

MUSIC HALL Marks

2015
Winter
Issue



SPMH - President's Message

I am humbled to be elected as the new President of SPMH. As someone who grew up in this city, it is an honor to be connected to Music Hall which has always been a venerable Cincinnati icon and a symbol of the creativity in our community.

I want to start by paying tribute to immediate past President Don Siekmann for the strength of his leadership. Don has generously donated so much of his time and talent to SPMH. I am delighted he will continue to play substantial roles on our board overseeing the successful Mighty Wurlitzer Organ Concert Series and being involved with SPMH's finances and investments.

I also am thankful to the Board for their support. You could not ask

for a better or more committed team. Together we will strenuously endeavor to live SPMH's mission – preserving, promoting, improving and providing education about this building that we love.

This is an exciting time to be in the Over-the-Rhine. The upcoming refurbishment of Music Hall offers an opportunity for renewal and revitalization that will further solidify our area by Washington Park as one of the country's premier musical and performing

art centers.

SPMH already has played an important role in the planning for the renovation of Music Hall. Our organization has been blessed with substantial funds from the late Patricia and Ralph Corbett, and we are pleased to let you know that,



Peter E. Koenig

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as a result of our efforts and with our strong financial support, Corbett Tower will remain named Corbett Tower in perpetuity.

We look forward to working closely with the Music Hall Revitalization Company, whose mission is to organize and lead the renovation of Music Hall and to ensure the quality of its future maintenance. SPMH also will deepen our existing relationships with the Music Hall resident companies and the Cincinnati Arts Association.

Additionally, SPMH will con-

tinue to thrive during the refurbishment period when Music Hall will be closed. We are developing a series of marketing, outreach and educational programs to keep the spirit of Music Hall alive in our community.

In closing, I want to thank all of our members whose personal efforts and financial contributions allow us to continue to carry out our mission. Your continued support of our organization is much needed and sincerely appreciated.

- Peter Koenig

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www.spmhcincinnati.org

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.

2016 SPMH BOARD



1st Row from Left to right: Ed Rider, Kathy Janson, Peter Koenig, Karen McKim, Lisa Allison,
2nd Row: Scott Santangelo, Marcella Hsiung, Ken Jones, Don Siekmann, Joanne Grueter, Thea Tjepkema, Bethany Vondran **3rd Row:** Tricia Johnson, Barbara Harshman, Steve Sunderman, Rosemary Schlachter, Meredith Downton. SPMH Board (See page 2 for complete board list)

Meet New SPMH President Peter E. Koenig

Peter joined the SPMH board in September 2007 and since that time he has been a valuable member of the team, committed to serving Music Hall in such areas as archives and board nominations. Recently he was appointed to the Music Hall Revitalization Company board as SPMH Representative. He brings a wealth of experience to the position. His volunteer activities have included the position of trustee on the boards of the Memorial Hall Society, Cincinnati Preservation Association, University Club of Cincinnati and the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Hyde Park.

By profession, Peter is a lawyer with his firm Buechner, Hafner, Meyers & Koenig in downtown Cincinnati. Licensed to practice in Ohio, Kentucky and several federal courts, he has over 30 years of ex-

perience in litigation. His areas of expertise include real estate, administrative, municipal and zoning law. He is actively involved with the Cincinnati Bar Association and is a member of the American Bar Association, the Ohio Bar Association and the Kentucky Bar Association.

Educated at Ohio University where he earned a B.A. (summa cum laude 1978), he earned his J.D. from Case Western Reserve University School of Law in 1981.

Born and raised in Clifton, and having lived in Hyde Park for 30 years, he and his wife Lucy now reside in Eden Park. Peter has twin children, David, a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, and Julie, a medical student at Stanford University. In his leisure time, Peter enjoys squash, tennis, opera, theatre, travel and reading.



Peter Koenig

2015 SPMH Annual Meeting



Don Siekmann talks about the Corbetts



Peter Koenig addresses SPMH members

The SPMH Annual Meeting was held on Tuesday, September 15th in Music Hall's Corbett Auditorium. A capacity crowd enjoyed a cocktail/hors d'oeuvres reception and music provided by pianist, Don Hurd. Members had the opportunity to purchase tickets for "Happy Holidays with the Mighty Wurlitzer" (December 10), and the *Cincinnati Finds its Voice* DVD. Twenty-six restored panels from the 1878 Music Hall organ screen, on view for the first time and temporarily installed on all walls of Corbett Tower, drew much interest from the group.

