



2012  
Winter  
Issue

## *MUSIC HALL Marks*

A Publication Of The Society  
For The Preservation Of Music Hall

1241 Elm Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

# SPMH - President's Message

Happy Holidays!! The holiday season is happily here and we certainly have much to be thankful, and joyful for, here at Music Hall.

A successful summer started early with an outstanding May Festival, followed by the Cincinnati Opera and a "blockbuster" production of *Porgy and Bess*. "Smack-dab" in the middle of the year was a true first for Music Hall... ..sold out concerts as part of the 2012 World Choirs Games, in their first USA appearance. Music Hall showed its loveliness to the world audience attending. September witnessed a sold-out Symphony season opener and October brought a Cincinnati premiere by the Ballet Company of *Alice (in wonderland)*.

And, from the steps of Music Hall, we have seen an increasingly dynamic community. The opening of Washington Park has vastly sur-

passed everyone's hopes. Music Hall's "front-lawn" is now so much more and is an almost non-stop beehive of activities of concerts, movies, and festivals. So, come on down!



Don Siekmann

Your SPMH has also been extremely active in a most successful year. With the delay in the revitalization plans, SPMH has stepped up an interior painting program and has completed the beautiful refinishing of the hardwood floors in the ballroom, main stage, rehearsal halls

and has restored to freshness the outside of the Elm Street wooden doors. In addition, current initiatives include the restoration of the art carved wooden 1878 organ panels. Plans are underway to expand our already popular tour program. Our Wurlitzer Organ series continues with sold-out audiences and will shine again with a pair of

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concerts on December 13th. Success breeds success, so, we are already looking forward to a great year ahead.

Please know how much we are thankful for you, the members of SPMH. Your support is an inspiration to the Board to serve the interests of the community at Music Hall. We hope we have shown we

deserve that support, so I urge you to renew, or start, your membership. It's easy. Just use the enclosed membership envelope.

Our continued best wishes as we look forward to 2013! See you in Music Hall!!

- Don Siekmann

### ***SPMH MISSION STATEMENT***

*The mission of The Society for the Preservation of Music Hall is to preserve, promote, improve, and provide education about Music Hall, funding special projects in addition to Music Hall management's operational and maintenance obligations, and facilitating communications among Music Hall management, owner, and tenants, in order to perpetuate Music Hall as the premier cultural center of the Region, and as a National Historic Landmark of international significance.*

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## 2012 SPMH Annual Meeting: Celebrating 25 Years

The SPMH Annual Meeting was held on Monday, September 10th in Music Hall's Corbett Tower.

Celebrating the 25th anniversary of the inception of SPMH, the meeting was attended by nearly 150 members and friends of SPMH. During the cocktail reception, with an elegant hors d'oeuvres buffet, guests were serenaded by pianist, Don Hurd, and greeted by current SPMH Board members.

Board President, Don Siekmann, called the meeting to order, emphasizing the SPMH's Mission: To Preserve, Promote, Improve, and Provide Education about Music Hall in order to perpetuate Music Hall as the premier cultural center of the region, and as a National Historic Landmark of international significance. Mr. Siekmann's opening comments highlighted a few of the

year's major accomplishments. These included the sold-out Holiday Wurlitzer concert last Decem-



Don Hurd pianist

ber and the Broadway tribute in May. He shared updates to content on our website, [spmhcincinnati.org](http://spmhcincinnati.org). He also announced the upcoming Holiday Wurlitzer concert on December 13th and the introduction of a new SPMH holiday ornament featuring an etching of Music Hall. Tickets to the concert as well as the 2012 Christmas Ornament were available at discounted prices at the meeting.



Don Siekmann

The attendees were then treated to a delightful performance, courtesy of Cincinnati Opera. Two Cincinnati Opera company members, Claude Cassion & Jackie Echols, performed moving excerpts from the summer's hailed and beloved production of *Porgy and Bess*.

