



Pipelines

Bouches et anches



President's Message

ALISON KRANIAS

Something Old, Something New...

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This is one of those years when Easter falls so early — it is in March, and if you are someone who gets a March break then you will surely be spending it practicing! But before that, we must plan all sorts of music. In considering this I thought of the old adage for weddings that might apply equally well here: *Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue.*

When I first started the position I am in now, someone suggested I ask a certain senior choir member to recommend some anthems. I showed her where the music was, gave her a pen and paper, and she made me a wonderful list of some 30 anthems and a few sung Benedictions. This list has been priceless. In those early years at the church, it helped me find the hidden gems in a vast library, and allowed me to give the choir a chance to sing music they knew and loved instead of always, you know, challenging them maybe a little too much. Even now, over 10 years later and with new choir members who don't always know these pieces, I still find myself referring to this list of old favourites once in a while.

Of course, we also want to have *something new* for Holy Week or Easter, that can help make the occasion feel more exciting and special. New music is an opportunity to really highlight any special talents you have in your congregation. Maybe you have a good hand

bell group and you'll find a piece for them to play with the choir, or maybe there's a young person in your congregation who's really getting good at the trumpet and so you find a piece to include them.

Something borrowed could be an actual piece of music, or maybe just an idea. Either way it is a great way to connect with your colleagues and chat about what music you play during Lent, Holy Week and Easter. There is our sharing event on February 10th at Trinity United, or you might connect with someone you know in another way, give them a call or send them a message.

As we get now to *something blue*, I realize this might not be the right colour after all. Just as we can be startled when we get to Good Friday and experience again how solemn this day is, I find the expression *feeling blue* just doesn't have the depth that's needed to describe the music we play on this day. We have some old, beautiful hymns like *O Sacred Head* that do capture the mood beautifully, and these have been reworked again and again, giving any number of chorale preludes and choral arrangements to choose from. It can seem daunting to find just the right music to play for this time of year, but I find that, if I start about now and take the planning and practicing a little bit at a time, it all comes together nicely in the end.

Centre Events

SONDRA GOLDSMITH PROCTOR AND DONALD RUSSELL

Saturday, February 10 at 2:00 pm

The RCCO Centre will have an afternoon session of Lent and Easter music at Trinity United Church. The church has a 3-manual Casavant organ, a lovely baby grand piano, and some of their choir members will attend. Please bring organ music, piano music, choral music, hymns you love, find useful, and share with centre members. A reception will follow the event a time to chat and socialize.

Trinity United Church is located at 1099 Maitland Ave. There is a large parking lot behind the church. You can take #50 bus from Tunney's Pasture or Lincoln Fields. The #85 bus will also drop you off on Carling Avenue, a short 15 minute walk to the church. or take the #88 bus and walk 15 minutes from Baseline Road.

Trinity United Church has generously waived the rental fee for our event and some of their musicians are providing the 'eats' for the reception. Please show our appreciation by attending what promises to be a useful and enjoyable event. See you there!

The 2024 Great Bach Marathon is returning on Saturday, May 11 at St. Andrew's Church at Kent and Wellington. Parking in government lots is available on Saturdays. We will include many young people in both performance and learning. Adults will be welcome to explore constructing the OrgelKids kit to learn about the importance of the bellows and the touch. The adult session will begin at 12:30 pm in one of the smaller rooms of the church building, Joshua Zentner-Barrett will be leading the session as you construct the small organ. At 2:00 pm, two more tracks will begin. The piano students who will construct the small organ, then have an opportunity to play their prepared piece on the little organ before they come to the sanctuary to present their work to the audience.

Also at 2:00 pm, repertoire from the Orgelbuchlein and Schubler Chorales will be presented. In the middle of the afternoon the Bach prize winners from the Ottawa Piano Festival will present their prepared pieces. The RCCO Ottawa Centre supports the prizes for the students.

Closing out the afternoon will be some of the larger works of Bach. This event is a fundraiser for Beginning Students of the Organ. This funding assists us in providing scholarship assistance for beginning students. The afternoon will end at approximately 5:30 pm.

If you would like to select repertoire to play on May 11, please contact sondragoldsmithproctor@gmail.com. The earlier you make a decision of what to play, the more possible that you will be able to play your choice. For more information email or phone Sondra Goldsmith Proctor.

Watch this space for additional announcements!

