

On Friday, June 2, friends and supporters of Youth pro Musica were treated to a magnificent organ recital given by YpM's Artistic Director, Peter Krasinski. This event, sponsored by the YpM Board to raise funds for the annual operating budget, was held in the beautiful Marsh Chapel at Boston University. The program Peter chose to play delighted audiences of all ages, and was an especially wonderful introduction to the organ for young people. Since the second part of the program was an improvised accompaniment to a silent movie, Peter took advantage of the video equipment in the opening selections and had a full-profile image of himself at the console relayed to the enormous movie screen set up at the front of the chapel. This gave the audience a rare behind-the-scenes view of the athletic virtuosity required of an organist. We had a perfect view of Peter, fingers flying, feet dancing, as he created tremendous music from the organ's four keyboards (three manuals plus pedals) and numerous stops. The three selections (Bach's Toccata in C, and Peter's own transcriptions of the *Poet and Peasant Overture* by Franz von Suppé, and Leroy Anderson's *Bugler's Holiday*) demonstrated both the scope of BU's organ and the imagination and artistry of the performer.

This inspiring introduction was followed by a real treat: Peter's brilliant improvisation to the hour-long silent comedy "Ella Cinders". The audience was swept away in a whirlwind of sound that so perfectly complemented the actions on the screen, it became blended with the film in our consciousness and there was nothing left but to enjoy the movie. Peter's music changed on a dime to reflect or anticipate changes of scenery, mood, and meaning. Popular tunes surfaced now and then, sometimes disguised or altered, or combined with others; always clever complements to the action at hand. The film abounded with special effects and ridiculous characters and situations, all of which were ingeniously enhanced by the organ. Peter conjured up a ferocious lion, an old steam engine train, pompous statesmen, a house fire, a persistent fly, shrill abusive stepsisters, a whole tribe of Indians, the bustle of Hollywood, and much more. A particularly funny moment was when Ella Cinders is late for the train to Hollywood, and all the dignitaries of her little town are at the station to see her off. As soon as she arrives, the mayor launches into his long prepared speech – we heard his officious droning alternating with the sounds of the train preparing to leave, and Ella's growing anxiety over missing it altogether.

This concert was a wonderful gift from Peter to Youth pro Musica, and especially to those YpM members who were in attendance. It not only helped in raising much-needed funds, but provided a unique and fun eye- and ear-opening introduction to the organ. The concert was preceded by a benefit dinner at the nearby Elephant Walk, where attendees were treated to a delicious meal and lively conversation with Lloyd Schwartz, Pulitzer prize-winning classical music critic for the Boston Phoenix and NPR's *Fresh Air*. The Board would like to thank Peter for the generous donation of his time and talents; Executive Director Lee Ann Donner for her hard work in helping to organize this concert and the dinner; the Spackman family for coordinating a wonderful post-concert reception; and especially all who attended for their support of Youth pro Musica.