The meeting moved to Committee

reports. First up was Peter Koenig, Head of the Membership Committee, who reviewed current and newly elected SPMH Directors and Officers. Directors elected to a second term, ending in September, 2015, are Lisa Allison, William E. Hendrick and Ronald F. Wehmeier. Meredith Downton was elected as a new Director, returning to SPMH after a short hiatus.

Officers elected for another year are President: Don Siekmann; Recording Secretary: Karen McKim; Vice Presidents: Joanne Grueter, Kathy Janson, Peter Koenig, Ed Rider; Corresponding Secretary: Marcella Hsiung; Treasurer: Mark Weadick. Mr. Koenig also thanked Mace Justice, who is retiring at the end of 2012. Mace provided valu-

able leadership and dedicated a significant amount of his time as the head of SPMH's Tour Program.

Ed Rider took the podium to present his report for the Facilities Funding Committee. Over an 18

month period, the Facilities Funding Committee provided nearly \$100K in financial support to complete a new ticketing system, repair and refurbishment of patron amenities, extensive painting throughout Music Hall, refinishing the floors of the Ballroom, stage and re-

hearsal hall and refurbishing the beautiful exterior the large wooden doors at the front entrance to Music Hall. Mr. Rider previewed new projects under consideration for the coming year including restoration and preservation of historic wood



Claude Cassion and Jackie Echols



Peter Koenig



Ed Rider



Kathy Janson



carved organ panels.

Kathy Janson, Editor of *MUSIC HALL Marks*, presented highlights from the 2012 publications. With two issues published annually, and over 3000 distributed in total, *MUSIC HALL Marks* is a valuable SPMH member benefit. This past year articles covered a wide range of topics: a history of SPMH; a profile of Sue Sommer, SPMH Board Member and Head Usher; restoration of the 1878 organ panels; OTR Flags in Washington Park; and 19th Century Expositions at Music Hall. Continuing features are "Music Hall Memories" and Member recognition.

Lisa Allison, from the Marketing Committee, spoke on behalf of Meredith Downton who was traveling. Mrs. Downton has been newly appointed to head SPMH's Tour Program. Her goal for a revitalized tour program is to expand and build on the tour program legacy established under the fine stewardship of Mace Justice. Mace was publically thanked by the evening's

attendees for his contributions.

Mr. Siekmann then turned attention to recognizing the following founding members of SPMH 25 years ago: Nadine Bellini, Barbara Boyd, Patricia A. Corbett, Eric Doepke, Dianne Dunkelman, Eugene V. Frey, Mary S. Ghory, Betty W. Herschede, Marlene Johnson, Jill Kamin, Frank L. Koucky III, Patrick M. Korb, Alberta Marsh, Louise D. Nippert, Norma Petersen, Jean S. Reis, Linda Siekmann, John R. Van Wye, Joyce Van Wye, Howard S. Wacksman. Those founding members who were present were asked to stand, and received a standing ovation from the audience. Mr. Siekmann invited SPMH's first President, Joyce Van Wye, to provide her reflections on the people and the passion for Music Hall that was the impetus for SPMH. Mrs. Van Wye offered humorous and poignant stories of the key individuals who provided vision, leadership, initial financial sourcing and long term endowment for the association that



Lisa Allison



Marlene Johnson, Norma Petersen, Joyce Van Wye

is now SPMH. Her comments were the highlight of the evening.

In closing, Mr. Siekmann encouraged all to support SPMH's vision for Cincinnati's crown jewel, Music Hall, through continued an-

nual membership. The 2012 SPMH Annual Meeting was adjourned by Mr. Siekmann who thanked all for attending.

