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Collège royal canadien des organistes section d'Ottawa



President's Message

ROBERT JONES

A Time to Learn, A Time to Sing

Come, ye thankful people, come. So begins a hymn most of us will hopefully be playing or singing on Thanksgiving Sunday. As we work our way through the pandemic—and with hopeful hearts — anticipate there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Many of our churches re-opened in September for in-person worship. In the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa, congregational and choral singing has resumed (masked and 2 metres apart). The "masked and 2 metres apart" protocol is certainly a challenge. If your choir is like mine where several singers depend on their choir neighbour to help them get their notes, spacing them 2 metres apart suddenly means that finding their notes becomes a daunting task. Having the space in your choir's location to space them 2 metres apart can also be a challenge, especially if it means you can't use your full complement of singers. It is one thing to speak with a mask on, but singing with a mask takes some getting used to. So does annunciating! Nevertheless, the chance to gather and sing again felt so good.

Live, in-person concerts are once again being offered by such entities as the NAC Orchestra, Music and Beyond and Ottawa Chamberfest. However, a new norm is also occurring. Many of our churches are recording or live-streaming their services so people who are still worried about getting Covid 19 can view the services from their own home. It also means people outside your congregation are able to benefit from watching your service.

DEUNCE hes et anches

A big tip of the hat to our programme team of Sondra Goldsmith Proctor, Ian Guenette and Donald Russell who have carefully planned activities for our Centre. Some activities are still held via Zoom but some in-person activities are also being planned. With many of us not having inperson worship for many months, we may need opportunities to help us learn again, maybe with even a different approach.

Our Ottawa Centre began its 2021-22 season on September 19th featuring a Café RCCO with Thomas Annand giving a very informative talk and demonstration on the approach to learning Bach's setting of Wenn wir in höchstein Nöten sein (BWV 641) found in Bach's Orgelbüchlein. On Sunday, October 24th, our next Café RCCO will also pick up on the teaching aspect where we will learn of the teaching approaches, quirks and personalities of some of the famous teachers. And, in early November, the first recital in our Pro Organo series is to take place, featuring Craig Humber. He will also conduct a master class two days before the recital.

We are very fortunate to have events where we can learn. I encourage you to take advantage of these wonderful opportunities.

President's Message

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Centre Events

IAN GUENETTE, DONALD RUSSELL AND SONDRA GOLDSMITH PROCTOR

Have you thought about your early organ instructors recently? How did they lead you into the study of the organ? What were the words that helped you have confidence in practicing with both hands and feet? Do you remember the first time that you could enjoy the coordination of your hands and feet – or, one hand and two feet?

In your music schooling did you study with a special teacher who was encouraging even when you were discouraged? How did the teacher gain your trust so you would keep returning for lessons? Were their favorite phrases that you remember to this day that support you as you are learning new music or relearning beloved music?

Have you taken the opportunity to attend master classes with teachers/ artists who enjoy opening the door to the mysteries of interpretation or registration? What was their method of encouraging students? Is it the panache of the teacher or the quiet security of their approach that they can be helpful in finding different approaches to a difficult passage. Did the most simple passage open doors for articulation improvement?

Do you have a couple of stories to 'tell on your teachers' that are charming or funny or enlightening in how they engage with students and the music?

Have you had the opportunity to study with some of the honored members of our profession? Who are they? What were they like? Do you have stories to share?

On **Sunday, October 24, at 2:00 pm** gather with us at our next *Café RCCO* as we share our stories and check in on each other. How are you doing in this time of Covid-19? What is most concerning to you in October of 2021 about your playing, your choir, or anything else that is troubling? We all will listen carefully and try to share helpful solutions.

Personally, I have found this period of the pandemic more difficult than before. The emotional ups and downs as we prepare for an in-person event only to be told twenty-four hours before that it must become virtual or seven days before to be told to combine three separate events into one virtual event. We are working to engage our parishes, our choirs, the students that are stumbling and ourselves as we work to stay positive.

