

MUSIC HALL Marks



2014
Summer
Issue

SPMH - President's Message

With lots of daylight, the beauty of God's summer foliage, vacations, picnics, outdoor sports, and a long list of fun and spectacular activities held in beautiful Washington Park, across the way, who doesn't love summer?!!

And Music Hall continues to be buzzing with activity! In May the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and May Festival Chorus returned from triumphant performances in New York completing their season here in Music Hall to wonderful acclaim. Now the Opera is on Center Stage with a truly dynamic selection creating a season that is a real "crowd pleaser".

YOUR SPMH continues to keep busy as well. Our tour program is growing, and our organ panel project is moving forward.

We now plan to display the restored panels in Corbett Tower. Our largest, long term, project looms ahead. The future revitalizations of Music Hall and the Union

Terminal have been garnering considerable publicity. The Cincinnati City Council, the Hamilton County Commissioners, and a future ballot issue are focusing on the "iconic" position of these landmarks. SPMH is, and will be, playing a substantial role in the Revitalization planning for Music



Don Siekmann

Hall. Our commitment to the Hall is heartfelt and solid, thanks in large part, to our Patricia & J. Ralph Corbett Endowment Fund. Throughout this issue of *MUSIC HALL Marks* you will find information on these topics and others that show our involvement and SPMH

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efforts that promote the Hall.

September 8th is the date for our Annual Meeting and I encourage you to mark your calendars. Important updates concerning the ongoing discussions of the Revitalization Company and The Cultural Facilities Task Force will be highlighted as will SPMH's role as a key player in all efforts. Delightful entertain-

ments, savory hors d'oeuvres – meet and mingle with friends and Cincinnati Arts' leaders! Invitations will be in the mail shortly. If not already an SPMH member, please join an ever-increasing group of advocates for a strong and vibrant Music Hall by using the enclosed envelope.

See you in September!

-- 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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That Was Entertainment!!



Joseph Lattanzi, Adria Caffaro and Jelani Eddington take a bow!

On May 15th SPMH put on a Show that thrilled both morning and evening audiences! Jelani Eddington, of international renown, returned to the Music Hall Ballroom, working his magic with The Mighty Wurlitzer. Mezzo-soprano Adria Caffaro and baritone Joseph Lattanzi, entertained with spirited renditions of "Puttin' on the Ritz", "Anything Goes", "It's De-Lovely" and other numbers! Their duet, "Will You Remember" added a wistful and romantic touch to the program. Both artists are members of the Opera Fusion Program, a collaboration between Cincinnati Opera and the College-Conservatory of

Music

Mr. Eddington's solo performance of a medley from *Phantom of the Opera*, gave full voice to the magnificent instrument, bringing the appreciative audience mem-

bers to their feet! The Saint-Saëns "Bacchanale" from *Samson and Delilah* caused one patron to exclaim "that was Fantastic!!" To the delight of all in the room Jelani performed an encore, "Gonna Build a Mountain" from *Stop the*

World I Want to Get Off.

Ron Wehmeier, an SPMH Director gave detailed, descriptive 'behind the screen' viewing of the Wurlitzer's mechanics, to fascinated patrons. Ron, of Ronald F.



Jelani works Wurlitzer magic!

Wehmeier, Inc. Pipe Organ Service, rebuilt and reinstalled the famed Albee Theatre Organ for its Ballroom debut in November 2009.



Don with Renee and Chris Hempel of PNC



A romantic moment



(above) Katie Weed, Mernie Smith, Karen and John Weed



The Siekmanns - Linda, Allison, Claire, Don and Julie

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 11, 2014, 10:30 AM & 7:00 PM,
Cincinnati Music Hall Ballroom

featuring:

Theatre-Organist Mark Herman

The School for the Creative and Performing Arts Children's Choir

Dancers of the Cincinnati Ballet Otto M. Budig Academy



All Seats Now Reserved - \$25
(\$20 for seniors, students and groups of 10 or more)