-- Lisa Allison



Mary Elyn Hutton and Allen Martin



Laure Quinlivan, Patrick Korb



Linda Siekmann and Patty Beggs



Joanne Grueter and Maureen Dillon



Patty Beggs, Missie Santomo and Steve Sunderman



Mary Coyne, selling SPMH DVDs and Holiday Ornaments

## Tour Program Excitement

Key objectives of the revamped tour program under Meredith Downton, newly appointed Head, were outlined at the Annual Meeting. These include the following:

1. Expanding the tour guide base. Our twelve "Hosts and Hostesses" are exceptionally knowledgeable about Music Hall history and lore and they love sharing their knowledge with visiting groups.

2. Coordinating with existing performances/events.

3. Embarking on more proactive marketing and PR. In 2013 we will be expanding our tour offerings by going "on the road". Our plan is to develop a brief "History of Your Music Hall" presentation which can be used with clubs, retirement centers and other organizations. We will do this in order to generate further interest in Music Hall and to encourage more groups to sign-up for a full tour. Once Music Hall's revitalization gets underway we would like

to have "hard hat" tours – enabling people to develop new appreciation for the beautiful craftsmanship that has gone into and will be going into the building - - - things we often take for granted.

4. Using technology (iPads etc.). We hope to develop additional Music Hall interest, especially among younger, more diverse audiences. This will also add to our collective information base which will benefit all visitors.

Our current Music Hall tour program is thriving and several tours are scheduled for this fall and into next year. The future is exciting for the tour program!

Have an interested group? Want to be involved yourself? Please contact Meredith Downton (mdownton@aol.com) or Sarita Ciers at Cincinnati Arts Association, 513-744-3344, (sciers@cincinnatiarts.org)

-- Meredith Downton



Meredith Downton

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Purchase Music Hall:  
"Cincinnati Finds its Voice"  
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## An Interview with Joyce VanWye

She placed her nimble fingers on the keys and within moments, calm settled into the room turning a simple lunch time into a dining experience for those at 'The Lodge'. Joyce Van Wye continued her selection "I've got Rhythm", "If You Knew Susie", "Embraceable You", "God Bless America", before moving from bench to chair to partake of her own lunch. Joyce provides 15 minutes of her music before all meals, making special note of each birthday of the 209 residents with the traditional song. "I like hearing residents tell me they enjoy my playing."

Giving of herself comes easily to Joyce, founder and honored speaker at the September 10th SPMH Annual Meeting which celebrated the organization's 25th anniversary. She told of how friend, Charlotte Shockley suggested, years ago, that volunteering for Cincinnati Opera might provide an opportunity for a job. Offered a position in the ticket office, Joyce advanced to Ticket Manager, a title she held for 18 years. Her office door, positioned across from the conference room (where Sym-

phony, Ballet and May Festival groups met) afforded frequent opportunities for encounters with Jean Reis of the Corbett Foundation. Seeing a need for support of Music Hall, Joyce voiced her concerns with Jean. Daily meetings

and/or phone calls resulted in thoughtful planning. "We started with a luncheon meeting at the little restaurant 'Bacchus'. Jean Reis, Louise Nipert, Norma Petersen and I met to discuss the situation. In time we contacted several people who were interested in help-

ing." These included Patricia Corbett, Betty Herschede and Manuel Mayerson. Thus they laid the groundwork for the support group later to be known as the Society for the Preservation of Music Hall. One of the first projects taken on was the replacement of the old and stained stage curtain. Louise Nipert paid for a new curtain for which Joyce ordered gold fringe from Belgium. Betty Herchede paid for 10 box seat renovations, chairs, draperies, etc. Joyce, after acquiring permission from the City and the Manager of Music Hall, approached her friend Manny Mayer-



Joyce Van Wye

son about the need for lights on the outside front of Music Hall. He gave the project \$100,000. Since those early days hundreds of projects, large and small have been taken on by SPMH. When asked "What is your favorite place in Music Hall?" she replied "I just love Music Hall period!"

