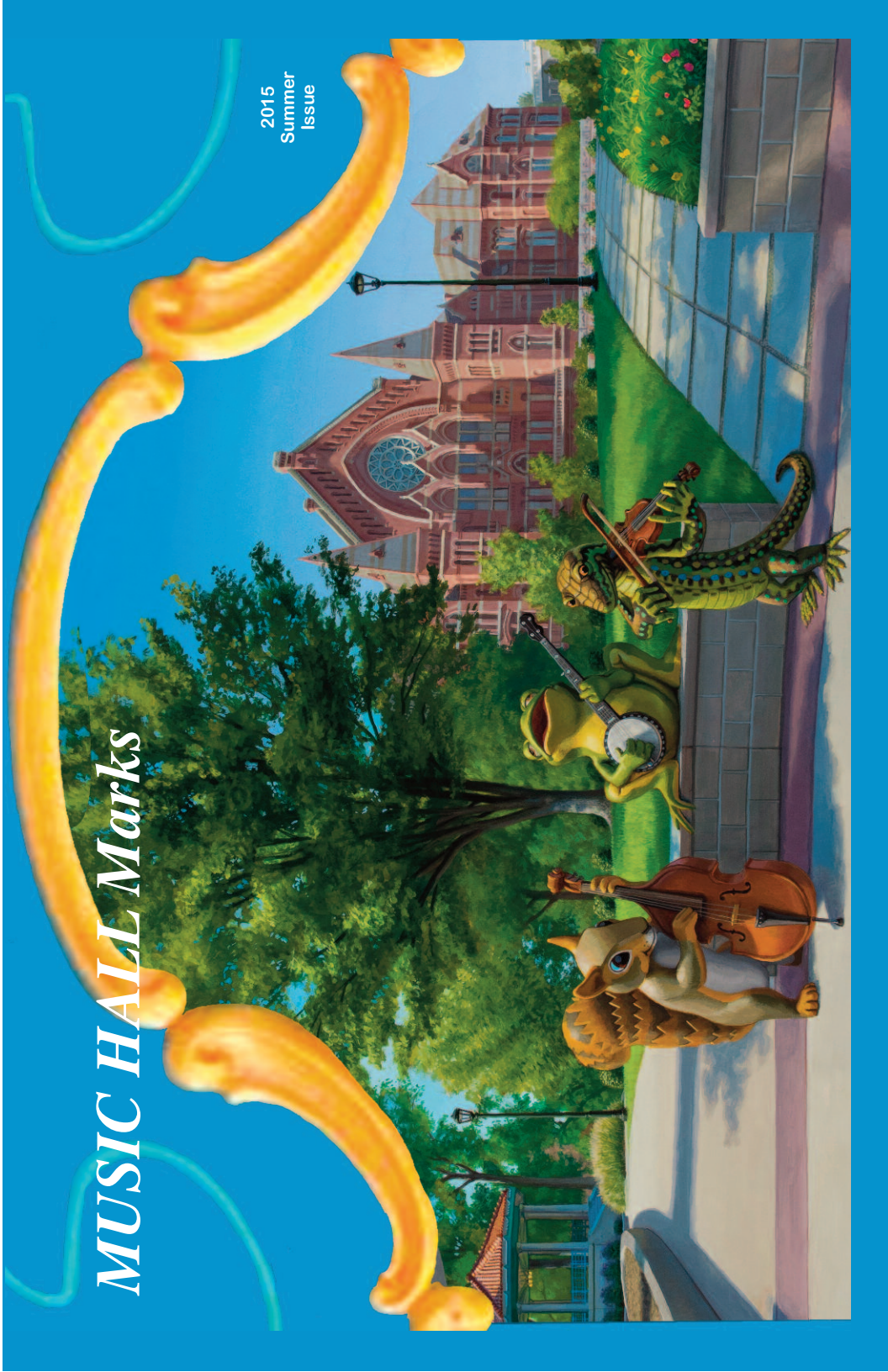


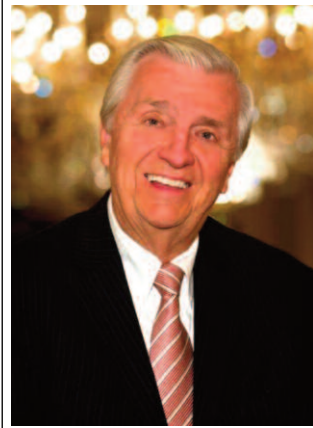
MUSIC HALL Marks

2015
Summer
Issue



SPMH - President's Message

Whoever first said that time is "flying by" sure wasn't kidding. Here we are at the end of another fiscal year for SPMH, and much has been happening. I know you will enjoy reading about the many wonderful events and successful projects of the past year here in our fabulous newsletter, BUT, please make it a priority to attend our Annual Meeting on September 15th in Music Hall. It is positively the best time and place to get an 'up to date' report on the status of the Music Hall Revitalization and, VERY IMPORTANTLY, to be one of the first who sees the 'unveiling' of the historic, artistic, hand carved wooden panels from the original



Don Siekmann

1878 Music Hall Organ. No one has seen them in this 'new' condition in over 100 years and they haven't been on public view for over 40 years. What a treat!! Don't miss it!!

We will also announce the election of SPMH officers and new directors who will be working hard for Music Hall. Newly appointed directors will join the others in representing our dedicated members of SPMH (I hope you are among them. If not, it

is easy to become a member. Simply use the enclosed envelope).

My term as President ends as of this election, and I assure you that the incoming board and officers are "Dynamite." I have been

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proud to be president of SPMH for over 5 years and to have been part of so many new and exciting plans, ideas and accomplishments. This “pride” of mine is really a pride in the SPMH board, pride in our SPMH members, pride in the growth of Music Hall and its resident companies, pride in the

organizations committed to the revitalization of this Historic Icon, and pride in being a part of the Music Hall “experience.”

