



VOL. 32, No. 5
JANUARY/JANVIER 2015

Pipelines

Bouches et anches



President's Message

DONALD RUSSELL

The Best Tool for the Job

Those of us with regular weekly playing obligations go through a lot of music. It is sometimes the case that, under the pressures of full-time employment, family, and just getting enough sleep, a piece may not be fully mastered by the time it is played. One of the things that often gets skipped over under these circumstances (and sometimes even when we have the time) is the important task of intentionally working out fingering. We resort to basic approaches with which we are comfortable.

In most circumstances we have many choices as to which finger (tool) we could use to play a specific note (the job). But many don't make sense and we drift toward a small set of choices based on our past experiences. However, sometimes a little thought about the choice of fingering will result in a much easier approach to achieving the desired end.

Take for example, the simple ascending C major scale in the right hand. The fingering is obvious to most: 1-2-3-1-2-3-4-5. Most of us have played this scale this way 1000s of times. But this approach tends to accent the notes played by the thumb and when played over many octaves can generate lurching rhythm (3 beats and then 4 beats between thumb accents). We can spend many hours of practice to smooth out the scale - carefully controlling the amount of time each key is depressed (and on the piano, how quickly it is

depressed) in order to get an even rhythm.

Baroque performers had a different approach. I won't pretend to be an expert but I have done a little reading and little experimenting. The basic principle behind most versions of historical fingering is to use strong fingers on string beats - the best tool for the job. For the C major scale an historical fingering choice might be 3-4-3-4-3-4-3-4 (ascending, in the right hand). This generates a nice easy duple rhythm without all of the stress, concentration and practice required of the standard fingering. Give it a try if you have not done this before.

Why is this not more common? A couple of reasons. First, since the legato style of playing became common most learn the approach that allows maximum connection between notes, the first approach. Second, in order to use historical fingering one must often lift the hand off the keyboard and move it laterally (to the right in the C major scale example.) It is quite simple to learn to do this accurately and easily with a little practice. However, taking all fingers off of the keyboard, even for a brief time period can give rise to a certain level of anxiety. Under the pressure of playing those not fully mastered pieces most are not willing to further raise the level of anxiety by lifting the hand off of the keys.

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I suggest that you give alternate fingerings a try. If you can get comfortable with them, they make the creation of a rhythmic and musical performance very much simpler. But

you have to learn to use this new tool and be willing to make the decision to use it. I'm not necessarily arguing in favour of historical fingering as a performance practice (nor am I arguing against it) but I would say that it is a technique that is very useful in achieving certain musical goals

in many circumstances. When a suitable opportunity arises why not give it a try; it might be the right tool for the job and make a pressure filled task a little easier.

Note: This month's quiz will be delivered by email - stay tuned.



Centre Events

DONALD MARJERRISON

Mark your 2015 calendars for the following Centre events:

Student Recital

On **Saturday, February 28, 2015**, the Ottawa Centre annual Student Recital will take place at Southminster United Church, 15 Aylmer Avenue off Bank, just south of the Rideau Canal.

Members' Recital for Eastertide

On **Sunday, April 12, 2015, 3:00 p.m.** Ottawa Centre organists will give a Members' Recital at Woodroffe United Church, 207 Woodroffe Avenue. There will be a used music and CD sale as well. All are invited, so bring your

friends. There will be refreshments following the recital. A Freewill Offering will go towards the Organ Scholarship Programme for teenagers. There is ample parking for everyone.

Annual General Meeting

On **Monday, June 15, 2015**, the Ottawa Centre AGM will be held at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 971 Woodroffe Avenue, beginning with dessert and coffee at 7:00 p.m. with the meeting following at 7:30 p.m.

Members' News

Welcome to returning member

Adsett, Kirkland, MMus (Sacred Music), BMus. Director of Music, St. Matthew's Anglican Church, 306-370 Metcalfe Street, Ottawa, ON K2P 1S9, 613-680-1171 (H), 613-234-5482 (W) paixinterieure@yahoo.com

Our Deepest Condolences

Our condolences go out to long time RCO member Marion Miller and her husband Ernie, on the death of their son Ernest Paul on Dec. 28 2014 at the Extencicare Medex centre in Ottawa.

