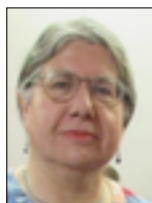




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JANUARY/JANVIER 2021

Pipelines

Bouches et anches



President's Message

HEATHER RICE

Bach, Cafés and Snowflakes

*In the darkness shines the splendor
Of the Word who took our flesh.*

These are the opening lines of the hymn by Canadian liturgical editor and author Bernadette Gasslein. As we move into 2021 the words ring true. We are beginning to have more sunlight, vaccination against The Virus has begun, and our current lockdown will end. If we were open, many of us would have played J.S. Bach's *In Dir ist Freude (In You is Joy)* this past Sunday:

*In Thee is gladness
Amid all sadness
Jesus, sunshine of my heart.*

(trans. Catherine Winkworth 1827-1878)

I direct you to a recording on the web by Italian organist Massimo Pinarello. He plays a tracker organ — you can see the keys of the upper manual move as he plays on the first manual. Young piano students are intrigued by this. *Cool, neat, how does he do that?*

Of course we want people to appreciate organ music but on a lighter note.... I remember when I was with my aunt. Her neighbours had gone south, leaving their young son in the next door town house. After several warnings he still thought we all should listen to his raucous rock music, screen door open. One evening I turned on my recording, screen door open. It began with Parry's *I Was Glad* - choir & organ, and ended with *In Dir ist Freude*. That was the end of the noisy next

door concerts. Smiles and quiet *thank you* from the neighbours and landlord.

So, we had Christmas this year, the same but different. Please let us know how it went in your churches. After much planning I have not had this much time off at Christmas, Epiphany and January since I was 15. Heck of a way to get a holiday!

As the Magi brought treasures to Jesus, what treasures can we bring to spark interest in organ music? Please share your thoughts, ideas, concerns, even a good joke, with the Ottawa Centre Executive. Perhaps this is a good time to research a Canadian composer, buy 1-2 new scores. Info and scores available on the internet and from the RCCO.

Hopefully we will soon be able to practise again. World-renowned Canadian-Hungarian organist Xaver Varnus recently bought a church in Brooklyn, Nova Scotia. Now he can practise as much as he wants. Known for playing Bach's music, the article says '*he pumps out Bach in his pyjamas!*'. Now, why didn't we think of this?

The Ottawa Centre has planned events in which we can all participate. Yes, we need *You!*

Please check our *Events* and *Pro Organo* pages on the website. On January 10th we have a *Café RCCO*. The topic is *Supporting Lent and Easter Services*. The next *Café RCCO*

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is on February 6th with Blake Hargreaves, host of FutureStops. Blake was the Ottawa Centre Programme Convenor, and is now in Budapest, Hungary. His exploration and improvisations on world organs is sure to be fascinating.

Pro Organo will present a live-streamed organ recital by Matthew Whitfield on February 26th.

With computers, phones and Zoom we can all attend these events, even if there is a snow storm. And if the thought of

snow bothers you, consider this from an ornament I have:

Some believe that snowflakes symbolize tiny pieces of the glittering star that guided the faithful to the Christ Child.

Lied hoch!

Centre Events

IAN GUENETTE, DONALD RUSSELL AND SONDRA GOLDSMITH PROCTOR

Zoom

with RCCO-Ottawa!

Please join our Zoom sessions to help all of us focus on how we meet the needs of our parishes, keep ourselves practicing, and share the learnings and frustrations of the time of Covid-19. We have a gift of experienced members who are plowing through all the new responsibilities we must undertake and are willing to share their learnings. Here's what's in store:

Sunday, January 10th, 2021, 2:00 p.m. Café RCCO. How are you thinking about supporting Lent and Easter services with the unknown logistics facing each one of us? Gilles Leclerc, Organiste Titulaire and Composer for Église Saint-François d'Assise, will speak about his planning and moderate the discussion. He will also share some of his explorations of the many skills each of us must maintain. Sign up now at events@rcco-ottawa.ca to reserve your place.

The event scheduled for **Sunday, January 24 (Virtual Studio Class)** will be **postponed** until participants are able to practice well. Hopefully, we will be able to gather as a class later in the spring.

Sunday, February 6th, 2021, 2:00p.m. Café RCCO will feature **Blake Hargreaves**, the former program convenor for the Ottawa Centre, who is living in Budapest, Hungary for the moment, and is the creative host of the **FutureStops podcast** which is supported by the RCCO. To learn more about Blake's exploration and improvisations on the world's organs, and why Budapest has been the perfect place to explore during the pandemic, reserve your place by registering at events@rcco-ottawa.ca.

Saturday, May 8th, 2021 is The Great Bach Marathon. Are you practicing on whatever keyboard is available to you? Some people have no organ available to them at this moment. Others are able to slip into their parish church to practice.

Please practice the Johann Sebastian Bach that speaks to you at this moment. If you were planning to play in last year's marathon, and are willing and able to play this coming May, please be in touch with sondragoldsmithproctor@gmail.com. 'Your piece' will be reserved. If you would like to play and were not planning to play last year, now is the time to volunteer. Let's all find a piece that speaks to our soul and helps us keep a positive spirit.

