

Mechanics Hall

Where Community and Culture Meet

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Mechanics Hall aims for the stars with “Out of this World,” a spaced-themed musical experience

Free multi-media organ concert takes place on Wednesday, April 12 at 12 noon

Worcester, MA — March 29, 2023 —Mechanics Hall blasts off and aims for the stars with a space-themed organ concert on Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 12 noon. This imaginative, multi-media program, titled “Out of this World,” will be performed on the celebrated Worcester “Hook” organ by Mechanics Hall’s principal organist, Peter Edwin Krasinski, an internationally-renowned specialist in live, improvised silent music accompaniment. Open to the public, this free concert is presented by Mechanics Hall and the Worcester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Mr. Krasinski’s hour-long performance will feature creative improvised organ accompaniment to a variety of projected images and videos of outer space. These will [include NASA rocket launches and Earth fly-over videos](#) produced by Dan Barstow, retired Senior Education Manager of the [International Space Station National Laboratory](#), as well as excerpts from vintage television productions, such as *Star Trek*, *Lost in Space*, *Twilight Zone*; music by John Williams written for the legendary *Star Wars* film series; the landmark French film, *Trip to the Moon*; and more. The concert is Mr. Krasinski’s first since he was appointed Mechanics Hall principal organist in September 2022.

“We are delighted to present Peter Krasinski’s first concert as our Principal Organist. His imaginative performance, blending the mystery and fantasy of space with the unforgettable sounds of the Worcester Organ, will certainly send the audience ‘over the moon!’” said Kathleen Gagne, Executive Director of Mechanics Hall.

“Out of this World” will be held at Mechanics Hall, 321 Main Street, Worcester. Doors open at 11:30am. Cabaret-style seating in the Great Hall is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Attendees are invited to



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bring their own “brown bag” lunch. Limited concessions are available for purchase. For more information, visit mechanicshall.org or call 508-752-5608.

The accessible entrance to Mechanics Hall is located on Waldo Street. Elevators are available in the ground-floor Waldo lobby and provide access to the second and third floors. There is no elevator access to the balcony. All concerts take place in the Great Hall on the third level. Those who need assistance can contact the Mechanics Hall Ticket Office, Monday through Friday from 9:30am to 4:30pm, by calling 508-752-5608.

About Peter Edwin Krasinski

Peter Edwin Krasinski has been Principal Organist of Mechanics Hall since September 2022. A conductor, organist, and music educator, he is known for his imaginative performances that elevate and inform diverse audiences. Mr. Krasinski’s Bach playing has been hailed in the press as “sublimely spiritual,” and his improvisations have been called “stunning” and “seamless.” Along with regular concert appearances Mr. Krasinski specializes worldwide in live, improvised silent film accompaniment. He has premiered the art in major venues in North America, Europe, and Asia and has received a number of prizes for his performances, including the First Prize in Improvisation from the American Guild of Organists National Competition.

Well respected in both the secular and sacred genres of his field, Mr. Krasinski has taught music at both public and private institutions in the greater Boston area and is broadly recognized as a motivating consultant for the pipe organ community. A past dean of the Boston Chapter of the American Guild of Organists (AGO), he currently also serves as the house organist for the Providence Performing Arts Center. In addition, he is organist at First Church of Christ, Scientist in Providence RI, and accompanist at Beth El Temple Center in Belmont, MA. Recently, he presented Master Classes at the Sibelius Academy, Helsinki, Finland.

Mr. Krasinski holds both a Bachelor of Music Degree in Music Education and Organ Performance and the Master of Sacred Music Degree from Boston University. [Learn more about Peter Edwin Krasinski.](#)

About The Worcester “Hook” Organ

The Worcester Organ was installed at Mechanics Hall in 1864. The 52-stop, 3,504-pipe instrument was constructed by American organ builders Elias and George Hook, brothers from Boston, and thus also referred to the E. & G.G. Hook Opus 224, or simply the "Hook Organ." Today, it is the oldest unaltered four-keyboard pipe organ in the Western Hemisphere located at its installation site.



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Since its restoration in 1982, the Worcester Organ has become one of the most popular and respected organs in the United States. It has been featured numerous times on National Public Radio, performed in several recordings, and has been featured on television and in a major motion picture, as well as in a music video starring Michael Crawford, the original "Phantom of the Opera."

The Worcester Organ is used frequently for wedding ceremonies, graduations, and awards events, as well as for the Worcester Organ Concert Series, produced by the Hall in collaboration with the Worcester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists (AGO). Learn more at hookorgan.org.

About Mechanics Hall

Built in 1857 by WCMA, Mechanics Hall is internationally regarded as one of the world's great concert halls for its superb acoustics and 19th-century elegance. Regionally, it is widely considered to be Worcester's finest meeting place. The world's most renowned orchestras and performers—from the London Philharmonic to Yo-Yo Ma and Ella Fitzgerald to Linda Rondstat—have taken the Hall's stage. Among the many luminaries who have spoken at Mechanics Hall are Charles Dickens, Susan B. Anthony, Frederick Douglass, and Mark Twain. In addition to serving as a premiere venue and recording site, Mechanics Hall offers inspiring cultural experiences for diverse audiences through a variety of creative initiatives—including free concerts, community events, a youth chorus, and collaborative programs with local colleges and non-profit organizations. A non-profit organization, Mechanics Hall is owned and operated by the Worcester County Mechanics Association (est. 1842). It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. [Learn more at mechanicshall.org](http://mechanicshall.org).

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