Come to listen and learn, perhaps, share in the teaching, and share in working together to recreate the fellowship and support of the Ottawa Centre. Each of us is important in this endeavor!



Recently, we have been told by people that they desire sessions on helpful hints to keep moving forward as they traverse the new technology and new and constantly changing regulations. Please be in touch with Donald Russell or Sondra Goldsmith Proctor with suggestions for sessions that would be helpful. We are here to support you!

> - Ian Guenette, Donald Russell and Sondra Goldsmith Proctor

Around Town

One of the hidden gems in Ottawa's Centretown is the Dominican University College on Empress Street, complete with its own chapel, L'Église St Jean-Baptiste. It used to house a small unit organ built by Casavant in 1940 (Opus 1639), but water damage from a leak in the roof made it unplayable. An electronic organ built by Johannus has been installed, and an inaugural recital, Giving Thanks, is planned for Friday, October 8th beginning at 7:00 pm, featuring Ottawa Centre organists Robert Jones, Heather Rice and Gilles Leclerc.

For over 60 years, Gabrielle Bourque served as their organist and this recital not only inaugurates this organ, but also pays tribute to her memory as their organist.

Robert Jones will play works by André Campra, François Couperin, and Louis Vierne, Denis Bédard and William Reed. Heather Rice will play music of Bach, as well as Canadian composers Rachel Laurin, Gilles Leclerc and Bert Van der Hoek. Gilles Leclerc is delighted to play the piece he composed for Mme Bourque's 60th anniversary as their organist. He will also play music of Bach and end with an improvisation based on Mme Bourque's name.

Because of Covid protocol, those wanting to attend should visit the chapel office at 96 Empress Street (Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:30) to obtain a free ticket.

Student Membership Grant

The RCCO Ottawa Centre is pleased to offer a complimentary student membership for any organ student meeting the RCCO requirements:

- The organ student is under 35 years of age
- The organ student meets the National RCCO criteria for Student Membership
- The organ student is a member of the RCCO Ottawa Centre
- The student's organ teacher is a member of RCCO
- The organ student may apply for the grant each year that he/she meets the above criteria
- Renewals are subject to the availability of Centre funds.

The application procedure is as follows:

Step 1: Fill out the Application form for the Centre Treasurer to

Membership Renewal

If you have not renewed your RCCO Membership for 2021-2022, there are options for renewal.

You can renew online at www.rcco.ca or phone Hayley at the National Office during the week at (416) 929-6400, between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm, or via email at info@rcco.ca. You may also mail a cheque to RCCO, 414 -15 Case Goods Lane, Toronto, ON M5A 3C4.

If you qualify for Student membership, you can apply for reimbursement of your fee from the Ottawa Centre, after you renew. The application for reimbursement is on the Ottawa Website at: www.rccoottawa.ca/schol.html#studentmember. indicate if you qualify for the Membership Grant.Student Membership Grant Application form.

Step 2: The student should go to the National Office website to process their membership as a student and pay their membership directly with National Office selecting the Ottawa Centre as their choice of Centres. [For information: email: RCCO National Office] or Tel: 416-929-6400 Office Manager: Hayley, Hours: Mon. to Fri. 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

The student will then be reimbursed for only their membership fee once the Ottawa Centre receives confirmation of their membership from the RCCO National Office.

Treasurer: Alexander Reicker Email: treasurer@rcco-ottawa.ca



DON MARJERRISON

Pro Organo

last! We're planning "real" concerts! Craig Humber will play at St. Andrew's Church, at Wellington and Kent, on Monday, November 8th, beginning at 7:30 p.m. He will play pieces by Bach, Brahms and Reger. The full program will be posted on the Centre website soon. Since Craig Humber was the first winner of the Godfrey Hewitt

Memorial Scholarship, the concert will be co-sponsored by the Godfrey Hewitt Memorial Fund. Craig Humber is now living in Austria, but he is coming back to Canada in November. In case it is not possible to have a "live" concert, we will "livestream" it from Austria, and in any case, we may "livestream" the concert from St. Andrew's

KAREN HOLMES

As well as the concert, Craig Humber has offered to teach a **Masterclass on German Baroque Music** on Saturday afternoon, **November 6th**, at 1:30 pm. The Masterclass will take place at Église St. François d'Assise, since parking is easier there, and practising is possible by contacting the organist, Gilles Leclerc. Of course, the Masterclass is aimed mainly



at students, but since we don't have many of them, if anyone else would like to play, please contact Karen Holmes (613-728-8041 or <karenholmes967@ gmail.com>).

