

# Pipelines

## Bouches et anches



### President's Message

DONALD RUSSELL

## Touch: Some Thoughts

We all have to touch the organ keys if we want to play. There is a lot of complexity in the mechanics of muscle use and keyboard design that contribute to successful interaction with the instrument.

A lot of the instruction given on touch in musical performance is expressed in terms of metaphor. "Make your hand like a spider" or "shape your hand like you are holding a ball" are phrases I have heard from many teachers and read in many pedagogical resources. Phrases like these are not meant literally but are an attempt to elicit the "correct" touch. If one metaphor does not work there are many others that may. Leading a student to a refined and controlled touch often involves navigating these vague or ambiguous waters.

The complexity of the hand's biomechanics and the mechanics of the instrument mean that a thorough engineering or scientific description of the situation is well beyond our current understanding so we are constrained to using this metaphorical approach in describing how we do what we do.

The most interesting phrase that has been used by a previous teacher of mine that has a positive effect on my playing is that I should make my "finger tips more present on the keys." As an engineering professor, I have no idea what that means, but for me as a musician, it makes a big difference.

The brain is an amazingly complex organ. One interesting aspect of the brain

is that several regions are organized as representations of the body - they are called *homunculus*. They are hard to describe in words but if you search online for "brain homunculus" you will find plenty of diagrams.



Some brain research suggests that high-level athletes develop representations of the tools of their sports in the brain. This concept has been referred to by a number of terms including *extended physiological proprioception*. So, for example, over time, the brain of a tennis player begins to have a representation of the tennis racquet in addition to the athlete's body. From the point of view of the brain, they actually do become "one with the racquet"; the tennis player does "know" the location of the end of the racquet without looking. This concept also applies to amputees using prosthetic limbs.

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I think that by focusing on the "presence" of our fingertips on the keys we are making use of this idea. Over years (decades...?) of practice the brain begins to have a representation of the instrument we are playing. This is perhaps more understandable when the instrument is small like a clarinet and a little more difficult to conceive of for an organ that may be three stories tall. We go from having to reason that "*middle C is a third away and that I should use the fourth finger*" to simply "*playing middle C*". Focusing on the presence of the fingers on the keys during practice may serve to change the way we are learning based on more physical awareness of what is happening.

What we do as organists is extremely complex, combining visual processing

(sight-reading choral open score) with physical dexterity (distributing the parts, that may have crossed, between two hands and two feet) at a steady pace and then adding in expression and emotional sensitivity. While we are beginning to understand how the brain might manage some of this, it seems to me that for the foreseeable future and perhaps for a very long time, we will continue to describe what we do in terms of metaphor.



**... at our Annual  
General Meeting  
on Monday  
June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
at  
St. Paul's  
Presbyterian Church.  
(971 Woodroffe Ave.)**

**Reception at 7:00 p.m.  
with meeting to follow at 7:30 p.m.**

This is your Centre. Our executive values your feedback. Come out and voice your opinions and ideas on what you'd like to have your Centre do.

The Annual General Meeting of the Ottawa Centre is our opportunity to conduct the necessary business of the College, but also to celebrate the year past and look forward to the coming year. We will honour Bob Jones as our "Member of the Year" and will also hear the latest on our upcoming "Orgelfest" convention this summer.

All members are encouraged to attend and participate in decision-making of your Centre and to hear reports of the various convenors and National Council representatives.

There is plenty of parking and the room is air-conditioned.



**On** Friday April 11, 2014, the Organ Classes for the Kiwanis Music Festival were held in St. Luke's Anglican Church. Four candidates played in two classes each (a Bach class, and a General class). The four candidates (shown left to right) were:

Samuel Lee, studying with Karen Holmes  
Ian Guenette, studying with Jennifer Loveless  
Nicholas Walters, studying with Jennifer Loveless  
Emma Drinnan, studying with Frances Macdonnell

The adjudicator (at right) was Aurora Dokken, President of the Kingston RCCO Centre, who was highly complimentary of our talented young Ottawa students. Emma, Ian, and Samuel are all Ottawa Centre members.

Thank you to the members who came to support the young students, and especially to Robert Jones, Director of Music at St. Luke's Anglican Church, who coordinated the practice times for the students and arranged to make the church available for this opportunity.



## Around Town

### Tuesdays in May, 2014, 12:15 p.m.

Organs Tuesdays at St. Andrew's Church (Kent at Wellington). Freewill offering.