As the year 2020 comes to a close, I keep reflecting on what my very strong, yet fragile appearing, Native American grandmother used to say in times of trial "This too shall pass." As we find new ways to practice our skills and new ways to communicate, we will be able to carry some of the newly learned skills into our new normal. I have been glad to reevaluate my practicing and my performance skills. It has been a time of intense introspection. What will we all do with our new learnings?

CAFÉ RCCO



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Rev. Christine Piper

Right Here With Us In The Mess

As here we are approaching the Twelfth Day of Christmas known as Epiphany, when we celebrate that God is with us, what is happening around us?

How are we all, I wonder, on this, the other side of Christmas Day? For many of us we celebrated Christmas in person. For some communities, caution in the face of new variants of the disease, meant they elected at the last minute to abandon in - person worship and return to solely virtual worship for Christmas services. Meanwhile since in - person worship had reopened earlier, the double whammy of preparing virtual and live worship had become the order of the day for many church communities, and looked likely to continue. It was said to me by one church musician that the extra load was hard to carry and, indeed, with no increase in pay. Perhaps the required retreat back to virtual on Dec 27

was a welcome break for many church musicians? And yet through the last few months, the re-introduction of in - person worship did not mean a return to pre pandemic worship. Getting into church to practise was complex with the new and increased cleaning demands. Not just for incumbent musicians, but also for organ students. In the Anglican Church group singing was prohibited. And any soloist was required to sing through a mask, far away from the congregation. How was it, I wonder, for church musicians from other denominations? What restrictions on pre pandemic worship were in play for you?

In Ottawa, as I write on Monday, 10 days after Christmas, there have been 184 new cases of Covid19 since Sunday, an increase from around 45 in early December. In Ontario we stand at 2964 new cases as opposed to 2000 earlier in the month. We are indeed back to virtual worship only, every member (s) of a congregation alone in their dwelling. How is God with us, one might well ask?

And yet one could ask the same on behalf of Mary who gave birth to the expected one, the Messiah. His birth had barely been celebrated by the coming of the wise men and yet, within a relatively short time - as Herod sought to kill all Jewish male toddlers, so as to be sure to annihilate the one whom he saw as the

ultimate threat to his power- his parents took the baby Jesus and exiled themselves from all that was normal. They retreated into Egypt beyond Herod's jurisdiction. Yes, Jesus and his family entered into exile themselves. He entered himself into the harsh reality of what it can mean to be human. At the age of 2 he knew what it meant to be far from home, far from all that is normal and familiar.



How is God with us? The answer would seem to be what Epiphany, Twelfth Night, January 6, celebrates: that God is right there with us in exile from all that threatens our safety. In our required self - isolation from all easy social and occupational engagement and interaction, God is present.

That is, yes, God is indeed with us in this time of continued isolation. God is right here with us in the mess. We are not alone, thanks be to God

Members' News

Video of AGO's 2020 AGO Distinguished Composer Award To Rachel Laurin

Congratulations to **Rachel Laurin** who was honored by the AGO with the **2020 AGO Distinguished Composer Award** last summer. A video of the award and winning composition premiere is available for viewing at <https://youtu.be/Ogbv6zFp8Yc>. The award presentation by David Hurd starts at 35:10 followed by a brief interview with Rachel by Chelsea Chin at 37:10, concluding with the world premiere of Rachel's composition, *Mr. Mistofflees Overture* played by Alan Morrison beginning at 46:17.

Gilles Leclerc Composition Featured at Washington National Cathedral

At the livestreamed January 3, 2021, 11am Sunday Worship Service at Washington National Cathedral, organist Tom Sheenan expertly played **Gilles Leclerc's** composition, *Fantaisie on Wie schon leuchtet der Morgenstern*, written in 2001. You can view the video recording of this event at <https://youtu.be/2ksV9rf4l6Q?t=318>. Gilles' piece begins at 5:23 into the service.



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2020-2021

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NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING:
SATURDAY, 9 JANUARY / 10:30 A.M.
WEB MEETING

Supply List

Amy Andonian	613 224-8117	Sundays, weddings, funerals. Organ and piano. All denominations.
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.
Elizabeth Brown	613-608-1210	lizbrown2007@hotmail.com Sundays, weddings, funerals, any denomination
Robert Hall	705-626-9995	rhall@laurentian.ca Sundays, weddings, funerals
Matthew Larkin	613-862-4106	matthewlarkin@live.com Weddings, funerals, Sunday services, all denominations
Gilles Leclerc	613-798-0264	gilles.leclerc7@sympatico.ca
Frances Macdonnell	613-726-7984	fbmacdonnell@sympatico.ca
James McGowan	jjmc321@gmail.com	Sundays, weddings, funerals; choral, organ, piano; traditional, classical, jazz
Daniel Morel	613-228-8331	moreldan15@gmail.com Sundays, weddings, funerals.
Leora Anne Nauta	613-816-8629	Choral conducting and organ. Any denomination, any service, Sat./Sun., weddings, funerals.
Simon Pinsonneault	613-299-1886	simon.pinsonneault@tc.gc.ca
Gavan Quinn	613-695-0533	gavanquinn@gmail.com
Donald Russell	613-738-9223	russell.kimberwick@me.com
Wesley R. Warren	613 726-6341	Weddings and Funerals

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: pentland1212@eastlink.ca

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



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