Preparation for the Choir Training Certificate Examinations

FRANCES MACDONNELL

Fifth workshop:

Saturday February 3, 2024

10 am till noon

303 - 3099 Carling Avenue (ring #20 at the front door of the building)

In this exam, candidates demonstrate their ability to plan a church choir programme, direct a short choir practice, answer some straightforward written questions on choir management and choral planning, write some simple harmony, and do some simple ear tests. The outcome of this examination is a Certificate of Proficiency in Choir Training.

The fifth of these workshops will be held on Saturday February 3rd at my apartment, 303-3099 Carling Avenue, from 10 am until noon. This location is on Carling Avenue just west of Bayshore

Drive; there is a large visitors' parking lot directly in front of the building.

If you'd be interested in knowing more about this program, please contact me at

fbmacdonnell@sympatico.ca, or call me at (613) 726-7984, in advance of the coming workshop.





Café RCCO with Donald Russell

FRANCES MACDONNELL

Learning from Bumblebees, Ping-Pong Balls, The Roman Arch, and Walking the Plank!

On Saturday January 27, 2024, a workshop entitled “Principles for Making Informed Decisions about our Musical Techniques” was given on Zoom by Dr. Donald Russell to a fascinated audience of Ottawa members! Donald, a long-term Centre member who teaches Engineering at Carleton University as well as being Assistant Organist at St. Barnabas Anglican Church, has been researching this area for years now from a combined specialist point of view.

Did you know that the proper methods for managing your hand-and-arm-action when practising can all be illustrated through the concepts of *Learning from Bumblebees, Ping-Pong Balls, The Roman Arch, and Walking the Plank!* I certainly had no idea - all I remembered from early piano lessons was that my hand should pretend it was holding an orange, while others recalled being taught that they should be able to balance a short ruler on the back of their hand!

But as Donald remarked, many of us in our generation were taught in our youth by teachers who themselves had formed their technique nearly a century ago, when very little was understood about how the structure and relationship of muscles actually work. As Donald explained, simple muscles pass over only one body joint, but the fingers that play a keyboard are controlled by muscles that start in the back and cross not only the shoulder, elbow and wrist joints, but then also any number of small finger joints. What a challenge for them!

If the humble bumblebee, flapping its wings far faster than the human eye can see, can manage to keep its non-airworthy body airborne (a circumstance which has astonished scientists since the days of Aristotle), what are the factors that make its muscles so much more effective than ours? And how does the tension inside a human body that is being forced to walk a pirate ship plank affect the motion of the body? And why can you no more push on a weightless ping-pong ball than on the end of a string, and how does this affect

how you should strike the key of a piano, or an organ, or a harpsichord? And then, what was it that, for all these thousands of years, has made the shape and engineering of the Roman Arch the strongest shape for building a doorway?

For the answers to all these questions, be sure to watch the next instalment of Donald’s exciting workshop! Having enjoyed it so much ourselves, we are now encouraging National Office to invite Donald to present this workshop again to a more national audience, first through a live workshop at the RCCO Student Academy in Toronto this summer – it is our younger members who will most greatly benefit from modernizing their practising habits through a greater understanding of how their muscles actually work – and also then in video form through the Organist Launchpad series of podcasts now being made available through National Office.

Thank you, Donald, for giving us a most enjoyable and stimulating morning! We greatly look forward to your next presentation.



Members News

Membership List Updates:

Maunder, Emlie. BMus, MA (Musicology and Medieval Studies), Director and organist (St Clement parish, Ottawa). Update phone number to (613) 830-2469

Annand, Thomas. Home phone no longer in service, Remaining number (613) 261-0376 (cell) is still valid.

Stratilo-Fleischhaker, Shirley. Remove home address. Add: ARCT, B.A.(French), Divine Infant Parish Music Ministry, organist, pianist, cantor, soloist; St. Joseph’s Parish, Organist.

Hall, Robert. No longer National Chair of Publications (remove this assignment).

Brown, Elizabeth R. MA, BA magna cum laude in French by thesis; BA (Hons). Remove home phone; replace cell number with (613) 608-1220 (cell).

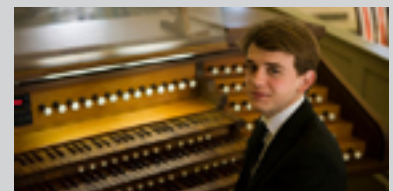
Brown, Stephen K. U.E.L., Remove home phone; replace cell number with (613) 608-1210 (cell).