Joyce was eager to talk about her background, growing up in Cincinnati. "At an early age, Mother tried teaching me to play piano. In time I made up my own music. Mother sang and played piano and my Father was an excellent drummer. I played melophone at North Norwood elementary school." The Norwood High School Band needed horn players and so, still in elementary school, she was asked to join the band. "I really loved playing the horn. Here I was marching in the high school band before I was in high school!" She also played in Herb Tiemeyer's Band which met on Saturdays 10 a.m. 'til noon. "I auditioned for a small scholarship to pay for lessons at The College of Music. I started playing in the band one night and the orchestra two nights every week. Each year I was awarded more scholarship dollars to do more activities at The College of Music (which was next to Music Hall). At Christmas time I played in a church orchestra under Joseph Surdo, who spoke of me to Nicholas Gabor, director of the Jewish Community Orchestra. I was invited to come and play in

that orchestra." She met John R. Van Wye a bassoon player in the Jewish Community Orchestra and they were married on October 22, 1949. Many men were still in the armed services at that time and the CSO had a shortage of musicians. "The Orchestra was doing *Rite of Spring* so another student and I were asked to join the Musicians' Union. We did and I played extra horn for nine years when CSO did Wagner, Bruckner, etc. I also played horn under direction of Andrew Brady, R. Earl Snapp, Captain Harry Meuser (from Washington D.C.) and George (Smittie) Smith." Early in their marriage Joyce's parents owned and lived on the Fairgrounds, Ky. Fairgrounds. The young couple played in the band at the fairgrounds on a regular basis.

"Jack and I wanted to have a Woodwind Quintet. Jack was excellent at making arrangements for oboe, flute, clarinet, horn and bassoon. After many rehearsals it was decided we would like to have an orchestra. The Woodwind Quintet was the basis for what later became The Cincinnati Community Orchestra. Largely under the efforts of personnel director and French hornist Joyce Van Wye and her husband Jack, a bassoonist, the orchestra steadily grew. Founded in 1954 it is still in existence today under the direction of Gerald Doan

Joyce and Jack have three children: Ben, who played clarinet, Barbara who played the flute and

Claudia who plays bassoon. While living in Terrace Park the Van Wyes had band rehearsals on their driveway every Monday night in the summer. Soon residents from Terrace Park and other musical friends asked if they could join. Subsequently, The Terrace Park Sometimes Marching Band was formed in 1961.

While Joyce was working for Opera in the 1980's, George Dilworth, trumpeter in charge of personnel for the Boston University Band asked Jack, retired from the position of engineer at Baldwin Piano, to play baritone sax with the Band on a European tour. Joyce got permission to take a two week leave from Opera to play French horn. In the two weeks, the band played in 7 European cities. Marcus Nieman & The Sounds of Sousa Band, comprised of some of the finest musicians in Ohio, is yet

another of the bands/orchestras in which the couple played both musical and administrative roles. Joyce was the manager for a time in the 1990s.

Not surprisingly, Joyce Van Wye was named one of the Enquirer's 10 Women of the Year in 1969. She currently is a member of the Matinee Musicale Club, the Macdowell Society (President 2000—2002), Women's Clef Music Club of Cincinnati and an Honorary Member of the Opera Board. She has been a resident of the Lodge Retirement Community for 8 ½ years. Here she met dear friend George Stephen. "He is not a musician, but a lover of good music, and we get along very well," she said. "I have been blessed by many teachers in my life – in school, in my family and by circumstances." Yes, blessed and a Blessing!

- Kathy Janson

## *Art-Carved Panel Restoration Documentary to Begin*

With gratitude to a fellowship from the new Cincinnati Arts Ambassador Program, filmmaker and board member Melissa Godoy is able to begin principal photography on a short documentary that will tell the story of the forthcoming restoration of the art-carved wood panels from the 1878 Hook & Hastings Organ. The verité-style film will be approximately 5-7 minutes in length and will be available to Music Hall visitors. Plans are

also underway to stream it on the SPMH website with more information and text that will not fit into the film. Envisioned are links to the region's internationally-known experts and exhibits on the Cincinnati art-carved furniture movement. "This film is just one short story," Godoy says, "But my hope is that it will crack open the door to witnessing the tremendous undertaking of restoration and the people who do it."