May 6 Thomas Annand

May 13 Thomas Annand

May 20 Gordon Johnston

May 27 Shawn Potter

### Wednesdays in May, 2014, 12:15 p.m.

First Baptist Church will be presenting a series of noon-hour organ recitals this May. Take time to enjoy fine music making in the beautiful sanctuary of this historic building. Artists will include:

Robert Jones - Ottawa, ON

Shawn Potter - Ottawa, ON

Sondra Goldsmith Proctor - Canton, NY

Helen Tucker - Montreal, QC

First Baptist Church Church, 140 Laurier Ave West. Admission by donation. <http://www.firstbaptistottawa.ca>

### Thursdays in May, 2014, 12:15 p.m.

Noonday Organ Recitals at Church of Christ, Scientist (Metcalfe at Gilmour)

May 8th Mervyn Games (Church of Christ, Scientist) with Joanne Thomas (soprano)

May 15th Kirk Adsett (St Matthew's Anglican Church)

May 22nd Wesley Warren (St Barnabas' Anglican Church)

Freewill offering

### Sunday, May 11, 2014, 7:30 p.m.

Stephanie Piercy Beames concert has been CANCELLED by the artist.

### Sunday, May 25, 2014, 7:30 p.m.

The Choir of St. Luke's Church. The Choir of St. Luke's presents a mix of sacred and secular music to conclude the 2013-14 series. St. Luke's Church, 760 Somerset Street West (3 blocks west of Bronson). Admission by donation.

## PRO ORGANO OTTAWA

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### Pro Organo season tickets

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[www.rcco-ottawa.ca](http://www.rcco-ottawa.ca)

beginning May 6<sup>th</sup>



## A Note from the Treasurer

**B**y now you will have received your membership renewal statements from National Office. There is no increase of fee this year. The College year ends

on June 1<sup>st</sup> and fees are due by May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014. If your membership category is incorrect on the statement, please correct it and enclose the total fee shown below.

Category	HQ Portion	Centre Portion	Total Fee
Adult	\$ 110	\$ 24	\$ 134
Institution	\$ 110	\$ 24	\$ 134
Joint	\$ 144	\$ 26	\$ 170
Student*	\$ 56	\$ 17	\$ 73
Senior	\$ 91	\$ 17	\$ 108
Joint Senior**	\$ 132	\$ 19	\$ 151

### Centre Portion

\*

Student rates apply for anyone under 21 or FULL time student. Please send in proof of eligibility with your fee. A photocopy of your student ID will do.

\*\*

Joint senior rate applies if at least one of the joint members is over 65.

Non-member subscription to *Pipelines* is \$25 for 10 issues.

Note that you may now renew your membership on line at [www.rcco.ca](http://www.rcco.ca).

The Ottawa Centre is a registered charity. Income tax receipts will be given for all donations. If you would like to make a donation to one of our Centre funds, **you may now do so on our website directly** or by downloading a donation form. Please specify on the form which fund you would like to donate to. A list and description of the scholarship funds can be found on our website at

<http://www.rcco-ottawa.ca/schol.html>

**You may now purchase Pro Organo season tickets on line** as well as make donations to the Pro Organo programme. Your financial support is most welcome as it is the generous donations of our patrons that help us to provide these wonderful concerts. It would be marvelous if more members would take advantage of these wonderful concerts and become a patron

of Pro Organo. See the bottom of our web page for more details.

To avoid missing any publications, please renew promptly. It also saves us much time and money if all renewals are in by the due date, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014.

Have a wonderful summer.

Ross Jewell  
Treasurer



## John Grew Concert Review

ROBERT JONES

**O**n Friday, March 28, after a 5-year hiatus because of damage to the church building, Pro Organo returned to St. Anne's Church in Lowertown for an organ recital presented by John Grew, Professor Emeritus at McGill University. A good crowd of 130 was treated to a fine recital that showed off Casavant's Opus 701, installed in the church in 1914.

For the first half of the programme, Professor Grew chose repertoire with liturgical ties, beginning with Nicolas de Grigny's *Hymne 'Pange Lingua'*. I couldn't think of a more appropriate way to begin this concert. This church is now home to St. Clement's Parish, a congregation that offers mass and the administration of the sacraments in the traditional Latin form of the Roman Rite according to the liturgical norms of 1962.

Drawing on this, we were treated to two cantors who chanted the hymn before the opening movement (*en taille*). This instrument is well suited to this repertoire, and the Pédale Trompette 8' clearly gave us the melody in augmentation. The 5-voice fugue featured the Positif's clarinette against the Récit's cornet. The last movement treated the melody in an ornamented way, again heard on the Récit's cornet.

Continuing in the French baroque, two movements from François Couperin's *Messe des Paroisses* included the grand *Offertoire sur les Grands jeux* and the *Benedictus*. Prof. Grew created just

enough lilt in the dotted rhythm section at the end of the *Offertoire* to give it that uplifting feeling. The *Benedictus*, more lyrical, featured the Positif's clarinette for the melody.