President Don Siekmann, called the meeting to order. Stating

the precepts of the SPMH Mission Statement, he underlined our commitment to Music Hall and acknowledged the supportive role Patricia and Ralph Corbett played and continue to play through our SPMH Corbett Endowment. Highlighting the activities of our organization over the past year, Don included growing our membership; conservation projects and other funding efforts; the distribution of *MUSIC HALL Marks* to 4,000 readers; the wealth of timely information on the website

In acknowledging the gift, Don announced that the ownership transfer of the "Mighty Wurlitzer

Organ” from the Ohio Valley Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society to SPMH had been completed. While speaking of the very successful Wurlitzer Concert Series, Don encouraged all to purchase tickets to the holiday concert on December 10th and noted that the patriotic themed May Wurlitzer Concert will give the public one of the last opportunities to experience Music Hall before its closing for renovation. The new slate of Officers was presented and retiring Directors William Henrich and Ron Wehmeier were thanked. Thea

Tjepkema was warmly welcomed to the board. Don announced that he was stepping down as President but before turning the meeting over to newly elected President Peter E. Koenig, he emphasized his pride in SPMH, in members and directors; pride in the organization’s accomplishments for Music Hall and his pride in Music Hall itself.

Immediately after his introduction, Peter Koenig along with Megan Hall, presented Don with a gift from the board—a crystal commemoration of his more than 5 years of service as President.



Megan Hall, Peter Koenig present gift to Don Siekmann



Peter Koenig, Don Siekmann



Roger and Pat Fry, Linda and Don Siekmann

7 *MUSIC HALL Marks*

Peter took the podium, conveying enthusiasm for his new role as leader, his hopes and expectations for the work ahead. Emphasizing the importance of SPMH and its history of support, he reiterated “we will always be here for Music Hall.”

Andrew Bowen along with Meredith Downton shared details of an expanded tour program, and listed the past year achievements with the efforts of Ramona Tous-saint. Among these were an in-crease in the number of tours and guides, development of better in-structional material for guides, cre-

ation of interest specific tours and enhanced methods of promotion. Andrew voiced his expectations for further improvements in the coming year while collaborating with out-side groups to advance Music Hall tours.

Kathy Janson took the micro- phone to speak for the intricately carved panels temporarily installed on the surrounding walls. She told the story of the original Music Hall organ’s magnificent screen from the beginnings in 1878, the dis- mantling in the early 1970s, her motivation for action to save the



Carmon DeLeone, Linda Siekmann



Mary Coyne



Ed Rider



Andrew Bowen, Chuck Downton, Meredith Downton, Lisa Allison, Karen McKim, Peter Koenig

panels from exclusion in the 2011 renovation plans, the 2011 decision by the SPMH board to undertake the rescue and restoration of remaining panels, to the hiring of a well-known Nashville conservator and the progress to date. She

talked of the award winning students of the carving schools of Master Carvers Henry and William Fry and Ben Pitman, the role they played in the nationally acclaimed Cincinnati Art-Carved Furniture Movement, their subject matter



Terri Kidney, Judy Prinz, Steve Loftin, Sue Sommer



Ron Wehmeier, Don Siekmann



Mike and Kathy Janson, Steve Sunderman



Nancy and Patty Wagner



John Senhauser, Ken Kreider



John Morris Russell, Thea Tjepkema, Peter Koenig

and most importantly, their commitment to volunteering their time and labor for a gift to the people of Cincinnati in the form of this outstanding work. Kathy noted with gratitude the donations, both financial and personal, as individuals and organizations have given not only money but also many pieces and panels to SPMH for advancement of this project. While all panels on view were visually stunning, newly cleaned, repaired with bright gilding, they are in various states of completion and will be returned to Nashville shortly. She voiced the

SPMH desire for permanent installation of these panels and those yet to be acquired, in a newly renovated Corbett Tower.

President Koenig introduced the evening's guest speaker, Stephen G. Leeper, President and CEO of Cincinnati Center City Development Corporation (3CDC), the group appointed by the Music Hall Revitalization Co. (MHRC) as the project's developer. Mr. Leeper announced that Music Hall will close in June 2016 for the \$129 million construction project with an expected reopening in fall 2017.