Tickets

- CincinnatiArts.org
- [Arnoff Center / Music Hall Ticket office](http://ArnoffCenter.com)
- (513) 621 - Arts (2787)
- Group Discount (10+): (513) 977 - 4157

Saving Music Hall

In January 2014, Bob McDonald, retired chairman, president and CEO of Procter & Gamble took on the position as chair of the Cultural Facilities Task Force to analyze construction, operating and funding options – public and private, for Cincinnati's Music Hall and Union Terminal. Both buildings have the distinction of being National Historic Landmarks. McDonald and business executives with a wide range of expertise and high community credibility have been working closely with Steve Leper, CEO of 3CDC. Cincinnati Center City Development Corp. (3CDC) is now in effect the project manager for Music Hall's rehabilitation and has been working with the Music Hall Revitalization Company headed by Otto Budig. The Cultural Facilities Task Force is supported by Lagan Engineering of New Jersey which is also working with 3CDC on Music Hall. The Task Force's report is funded by the Greater Cincinnati Foundation and Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile Jr. /U.S. Bank Foundation.

In early spring, the framework of the plan to make repairs of \$208.2 million for Union Terminal and \$123.5 million for Music Hall was launched to County Officials. Skep-

tics abound, many claiming that the buildings are regional institutions and their care should be handled as such and others insisting that as City owned structures they are the City's concern. The Task Force devised a plan that would depend largely on a mix of private donations (\$40 million), local, state and federal tax credits and grants (\$66 million), and a Hamilton County tax that may be a limited quarter-cent sales tax, a limited half-cent sales tax, a 30-year



Bob McDonald

property tax or a combination of sales and property taxes (\$225 million). On Friday, June 13, Bob McDonald made a comprehensive presentation of his plan to Arts Group Leaders. A majority of the SPMH Board attended. There was time after his talk for questioning. Such subjects as building ownership, stadium tax comparisons, partnership of the two buildings, etc. were addressed. On Monday June 23rd McDonald formally gave a thoroughly vetted plan to the Board of County Commissioners. The case presented was very effective and Commissioners were impressed by the large turnout of support—more than 100 who applauded the speech enthusiastically. Public Hearings were announced as to be held on July

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23rd and 28th. County Commissioners, Greg Hartman, Chris Monzel and Todd Portune have until August 6 to make a decision whether to put this issue on the November ballot.

Opera Director and CEO Patricia Beggs, said "What's clear to all of us, the Music Hall tenant representatives and the Music Hall Revitalization Company board, is that the tax initiative is our very best hope of being able to do the optimal renovation."

She indicated that partnering with the Cincinnati Museum Center is an advantage to obtaining a successful outcome both with the Commissioners by August 6th and the voters in November.

On June 24 the National Trust for Historic Preservation named Cincinnati's Music Hall and Union Terminal to its 2014 list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. This is the first time in the history of the list that two sites from the same city are included. Stephanie Meeks, President of the National Trust for Historic Preser-

vation said "being on the list is a dubious distinction. But it's been successful in raising awareness about America's cultural resources. We have found that it can be a real shot in the arm for local communi-

ties to rally around places they love and which are threatened." Momentum is building with support rallies planned. Landor Associates, one of the most sought after branding and design agencies which produces the animated light show LumenoCity,

has developed a music video for the *Save Our Icons* campaign.

How can you help? Contact County and City Officials, attend upcoming rallies, sign up on the *Save Our Icons* website at <http://saveouricons.org/> to access current information and find out about opportunities for volunteering. You can also send your name and e-mail to Admin@spmhcincinnati.org to get SPMH notifications. Get out the vote in November and Save Our Icons! - Kathy Janson



(Top (l to r)Hamilton County Commissioners, Chris Monzel, Todd Portune and Greg Hartman (below) Music Hall and Cincinnati Museum (Union Terminal)



***Save The Date – It Will Be Great!!!
Annual Meeting ... September 8, 2014***

*Important Progress Updates on Cultural Facilities Task Force
And Music Hall Revitalization Planning*