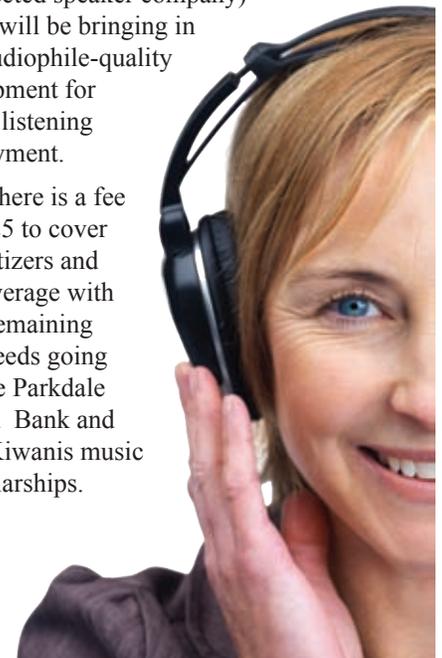
Monday, January 12th at 7 pm

Wellington Gastropub
1325 Wellington Ave.

Join us on Monday January 12th at the Wellington Gastropub in Hintonberg for a listening party of significant organ performances on vinyl.

This event is being co-presented by Tetra Speakers (a locally based but internationally respected speaker company) who will be bringing in its audiophile-quality equipment for your listening enjoyment.

There is a fee of \$25 to cover appetizers and a beverage with the remaining proceeds going to the Parkdale Food Bank and the Kiwanis music scholarships.



Around Town

Sunday, January 31, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

St. Matthew's will present a family musical show featuring Camille Saint-Saens's playful *Carnival of the Animals* and a screening of Oscar-winning short film *The Red Balloon*. Kirkland Adsett will play the music from *Carnival* on the organ and members of the church's Boys' and Girls' choirs will read animal poems related to the movements in the composition. The children will also sing music from the film *Les Choristes*, French café chansons and music made famous by Édith Piaf. The one-hour presentation will be a fitting lead-up to St. Matthew's presentation of Benjamin Britten's children's opera *Noyes Fludde* (Noah's Flood) on May 8 and 9. Freewill offering.

Sunday, February 1, 2015, 8:00 p.m.

Coro Capriccio. A new Ottawa chamber choir who explores the vast Renaissance, a cappella repertoire, spanning the comforting standards to obscure gems. St. Luke's Church: 760 Somerset Street West (3 blocks west of Bronson Ave). Admission by donation. Info: (613) 235-3416, www.stlukesottawa.ca/connect/recital-series, music@stlukesottawa.ca

Sunday, February 15, 2015, 8:00 p.m.

Misty Banyard (coloratura soprano) with Cristalle Watson (piano) Some love songs in honour of Valentine's day as well as music of Renaldo Hahn and Richard Strauss. St. Luke's Church: 760 Somerset Street West (3 blocks west of Bronson Ave). Admission by donation. Info: (613) 235-3416, www.stlukesottawa.ca/connect/recital-series, music@stlukesottawa.ca

Friday/Saturday, February 27/28, 2015

Kanata United Church. A weekend with John Bell, noted Glasgow-based hymn writer, song-leader, liturgist and preacher, Singing and Preaching for the 21st Century. Three workshops entitled *Singing the World Upside Down*, *Christian Belief in an Age of Doubt* and *Consumerism*, and *The Dangerous Delights of Congregational Song* will appeal to church musicians, clergy and members of choirs and congregations. To register and for more information go to www.kuc.ca.

Sunday, March 1, 2015, 8:00 p.m.

Mary Muckle & Julie Leduc (harp), Douglas Brierley (violin), Virginia Dunsby (flutes) & Ottawa Youth Harp Ensemble *Close by the Sea*: music from Celtic and Nordic islands. St. Luke's Church: 760 Somerset Street West (3 blocks west of Bronson Ave). Admission by donation. Info: (613) 235-3416, www.stlukesottawa.ca/connect/recital-series, music@stlukesottawa.ca

Sunday, March 15, 2015, 8:00 p.m.

