



# METHUEN MEMORIAL MUSIC HALL

## MMMh MISSION STATEMENT

"To preserve and share the history, grandeur, and experience of The Great Organ and the Hall through musical performances and outreach to the community."

Number 27

MMMh UPDATE

April 2022

### From the President

Welcome to our 2022 season. This year marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1947 renovation of the Great Organ. To celebrate, we are presenting an exciting summer concert series performed by eminent and emerging organists. It will open with a "Pipedreams Live" concert, hosted by Michael Barone and featuring six talented young organists. In June, we will commemorate the organ's rededication with a concert by four well-known Boston organists.

Last year, two organists who will play in our 2022 season recorded videos in the Hall which received many international views. Wesley Hall, from Worcester, creates organ related TikTok videos under the name "Westpiper" and has over 151,000 followers. Last June, he made a short video about the Great Organ titled "Greatest Organs of the World Pt.1" which has now received over 103,000 views! Just before Christmas, Katelyn Emerson recorded a recital for the Royal College of Organists' 2022 Winter Conference which was "attended" by many organists throughout the world. Her recital was a featured evening event. In July, we will once again present our free "Red, White, and Blue Festival". This Fall we have a series of Sunday afternoon "Methuen Matinee" programs featuring other types of instruments and musicians: piano, voice, a concert of Broadway songs, and a swing band.

We are also inaugurating new subscription options for experiencing our concerts: live, online, or both. You can purchase tickets for all concerts either in person or online. You will find more information about these and other events, as well as other news inside this UPDATE. We look forward to welcoming you back into the Hall this season. Or join us online as we bring music from Methuen to the World.

Thank you for your patronage and support!

Matthew M. Bellocchio, President

### 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Renovation of the Great Organ

On July 8, 1946, the newly formed Music Hall trustees contracted with G. Donald Harrison and the Aeolian-Skinner Organ Company of Boston to "restore and revise" the organ. The organ was rededicated on June 24, 1947 in a concert played by Arthur Howes (Phillips Andover Academy), Carl Weinrich (Princeton University) and Ernest White (St. Mary the Virgin, NYC), who had all served as consultants for the rebuilding.

Since its rededication, the Great Organ has been heard in over 1,360 concerts performed by over 550 organists. In April 2020, at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Hall established a YouTube channel

[www.youtube.com/c/methuenmemorialmusicHall](http://www.youtube.com/c/methuenmemorialmusicHall)

An all-volunteer staff produced and live streamed the entire 2020 and 2021 seasons. The Music Hall's YouTube channel now has over 1,400 subscribers with viewers from around the world.

The Great Organ still reigns as this country's first concert organ and its most iconic!

### 2022 Organ Recital Series

Fifteen Wednesday Evenings at 7:30 P.M.

Doors open at 7:00 P.M.

Adults: \$15 Children: \$5 Tickets available at the door or online at <http://mmmh.brownpapertickets.com>

The 2022 series will also be live streamed for subscribers.

**MAY 25 – PIPEDREAMS LIVE! YOUNG ARTISTS CONCERT**

Hosted by Michael Barone

Nathan Barcelona, Andrew Byers, Savannah Curro, Marshall Joos, David Kenney, Jr., Ryan Slocum  
Works by Bach, Demessieux, Franck, Hovhaness, Langlais, Lefebure-Wely, Mendelssohn, Ostermann, Schroeder, Rossi, and Widor

Sponsored by New York City Chapter AGO Centennial Millennium Fund and Peter Krasinski

**JUNE 1 – ANGELA KRAFT CROSS**

San Francisco, California

Works by Cross, Franck, Langlais, Saint-Saëns, Widor and Duruflé

*Sponsored by Randy Steere*

**JUNE 8 – WESLEY HALL**

Worcester, Massachusetts

Works by Böhm, Buxtehude, Bach, Britten, Dupré, Messiaen, de Grigny and Tournemire

*Sponsored by Janet Pletcher and Kathleen Taylor*

**JUNE 15 – JAMES KEALEY**

Rochester, New York

Works by Elgar, Laurin, Franck, Still, Whitlock and Vierne

*Sponsored by Christopher Morss*

**JUNE 22 – ROBERT PARKINS**

Durham, North Carolina

Willoughby Frederick and Emma Jacobson Watts Memorial Organ Recital

Works by Scarlatti, Eberlin, Bach, Liszt, Brahms and Mendelssohn

**JUNE 29 – FOUR BOSTON ORGANISTS**

Leo Abbott, Richard Clark, Mark Dwyer, Ross Wood Commemorating the 1947 Rededication Concert