*Spectacular Announcement!!
Year to Date SPMH Activity Reports...
Coming Events*

Entertainment:

Don Hurd, pianist
Joan Cavally, flutist
with
Adria Caffaro, mezzo-soprano
Joseph Lattanzi, baritone

Opportunity for Music Hall
Tours
Good Eats, Good Friends
. . . Be There!!!
Invitations to Follow

Get Involved with a National Treasure join the



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of Music Hall***

**Renew your membership or join today
by using the enclosed envelope.**

www.spmhcincinnati.org

Awareness, Marketing & Special Projects

The objective of the Awareness Marketing and Special Projects Committee is to build awareness of and engagement with SPMH among current and potential members. We leverage a variety of communication channels and events to promote SPMH's mission, achievements and special offerings, such as our Tour Program and Wurlitzer Concerts, to the Cincinnati Community. Each committee member brings a special skill set to the SPMH Board.

Marcella Hsiung spearheads our Special Projects. A talented graphic designer and artist, Marcella engaged students at DAAP three years ago to re-design and reinvigorate the SPMH logo and brand identity. From that extensive

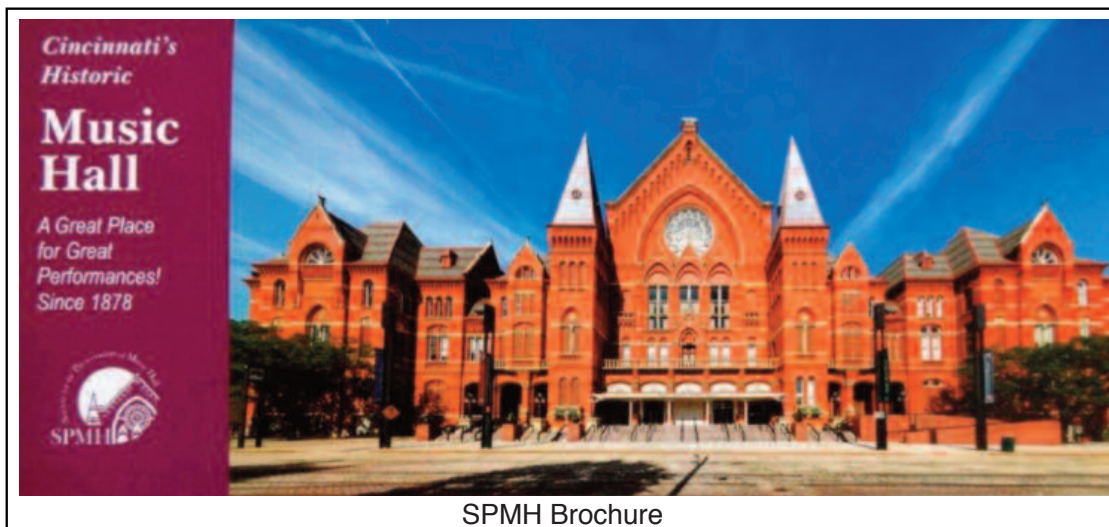
work, Marcella developed a new series of promotional posters in place year round at Music Hall and, most recently, a newly designed SPMH brochure. This updated

piece still provides a brief History of Music Hall, but now speaks to SPMH's mission, our contributions to Music Hall through the years and our revitalized tour program. Marcella's creative talent and passion were also realized in the holiday ornament series, produced by

SPMH over the last three years. These ornaments were designed as collectible pieces commemorating iconic features and images of Music Hall. This special project served as an attractive outreach to the community (selling out over several seasons), generated incre-



Marcella Hsiung



SPMH Brochure

mental revenue for our organization and helped build awareness of SPMH.

A highlight every year and a key project of this committee is our Annual SPMH Meeting. This yearly event gives SPMH an opportunity to present a recap of SPMH's activities over the past year and preview of our priorities going forward. Attendance over the years has grown and we invite all members of SPMH to join us in September!