J. S. Bach's setting of *An Wasserflüssen Babylon* (from the 18 Leipzig Chorales) is a very picturesque paraphrase of Psalm 137 (By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept). Here John Grew used the oboe for the ornamented melody and lyrical phrasing to capture the mood.



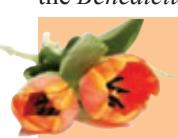
Bach's admiration for Vivaldi and the Italian style led to several transcriptions of instrumental concertos for solo organ including the *Concerto in D Minor*, after Vivaldi's *Concerto Grosso in D Minor Op. 3, No. II*. The opening movement with its hammer-like pedal part where the tonic

note is repeated steadily creates tension and Prof. Grew drew on this to maximum effect. A longer than normal break after the fugue brought us to the Largo. The lyrical phrasing that Prof. Grew used made the dialogue even more special. The final movement, beginning with repeated eighth notes like the first movement, was very convincingly played with good articulation.

The second half began with Healey Willan's *Passacaglia and Fugue No. 2 in E Minor*, written for Sir William McKie of Westminster Abbey in 1959. It begins with a slow (and brief) introduction, and I was favorably struck with the sensitive registration he used to highlight the rubato at the end of the introduction. The passacaglia contains a theme plus twelve variations.

The excitement and tempos increases steadily throughout the first 10 variations before a sudden relaxation in volume and tempo with the last variation in the tonic major key. The hesitation of the pistons to their job in a timely fashion resulted in slight pauses between several of the variations which was very unfortunate.

It was also announced at the concert that a new blower was needed for the organ and fund-raising had begun. The last chord of the fugue, using all the resources of the organ, was proof that a new blower is necessary!



## Nominating Committee

**M**oira Hayes will be accepting nominations for the slate of candidates which, in accordance with our rules, must be presented at our AGM in June. Please contact Moira if you wish to stand as a candidate for any position, or if you wish to help out with the Nominations List. Moira may be reached by email at [hayes2198@yahoo.ca](mailto:hayes2198@yahoo.ca) or by telephone at 613-422-8091.

The following positions are open to nomination:

### Centre Executive Positions:

- Vice President (vacant)
- Treasurer
- Secretary

### Convenors of Committees Positions:

- Education
- Pro Organo
- Professional Support

- Social
- Publicity
- Programme
- Student Concerns
- Archivist
- Membership & Telephone
- four National Councilors (one of which is the Centre President).

The list of candidates to be tabled at the AGM will be published in next month's issue of *Pipelines*.

# OTTAWA CENTRE EXECUTIVE

2013-2014

## OTTAWA CENTRE EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT	DONALD RUSSELL	613-738-9223
VICE-PRESIDENT	(VACANT)	
PAST PRESIDENT	MOIRA HAYES	613-422-8091
SECRETARY	SHAWN POTTER	613-298-2235
TREASURER	ROSS JEWELL	613-741-5467
CHAPLAIN	REV DR. MERVIN SAUNDERS	613-823-3141

## NATIONAL COUNCILLORS

DONALD RUSSELL	613-738-9223
FRANCES MACDONNELL	613-726-7984
DONALD MARJERRISON	613-724-3793
MOIRA HAYES	613-422-8091

## CONVENORS OF COMMITTEES

NEWSLETTER EDITORS	RICK & SUZANNE ST. GERMAIN
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**NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING:**  
**SUNDAY, MAY 25<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 PM,**  
ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



## Supply List

Amy Andonian	613 224-8117	Sundays, weddings, funerals
Nadia Behmann	613-723-8601	nadia@behmann.ca Weddings and Funerals.
Elizabeth Brown	613-608-1210	lizbrown2007@hotmail.com Weddings, funerals, Sunday services, any denomination
Mai-Yu Chan	613-726-0818	fosterg@rogers.com
Frances Macdonnell	613-726-7984	fbmacdonnell@smpatico.ca
Daniel Morel	613 228-8331	danmorel@rogers.com Sunday services, weddings, funerals.
Barbara Neeve	613-722-0939	barbaran48@gmail.com
Simon Pinsonneault	613 299-1886	simon.pinsonneault@tc.gc.ca
Gavan Quinn	613-792-1492	gavanquinn@gmail.com, Weddings, funerals
Donald Russell	613-738-9223	russell.kimberwick@me.com
Wesley R. Warren	613 726-6341	Weddings and Funerals

*Please note: Supply list can also be found on the RCCO Ottawa web site at <http://www.rcco-ottawa.ca>. Anyone interested in adding their names to the Supply List, please contact Suzanne St-Germain at 613-841-0246 or via email at [newsletter@rcco-ottawa.ca](mailto:newsletter@rcco-ottawa.ca)*



## Organ Teachers List

**D. Mervyn Games**, B.Mus., FRCO, ARCM. Students in piano, organ, and theory at all levels. Info: [mervyn.games@gmail.com](mailto:mervyn.games@gmail.com) or 613-729-2515.