Yvette Simpson, Peter Koenig



Dudley Taft, Don Siekmann



Brian Siekmann



Jeff McClory, Peter Koenig, Kim Starbuck, Ken Jones

Cincinnati's Messer Construction has been hired as construction

manager. The design team consists of a number of companies. Architectural work will be divided by two firms: Martinez & Johnson Architecture based in

Washington D.C. and Perfidio Weiskopf Wagstaff & Goettel based in Pittsburgh. The Connecticut firm, Akustiks has been hired to pre-

serve the renowned acoustics of Springer Auditorium. Schuler

Shook, lighting designers and theater planners of Minneapolis; Pennoni Associates Inc. of Philadelphia (mechanical, electrical and plumbing

consulting engineers); and THP Limited Inc. of Cincinnati (structural engineering) complete the design team.



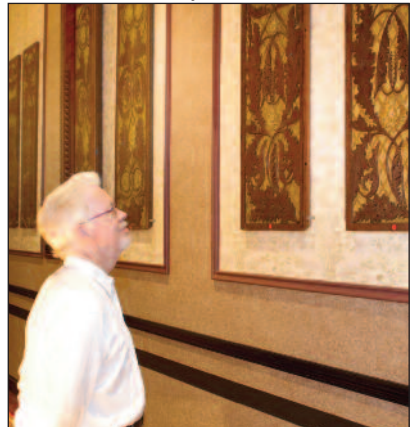
Andrew Bowen and Meredith Downton



Restored organ panels



Kathy Janson



Rick Pender views restored panels

While unseen but necessary improvements to the aging infrastructure are already in progress (such as asbestos removal), much of the work which patrons will see will not begin until the building closes. The size of Springer Auditorium will be reduced by moving the walls inward on the orchestra and balcony levels, re-sloping all three floors (to create better sight-lines), and creating a “thrust” stage on which the orchestra will be seated farther out into the hall. At least 1,000 seats will be removed in the process. The gallery walls, the proscenium arch, the coffered ceiling, the ceiling mural and the crystal chandelier will remain unchanged. There will be a new acoustical shell with specific design for the space.

A new escalator with an adjacent grand staircase along with two new elevators will be constructed in the south hall. The drop ceiling of Corbett Tower will be removed, adding 14 feet of height, revealing the original painted ceiling, as well as the Elm Street windows in their entirety. In addition to a more accessible interior box office, concessions areas, the gift shop and coat check will be relocated. Restroom facilities will be doubled.

Concerning the exterior, the bricked-up areas will be replaced with functional windows, the ramp and canopy will be removed, the façade will be restored and accent lighting as well as illumination of the rose window, will enhance Music Hall’s curb appeal.



Steve Leeper

New administrative offices, a larger music library, rehearsal hall, dressing rooms, practice rooms, scenery and paint shops and a new loading dock are in the reconstruction plans.

Schematic drawings are now in process. The current estimated cost is \$129 million (\$125 million in May). Total funding consists of the following: \$53MM in private donations; \$48MM tax credits; \$10MM City of Cincinnati; \$6.5MM ongoing City pledge; \$5MM State of Ohio. This leaves an unfunded balance of \$6.5MM which must be met by January for the process to continue. Stephen ended his talk on a note of appreciation to those in attendance. President Koenig thanked Mr. Leeper for his time, thanked the guests and members of SPMH and stated that “We will always be here for Music Hall.”