The SPMH website, www.SPMHcincinnati.org, is a centerpiece of our marketing and communication efforts. We are indebted to our Committee and Board Member, Joanne Grueter, who has brought her skills as a digital marketing professional at Possible Worldwide, to designing and maintaining the robust content on our site year round. If you haven't visited recently, you should! It contains wonderful and engaging historical content and photographs, recaps of recent events, information about our tour programs and now, the ability to donate to SPMH online!

Our final area of focus is to

identify opportunities to advertise and build awareness of SPMH in the broader community. Lisa Allison, a senior marketing manager in the Kroger Company's Advertising



Joanne Grueter



Lisa Allison

Department, leads those efforts. Two years ago, SPMH was a contributing sponsor of the OTR Flags project – a community engagement event to celebrate the opening of the newly renovated Washington Park. Recently, SPMH established a regular advertising presence in *Express Cincinnati*. *Express Cincinnati* is a free publication that showcases the generosity and creativity of people who support and participate in arts and philanthropic organizations throughout Greater Cincinnati.

Express Readers are the perfect target audience for SPMH. According to *Express Cincinnati* their readers are, "Active and involved, affluent and influential. They are passionate about what the Cincinnati area has to offer. Most importantly, they are able and willing to invest in quality and excellence." We will reach 40,000 readers 5 times per year.

- Lisa Allison

Take a Tour!

“I didn’t know there was so much to Music Hall besides the auditorium!” “This place is huge!” These are comments from two patrons who grabbed the opportunity and signed up for one of the many fascinating tours offered by SPMH. Meredith Downton, SPMH Tour Coordinator said “these past five months have been very busy with over 14 tours scheduled and more than 400 guests visiting and learning about our wonderful Cincinnati Music Hall. It is such a joy sharing this building with so many people!” Meredith also noted with sadness that “two faithful guides recently passed away – Maureen Dillon and Allen Martin. They will be missed by all on the team.”

Consider taking a tour of our beautiful building. Tours can be tai-

lored to your specific needs and themed for your interests ranging from theatrical to ghost hunting, the ‘paranormal’. Any size group is welcomed. By appointment only, tours are led by volunteer members of the Society for the Preservation of Music Hall. The price is only \$25 for groups of 10 or less, and \$2.50 for each additional person. To schedule a tour or to join our tour guide team contact SPMH Tour Coordinator, Meredith Downton at mdownton@aol.com (513) 368-2548, or Sarita Sciers at sciers@cincinnatiarts.org (513) 744-3344.

Take part in the wonderful renewal of Over-the-Rhine by becoming even more acquainted with our Cincinnati Music Hall!

- Meredith Downton



Music Hall tour Dunham Senior Club with guide, Cliff Goosman wearing vest donated by Cintas

Things Are Looking Up!!

How many of us miss the 'big picture' because, we view the world at eye level? When it comes to the façade of Music Hall, Look Up!! Not only is the brickwork incredible in design but the

stonework is gorgeous in detail! Carved limestone insets indicate the historical functions of each of the three sections of the building. The South Hall, formerly known as Horticultural Hall, is festooned with sunflowers and morning glories. Hunter's horns, lyres, flutes and

violins, as well as songbirds tell of the musical and artistic uses. The North Hall, known as Machinery Hall, is decorated with stone-cut hammers, gears, saw blade and compass. The date of 1877 and the CIT for the Cincinnati Industrial Exposition are prominent features in the structure.

As Music Hall was being planned in 1876 the \$30,000 contract, for stonework was awarded to Mr. Isaac Graveson, proprietor of the well-known Cincinnati Stone-works located on Hannibal

Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets. Born in Lincolnshire, England in 1826, he came to Cincinnati in 1849, obtained work as a stone-cutter and soon started his own business. Furnishing the



Isaac Graveson

stones for many of the largest and finest buildings and houses in Cincinnati, such as Hughes High School, the Probasco residence, St. Paul's Episcopal Church and the base and esplanade for the Tyler Davidson Fountain, Graveson also supplied cut stone for significant structures in other cities in-

cluding Dayton, Louisville, St. Louis, Indianapolis, Memphis, St. Paul and Chicago. Isaac and his wife Sarah had nine children, five of whom survived childhood. Living in Mt. Auburn, the family later settled in Glendale. In October 1886 Isaac Graveson & Son's stone saw-mill and office were burned out in a \$60,000 fire that destroyed several prominent businesses in the West End. Isaac died in September 1903 and is buried in Spring Grove Cemetery.