Come, join SPMH and become a part of that “Pride.”

- 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.

SPMH BOARD of Directors 2015

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Donald C. Siekmann

Immediate Past President

Norma Petersen

Vice Presidents

Joanne Grueter

Marcella Hsiung

Kathy Janson

Peter Koenig

Ed Rider

Recording Secretary

Karen McKim

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Megan Hall

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Ken Kreider

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Ramon Rodriguez

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- Cincinnati Opera

Trey Devey

- Cincinnati Symphony
Orchestra

Missie Santomo

- Cincinnati Ballet

Steven Sunderman

- Cincinnati May Festival

Director Emeritus

Joyce Van Wye, Co-Founder

Music Hall Liaison

Scott Santangelo

Kings of Silent Comedy



Organist Clark Wilson at the "Mighty Wurlitzer"

Kings of Silent Comedy was the perfect title for the SPMH Mighty Wurlitzer program concerts of May 12th. Both morning and evening shows were sell-outs, thanks to the hard work of Don Siekmann. Well, the boys, Charlie

wide as concert artist, and master of adding sound to silent movies. In fact he is so good, with music and sound effects, that, as we watched the big screen, the silent films seemed to 'talk'! Clark works



Clark Wilson, Don Siekmann

Chaplin, Buster Keaton, Laurel & Hardy, had us roar with laughter, enhanced with wonderful accompaniment by Clark Wilson at the Mighty Wurlitzer! Clark tours world



Andrew Barrow and Charlene Schwab

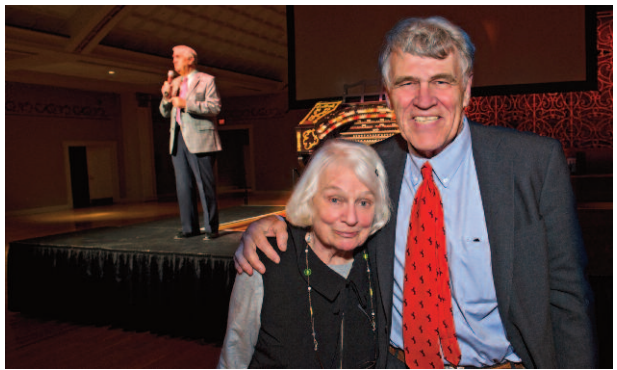


Lynda and Bob Lance, Carol and Joe Martini, Pat and Hank Wordeman

from long lists of compositions of the period; music, both classical and pops, all memorized and fit to action on screen.

Gary Kidney, Music Hall technical director and his crew transformed the ballroom into a movie palace. While accentuating the many artifacts from the Albee Theater throughout the ballroom, the highlight was the crown jewel, our Mighty Wurlitzer pipe organ. With the free popcorn, movie and music, I thought I was back in the old Albee again!

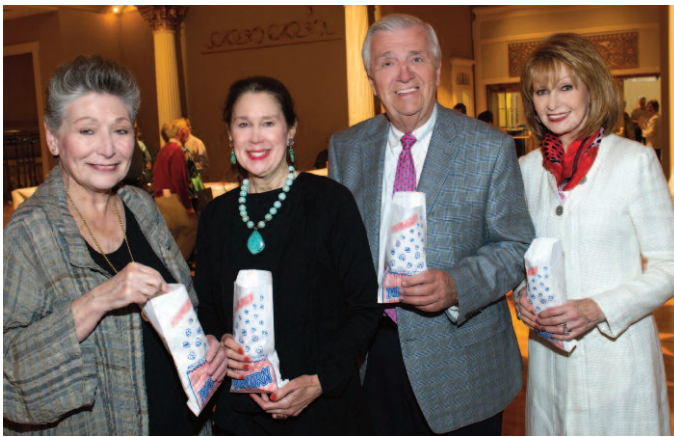
It was great to see so many younger folks attending the concert and I enjoyed talking



Pat Fry, Roger Fry



Linda Siekmann, Kevin Bove, Nancy Bove, Don Siekmann



Barbara Gould, Ronna Willis, Don Siekmann, Barbara Hahn



Ron Wehmeier with Katelyn Verbarg, student organist

with a young girl, her Mom, Pop and Gram. A piano and organ student, with aspirations of becoming a professional organist - who knows, someday she may give a concert on our Wurlitzer! I always enjoy giving tours of the organ, and this family was a delight!

As many of you know, the Albee Wurlitzer built and installed in that grand theatre in 1927, is very dear to me. I worked on the instrument as a young fellow in the mid 1960s, and

Next SPMH Mighty Wurlitzer Concert "Happy Holidays" December 10th at 10:30 AM & 7:00 PM.



Ticket Info:

Reserved seats - \$25
(\$20 seniors, students, groups of 10 or more)

contact:

CincinnatiArts.org

or

(513) 621-2787

for Groups:

(513) 977-4157

then in 2007, rebuilt the instrument to factory new specifications. My Installation work in the Music Hall Ballroom was completed in 2009. I am honored to have been associated with this renaissance of the Wurlitzer in our beloved Music Hall, and hope to take care of the

instrument for many years to come.

SPMH's next Mighty Wurlitzer concert will be "Happy Holidays" December 10th, with Jelani Eddington performing a spectacular holiday tradition!

- Ron Wehmeier

Music Hall's Photoplays

The use of Music Hall as a venue for Silent Film entertainment is not a new ambition, but rather a '2nd Act' after a lengthy 'intermission'. The following excerpts taken from the September 5, 1915 Cincinnati Enquirer, indicate the importance of the program a century ago.