- Kathy Janson

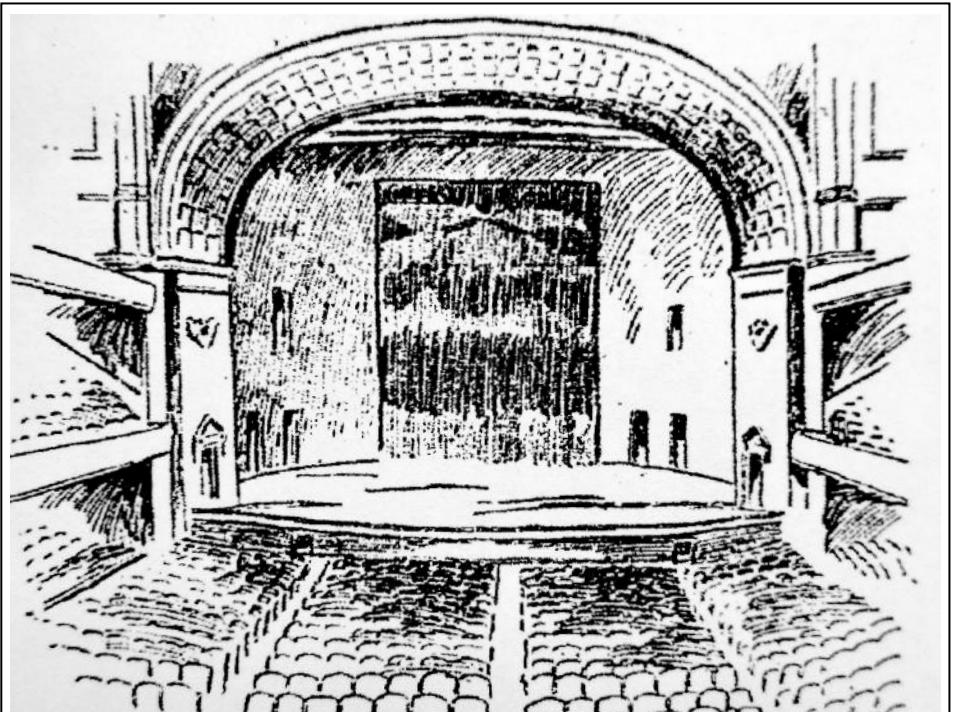
The New Music Hall

How easy it is to think that our lives are unique, that our experiences, trials and triumphs, both endured and enjoyed are somehow singular, exceptional! As you read the following paragraphs, taken from pages long yellowed by age, think of the reopening in 2017 and that we, as they, may exclaim with shared delight.

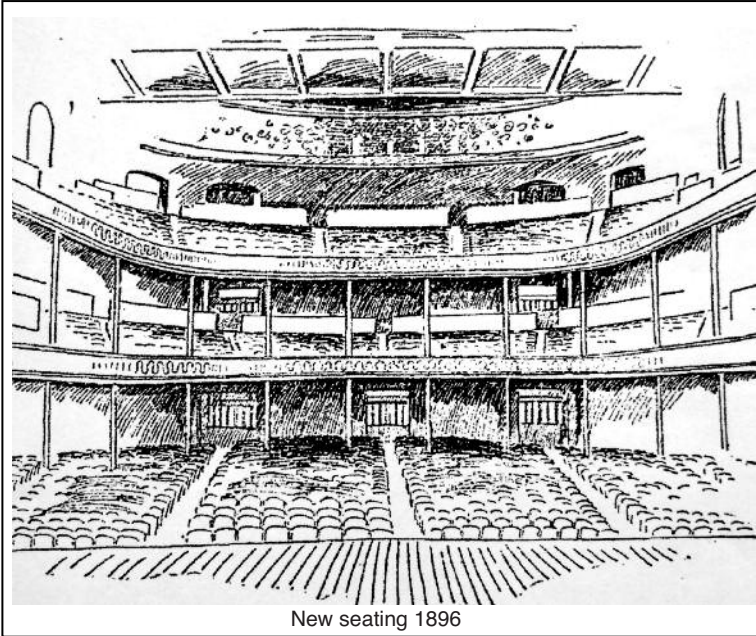
“The remodeled Music Hall was illuminated and thrown open for the inspection of the public last night. The touch of a fairy’s wand could not have transformed the structure more completely. The entire interior has been remodeled,

the old pitch-pine walls and ceiling being removed and beautifully decorated plastering, backed up by wire lath, erected in its place.

Three thousand electric lights have been put in, and from the center of the ceiling depends a magnificent chandelier containing one hundred electric lights. In each of the four corners of the ceiling there is a smaller chandelier containing 60 lights. Around the balcony and gallery there is a string of electric lights that has a wondrous effect, the lights being only six inches apart and making it appear like a continuous blaze of light. The new



New proscenium arch 1896



New seating 1896

chairs are composed of mahogany plush and are large and spacious. The ceiling has been lowered five feet and the auditorium floor sunk a similar distance. The stage, which at present is fitted up for the coming May Festival, has a width of 70 feet, and 45 feet above the stage a magnificent proscenium arch has been erected. The organ has been moved back 16 feet from the stage, and now occupies an entire room, the ceiling in the rear of the stage having been lowered for this purpose 20 feet. The hall has less seating capacity than before, there being seats now for only 3,300 people. The arrangement of the seats on the ground floor is excellent, all the aisles converging toward the center of the stage; in fact, there is not a poor seat in the hall. The dressing rooms have all been remodeled, and the large

rooms cut up into smaller dressing rooms. There are two handsome ticket offices, both finished in white marble, and one of the offices will be used for the sale of gallery tickets only.