**Background** Neglected treasures from Cincinnati’s unique art carved furniture movement—18 of them hidden in the orchestra pit of Music Hall—will finally be brought to light this year, restored, and put on display in Corbett Tower.

When the Hook & Hastings Organ was unveiled at 1878’s May Festival, it was surrounded by the opus of the Cincinnati Art-Carved Furniture Movement—a magnificent multi-paneled screen carved by 108+ Cincinnati women, students of Ben Pittman and William and Henry Fry. This was a unique art form, developed in Cincinnati through the convergence of two English immigrant cabinetmaker families (the Frys and Pittmans) who eventually made Cincinnati the center of one of the most important manifestations of the Aesthetic Movement in the United States (Kathy Janson, “Passion Flower, Trumpet Vine,” *MUSIC HALL Marks*, Winter 2011). Followers of the Aesthetic Movement eschewed industrialization and looked to nature for inspiration. They valued craftsmanship and the union of the beautiful and useful.

Frys’ and Pittman’s students at UC’s School of Design captured and carved the Ohio Valley’s flora onto wood. Women often carved in the evenings, the way they used to needlepoint. It was tough and un-

ruly, requiring a variety of sharp and heavy tools to make their designs come to life. George Ward Nichols wrote in his book *The Cincinnati Organ* (1878), “It never occurs to the beholder that this is stiff hard wood with difficulty fashioned into the desired shape. It has the texture of leaf and stem, the flexibility of foliage, the fragrance of the forest.”

And so the screen, a work of Cincinnati collaborative art, was enjoyed and admired until the movement faded and the organ was replaced. In 1974, the organ was dismantled and its panels were dispersed. 18 remaining panels were hidden in the orchestra pit.



Melissa Godoy

**Restoration Process** Amazingly, descendants of the Fry family continue to reside in the area and are still able to carve and restore. As the heavy panels, each unique with their Aesthetic Movement values, are brought back to light, how will they resonate in a digital age? Will the women’s art still speak? Are there any new clues to be found to the art form or to the era or even to the city? “My approach will be as non-intrusive as possible.” Godoy said. “The women made their carvings come alive. I want to do the same in the film with photography and sound, in a contemporary way. There’s no guarantee it will all go smoothly – not the restoration, nor the film. And if it



did, it would be dull. The human part of the story will make it relatable.” The project’s creative process also includes two students from Cincinnati State.

Seven out of 125 applicant artists were chosen in this first year of the Arts Ambassador Program. The initiative to reinstate an arts grant was spearheaded by board

member Laure Quinlivan, Chair of the Cincinnati Strategic Growth Committee. The selection process was done by a volunteer committee of artists, business people, and museum executives and required a proposal, sample work, and an interview.

- Melissa Godoy

## *C'est Si Bon!*

“I am 100% confident that we have selected a thoughtful and passionate artistic leader who will engage our musicians, our audience and this community.” And moments after Trey Devey spoke these introductory words on April 24, 2012, Louis Langrée accepted the baton from concertmaster Timothy Lees, to become the CSO’s 13th Music Director! “It is a great honor for me to have been offered the position of Music Director of this prestigious orchestra. I am sure that our creative journey together will be very stimulating for all of us and I am eager to share this deep and wonderful experience with the community in Cincinnati and beyond.”

World renowned, Langrée has held the position of Music Director of the Mostly Mozart Festival at Lincoln Center since 2002 and is the Chief Conductor of the Camerata Salzburg, a highly regarded chamber orchestra. As Music Director Designate of the CSO (taking on the full role in 2013) he

brilliantly led the orchestra in the November 9th and 10th performances of a program entitled “French Romance”, with selections from Messiaen, Franck and Saint-Saëns. He returned to the podium on November 15th, 17th and 18th for a program which included Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9 and its triumphant “Ode to Joy” finale with the May Festival Chorus.