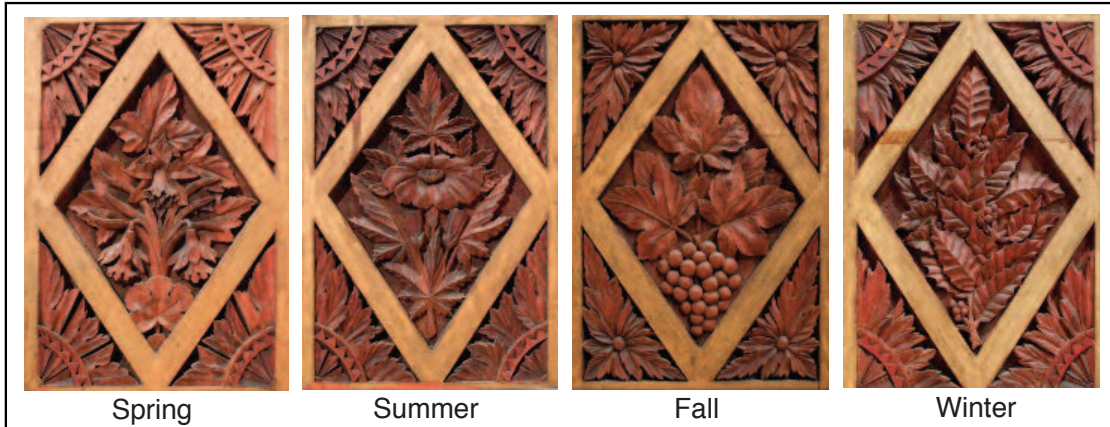
- Kathy Janson



Music Hall Stonework



Carved Panels Project Update



On April 1st, 18 historic art-carved panels from the grand 1878 Music Hall organ were lifted from the orchestra pit walls, crated up and shipped to Heller Conservation Services of Nashville, Tennessee. The most important work of SPMH in restoring these works of art had begun in earnest. The first of Music Hall's 21 panels was completed in August 2013. Displayed at the SPMH Annual Meeting last September, it is currently in the SPMH office. For viewing information please contact the SPMH office.

In late May, SPMH was the recipient of a very unique donation from the Corbett Foundation, a William Fry carved panel. *Evening*, features high relief carvings of swallows, in a clouded sky with a crescent moon. This was part of a threesome originally positioned in

the center of the screen just above the organ console: *Morning* (in the Cincinnati Art Museum), *Noon* (location unknown) and *Evening*. The back of *Evening* is just as interesting as its front because of the



Evening donated by Corbett Foundation

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carved inscription “To the Cinti Organ by Mrs. Thomas Phillips, May 1, 1878” including the initials WF, master carver William Fry’s signature. Mrs. T. Phillips is listed as giver of the panel *Evening* in the 1878 George Ward Nichols book *The Cincinnati Organ*. Many thanks to the Corbett Foundation and Karen McKim, Executive Director, for this gift which had been in the Corbett Foundation office for more than twenty years.

In the 1970s, when the organ was dismantled, some of the carved work was taken to the Cincinnati Museum Center and placed in storage. On June 20th SPMH Vice Presidents, Kathy Janson and Ed Rider met with Jennifer

Jensen, Registrar, in order to view some of the pieces. A 4th floor storage room contained boxes of carved framing, a panel and other decorative works. Two larger panels, stored at the Geier Collections and Research Center of the Cincinnati Museum Center, were viewed by Kathy in 2011.