A smaller proscenium arch is being erected, to

be used when opera is given at the hall, while special doors have been cut in the rear for the admission of scenery. The work of remodeling was begun last October, and the cost has been \$110,000 of which \$65,000 the Music Hall Association paid, and the balance was contributed by 10 gentlemen, who paid \$4,000 each. The work has been in charge of the Building Committee, composed of A. Howard Hinkle, H. Goepper and Henry C. Urner, whose interest in the work has been second nature to them. This city has reason to be proud of its beautiful home for music, as it has been pronounced one of the finest structures of its kind in the world."

(Cincinnati Enquirer May 15, 1896; Courtesy of ProQuest Historical Newspapers Hamilton County Public Library)

Memories of Music Hall

In 1980, I spotted an employment ad in the newspaper for a receptionist position for “someone with a background in the arts.” (I had a Theater Arts Degree) When I called and heard the operator answer “Music Hall,” I immediately knew I wanted that job. I never imagined that thirty five years later I would still be working for the Cincinnati Symphony and Pops in such a special venue.

As a teenager, I attended many concerts in Music Hall, though most were not the sort that Reuben Springer would have envisioned. From Paul Revere and the Raiders to Arlo Guthrie, I can still remember gazing at the chandelier and the beautiful ceiling, thinking how disrespectful it was that girls were jumping up and down on the seats, screaming in adulation over whatever teen idol happened to be on stage. In the late sixties, my best friend and I ordered fake press passes from a magazine. It actually worked when we managed to convince security that we were representing our school newspaper and slipped backstage after the Herman’s Hermits concert. We never sighted any of that group, however, we did bump into a few of the musicians from one of the opening acts.....a little known band at the



Judy Prinz

time called “The Who”. A police officer suspected we were frauds and promptly escorted us out of the building.

The upcoming renovation of Music Hall is very exciting, yet bittersweet for me. Memories come flooding back as I think about the people who have walked through these doors---musicians, singers, staff, volunteers and visitors who have played a part in its history. I don’t even know how to put into words how deeply I care about the Hall, because it’s not “just” a building to me. Coming inside is like coming home.

Though I’ve never encountered any of the ghosts, I still feel the presence of those who spent countless hours here.....not because they had to, but because they wanted to be here and took pride in it. People such as Roger Adams, Shirley Patton, Alice Poirier and Martha Wimpey, just to name a few. Yet I’m sure each of them would embrace the change.

As we embark on this great new adventure, what we leave behind is a part of ourselves. But change reminds us that anything is possible and I am eagerly anticipating the even more beautiful “new” Music Hall.

- Judy Prinz

The Society For
The Preservation
of Music Hall
presents

Happy Holidays

with the
MIGHTY WURLITZER



With Generous Support from Susan and Hap Castleberry



featuring:
theatre-organist
Jelani Eddington

Cincinnati Opera Young Artist
Tyler Alessi

with special guest
Cincinnati Ballet
Otto M. Budig Academy

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

- CincinnatiArts.org
- Arnoff Center / Music Hall Ticket office
- (513) 621 - Arts (2787)
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Thursday, December 10, 2015
10:30 AM & 7:00 PM, Cincinnati Music Hall Ballroom

To Purchase
Music Hall: Cincinnati Finds its Voice
on DVD or VHS call
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Happy Holidays' Stars



Jelani Eddington

Come for the Cheer, Come for the Merriment!! Organ fans from around the world have heard the powerful sounds of the Mighty Wurlitzer, either in its original home (the famed Albee Theatre), in the Emery Theatre or in the Music Hall Ballroom. The Ohio Valley Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society has gifted the Instrument to SPMH. Now that the transfer of ownership is complete, come for the celebration! The SPMH Wurlitzer promises to all a 'Mighty Good Time' and 'to All a Good Night!!!!'

Artists who will dazzle you with their talents are Jelani Eddington, Tyler Alessi and the Cincinnati Bal-

let Otto M. Budig Academy.