"Cincinnati is to be initiated into the realm of the "Advanced Photodrama" at Music Hall, according to Manager Millton Gosdorfer, who explains that it is the idea to conduct a silent drama theater along the lines of the famed Strand of New York. The management is confident that the musical program alone would suffice to attract devotees of the screen. At the same time the point is brought out that the programs are arranged with an eye to appealing to every taste."

The initial program, which included the following selections, gives an idea of the ambitious enterprise:

Opening overture of the operetta *Beautiful Galathea*; *News of*

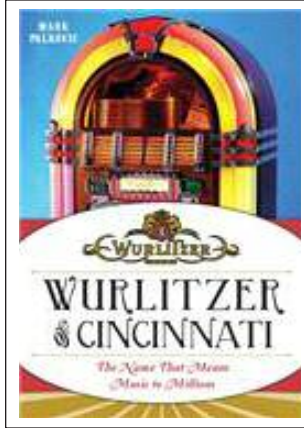
the World, the motion camera sees all, knows all, tells all; "The Funny Page Comes to Life"; "Picturesque Travel Jaunt", visiting odd corners of the earth; the great organ of Music Hall, played by J. Alfred Schehl; Mrs. Antoinette Wernor-West, the distinguished May Festival soloist, "Oh, Come With Me in a Summer Night"; *The House of a Thousand Candies*, a mystery play; "Heinie and Louie" in humorous adventures.

"The immense stage has been converted into a huge flower garden, with fountains and electrical effects of varying hues. The lobby has been elaborately decorated and converted into a hall of heraldry with rich decorations of embroidered silk and satin banners. In the center of the lobby stands the statue of a church banked in flowers and plants. Even the exterior of Music Hall has illuminations in which the national colors have the chief part."

(Cincinnati Enquirer September 5, 1915
Courtesy of ProQuest Historical Newspapers
Hamilton County Public Library)

Wurlitzer of Cincinnati The Name that Means Music to Millions

Published in May 2015, this enlightening book was written by Mark Palkovic, senior librarian at the University of Cincinnati's College Conservatory of Music. The Wurlitzer Company history, from its Cincinnati founding in 1856 by German immigrant Franz Rudolph Wurlitzer, its product/instrument development (most notably the "Mighty Wurlitzer" Theatre Organ) to its acquisition by the Gibson Guitar Corp. in 2006, is told in an entertaining way. Numerous photographs complement the



historical facts. Among these are two by well-known Cincinnati photographer, Philip Groshong. One is of SPMH board member Ron Wehmeier, of Ronald F. Wehmeier Organ Services, at the Music Hall ballroom Albee "Mighty Wurlitzer". The other is a view of Ron's home music room showing his Wurlitzer theatre organ and Wurlitzer harp.

The book can be purchased on Amazon.com and in several local book stores for \$21.99.

SPMH Wurlitzer Ownership Negotiations in Progress

In April the Ohio Valley Chapter (OVC) of the American Theatre Organ Society proposed the gift of the "Mighty Wurlitzer Organ" to SPMH.

At the May Board meeting, President Don Siekmann shared his document, summarizing matters relating to the organ from early discussions with SPMH, CAA and OVC through its subsequent 2009 installation in the Music Hall Ballroom. The document refers to

signed contracts among SPMH, CAA, the City of Cincinnati, OVC—the owners of the organ and the anonymous foundation that provided \$1.4M donation to SPMH for the rebuilding and installation of the organ. Issues considered were:

- financial or other associated risks for SPMH as owner
- the condition of the instrument long-term
- the ability of SPMH to maintain its condition

- the complexity of securing legal documentation of ownership

Ron Wehmeier, who rebuilt, installed and maintains the organ, assured the directors that the Mighty Wurlitzer is in excellent shape and that no large expenditures are anticipated for many decades. The annual up-keep of the instrument currently costs approximately \$7,000 per year including insurance. Scott Santangelo asserted that CAA

stands ready to support SPMH as owner and directors voiced general agreement for SPMH ownership. The following motion was made and voted upon: The Executive Committee is authorized to negotiate terms for accepting the donation of the Mighty Wurlitzer Organ and any other contracts deemed necessary, with OVC and other appropriate parties. A subcommittee including Peter Koenig, Andrew Bowen, Tricia Johnson, Ken Kreider and Don was formed to begin negotiations. It was decided that going forward, a Mighty Wurlitzer Committee would be appointed to deal with issues and oversee programming and publicity.

At the June Board meeting

Ken Kreider reported that he has been working on drafting necessary documents dealing with the gifting of the organ. Peter Koenig voiced the need for a qualified appraiser. The following motion was made and agreed upon: that Don Siekmann be given executive authority to sign on behalf of the board of SPMH any agreements regarding the change in ownership of the Mighty Wurlitzer from OVC to SPMH, and that appro-

appropriate funds be made available to pay reasonable expenses such as costs of an appraisal. Following the June meeting, it was determined that Ron Wehmeier is best qualified to appraise the "Mighty Wurlitzer". Subsequently, the appraisal was performed and given to the subcommittee. A request for funding of maintenance costs for the next five years was made to the anonymous donor organization which funded the organ restoration/installation. The request was granted and Ron Wehmeier will continue to provide his services.

It is anticipated that all negotiations will be completed before the Annual Meeting on September 15th.



The Mighty Wurlitzer

SPMH Going Social!

SPMH has collaborated with Cincinnati Arts Association to create a more robust presence for SPMH by integrating content for the current Music Hall facebook page. The initiative is a first step in SPMH's plan to reach and engage a younger audience for our membership and events.