Langrée began as a pianist, having graduated from the Strasbourg Conservatory, and launched his career as a vocal coach and assistant at the Opéra National de Lyon in 1983. Although he had no formal academic training in conducting he had a passion for the podium, watching as many rehearsals as possible. John Eliot Gardiner, music director at the time, required an assistant for a particular piece and offered the young Langrée his first chance. Conductor Jean-Claude Malgoire, aware of Louis’ talent with the baton and eagerness for an opportunity, asked him to conduct in his

place for two programs and so began his, now, illustrious career as a conductor of international status.

In an interview by Thom Mariner for 'Express Magazine' Langrée cited both the quality of the orchestra and the spirit of the musicians as key reasons for coming to Cincinnati. "Not only do they listen", he said, "but they are able to translate technically what I say." Richard Jensen, associate principal timpanist said "some conductors look right past you as a musician in the orchestra and that's not the case with Langrée. On the podium he's in the moment with you as a conductor and really connects well with the players." "I want to talk to people," said Langrée "to ask musicians about their dreams, their wishes as a way of understanding the personality of the audience and orchestra and then using that knowledge to guide my programming. I need inspiration from all of you. I want it to be a collective experience."

In addition to his conducting talent and rapport with the musicians, Langrée is charged with audience building and promoting the repu-

tation of the CSO both on a national and international basis. He has said of Music Hall "it's just magnificent. It has really good acoustics, and it's absolutely superb, I think." It is important to him that he establish a home base in the community and he finds Over-the-Rhine particularly attractive. To Janelle Gelfand he said "maybe because I am European, I don't know, but I like the life downtown." He looks forward to bringing his family here. Living in Paris and married to Aimée an actress and scriptwriter for French television, the couple have two children Céleste, 12 a violinist, and Antoine 10 who plays both violin and accordion.

To Thom Mariner he said that "art is here so that we can discover the beauty, the depths and the strengths of pieces but also so we use them to dig into our own secret garden of sensitivity. Art elevates us. Let's enjoy this together!" Gracious, engaging and warm, Langrée anticipates this new adventure with great enthusiasm and he will, no doubt, bring freshness and a good measure of French Flair!

- Kathy Janson



THE SOCIETY FOR  
THE PRESERVATION  
OF MUSIC HALL  
presents

# Happy Holidays

with the  
**MIGHTY WURLITZER**

In cooperation with the Ohio Valley Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society

Thursday, December 13, 2012 • 10:30 AM & 7:00 PM  
MUSIC HALL BALLROOM



Featuring theatre organist

**MARK  
HERMAN**



with special guests,  
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## 'ALICE (in wonderland)'



"Cincinnati Ballet's recent production of Alice (in wonderland) at Music Hall (October 26-28) proved to be a tremendous success. From pre-show publicity and ticket sales to the technical ability of dancers on stage and audience reception, it was a success in every sense of the word. We were thrilled to be able to bring this regional premiere to Cincinnati audiences in our own neighborhood of Over-the-Rhine, right down the street from the Ballet Center at historic Music Hall. Not only were the visuals on stage impressive, the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra's live instrumentation filled the spacious auditorium; the large pit allowed 55 players. Coming to Music Hall for an evening out, sitting in the theater and watching Alice (in wonder-



land), listening to the live orchestra-- it's hard not to realize the importance of this building as a Cincinnati icon. It was truly a treat to perform in a building with such a rich history."  
-- Cincinnati Ballet

(Editor's Note: Nutcracker a Cincinnati tradition, December 14-23, for tickets: Box Office 621-5282 or [www.cballet.org](http://www.cballet.org))



photos by Peter Mueller



## Handel's Messiah A Tradition



*Messiah* will sound as grand as ever this year when the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and the renowned May Festival Chorus perform Handel's inspiring masterpiece on Sunday December 16th at 2 p.m. in Music Hall. The Orchestra will be led by Baroque specialist Jane Glover who is in continual demand on the international opera stage. Director of Opera at the Royal Academy of Music, Ms. Glover is also Music Director of Chicago's Music of the



