, Diemer, Boundy, Portman, Beach, Price, Bober, Boulanger, Ashford, Bartholomew, Prestat, Stirling, Schumann, Shepherd and Kim

Sponsored by the Law Office of Arthur J. Broadhurst

June 10 Kyle Bertulli
Milford, Massachusetts

Works by Rheinberger, Paine, Neven, Bach and Grieg

Sponsored by Salem Cooperative Bank

June 17 Heinrich Christensen
Dorchester, Massachusetts

Works by Buck, Gershwin and Vierne

Sponsored by Randy Steere

June 24 Janet E. Hunt
Brighton, Massachusetts

Willoughby Frederick and Emma Jacobson Watts
Memorial Organ Recital

Works by Lübeck, Distler, Vaughan Williams, Liszt, Howells and Vierne

July 1 Jennifer Pascual
New York, New York

Works by Creston, Bach, Surzyński, Chopin, Kasilag,

Robinson, Mendelssohn, Peele, Hakim, Yon, Langlais
and Stanford

Sponsored by Edward S. and Susie W. Rowland

July 8 Leonardo Ciampa

Worcester, Massachusetts

Works by various Italian composers

Sponsored by Enterprise Bank

July 15 Sarah Johnson

Rochester, New York

Works by Widor, Duruflé, Muhly, Mendelssohn, Kittel,
Kirnberger, Homilius, Krebs and Willan

Sponsored by the Demoulas Foundation

July 22

ARTIST AND PROGRAM TO BE DETERMINED

Sponsored by Nashoba Analytical LLC

July 29 Mark Campbell

Lawrence, Kansas

Summer Scholarship Fund Organ Recital

Works by Bach, Mendelssohn, Whitlock, Dupré and
Campbell

Sponsored by The Savings Bank

August 5 Stephen G. Young

Taunton, Massachusetts

Works by Dunham, Bartmuß, Hoyer, Rheinberger,
Commette, Bracquemond, Claussmann and Vierne

Sponsored by William H. Drury

August 12 Mitchell Crawford

Boston, Massachusetts

Works by Mendelssohn, Zwart, Handel, Shearing,
Ravina and Verdi

In Memory of Kenneth T. Morse

August 19 Bruce Adami

Exeter, New Hampshire

Works by Bach, Pachelbel, Mendelssohn, Hampton,
Davey, Duruflé, Vierne and Guilmant

Sponsored by Campbell Steward

August 26 Rhonda Sider Edgington

Holland, Michigan

Works by Cooman, Beach, Parker, Woodman, Van Ness,
Chadwick, Pinkham and Foote

Sponsored by Michaud Insurance Agency, Inc.

2020 Special Events

The Methuen Young People's Theatre and its
presentation of the Gilbert and Sullivan operetta
"Iolanthe" originally scheduled for Saturday,

September 12, 2:00 and 7:30 P.M. and on Sunday,
September 13, 3:00 P.M. HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED AS OF
THE DATE OF THIS MAILING AND IS SUBJECT TO REPLACEMENT
PROGRAM, POSTPONEMENT OR CANCELLATION
INFORMATION WILL BE POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE

Saturday, October 3, 7:30 P.M.

Fall Scholarship Fund Organ Recital

Frederick Hohman

Doors open at 7:00 P.M., Tickets at the door or

<http://mmmh.brownpapertickets.com>

Adults: \$12.00, Students: \$5.00

In Memory of Lee W. Malone

Friday, December 4, 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, December 5, 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 6, 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

Ticket Options

When we can bring our audiences back into the Hall,
tickets will be available at the door thirty minutes
before a recital or concert (cash or check – no credit
cards) or on-line at

<http://mmmh.brownpapertickets.com> This website will
also offer information about our events as they come
available. Certain events may offer advance ticket
sales.

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, 90 students have received a total of \$69,000 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 2019 scholarship was awarded to Allison Ross from Salem, New Hampshire to study Music Education at Ithaca College.

A \$1,000 2019 scholarship was awarded to Montserrat Turriza from Windham, New Hampshire to study Music Education & Flute at Berklee College of Music.

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.

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 2019.

Dale Dallon	Chandler Holmes Noyes
Donald Foss	Angela M. Privitera
George S. Krajian	Anthony Spitalere
Jim Long	Everett Wagner
Lee W. Malone	Hilda Wagner
Jean Lois Mathes	Emma Jacobson Watts
Joe R. McCook	Willoughby Frederick Watts
Kenneth T. Morse	Lawrence A. Young

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.

Update Distribution

We are transitioning more and more to electronic distribution. This helps us immensely in reducing our costs so we can put our monies to better use to provide artists and events. Please consider providing us with your email address and allowing us to delete you from the physical mailing list. Please enter this information on the order / contributions form or on the Newsletter subscribe link on our website home page.

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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.

- \$ _____ MMMH Appeal Contribution
\$ _____ Organ Recital Series Contribution
\$ _____ Scholarship Fund Contribution
\$ _____ Steinway Model D Rebuild Contribution
_____ Scholarship Application Information
_____ Recital Endowment and Sponsorship Information
_____ Please keep me on the mailing list
_____ Please remove me from the mailing list
_____ Please add me to your e-mail list

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Name _____

Address _____

City or Town _____

State and ZIP+4 Code _____

E-Mail _____