Works by Jongen, Peters, Clark, Widor and Sowerby

*Sponsored by Frederick MacArthur*

**JULY 6 – SARAH JOHNSON**

Rochester, New York

Works by Cabanilles, van Oortmerssen, Bach, Paine, Whitlock, Vierne and Buck

*Sponsored by Salem Co-operative Bank*

**JULY 13 – CAROLYN CRAIG**

New Haven, Connecticut

Works by Hakim, Demessieux, Howells, Burge, Perlman and Duruflé

*In Memory of Kenneth T. Morse*

**JULY 20 – CLARA GERDES BARTZ**

New York, New York

Works by McKie, Duruflé, Coleridge-Taylor, Reger, Litaize and Liszt

*Sponsored by Joyce Painter Rice and Rosalind Mohnsen*

**JULY 27 – STEFAN DONNER**

Vienna, Austria

Summer Scholarship Fund Organ Recital

Works by Mozart, Brahms, Mendelssohn and Reubke

*Sponsored by the Law Office of Arthur J. Broadhurst*

**AUGUST 3 – RAYMOND NAGEM**

New York, New York

Works by Coleridge-Taylor, Wammes and Karg-Elert

*Sponsored by Demoulas Foundation*

**AUGUST 10 – JENNIFER SHIN**

Rochester, New York

Works by Reger, Schumann, Karg-Elert, Rheinberger, Franck, Widor and Vierne

*Sponsored by William H. Drury*

**AUGUST 17 – JUSTIN MURPHY-MANCINI**

Newburyport, Massachusetts

Works by Demessieux, Laurin, Langlais, Messiaen and Vierne

*Sponsored by Campbell Steward*

**AUGUST 24 – CRAIG WILLIAMS**

West Point, New York

Works by Dupré, Thayer, Williams, Faxon, Sowande, Price and Liszt

*Sponsored by Family of Edward S. Rowland*

**AUGUST 31 – TIMOTHY OLSEN**

Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Works by Reger, Sweelinck, Karg-Elert, Bovet, Bonnet, Shearing and Bizet

*In Memory of Lee W. Malone*

**2022 Special Events**

Sunday, July 3, 3:00 P.M.

Red, White and Blue Festival

Raymond Nagem, Organ; Leonardo Ciampa, Piano;

Elizabeth Keusch, Soprano

New York, New York and Worcester, Massachusetts

Free Admission

Saturday September 10, 7:30 P.M.

Sunday, September 11, 3:00 P.M.

Methuen Young People's Theatre

Gilbert and Sullivan's "H.M.S. Pinafore"

Adults \$15 Children \$5

Sunday, September 18, 3:00 P.M.

PIANO AT METHUEN

Hugh Hinton

Winchester, Massachusetts

Works by Schubert, Boulanger and Debussy

Friday, September 23, 7:30 P.M.

Fall Scholarship Fund Organ Recital

Katelyn Emerson

Champaign, Illinois

Works by Laurin, Elgar, Sowerby, Parry, Widor, Boëly, Karg-Elert and Reger

*Sponsored by Leon-Diego Fernández*

Sunday, October 2, 3:00 P.M.

Neal Ferreira, Tenor

James Myers, Piano

Haverhill, Massachusetts and Chelsea, Massachusetts

Songs and Spiritual arrangements by Hailstork, Musto and Bonds. World Premiere of a new work by Myers

*Sponsored by A Friend of the Hall and a Trustee of the Hall*

Saturday, October 15, 10:00 A.M.

Children's Event

In Conjunction with Nevins Memorial Library, Methuen

*Peter and the Wolf* – Prokofiev

Raymond Hawkins, Organ

Sunday, October 16, 3:00 P.M.

The Golden Age of Broadway

A Musical Revue

Music of Rodgers and Hammerstein, Gershwin, Porter and more

Sunday, October 23, 3:00 P.M.

PIANO AT METHUEN

Randall Hodgkinson

Sharon, Massachusetts

Works by Bach, Schumann and Chopin

Sunday, November 6, 3:00 P.M.

Shriners Swing Band

Friday, December 2, 7:00 to 9:00 P.M.