Megan Hall

and Joanne Grueter initially explored developing a stand alone facebook page for SPMH, but after meeting with our partner organization, CAA, they recognized that SPMH could quickly jumpstart its social marketing efforts by leveraging the current audience of the Cincinnati Music Hall facebook page. The Cincinnati Music Hall page has on average, 72,000 visits per month and 20,000 followers. Together, Megan and Joanne with Max Larson, CAA's Digital Marketing Manager developed a calendar of proposed social posts featuring interesting historical facts and surprising tid bits about Music Hall and her history, for CAA to sprinkle in its weekly promotional activity.

Content runs the gamut, from beautiful photos of Music Hall in all her glory, both present and past, sunny days in Washington Park and stormy clouds over the Hall. SPMH has been able to tie in

some of our current activities (cleaning the Springer statue) with historical facts about the statue itself. Facebook offers many ways to attract a younger audience.

Video content is an exciting way to present SPMH's key initiatives. To date, two videos centered on The Mighty Wurlitzer have been posted, showcasing this



unique and beautiful asset. One video tells "A Brief History" of the Wurlitzer's past with the Albee Theater in the time of silent movies. It features SPMH's own Ron Wehmeier, who provides a brief but enlightening history of the organ and all that was entailed in its installation in Music Hall.

It is our hope and plan to continue to develop engaging and robust content for the site over time, focusing on our tour activity, Wurlitzer concerts, and relevant and interesting facts about Music Hall and her history. During the revitalization period, we will have additional opportunities to present past and present perspectives to a growing audience. But don't take our word for it...check out the page yourself and 'like' us on facebook! It's easy:

www.facebook.com/cincinnati-music-hall

- Lisa Allison

Take a Tour, Hear the Stories

“Tell me the facts and I’ll learn... But tell me a story and it will live in my heart forever.” - Native American proverb

In my short time here at Music Hall I have become amazed at the rich culture and history this building holds and its great stories. I have met travelers from all over the US and the world, seeking a peek inside this regional jewel and national treasure. With ample parking, outdoor entertainment and restaurants, just beyond its doors, they feel compelled to stop to take a tour of Music Hall.

To fully understand what draws visitors to this place though, we need to see past the grand structure, artwork, marble and crystal and look to the stories...

- The Allegory of the Arts painting above the crystal chandelier was

“lost” only to be rediscovered in 1941 when cleaning the ceiling.

- The 1878 Hook and Hastings Organ, which was located in Springer Auditorium was the second largest in the world.

- Acoustically plagued Lincoln Center envies the incredible sound quality inside the hall, which is said, “to feel like being inside of a fine instrument or violin.”

- Financing to build Music Hall was from the people and for the people. Said to be the first matching grant in America, even the school children pitched in!

When visitors recall a memorable trip, they talk about three things: what they saw, what they did, and the people they met. So when visitors recall, “the beautiful river, that great meal, the friendly people who told us about all the



Tour Guides, Gayley Hautzenroeder, Carol Kruse and Judy Martin

things to do in town," they also recall the people and the stories of Music Hall.

"People think that stories are shaped by people. In fact it's the other way around." - Terry Pratchett, novelist

The Music Hall Tour program has the opportunity to bring the community together — and unlike any other institution in Over-the-Rhine, its stories instill a sense of community pride in the knowledge of our shared history. It is important to remember the people touched by this great building and to strengthen ties with schools, nursing homes, professional and civic organizations, including neighboring businesses, to offer something special, something that can build community cohesiveness. The personal Music Hall stories told by tour patrons are amazing and this interaction enhances the experience.

"Stories tell us of what we already knew and forgot, and remind us of what we haven't yet imagined." – Anne L. Watson, author

The people who volunteer are unparalleled in their commitment, caring and value to this program. And a top-notch tour program can only be possible with a top-notch Tour Guide Team of volunteers. Therefore, when we turn to imagine a vision for the Music Hall Tour Program, our goals are simple:

Goal #1: To create a tour program with engaging stories and enhanced quality of storytelling.

Improve the program's accuracy, uniqueness and value, and leverage it to create multiple tour programs, each highlighting a unique aspect of the building. This will increase the ability to generate drawing power so that visitors want to return again and again. Toward this goal we have fact checked and finished our first "official" tour script. Plans are being formed for tours that focus on, "The Ladies' Legacy" about the women who helped Music Hall come to be; "Presidents and Pop", featuring famous people who have visited; "We Who Built This", focused on immigrants and freed slaves. There is much work to be done, and boy, are we excited! The tour program has initiated our first open houses of the building in conjunction with such events as the 'Macy's Fine Art Sampler Weekend' and the 'All-Star Game' week in July! We have technology in place to amplify a guide's voice to improve the patron experience!

Goal #2: To have the highest quality volunteer guides with the best training. Build a volunteer development program that enhances the experience of the volunteer, instilling a sense of wonder, teamwork and pride for the life-long learner. Toward this goal we have supported 10 volunteers to attend leadership training in partnership with CincinnatiUSA, focusing on tourism and customer service. Monthly meetings with guest speakers are in store in the near

future. In addition, we are automating the volunteer application process making it easier to become a Music Hall Tour Guide. And lastly, we now have a feedback loop for Tour Guides and patrons to improve the quality of the program in real time. By shortening response time to tour requests and by the acceptance of credit cards, both patron and volunteer satisfaction is increased.

We have so much more to share with you about the 'happenings' of the Tour Program here at

Music Hall. So whether your interest is personal, academic, arts enrichment, community involvement, or just 'for the fun of it' - take us up on the invitation. Come hear the stories going 'round the Hall' and let us tell you about its history, show you its charm and extend to you our hospitality! To schedule a tour or learn how you can be a Music Hall Tour Guide, contact Ramona Toussaint at, musichall-tour@spmhcincinnati.org.