Jane Glover

Baroque. Her concert engagements take her all over the world. The May Festival Chorus, directed by Robert Porco, will feature

guest artists Arianna Zukerman (soprano), Phyllis Pancella (mezzo-soprano), Nicholas Phan (tenor) and Kevin Burdette (bass). Tickets for this Christmastime classic start at just \$10. Call 381-3300 or [www.cincinnati-symphony.org](http://www.cincinnati-symphony.org) Join in with those on stage in singing the jubilant "Hallelujah" Chorus!



Arianna Zukerman



Phyllis Pancella



Nicholas Phan



Kevin Burdett

## *Do Buildings Smile?*

Music Hall most certainly smiles from the inside when it is filled with happy patrons attending an event.



Now, with the rejuvenated Washington Park, Music Hall smiles from the outside as well, as individuals, families, friends gather to enjoy the many fun and interesting aspects of the Park and the enjoyable entertainments taking place in Music Hall's front yard!



## The Imposing Springer Statue

It is quite possible that the majority of patrons to Music Hall miss the statue of Reuben Springer, in the central entry, due to the fact that it is 'lost' or rather blends into the lightly colored wall behind.

The following is an excerpt from *Picturesque Cincinnati*, a book published by the John Shillito Company in 1883:

"Upon the west side of the vestibule of Music Hall, midway between the south and central entrances to the main hall, stands the Springer Statue erected to commemorate the munificence of Mr.

Reuben R. Springer.

The statue which is six feet three inches in height represents Mr. Springer standing in a graceful and easy position, with his right hand resting on a stand upon which are carved emblems of Music, Art, and Industry. The left hand holds a scroll, on the inner page of which can be discerned a section of Music Hall set in bas-relief in gilt.

The immediate base with the statue itself is one piece of pure white Carrara marble. The pedestal, a dark red marble traversed with streaks of light green and white, affords a

strong contrast to the pure white of the statue resting upon it, though mined only a short distance from each other. On the four sides appear bas-relief in delicate gilt letters

the word "Springer" at the front, "Music" at the right, "Industry" at the back, and "Art" at the left. The base upon which the

entire work rests is a fine

Maryland gray granite, octagonal in shape and sloping from the pedestal. The entire

height of the work as it stands is eleven

feet and seven

inches. The wall

decorations in the rear, in striking contrast to the surroundings, with a

neat railing enclosing the statue, add

very much to the

effect. The statue is

the work of Preston

Powers of Florence,

Italy, where it was executed, and is recog-

nized as the best effort

of this eminent artist.