Westwood, Michael. Add email: mwestwood@videotron.ca

Jones, Robert. Listed phone numbers are incorrect. Should be

Student Recital

O The Ottawa Centre’s annual student recital will be held on Saturday, March 9th at 2:00 pm at Kitchissippi United Church. It houses a 2-manual Casavant organ (Op. 2205) from 1954. Teachers (or students) should contact Bob Jones, Convenor for Student Affairs at robertpjones12345@gmail.com regarding playing in the recital. Practice and lesson times in preparation for this recital can be arranged through Bob Jones.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Rev. Christine Piper

Our Journey Through Passages of Time

As I have begun preparing this 'Chaplain's Corner' for the February edition of Pipelines, I found myself drawn to think about 'periods of time' within our church year. And as I have thought about this some more, I have been drawn to change this expression, *periods of time*, to *passages*. Of course, there are those extended passages that are better thought of as church seasons, two current ones being the Season after the Epiphany through which we are presently journeying. And another one is the time passage which we anticipate at its end, the Season of Lent.

Yet there are also shorter time passages which catch our attention, a hugely important one being the three-day passage, known in some denominations as the *triduum*, the Latin expression for the three days that begins with our observation of Good Friday, and sees us travelling through Holy Saturday, ending with our Easter celebration on the Sunday. I can only imagine the work that church organists and choir directors do to plan musically for the significant passages that come up within our church year, whether long or short.

For this edition of Pipelines, I found myself wanting to zero in on that four-day passage which, in many main line churches, starts with the Celebration of the Feast of the Transfiguration (signifying the close of the season of Epiphany), followed by the observation of Ash Wednesday. Yes, we shall celebrate the Transfiguration when Peter, James, and John, whom Jesus has

taken with him up the mountainside, saw him meeting with the two greats: Moses, representing the Law, and Elijah, the Prophets. Even as Peter was drawn to hold on to that moment by creating 'shelters' for all three of them, a voice rang out stating what was not only important for those three disciples then, but which is equally important for us now: *This is my Son, the Beloved, listen to him* (Mark 9: 7b)! In other words, do not put your energy into conserving this moment, that is, into making a *museum* of it; rather, work on discovering the meaning within it that will assist you continue faithfully with your journey.

I wonder, how does a busy organist and/or choir director find meaning for their own journey of faith through all that they are called to offer? Yes, church musicians and, indeed, ministers or priests, can rightfully be very busy helping others in pursuing their own faith journeys. And yet how shall we cope with the inevitable

challenge that can occur for us as we move from, for example, an experience of transfiguration to our own Ash Wednesday? And if we fail to see or say *Hello* to such a challenge – and how human it is to do so as we are called to lead this busy life – this can place us in danger of losing sight of what is unfolding for us in our own faith journeys. Surely there can come those times for all of us when we shall so deeply need what I would describe as an *active and living faith*?

As your RCCO chaplain, may I encourage you take the time to step aside and enter into regular passages of reflection, conversation or whatever it is that can motivate you to say *Hello* to the God who not only calls you through what you do, but also longs to relate with you, and care for you, on your own faith journey...

Thanks be to God!



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2023-2024

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NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING:
MONDAY, 12 FEBRUARY / 7:30 P.M.
WEB MEETING

Supply List

Sunday Supply Organists:

Amy Andonian	613 224-8117	Sundays, weddings, funerals. Organ and piano. All denominations.
Thomas Annand	613-261-0376	Available for Sundays, weddings, funerals, accompaniment
Elizabeth Brown	613-608-1220	lizbrown2007@hotmail.com Sundays, weddings, funerals, any denomination
Matthew Larkin	613-862-4106	matthewlarkin1963@gmail.com Weddings, funerals, Sunday services, all denominations
Frances Macdonnell	613-726-7984	fbmacdonnell@sympatico.ca

Wedding and Funeral Organists:

Nadia Behmann	613-723-8601	nadia@behmann.ca Weddings and Funerals.
Gilles Leclerc	613-798-0264	gilles.leclerc7@sympatico.ca
Simon Pinsonneault	613-299-1886	simon.pinsonneault@tc.gc.ca
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. Organ all levels, also instruction in theory, history, conducting, continuo and accompaniment. 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.

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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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 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.