**Robert P. Jones**, M.Mus., ARCCO (ChM). All levels of students (teenager or adult). Lessons at St. Luke's Church (760 Somerset Street W.) Info:[pentland@hotmail.com](mailto:pentland@hotmail.com)

**Heather Rice**, ARCT, BMus, ARCCO (ChM). Welcomes students in piano, organ, voice and theory, Beginner - Intermediate, Children - Adult. Call 613-563-1409

**Wesley R. Warren**, M.Mus., FRCO, (ChM), ARCT. Beginning to advanced organ students, piano and theory. St. Barnabas Anglican Church, (Kent St. at James), Ottawa. Info: 613-726-6341



**Next Deadline**



## Our Advertisers

### Knox Presbyterian Church in Ottawa, Ontario

seeks one Lead tenor and one Lead bass singer for its church choir.

The successful candidates will participate in Thursday choir rehearsals (7:30 PM),  
and Sunday morning services (10:00 AM Rehearsal & 11:00 AM Service),  
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The Lead singers will also provide technical and musical support to other choir members as needed.

Experience singing in churches is required.

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If interested, please send an email to [knoxottawa@rogers.com](mailto:knoxottawa@rogers.com)

### Organiste, Église Unie Saint-Marc, Ottawa, Ontario

Église Unie Saint-Marc is seeking an organist for Sunday morning services. We are a small (approximately 40 families) but growing French-speaking United Church congregation on Elgin Street in the centre of Ottawa. Services are held at 11:00 on Sunday mornings and on some other special occasions, and usually last about an hour to 90 minutes.

The church organ is a two manual organ, with 11 stops and mechanical action (Lye 1913/Munro 1995). There is a piano in the sanctuary which can also be used to accompany congregational singing. Currently we have no choir, although we hope that this will be possible in future.

Because services are conducted in French, a basic understanding of French is a requirement of this position.

For more information or to submit your resume, please contact Linda Madore at [lindamadore@videotron.ca](mailto:lindamadore@videotron.ca) or 819-682-3881.

L'église Unie Saint-Marc recherche un(e) organiste pour les cultes du dimanche matin. Nous sommes une petite paroisse francophone de l'Église Unie, actuellement de 40 familles à peu près, située sur la rue Elgin en plein cœur d'Ottawa. Nos cultes ont lieu à 11h00 le dimanche (et à certaines autres occasions spéciales) et durent en général de 60 à 90 minutes.

L'orgue est un instrument à deux claviers, à 11 registres, action mécanique (Lye 1913/Munro 1995). Un piano dans le sanctuaire peut aussi servir pour accompagner les cantiques. Actuellement nous n'avons pas de chorale mais nous aimerais éventuellement en former une.

Nos cultes se passent en français; par conséquent, notre organiste doit au moins comprendre le français.

Pour des renseignements supplémentaires ou pour soumettre un résumé, veuillez communiquer avec Linda Madore à [lindamadore@videotron.ca](mailto:lindamadore@videotron.ca) ou 819-682-3881.



## Our Advertisers

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Eighth Page  
(business  
card size)  
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\$15

### Advertising Policy

1. Any Ottawa Centre member may announce his/her event on the Around Town section of the newsletter free of charge if **he/she is** the coordinator, conductor, **soloist**, or organist/accompanist of the event.

2. If a member wishes to place a free announcement in Around Town for an event of another organization he/she is a member of (not covered by Policy 1), the member must make a written request to the RCCO Centre Executive for approval of that one specific event. Approval may be granted on the basis that this **extraordinary** event would be of specific interest to our members: e.g., church/choral, and/or organ/bells, **and/or** the encouragement of young organists and pianists.

3. If a non-member wishes to announce an event of his/her organization in Around Town **free of charge**, he/she must make a written request to the RCCO Centre Executive for approval of that one specific event. Approval may be granted as per Policy 2; in most circumstances, however, we would expect the Organization to pay as per the rates set out by the Centre for advertising.

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# SHAWN POTTER (Ottawa)

## Organ Recital - Récital D' Orgue



**Monday May 5, 2014 7:30 pm**  
**le lundi 5 mai 2014 à 19h30**

Église St-François-d'Assise  
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This series is presented by the Royal Canadian College of Organists – Ottawa Centre  
Une présentation du Collège royal canadien des organistes – section d’Ottawa

We thank the City of Ottawa for  
its assistance in this series of  
organ recitals.  
Nous remercions la Ville d'Ottawa  
pour l'aide apportée à la tenue de  
cette série de concerts.