The SPMH ‘Panels Project’ is many faceted and involves efforts to catalogue, accept donations, restore and display the myriad parts of the famed 1878 art-carved organ screen. Preliminary discussions are underway to determine the best locations and configurations for temporary and permanent display in the renovated Music Hall.

- Kathy Janson



Music Hall organ carvings in Museum Center storage

Reuben Springer Statue Cleaning

For the last several months, conservator Betsy Geiser, has been working to determine the best way to clean years of grime from Reuben Springer's statue in the lobby of Music Hall. Finding the right cleaning solution has been a challenge. After testing a number of options, Betsy determined the best way to clean the stone was to use a synthetic clay poultice, called Laponite RD and Japanese tissue paper. But that is just the start.

Here is how Betsy describes her cleaning method for the statue: "Using this cleaning method, the Japanese tissue is applied wet so that it will be in intimate contact with the surface of the stone. The gel-like poultice (Laponite RD) is applied to the surface of the Japanese tissue, and covered with a plastic barrier layer to slow the evaporation rate of the water in the tissue and in the poultice itself. This "package" is allowed to sit for 24 hours. During this time,

the water will penetrate the porous stone, and the long drying time will slowly draw the moisture, along with any mobile pollutants and grime embedded in the stone, to

the surface. Lastly, after 24 hours have passed, the poultice and barrier layer are removed and any grime carried to the surface of the stone by the poultice is removed with dampened cotton swabs and discarded. The surface is then cleared completely and thoroughly with buffered and distilled water to assure that a minimal amount of residues remain. Although time consuming, this clean-



Cleaned section of Reuben Springer's statue

ing method is not only very effective, but also has the least impact on the original surface of the stone. The result from this treatment approach is that the surface of the sculpture is noticeably less grimy, with a brighter appearance." The photo shows the excellent results Betsy is getting with this cleaning method - Ed Rider

The Neigh Sayers

Silence...a murmur, rumble, thunder...legs flailing--the beast appears! Nostrils flaring, mouth wide, lets out a screaming! Hooves pounding, the audience gasps as yet another monster rails at the injustice of containment! A country rodeo, a Western come to town?—oh no, you say, not Music Hall... Oh yes, and center stage, Springer Auditorium, April 1887! For a nightly, 2 week engagement, Professor Oscar R. Gleason, the nationally famous horse-



Professor Oscar R. Gleason

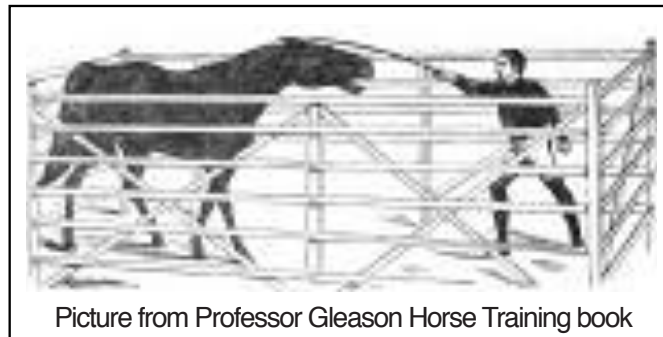
tamer, defied anyone to bring him a “man-killer” which could not be made to obey as a docile puppy.

He believed that a horse is bulky because it has a bulky driver and the Professor sought to reeducate the horse as well as its owner.

The immense stage of Music Hall was converted into a ring and covered with a thick coat of sand and sawdust, to drown out the sound of stamping feet. Lively music came from the orchestra down in front of the stage as the

Professor and his assistants struggled with each wild, unruly animal. Coincidentally, the Professor’s uncle assisted in erecting the ‘grand organ, the pride of Cincinnati and the wonder of the musical world’ nearly ten years before. Implements of choice for the ‘taming’ were a whip, a bridle of cord, a revolver loaded with blank cartridges and bells. Firing pistols, snapping whips and the ringing of bells proved effective in subduing the most vicious and savage of

horses. Each performance was filled with skeptics who quickly became admirers and believers in the



Picture from Professor Gleason Horse Training book

Professor’s methods. Audience members were not only entertained but they received valuable lessons in practical

every-day dealings with their horses. The horse-taming exhibition was so popular and successful that the Professor returned to the Music Hall stage in 1891 for another two week engagement.