Christmas Open House

Seasonal Music, Christmas Carol Sing-Alongs

Philips Academy Fidelio Society

Raffles and Light Refreshments

Free Admission

Donations to the Organ Restoration Fund

Saturday, December 3, 7:00 P.M.

Sunday, December 4, 3:00 P.M.

“A Merry Music Hall Christmas”

Ray Cornils, Organ

Robinson Pyle and Greg Gettel, Trumpets

Reserved seating - Adults: \$25 Children: \$5

Tickets will be available online at

<http://mmmh.brownpapertickets.com>

## What We've Been Doing

There is always work to be done, and the Trustees have been busy accomplishing a variety of tasks over the past year, especially while the Hall has been closed for the winter. Thanks to the generosity of our friends and supporters, here are just some of the upgrades we have completed.

In early March, the Buildings and Grounds Committee rented a 55' articulated boom lift to access the upper reaches of the Hall. Committee members took turns going up in the lift to replace all the light bulbs in the ceiling cornice with energy-efficient LED bulbs. They also vacuumed decades of dust from the tops of the organ case and the high ledges along the walls. Next time you are in the Hall, look up! The new lighting accentuates the detail of the ceiling. New electrical outlets and fiber optic cables were installed to support and enhance our live streaming.

The organ humidification system is now installed and working. The system consists of a high-output humidifier in the blower room and a small blower which pumps humidified air into the organ's wind system when the organ is off. Small vent holes, drilled at the far ends of the organ's wooden wind lines and windchests, allow the humidity to waft through the entire wind system and exit through the holes. The holes are fitted with spring-loaded valves which are open when the organ is off. When the organ is turned on, the pressurized air closes the vent valves. When the organ is played, the humidified air is drawn through the blower and fed directly to the pipes. This will allow the Hall to be heated for winter programs without drying out and damaging the Great Organ's delicate wooden parts. This type of forced air system has been installed with very successful results in the 463 rank Wanamaker Grand Court Organ in Philadelphia, the 197 rank Newberry Memorial Organ at Yale University, and the 101 rank organ at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston.

Work in the Archives continues with the preservation and cataloging of our archival recordings, some of which are reel-to-reel recordings going back to 1963. These were saved just ahead of the serious flood that destroyed the basement in May, 2006. Some of the items in the Archives are many black and white photos of the Hall, programs dating back to 1863, and even a scrapbook that belonged to Edward F. Searles. It is hoped that we can digitize the recordings that survived and preserve them from further degradations from cold, heat and humidity by placing them in a more suitable environment.

The Nominating Committee proposed three new Trustees recently. We are excited to welcome Randy, Paul and Meg and look forward to having them bring their talents to share with us. We are a working Board, so our volunteers have much to do once they join our ranks. We can always use additional help, either as a Trustee, a Friend, or a casual volunteer. Presently we are looking for people to help with our Youth Programs, fund raising and grants, and building maintenance. If you might be interested in helping in these areas, please send a short introduction to the attention of the Nominating Committee. We would enjoy talking with you.

## Exploring New Possibilities

The Board of Trustees is growing and expanding our sights for performances and events in the Hall. After the past two years of “thinking out of the box” to make recitals available, we have realized that we can expand and do new and exciting things!

But with growth comes a need for more assistance to get so much more done. Understanding this, we have formed an Ad Hoc committee to look into the feasibility of hiring a paid Executive Director. It would be a mighty undertaking, but one we believe needs to happen. Wish us luck in our search. We will keep you all updated.

### **Methuen Young People's Theatre and Scholarships**

The Methuen Young People's Theatre will welcome our youth back to the Hall this summer to perform Gilbert and Sullivan's "H.M.S. Pinafore" operetta. For the past two years we have been unable to do this, but we think this summer we can. Many, many theater groups are back and performing and we want to be part of getting our community back to a "new normal". If you know any young people who love to sing, encourage them to give us a try. Information is available on our website. With your help we are proud to support promising young musicians who plan to major in a music-related field. Scholarships are awarded to graduating high school seniors from the Greater Merrimack Valley. These scholarships are made possible through attendance at the Hall's Summer and Fall Scholarship Concerts and through donations to the corporation's Scholarship Fund. To date, over \$90,000 has been awarded.