- Ramona Toussaint

Achin' to Tell My Story

"Atop my stand, I watch and stare, as people pass from here to there. My life my gifts...most unaware." This is a 'hypothetical quote' from the marble bust in the south hall entrance to Music Hall. Who was this Charles Aiken and what did he do to deserve a marble portrait carved by the eminent sculptor, Preston Powers of Florence, Italy, unveiled in Music Hall 1884, just two years after his death?

Born in New Hampshire in 1818 to parents whose ancestors emigrated from Ireland and Scotland, his familial tendency was toward the musical arts. However, his education at Dartmouth College where he earned his diploma in 1838, was a rather 'liberal arts' course of study. Realizing that music was of singular importance

in his life, he sought temporary 'intern' type work in the field in cities of Pennsylvania and Kentucky, in Cincinnati and St. Louis. He returned to Cincinnati in 1842 to take up permanent residency, teaching music to classes of adults. In 1848 Charles became the successor of William F. Colburn, the first music teacher in Cincinnati public schools. From the start Charles was determined to introduce music as one of the branches of study in the public schools and with each passing year he devoted more of his efforts toward developing a universal vocal arts program throughout the Cincinnati school system. Beginning with advanced classes in secondary schools, he designed a course of study requiring at least two music lessons per week, for thousands of young people. Note

reading and vocalization were emphasized while works of the greatest composers were utilized to educate and energize the young singers.

Aiken's contributions were well noted. The office of superintendent of music of public schools was created and Professor Aiken was formally placed in the position.

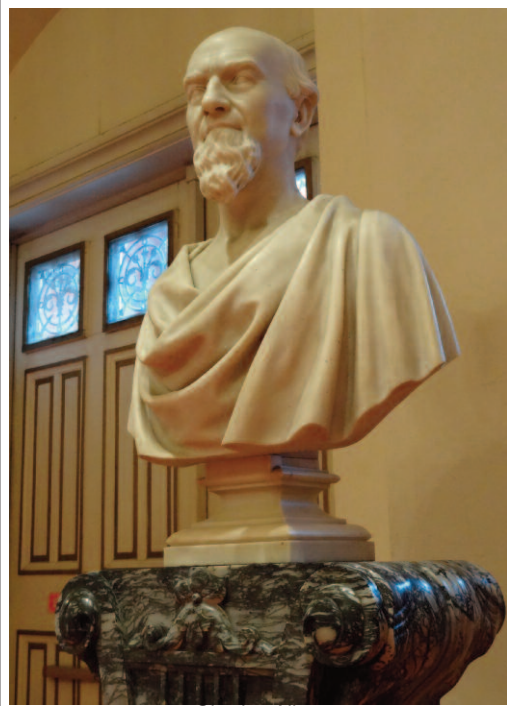
Noting that love of music is not age dependent, Charles extended his course of instruction to the primary grades

in public schools. General knowledge of music and music instruction became requirements for all candidates for teachers' positions in all levels of Cincinnati public school. At the time there was no efficient instructional material so Professor Aiken, with assistance of his associates in the music department produced "The Young Singer's Manual" in 1860. In 1866 his "High School Choralist" was published. This book was updated in 1872 with "The Choralist's Companion" and by 1875 he had to his credit, a series of music books, "Cincinnati

Music Readers." Professor Aiken devoted thirty years to diligent music training in the public schools. A modest and humble

man who advanced the musical culture in Cincinnati more than did any other individual, he eschewed the spotlight.

He died October 4, 1882, just three years after retiring from his position. One week later officers and teachers of the public schools met at Hughes High School to plan a permanent installation com-



Charles Aiken

memorating both the man and his great contribution to Cincinnati. The planning resulted in the commission of the marble bust, paid for by teachers of Cincinnati and by Aiken's former students. The vestibule of Music Hall was chosen as a fitting place for the monument, as the Hall frequently resounded with the youthful voices of hundreds of choralists trained and led by this dedicated man, known as "Father of Vocal Music in Public Schools."

- Kathy Janson

Carved Organ Panels Update

Since reporting in the December issue of MUSIC HALL Marks when it was noted that two carvings by the famed William Fry were added to the conservation project (one donated by the Louise Dieterle Nippert estate and the other returned by the Cincinnati Museum Center), great progress has been made. The first of all panels to be restored was exhibited in The Cincinnati Preservation Association's 50th Anniversary Celebration Exhibition in the Culture Gallery of the Museum Center. The well attended exhibit which had a six month run, closed on April 5th. Another restored panel was a feature in the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra's exhibit 'Your Self-Guided Art Tour of Music Hall'. This exhibit was a promotion of its February 6th and 7th concert program, a highlight of which was Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition". The panel, with a detailed information board, is currently displayed in the south side of the balcony. Both the Museum Center and the Music Hall exhibits

provided the SPMH project added visibility and public awareness.

On April 15th Kathy Janson and Ed Rider photographed and catalogued all remaining parts of the carved organ screen, housed at the Museum Center. Jennifer Jensen, Registrar of the Museum Center signed the document officially transferring all components of the organ to SPMH. The 30 frames, molding parts and embellishments were then moved to Music Hall where Scott Santangelo and Gary Kidney supervised the move to storage. Frames identified as those belonging to panels undergoing restoration at Heller Conservation Services, were shipped to the Nashville studio in May.



Restored carved panel

In late June, Don Siekmann and Peter Koenig met with Otto Budig, Chair of the Music Hall Revitalization Corp.; Murray Sinclair, Jr., Chair of the Cultural Facilities Task Force; Stephen Leeper, President and CEO of 3CDC (Cincinnati Center City Development Corporation); Adam Gelter, Executive VP Devel-

15 *MUSIC HALL Marks*

opment, 3CDC; Scott Provancher, President of Lewis & Clark Co., fundraising counsel for MHRC and Derrick Braziel, Director of Civic Projects for Lewis & Clark Co. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss SPMH's role in the complex workings of the Music Hall renovation. During the course of the meeting, a presentation was made proposing permanent installation of the restored panels in Corbett Tower. General consensus was favorable to the proposal.