Duo Rideau: Catherine Donkin & Amélie Langlois (piano duets) 20 fingers flying across the keys! Come and join Duo Rideau for an exciting evening of piano duets. St. Luke's Church: 760 Somerset Street West (3 blocks west of Bronson Ave). Admission by donation. Info: (613) 235-3416, www.stlukesottawa.ca/connect/recital-series, music@stlukesottawa.ca

Sunday, March 29, 2015, 8:00 p.m.

An Evening at the Opera with Hayley Swanton (soprano), Heidi Jost (mezzo-

soprano), Ken Mak ([counter] tenor), Norman Brown (baritone) and Frédéric Lacroix (piano). A Gala Concert featuring some of Ottawa's finest singers performing some of the most renowned operatic arias. St. Luke's Church: 760 Somerset Street West (3 blocks west of Bronson Ave). Admission by donation. Info: (613) 235-3416, www.stlukesottawa.ca/connect/recital-series, music@stlukesottawa.ca

Sunday, April 12, 2015, 8:00 p.m.

Cristalle Watson (piano). Music of the 4 Bs: Bach, Beethoven, Brahms and..... Beach.. St. Luke's Church: 760 Somerset Street West (3 blocks west of Bronson Ave). Admission by donation. Info: (613) 235-3416, www.stlukesottawa.ca/connect/recital-series, music@stlukesottawa.ca

Sunday, April 26, 2015, 8:00 p.m.

Harmelodic Club of Ottawa: Members of the Harmelodic Music Club of Ottawa will perform. St. Luke's Church: 760 Somerset Street West (3 blocks west of Bronson Ave). Admission by donation. Info: (613) 235-3416, www.stlukesottawa.ca/connect/recital-series, music@stlukesottawa.ca

Sunday, May 10, 2015, 8:00 p.m.

Thomas Brawn (flute) with Robert Jones (organ). Music written for or dedicated to mothers, featuring music by Bach and Schubert. St. Luke's Church: 760 Somerset Street West (3 blocks west of Bronson Ave). Admission by donation. Info: (613) 235-3416, www.stlukesottawa.ca/connect/recital-series, music@stlukesottawa.ca



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**NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING:
SUNDAY, JANUARY 18TH, 1:00 PM,
ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Supply List

Amy Andonian	613 224-8117	Sundays, weddings, funerals. Lutheran, Anglican, Presbyterian, United.
Nadia Behmann	613-723-8601	nadia@behmann.ca Weddings and Funerals.
James Brough	613-733-2972	Piano & organ, all styles of music. Any denomination. Sundays, weddings, funerals.
Mai-Yu Chan	613-726-0818	fosterg@rogers.com
Janice Gray	613-276-3172	janicenlpegypt@hotmail.com
Frances Macdonnell	613-726-7984	fbmacdonnell@sympatico.ca
Daniel Morel	613-228-8331	danmorel@rogers.com Sundays, weddings, funerals.
Simon Pinsonneault	613-299-1886	simon.pinsonneault@tc.gc.ca
Gavan Quinn	613-792-1492	gavanquinn@gmail.com, Weddings and 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*

Organ Teachers List

D. Mervyn Games, B.Mus., FRCO, ARCM. Students in piano, organ, and theory at all levels. Info: 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

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



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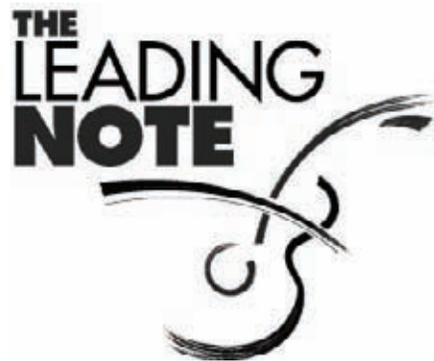
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coming out shortly via email**



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