- Kathy Janson

SPMH Seeks 1,000 Members

We welcome your friends to become members of the Society for the Preservation of Music Hall, as we work to attain our goal of 1,000 members. Membership gifts of \$25, \$50, \$100 or more help preserve our beloved Music Hall for the future. We thank our members by sending a Music Hall ornament or a Music Hall Emmy Award-winning DVD for a gift of \$150 or more and all members are recognized in Music Hall Marks.



The cultural life of our community which centers around the Grand Dame of Elm Street is a Greater Cincinnati tradition we joyfully share and we are committed to preserving and enhancing Music Hall as Cincinnati's crown jewel. Through the efforts of generous contributors and members like you, SPMH is able to sustain and preserve Music Hall to secure this landmark that inspires both pleasure and pride among all who treasure the arts.

As the years progress, Music

Hall's needs grow and SPMH relies upon your generosity to fund the Hall's progress. In the past SPMH has funded the restoration of the Mighty Wurlitzer Organ, the Timeline in the Central Parkway entrance corridor, coffered ceiling repairs, lighting in front of Music Hall, the American Flag for the stage as well as the purchase of the 50 ft. flagpole and flag in front of Music Hall. Current projects which require funding include the

cleaning of the Carrara marble Reuben Springer statue and the restoration of wood carved panels (representative of the famed Cincinnati Art-Carved Furniture Movement) from the 1878 organ screen. Our fund raising goal to complete these and other projects has been increasing as the scope of our work expands. The continued preservation of Music Hall for the benefit of generations to come is the motivation that guides us.

Thank you, Members!

- Rosemary Schlachter

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Joanne Honschopp
'Evening Concert' Artist

www.jhonschopp.com ♦ 513-241-986

A native of Cincinnati, Ohio and a painter as profession for more than 30 years, Ms. Honschopp was graduated with honors from the Art Academy of Cincinnati, and is considered the favorite in south western Ohio for her paintings of Cincinnati. Married to Jazz bassist Lou Lausche, music has

long influenced her life and work.

Joanne's work was honored at the Evansville Art Museum's "Realism in Art" Exhibition and she has been invited to exhibit in Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, California and Florida. An impressive collection of awards adorn her studio door, including the

2010 BEST OF SHOW at Northern Kentucky Heritage League's juried show. In addition to privately held pieces, Ms. Honschopp's work is included in over 30 corporate collections. Hand assembled note cards and signed prints of her Cincinnati scenes are widely available in gift shops and bookstores throughout the greater Cincinnati area. An extensive virtual gallery is updated daily at www.jhonschopp.com.



Joanne Honschopp

Gallery, Knoxville, TN, Bowman's in Ft. Mitchell, KY and numerous Independent Agents and Art Consultants across the country.

Joanne paints daily in her studio, on the 8th floor of the Pendleton Art Center. The studio is open each month to the public on "Final Friday" and on follow-up "Second Look Saturday". Information

on the open house is available at www.pendletonartcenter.com.

ARTIST'S STATEMENT:

My work does not have a social or political message. Rather, it is beauty and goodness, the power of the positive, sharing the magic of light and color, and creating ways to communicate a feeling of well being, that drives my daily pursuits.

A master of diverse talents, she can stretch the imagination to include an array of subjects and approaches and much of her work is commissioned. She is currently represented by Gallery Veronique in Montgomery, Ohio, Art on the Levee in Newport, KY, Liz-Beth

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Editor

Kathy Janson

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Lisa Allison

Meredith Downton

Marcella Hsiung

Peter Koenig

Ed Rider

Rosemary Schlachter

Don Siekmann

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