In early July Ed and Anita

Marks donated their panel 'Porpora' to the SPMH project. This is the first of this unique style of composer panels added to the project.



All restored panels will be returned to Music Hall in September, they will be installed in Corbett Tower and will be a feature of the September 15th SPMH Annual Meeting. This installation will be

temporary until Music Hall closes for renovation in May 2016.

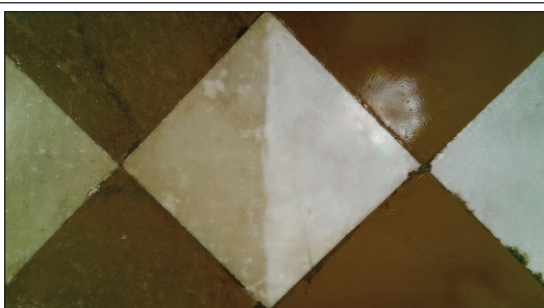
- Kathy Janson

Most Recent SPMH Project: Foyer Floor

When you walk into the lobby of Music Hall, what do you notice? The statue of Ruben Springer? The chandeliers? The portraits of Ralph and Patricia Corbett? Do you every look down at the floor of the lobby? Most likely not.

The foyer floor, original to the 1878 building, is covered in squares of white New Hampshire marble and dark red English slate.

Imagine all the people who have walked across this floor on their way to the

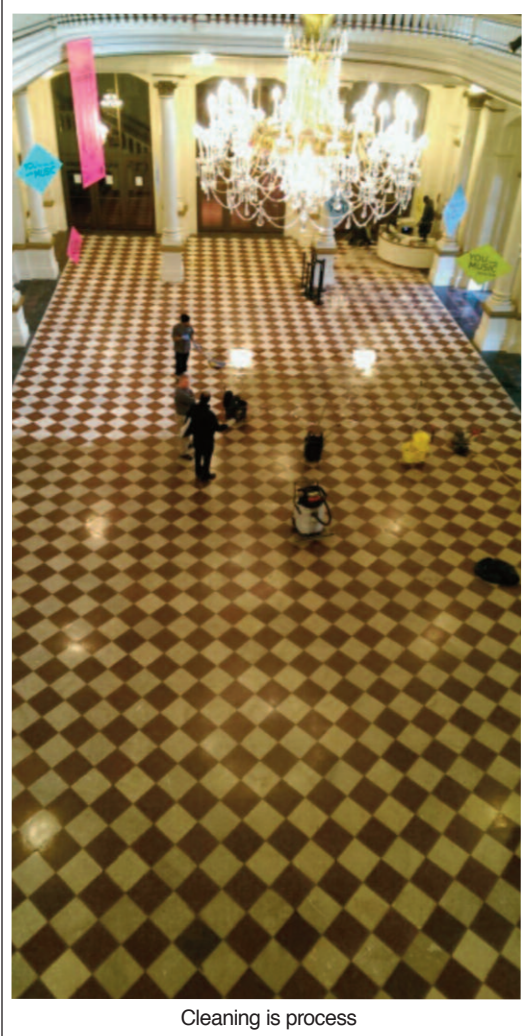


Before and After cleaning

auditorium, starting with Rueben Springer, the benefactor who raised the money for the planning and construction of Music Hall.

Early this year SPMH funded a deep cleaning of this surface with a grant of \$15,000. Beginning on February 9th, the huge project was completed in a mere 4 days. Scioto Services was the primary vendor for stripping/waxing while Axis Interiors Systems was hired for repairs. More than four decades of wax and dirt were stripped away, damaged areas were repaired with color- matched epoxies, and all was then waxed and buffed. The

white marble and red slate now shine! Look down the next time you come into Music Hall!



Cleaning is process

The beautiful Foyer is available for rental. It can accommodate up to 200 guests for a dinner, a wedding or a dance event. The gleaming marble provides a perfect open dance floor. The space can serve a greater number of guests for a cocktail party/reception. For further information about rental contact Terry Kidney, Rentals Manager (513) 744-3242 tkidney@cincinnatiarts.org

- Ed Rider

Members' Annual Meeting – September 15

Guest Speaker:

Stephen Leeper, President and CEO of 3CDC

Topic: Music Hall Revitalization Update

SPMH Timeline A Walk Through History

Crossing the Central Parkway Bridge connecting The WCET Garage to Music Hall, one opens the back entrance to a welcoming sight. The history of Music Hall, as a photo journal (1876—2010), depicted on the walls of the 125 foot long corridor, encourages the patron to pause, view, learn interesting facts, stories, biographies, before presenting tickets to enter the main auditorium. Few venues offer such an opportunity, a walk through history in such a concise and entertaining way.

How did this Timeline creation come to be? In 1995 an SPMH committee headed by VP Ashley Ford, hatched the idea for the timeline. Among committee members were Linda Siekmann, Julien Benjamin, Peggy Kahn and Carol Nagel. Envisioned were four topics for exploration:

1. the history of the building,
2. the history of the resident musical organizations,
3. famous artists who have played in Music Hall
4. Important city, national and world events

Historian Suzanne De Luca helped research the images while such organizations as the Cincin-

nati Historical Society, the Public Library, The Cincinnati Enquirer and the archive departments of performing arts organizations contributed historic photographs and images. Cincinnati design firm, Catt Lyon Design, Inc. was hired to bring the ideas to life. The timeline was presented on a series of 4' X 8' panels with a large mural of an 1877 Music Hall image positioned on the east end corridor wall. Joyce Van Wye headed the committee which completed work in the corridor: painting, track lighting and carpeting. Funding was provided by a generous grant from the Nipper Charitable Foundation. The Cincinnati Enquirer, on September 20, 1999, reported the Ribbon Cutting ceremony a celebratory event, proclaiming that "Music Hall's blah entranceway from Central Parkway finally makes a first impression befitting Cincinnati's elegant music palace. This latest addition reassures that Cincinnati's generation after generation, continue to preserve and update Reuben Springer's gift to the city. Cincinnati architect Samuel Hannaford's original design is again celebrated and renewed."