It was unveiled and

presented to the

trustees of Music

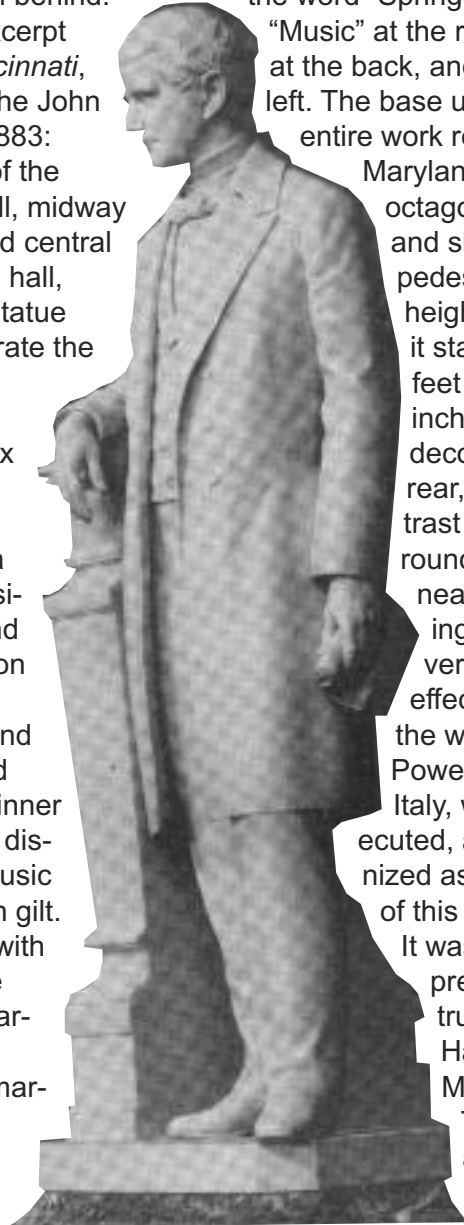
Hall on Monday

May 15, 1882."

The generous

and humble

Reuben



Springer never kept a record of a majority of his gifts, preferring to keep knowledge of those between himself and those to whom he had given. Contributions to his private charities were vast amounts in the day and he never turned a beggar from his door. "I give when called upon." Springer objected to his

statue being placed in Music Hall saying "I think my friends had better wait until I am dead." In spite of his protestations, the committee headed by Chairman George McAlpin, proceeded with the project. Reuben Springer refused to attend the unveiling ceremony.

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If not a member, JOIN now and become a part of the  
**Society for the Preservation of Music Hall**  
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## The Doors

Remember the doors? “Oh yeah, Jim Morrison ‘hello, I love you...” No, not those ‘Doors’—these Doors and aren’t they gorgeous! SPMH restored and refinished the Elm Street wooden entrances to Music Hall in gleaming fashion! Previously dingy and barely noticeable, they now greet patrons as they were intended. The wood grain, window details and stunning hinges are standouts! And these aren’t the only examples of recent SPMH funded projects. Check out the refinished wood



ballroom floors adding new pizzazz to the space filled with Albee furnishings and artifacts and the spectacular Albee Mighty Wurlitzer organ! The stage and rehearsal hall floors have also been refinished. SPMH has purchased software for the Bravo Shop to track inventory and equipment for processing customer transactions. Funding for the ticketing software that enables print-at-home ticketing and electronic ticket scanning was provided by the SPMH Corbett Trust. The revitalization of Music

Hall has seen delays but SPMH has stepped up to the plate to help with building enhancements in the interim. Plumbing repairs, water fountains and much needed painting are additional uses of SPMH dollars. Future projects will include

care and restoration of many of the historical artifacts of Music Hall including the 1878 organ panels and additional projects are soon to be announced. To see a full listing of all SPMH funded projects, go to [www.spmhcincinnati.org](http://www.spmhcincinnati.org). All of this, for the benefit of Music Hall, much needed and much appreciated, is possible because of the donations from you, our members. So, remember ‘The Doors’ and ‘Hello, We Love You!’

- Kathy Janson

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## *Philip Groshong, Photographer*



A native of Bay Village, Ohio, Philip Groshong attended the University of Kentucky and majored in Journalism. Upon graduation, he began his photography career at Kentucky Educational Television in Lexington. He and his wife, Mattie, relocated to Northern Kentucky in 1984 where he started his own commercial photography business. He opened a studio in Cincinnati in 1994.

Mr. Groshong is the company photogra-

pher for the Cincinnati Opera, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra and



Children's Theatre. He is the co-team photographer for the Cincinnati Reds. For SPMH Phil has photographed the holiday ornaments, the Fry carved organ panels, the Rose Window, and other subjects. Two of his stunning photographs have provided the cover

art for MUSIC HALL Marks in recent years.

His photo, "Belle of Louisville," won first place in the National Historic Landmark photography contest and was published in the 2010 NHL Event Planner.

[www.photophil.smugmug.com](http://www.photophil.smugmug.com).



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