Jelani Eddington is one of the most prominent and sought-after artists on the concert circuit. He has performed nationally as well as internationally and in 2001 was named Theatre Organist of the Year. He remains the youngest-ever recipient of this prestigious honor. Born in Muncie, Indiana, Jelani began piano instruction at the age of four. At the age of eight, he was introduced to the sounds of the Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ installed in an Indianapolis restaurant, the Paramount Music Palace. Shortly thereafter, he began classical theatre organ lessons. By the age of 13, Jelani won the American

Theatre Organ Society's Young Theatre Organist Competition, competing against students from the United States, England, Australia and New Zealand. He remains the youngest competitor ever to win this title. Jelani graduated Magna Cum Laude from Indiana University in 1996 and received a Juris Doctor degree from the Yale School of Law in 1999, after which time he practiced law in New York State. His extensive performance engagements have taken him throughout the world. Jelani has also distinguished himself as a concert pianist. He has produced over 30 theatre organ albums on some of the most dynamic instruments in the country. Jelani is no stranger to the SPMH Mighty Wurlitzer Concert series, having delighted crowds with outstanding performances on previous occasions.

Tyler Alessi is a second year Doctoral student in Voice Performance at the University of Cincinnati's College Conservatory of Music. While attending CCM, he has performed as jailor in Poulenc's *Dialogues of the Carmelites*; Escamillo in Bizet's *Le Tragedie de Carmen*; and Aaron in

Ricky Ian Gordon's *Morning Star*. Outside of CCM Tyler has performed many small roles for Cincinnati Opera including Guccio in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*; 2nd priest in Mozart's *The Magic Flute*; the Captain in Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*; and Marullo in Verdi's *Rigoletto*. He was a member of Cincinnati Opera's 2010-2011 Young Artist Program. Tyler earned a bachelor degree in Vocal Performance from California State University of Long Beach and his Masters of Music from the University of Cincinnati's College Conservatory Of Music.

Cincinnati Ballet Otto M. Budig Academy was founded in 1997 and has built a reputation as one of the finest programs in the nation. Taught by nationally and internationally recognized faculty, Cincinnati Ballet Academy offers a comprehensive dance education through three programs: Children's Division, Main Division and Adult Division as well as five different summer programs. The primary goal at Cincinnati Ballet Academy is to provide excellence in technical and artistic training and to inspire a love of dance.



To learn more about MUSIC HALL,
Past, Present and Future

Visit the SPMH Website

www.spmhcincinnati.org

Meet New Board Member Thea Tjepkema

SPMH has a tradition of attracting talented members of our community to serve as Directors. It is with pleasure that the newest member of the Board is introduced.

Thea Tjepkema brings a wealth of experience in the areas of preservation, education, public relations, management and administration. She earned a B.F.A. in Historic Preservation, (cum laude 1990) from Savannah College of Art and Design. In 1996 she earned a Master of Arts Administration degree from the University of Akron. Thea has held numerous professional positions including the following: preservationist at Lyndhurst Estate, National Trust Historic Site in New York; landmark



Thea Tjepkema

secretary's aid at the Landmarks Commission of San Francisco; educational programs instructor for both the Wayne-Gordon House Museum and the National Girl Scout Center in Savannah; docent at the Art Museum of Santa Cruz; museum technician at Yosemite National Park Museum; education coordinator at the William Howard Taft National Historic Site, Cincinnati; director of galleries at the Savannah College of Art and Design; and gallery manager of Wolf Gallery, Cincinnati.

Thea resides in Hyde Park with her husband, John Morris Russell (Conductor of the Cincinnati Pops), and their children Jack Russell (15) and Alma Russell (13).

Love Music Hall?

Interested in history, architecture? Take a Tour!
Seeking a rewarding volunteer experience? Become a
Music Hall Tour Guide and share your enthusiasm!
For volunteering information or, to schedule a tour contact:

Ramona Toussaint: 513-744-3293
MusicHallTour@SPMHcincinnati.org

Can You Top This?

The art of skating, especially in the form of 'Roller Derby', has had a resurgence in Cincinnati. In 1910 Music Hall was proud of its new 'Roller Rink' as indicated in the following *Cincinnati Enquirer* article dated Dec. 4th, "Music Hall Rink".