To view back issues of **MUSIC HALL Marks** visit:

www.spmhcincinnati.org

'LumenoCity' 1915

While LumenoCity has become a popular and well anticipated August event, Music Hall featured an extravaganza in 1915 which produced the same high level of excitement as today's thrilling illumination! To put it lightly, audiences were



The Electric Show 1915 Music Hall

electrified!! The November 28, 1915 issue of the Cincinnati Enquirer announced the festival with "Voice Will Cross Continent to Open First Electric Show Ever Held in Cincinnati' Electrical Prosperity Week, the first electric show ever held in this city, will be opened at Music Hall tomorrow afternoon."

Electrical Prosperity Week (Monday November 29 to Saturday, December 4, 1915) was originated by the Society for Electrical Development of New York and was observed throughout the entire country. It was designed to place business in general, and the electrical industry in particular, on a firm prosperity basis. Concurrently the World's Fair "The Pan-Pacific International Exposition" was held in San Francisco. Its primary purpose was to celebrate the completion of the Panama Canal but it was seen as an opportunity to showcase the

city's extraordinary recovery from the 1906 earthquake and subsequent fire. New technologies were featured high-lights including cars, airplanes, telephones, motion pictures and household appliances of every type. The centerpiece of the San Francisco World's

Fair was the 435 foot Tower of Jewels covered with 100,000 cut glass colorful Novagems illuminated by over 50 powerful electrical search-lights at night. Cities across the country took the opportunity to join in with their own celebrations of the completion of the Panama Canal, the anticipation of trade opportunities and the dawn of a new day. The expositions introduced technological marvels to the everyday family of moderate means. Electrical Prosperity Week was a week of extraordinary spectacle.

The events in Cincinnati were opened when C. C. Moore, President of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco, telephoned W. W. Freemans, President of the local exhibition. Newton M. Miller, Ohio Commissioner to the San Francisco Exposition, talked briefly, and Mayor Frederick Spiegel replied. Seats in the center

of Music Hall were equipped with extension 'telephones' which allowed 800 people to hear every word of President Moore's greeting and Mr. Freeman's response. A series of motion pictures, including scenes of the transmission in San Francisco and the pavilion at the Exposition where President Moore spoke to Cincinnati, were enjoyed by members of the audience. They were also treated to a view of the Pacific Ocean and the sounds of its crashing waves. Other films showed the first telephone made and the manner of connecting the lines to form

the transcontinental circuit. 'Talking-picture' movies were free, and were given every afternoon and evening.

All the floor space in the north wing of Music Hall was occupied by exhibitors who converted that section into a veritable fairyland eliciting exclamations of sheer amazement from those who crowded around. Electrically operated musical instruments, electrically propelled Christmas toys and illuminated Christmas trees delighted everyone. A 'Home Electric' was constructed consisting of a

garden, living and dining rooms, kitchen and laundry. The 'home' was 'inhabited' by a young couple who demonstrated house keeping with electricity. Electric lamps, heaters and fans, kept the space bright and cozy, while an electric range, corn-popper, dish-washer, clothes washer and iron, made work more efficient. An electric phonograph and an electric fountain in the garden provided a relaxing atmosphere. Daily demonstrations of house wiring were given. The transcontinental telephone, wireless telegraph, money washing machines, barber

shop equipment, farming machinery and electrical wonders too numerous to mention were part of the extensive show. There were cabaret performances in the café and band concerts which included the popular song "Hello Frisco", written shortly after telephone communications had been established between New York and San Francisco.

The New York publication *Electrical Review and Western Electrician* commented on the event in Cincinnati noting that the elaborate electric show held in Music Hall,



Bursting Bomb of Jewels in Music Hall Lobby

The New York publication *Electrical Review and Western Electrician* commented on the event in Cincinnati noting that the elaborate electric show held in Music Hall,

one of the largest buildings of its sort in this country, had over 100 exhibitors representing all of the leading manufacturers of electrical equipment and appliances. General Electric, Union Gas and Electric, Western Electric, Allis-Chalmers, Westinghouse, Walker Vehicle, Warner Elevator, Otis Elevator and many others were among them. An unusually beautiful piece of decorative work was the 'Bursting Bomb of Jewels' which was placed in the main lobby of Music Hall. It was designed by Mr. Glossing of the General Electric Company. Made of the same sparkling materials as the famous 'Tower of Jewels' at the San Francisco Exposition, it was the first example of this work seen outside of the Exposition. Six spot-lights of different colors illuminated the magnificent object brilliantly and brought out its singular and delicate grace splendidly.

In conjunction with the show was a special illumination of Fountain Square. There were four clusters of lights suspended high above the square. Each cluster consisted of a circle of eight, 18 inch globes each containing a 1,000 candlepower lamp. Several downtown buildings participated as well. The seven story Times-Star

Building was outlined with 3,600 white, red and green lights while a great star in the center represented the name of the paper.

The Music Hall Electric Show was open for the week from 11 a.m. until 11 p.m. Widely popular, it attracted 29,000 visitors, each paying the 50 cents admission charge, a hefty amount in those days. The success of the show and the extent of public interest in it astonished even the most optimistic of its promoters. Creating heavy demand for electrical goods of all kinds it resulted in an increase in business 85% greater than that of 1914. The domestic use of electric current in and around the City had been slight prior to Electrical Prosperity Week as natural gas was cheap and readily available. But the exciting, extensive exhibits showcasing the use of current in the 'modern' home featuring appliances within the reach of the average wage earner convinced the public that electricity was not a luxury but a necessity for comfort and good living. Electrical Prosperity Week in Music Hall 1915 truly began the electric era in Cincinnati.

