

Oct 9 & 14, 2016 – Worcester Memorial Auditorium Extravaganza

- Great Hall Concerts: *The Mighty Kimball Pipe Organ —first Silent Film (with organ) ever at the AUD!*
- Memorial Hall—Chamber Music Concerts:
The Finest Concert Acoustics in Worcester (7 sec. reverb.) – the first concerts ever in this space!

Schedule of Events – Largest of the Year at AUD www.WorcAUD.com

Oct 9 Sunday

- *Memorial Hall:*
3PM Seele Musicale Chamber Ensemble, Alesia Tringale, soprano – *acclaimed performances*
Memorial Hall Tour (Preservation Worcester)
- 3:30 – Kimball Organ demo (WorcAGO) and Great Hall tour (Preservation Worcester)
- **4PM William Ness in Concert** – *dazzling technique grips audiences with awe*
(Wagner Meistersingers, Vierne Symphony, Patriotic Masterpieces, Shostakovich Symphony)
- *Memorial Hall:*
5:30PM St John’s Schola Cantorum vocal ensemble – *one of Worcester’s finest professional choirs*
6PM Coriolis Chamber Players – *a fresh approach to chamber works*
Memorial Hall Tours (Preservation Worcester)
- 6:20 –Great Hall docent introduction (Preservation Worcester)
- **6:30 PM Silent Film– Wings Over Worcester** (WINGS-full-length 2-hour Academy-award-winning film)
acqpd by Peter Krasinski, *international improvisation competition winner & silent film meister*
introduced with Veterans HonorGuard

Oct 14 Friday

- *Memorial Hall:*
6PM String Quartet Concert – *hear the mesmerizing warm sounds of this fine group*
Memorial Hall Tours
- 6:30 – Kimball Organ demo and Great Hall tour
- **7PM International Organist Peter Richard Conte** introduced with Veterans HonorGuard
- *organist titulaire of one of the most famous and largest pipe organs in the world: Wanamakers*

Brainstorming Hooks/Headlines:

- Fanfares to Replace *The Sounds of Silence* at the AUD
- The Re-invigoration of a Worcester Jewel
- Hand-Crafted Live Music Returns to AUD - First concerts since 1990s
- Piping Hot! Organists Pull Out All The Stops at the AUD

➔ Continue next page for background materials ***

WORCESTER, THE CITY OF ORGANS

by Leonardo Ciampa

September 2, 2016

PIPE ORGAN CAPITAL OF NEW ENGLAND

The city with the richest array of pipe organs in the Northeast is not Boston. It is Worcester, Massachusetts. Worcester boasts over 25 large and powerful organs, and innumerable smaller instruments, to say nothing of the organs in neighboring communities.

HOW PIPE ORGANS EVOLVED

Centuries before the invention of the synthesizer, the organ produced sounds imitating trumpets, oboes, clarinets, flutes, and even string instruments. In fact, until the invention of early computers, the pipe organ was the most complex machine in the world. Even today, with its thousands of pipes ranging in size from 32 feet high to smaller than a pencil, the organ inspires awe, with sounds that are not only heard, but felt.

That the pipe organ is, in many people's minds, inextricably linked to the church is something of a curiosity. In antiquity, the organ was considered an utterly pagan instrument, beloved by the Ancient Romans – who, it is rumored, played organs in amphitheatres while Christians were being consumed by lions! It is no wonder, then, that when the organ was introduced into the church in the Medieval times, Christians were aghast. (Whatever objection people had to electric guitars in church, the objection to organs was far stronger!)

Fortunately, organs in non-religious auditoriums are enjoying a renaissance. In the past 25 years, numerous gigantic instruments have been built in important concert halls across the US, such as Meyerson Hall in Dallas, Walt Disney Hall in Los Angeles, the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia, and the Kennedy Center in Washington.

SUPERLATIVES AT THE AUD

Worcester is the home of not one but two huge concert hall instruments: the world-renowned 1864 Hook organ in Mechanics Hall, and the even larger Kimball organ in the Auditorium.

- **Our Kimball is the only unaltered major municipal organ in the US**
- **Our Kimball is the second largest instrument in Worcester.**
- **The organ, like the building, is a time capsule of the 1930s aesthetics.**
- **The October events contain two Firsts:**
 - **First Silent Film at the AUD ever (with organ accompaniment)**
 - **First time chamber music concerts are held in the Memorial Hall (mosaic gallery)**

The Art-Deco Worcester AUD, built to honor and remember those served in WWI, has served for generations as a multi-purpose municipal auditorium and center for community events—serving admirably until the 1990s when the facility went dark. Renewed interest by the community and especially arts groups has raised hopes that the AUD can once again become a vibrant venue.

QUALITY NOT FORGOTTEN

The AUD's Kimball organ, though neglected for years, fortunately has *not* gone to ruin. Partly because **it was neglected**, it has survived—no one cared enough about it to bother trying to alter or "improve" it. It has survived, too, because it was beautifully made. It represents a style of organbuilding, and manifests a high quality of construction, that we are *not likely ever to see again*. It is our great good fortune that it is intact.

Although not owning the instrument, the Worcester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is leading the charge to showcase the Kimball for the community to hear once again the grandeur of our mighty King of Instruments, just as audiences heard it during the Great Depression.

Unplug your earbuds and come to hear great live music!

Additional Reference Links:

[2016 Organ Festival Performer Details & Concert Program Notes](#)

[AUD History](#) [History from 1933 Dedication](#) [Timeline](#) (color coded) [Press Articles](#)
[AUD Kimball Pipe Organ Repository of Information](#) (multiple pages; espec see [Fun Facts](#))