Mark the dates on your calendars!





Rev. Christine Piper

Breathe On Me, Breath of God

At this time of year, as I walk the pathways of the walled perennial garden at Maple Grove, the historic estate in Westboro, I marvel at the deep purple of the Michaelmas daisies. They find their name from the feast Day of St Michael and All Angels that the church celebrates on September 29th. I recall that in my first piece for the new Chaplain's Corner in our monthly Pipelines, I reflected on the depth of colour that decorates Michaelmas daisies.

This year, even as we are in this season, I want to pick up on a piece of the Gospel appointed for a few weeks previously, the seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost:

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have anyone know it; for he was teaching his disciples (Mark 9: 30 - 31a).

I was struck at that time how Jesus and his disciples knew Galilee, through which they were passing, like the backs of their hands. It was on these familiar roads of Galilee - away from other folks - that Jesus was teaching his disciples, speaking into their hearts. He spoke to them here because he needed them to be relaxed and open, so that they could learn and become strong as his followers. And, like the Anglican preacher and commentator Herbert O'Driscoll, I found myself asking: Where are the Galilees, I wonder, in our lives? Walking the paths of the local park, listening to music, working out at the gym, soaking in the tub – you fill in the blank.

I guess ultimately my question is: Where does Jesus speak with you? Where is your Galilee? Where is your heart and mind and soul most relaxed so that you will hear him? For me, now that I am privileged to live a short distance away from the Ottawa River, it is on the walking path beside it that my mind relaxes, becomes a tad blank. It is as if I am here that Jesus has a chance of getting my attention...

Yes, it is in that familiar place where we relax that Jesus takes the opportunity

to get our attention, indeed, to minister to us in the ups and downs of life. Regarding those 'downs' he shows us how rediscovering hope, experiencing what it means to rise again, is possible – even ultimately in those deep losses with which we may be struggling. Indeed, even in those little, or medium to devastating spiritual deaths that we can experience.

A hymn such as *Breathe on me*, *Breath of God*, can surely be our unconscious prayer as the familiarity of our place of retreat, our Galilee, encourages us to allow our hearts, minds, and souls to relax. And, so, it's like we experience God's breath upon us, a source of grace through which we shall find the way of faith through our struggle.

This is God's amazing Gift to us for which we may be so thankful.



Thanksdivind

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| Royal Canadian Ottawa P.O. Box 22 Ottawa, Ol | v Des organistes Ottawa ccursale D K1P 5W4 | N | Next Executive Ma Ionday, 25 October / Web Meeting | 7:30 р.м. | | | | |

Supply List

| Amy Andonian | 613 224-8117 | Sundays, weddings, funerals. Organ and piano. All denominations. | |
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| Thomas Annand | 613-261-0376 | 6 t.annand50@gmail.com Available for all services, Sundays, weddings, funerals | |
| Nadia Behmann | 613-723-8601 | andia@behmann.ca Weddings and Funerals. | |
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| Elizabeth Brown | 613-608-1210 | lizbrown2007@hotmail.com Sundays, weddings, funerals, any denomination | |
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| Frances Macdonnell | 613-726-7984 | fbmacdonnell@sympatico.ca | |
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| 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

Thomas Annand, MMus, BMus (Hons), FRCCO Teaches at all levels, also theory, history Info: t.annand50@gmail.com or 613-261-0376

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, Ottawa. Info: 613-726-6341

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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 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.