In 2021, a \$1,000 scholarship was awarded to Marshall Joos of Somersworth, NH. Marshall is pursuing his music degree at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music, concentrating on Organ Performance. Another \$1,000 scholarship was awarded to Nicole Paquette of Pelham, NH. Nicole is concentrating in Flute Performance at the Hartt School of Music at the University of Hartford.

### **2021 Memorials**

*In Memory of* – Roberta Banfield • Jackie Buck • William S. Hurst • Patricia (Tearno) Kassilke • George S. Krajian • William G. MacKenzie • Joe Ryan McCook • Ellen (Stahle) Meuse • Elaine M. Morissette • Edward J. Sampson, Jr. • Lawrence A. Young

*In Honor of* – Linda Kessler

### **Methuen Memorial Music Hall Caretaker**

Many of you who have been regulars at our recitals and concerts know Roger Ouellette, our Caretaker. He has been a fixture at the Hall for 14 years. In January, Roger gave his notice to retire. He has stepped away from his duties at the Hall, but we are hopeful that he will not be a stranger, coming to visit with us now and again. He hopes to spend more time with his wife and

family. We wish him a wonderful retirement but, as you can imagine, it has left a big void for us to fill. The Board would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all he has done for us. Roger has certainly gone above and beyond what his official duties were. His smile and friendly ways will be greatly missed. Sincere thanks from all of us, Roger. Enjoy your time with the family!

### **Edward F. Searles Society**

The Board of Trustees established the Searles Society to recognize individuals who have remembered the Music Hall through planned giving. Opportunities for planned giving are numerous: bequests, life insurance, trusts, annuities, and retirement plans. By including the Music Hall in your estate, you will help ensure the future of the building, the organ, and our programming for years to come.

This January, the Music Hall received a \$500,000 check as a beneficiary of a revocable trust set up by the late Roger E. Berube (1941-2021) of Nashua, NH. Mr. Berube, who worked as a refrigeration technician, was a devotee of classical organ music. In addition to being a Music Hall Summer Series subscriber, he was a member of the American Guild of Organists and the Organ Historical Society. We are very grateful for his bequest which constitutes the largest single donation in the history of the Music Hall.

### **Recital Series Subscriptions and Ticketing**

Our live-streaming has been a huge success and we are so glad to have provided free online access to our recitals and events of the past two years. In addition, our guest artists were thrilled to be able to continue performing throughout the pandemic.

This year we will transition our live-streams and other recorded content to a new subscription website. We encourage you to join us as a subscriber. Subscription options will range from online access only (\$50) to live audience ticketing (1 or 2) with unlimited online access as well. So you can have the best of both worlds! Keep in mind that your subscriber fee will go entirely to MMMH (except for a small credit card processing fee). We'll send more information out soon, but you can get started by navigating to

<https://www.mmmh.org/subscribers>

Individual tickets will still be available at the door or online through <http://mmmh.brownpapertickets.com>.

## Board of Trustees

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## Who – What – Where – How

The Methuen Memorial Music Hall is located at 192 Broadway (Route 28) in Methuen, MA. We are 28 miles north of Boston and 26 miles south of Manchester, NH. We can be reached by voice mail at (978) 685-0693. Please leave us a message and we will return your call.

Our Mailing address is:  
Methuen Memorial Music Hall  
Post Office Box 463  
Methuen, MA. 01844-0463

You can find us on the internet at our website address [www.mmmh.org](http://www.mmmh.org). You will find a listing of our upcoming recitals and concerts, our history, detailed information about the Great Organ and Hall rental information. The Hall is available for wedding ceremonies, meetings, concerts and recitals. We are also on Facebook and YouTube [www.youtube.com/c/methuenmemorialmusicall](http://www.youtube.com/c/methuenmemorialmusicall)

## 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.

## Order / Contributions Form

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

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

2022 Organ Recital Series In-Person Subscription

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual      \$150 (admits 1)

\_\_\_\_\_ Couple      \$275 (admits 2)

\_\_\_\_\_ Scholarship Application Information

\_\_\_\_\_ Recital Endowment and Sponsorship  
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## 2022 MMMH UPDATE



## THE GREAT ORGAN



*Photograph by John D. Woolf, 2011*

Originally in the Boston Music Hall

E. F. Walcker and Company  
Ludwigsburg, Germany  
Opus 200, 1863

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

4 manuals, 5 divisions

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
Total:	85 stops,	116 ranks,	6,088 pipes