- Kathy Janson

(Sources: ProQuest Historical Newspapers and Electrical Review and Western Electrician)



To learn more about MUSIC HALL,
Past, Present and Future
Visit the SPMH Website
www.spmhcincinnati.org

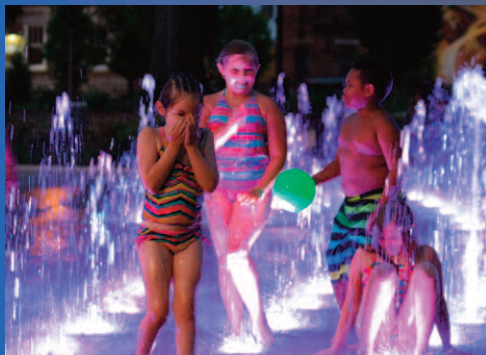
Fun in Washington Park



Then...



...and Now!



Jonathan Queen, Artist *Washington Park' (Cover)*



Washington Park painting above the Carousel horse, 'Bubbles'

Jonathan has become well-known in the Cincinnati area as the artist whose splendid work whimsically decorates the Carol Ann Carousel at Smale Riverfront Park, dedicated with great celebration on May 16, 2015. His delightful representations of animal characters enjoying 16 of Cincinnati's parks and 16 iconic landmarks are a personal tribute to Cincinnati's history. A native of Lexington, Ky., he began his art education at Eastern Kentucky University and transferred to the University of Cincinnati's College of Design, Architecture, Art and Planning where he earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. Influenced by

the styles of such Greats as Rembrandt and Vermeer, his style is realistic, narrative still life. Originally working with vintage toys, Jonathan shifted his process to one of creating his own sculpted characters in plastiline clay. Photographing landscapes at just the right time of day to achieve the desired lighting; painting the scenes using the photographs; placing the photographed animal creations within the landscape---these are the principal stages of his method. Preliminary sketches and small painted studies of each scene are among the many steps required to create the final work.

Jonathan's favorite carousel painting is of Washington Park where a squirrel, a toad and a Lazarus lizard are having a jam session.

Music Hall and the bandstand are in the background (painting is located above the white carousel horse 'Bubbles'). "I'm proud that this painting brings attention to Music

Hall," he said in talking about his desire to give back, to be connected with what's happening in Cincinnati. "I want to bring humor and joy to each scene." "It's really honoring to be a part of something representing the beautiful parks –

we have such a rich history. I'm glad to be part of something bigger than me." Noting that every child who visits the carousel comes with an adult who brings personal memories and a sense of nos-

talgia for the represented parks, Jonathan said that "children can think 'I want to go there. I want to experience that park'." And go they



Clay models for Washington Park 'jam session'

will as the carousel and the parks will be enjoyed by generations to come. To see in great detail the work and methods of the artist's carousel work view the exhibit *From Studio to Carousel: the Whimsical World of Jonathan*



Mayor John Cranley and Jonathan Queen

Queen now through September 6th at the Taft Museum of Art.

Smale Park is not the only location where one can see Jonathan's art. Countless Cincinnatians view Queen's work every day as they pass the corner of Central Parkway and Walnut Street. His spectacular 48' X 90' mural "Fresh Harvest" covers the rear wall of Kroger's corporate headquarters. Dedicated in August

2012, the painting is a gargantuan depiction of fruit and vegetables, picked at the peak of perfection. The brilliant use of lighting technique and vivid color palette energize the city scape.

Jonathan Queen exhibits professionally through Miller Gallery in Hyde Park. He lives with his wife and four children in Anderson Township. To view his work on line (www.jonathanqueen.com)

Thank You, Members!

SPMH was founded to "promote ongoing financial and volunteer support toward maintaining and improving the Music Hall facilities, internally and externally."

It is through the efforts of generous contributors and members like you that SPMH is able to achieve our goals concerning this landmark which inspires both pleasure and pride among all who treasure the arts. As the years progress, Music Hall's needs grow. Together, we can be proud of the many projects which have been completed in our twenty-seven year history. The list is long and to get a complete view of SPMH accomplishments see the web site at www.spmhcincinnati.org. A few of these include the following:

- Installed 50-foot flagpole and American flag in front of Music Hall
- Installed lighting for front of Music Hall

- Restored handrails in balcony and gallery
 - Created and installed Timeline in Central Parkway entrance corridor
 - Added chandeliers in foyer
 - Refurbished Green Room
 - Produced award-winning documentary about Music Hall in collaboration with CET
 - Provide Music Hall tours by SPMH volunteer guides
 - Restored and installed Albee Mighty Wurlitzer
 - Refinished Ballroom floors
 - Refinished the historic Elm Street entrance doors
 - Cleaned Reuben Springer Statue
 - Cleaned the marble foyer floor
 - On-going restoration of wood carved panels from the screen of the famous 1878 Hook & Hastings organ with eventual permanent installation in Music Hall
- Thank you so much for your love of and commitment to Music Hall!

Cincinnatians, including those who are setting the course for renovation, are becoming more aware of the vital role we play in preserving Music Hall. As membership requires no minimum membership

dues, all donations are appreciated. Encourage your friends to join with all of us in preserving Music Hall for generations to come!

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The Capacity and the Will to rally men and women
to a Common Purpose
and the Character which inspires Confidence.”
– General Montgomery*

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for 5 years of Leadership
as President of SPMH!!

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