The new Music Hall Rink announces the engagement of Professor H. A. Simmons, one of the greatest of all skaters, who will

give exhibitions of his skill all this week. His act is unique in that he performs on stilts and transforms himself into a human top. He comes heralded as the skating wonder of the world, and the Cincinnati skaters will throng the new rink to see him perform. Industrial nights at the new rink this week will be Wednesday and Thursday night.

(Source: *ProQuest Historical Newspapers*)

Corbett Tower The College of Music

In August of 1878 a letter was sent to Mr. Theodore Thomas of New York by managers of the Music Hall Association, with the request that he accept the Music Directorship of the proposed College of Music. The August 16, 1878 issue of the *Cincinnati Enquirer* reported the following: "...It is proposed to establish an institution for musical education, upon the scale of the most important of those of a similar character in Europe... We have the new Music Hall, where the College will be held and the great organ offers decided attractions. In this invitation we recognize your special fitness for a trust so important." On August 20th, Mr. Thomas replied to Reuben Springer, Joseph Longworth, John Shillito and others "I acknowledge

with satisfaction the receipt of your note of the 10th ...I accept your invitation." The Stockholders of the College of Music met, a Board of Directors was elected and George Ward Nichols was chosen President with Treasurer, Rudolph Neff and Secretary, Jacob Burnet. Founded on October 14, 1878 the College of Music opened in Music Hall's Dexter Hall (now Corbett Tower). The room, named in honor of Julius Dexter, chairman of the Music Hall building committee, was 112 feet long, 46 feet wide and 30 feet high (*King's Pocket Book of Cincinnati* 1879). The College of Music soon outgrew its space and in 1881 an adjacent building, the Odeon, with a covered bridge to Music Hall, was erected.

Thank You Members!

“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.”

– John F. Kennedy

Together by our words best expressed in our deeds, we shall always be here for Music Hall. At this time of celebration may you all be blessed, as you have blessed Music Hall with your support, interest and love.

- Thank you, Members!

2014 - 2015 SPMH Members

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About the Cover



Looking up at the great building, looking down at me—struck by its immensity, yes, but also by its warmth, its constant hospitality—and I take my photo. The ‘photos’ in memories of those passing by and those who invested their time in enjoyments or work endeavors, are likely as numerous as the stars in the sky. Doors opened in 1878 with enormous anticipation and pride in Cincinnati’s Music Hall. The man of the day was Reuben Springer and what would he think about the coming renovation? – a puzzle.



Music Hall Marks cover

Oh, there have been ‘revitalizations’ in the past, certainly. In 1896, the Hall was changed dramatically—proscenium arches, new seating, scaling down of the Great Organ screen; 1913’s new coat of paint and permanent box seats. In the early 1920s fire issues and safety were of grave concern, and politicians demanded

that the north and south wings be razed—yet they ‘stood tall’. Patricia and Ralph Corbett took it upon themselves to begin a new day for Music Hall, one of modernization in the late 1960s.

All the while, a revived Music Hall survived and thrived. And the people passed by, some with major concerns and others without a thought, and the people moved on.

One of the guest speakers for the SPMH 2014 Annual Meeting was Murray Sinclair, Jr., then Chair of the Cultural Facilities Task Force. At

the time, inclusion of Music Hall on the November Tax Ballot had been denied by the County Commissioners. Mr. Sinclair said “we have a hill to climb and the hope is that by your next Annual Meeting there will be a definitive plan.” President Don Siekmann said “this is a puzzle we are trying to put together and there are many missing pieces.”

Fast forward to 2015—the goal of \$129 M has nearly been met. A design team and other experts have been selected and drawings are in process. The Hall will ‘go dark’ in June 2016. But little of what is to come has been revealed to the public. It is a puzzle. When one interjects personal experience, questions abound. How will a downsized Springer Auditorium be viewed? Will the sense of awe be enhanced or will an ‘old friend’ be lost in the sweeping of construction debris? How will treasured memories coalesce with new realities? This is a puzzle.

I think about Cincinnati buildings demolished with the 70’s wave of modernization and I cringe. A few, I saw as a child and I anticipated entering the doors someday. So much of Cincinnati’s ‘Gold’ gone. One can research for hours the magnificent architecture lost. So, why does Music Hall, this 1878 behemoth still stand? This is a puzzle. And perhaps while pondering the puzzles (or not) collectively we declare that Music Hall will stand as a statement of who WE were, who WE are, and who WE will become.

- Kathy Janson

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