

## President's Message

ALISON KRANIAS

# Preparing Music for Christmas

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**C**hristmas is coming! Some people are sewing and knitting, others are baking cookies or doing some online shopping, and many of us RCCO members are planning music, I'm sure. Some may have already started rehearsing some Advent and Christmas anthems with our choir. How do you pick out that choir music? With so much to choose from, how do you know where to start?

Most of us have old favourites, familiar music that is well-known to the choir. For something new, you might turn to your church's music library, and if it's anything like mine you could get lost in there. Where to start? Well, one of the best things I did when I started at my church was listen to one of my choir members who said I should ask a certain long-time choir member to make a list of her favourite anthems for me. This soprano singer, let's call her Belle, had been with the church for decades and sang in both the women's and SATB choir, so she knew about some good anthems in two parts as well as four. She went through several binders of anthems and filled up both sides of a page with titles. This list was invaluable: many of those anthems are now on my list of favourites, and I've had the choir sing them many times.

The list also proved useful as Belle started to struggle with confusion and memory loss. As we know, people struggling with these

mental difficulties can usually recall, without any trouble at all, songs they learned long ago. So when I knew Belle's days in the choir were numbered I pulled out some of these old favourites of hers so she could keep singing with us a little longer, it brought her so much joy to be in the church choir.



Other times, instead of asking a choir member to sort through music, they have come to me bringing music they have heard somewhere else, or sung at another church. Take a good look at it! Sometimes it's the perfect thing, but I made the mistake once of saying yes to an anthem that really was a little too ambitious. It came off OK, but it was quite a struggle!

Of course, you can also ask colleagues or go online to get ideas. Music publishers have good websites, and nowadays you can go on YouTube and hear all sorts of church choirs singing all sorts of anthems. Whatever you find to sing this Advent and Christmas, I hope it goes well and brings you joy!



## Centre Events

HEATHER RICE

**Sunday, 17 November 2024, 7:00 p.m.**

On Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup> there will be a service of Evensong and Benediction at St. Barnabas Anglican Church, 70 James Street. The service will begin at 7:00pm. St. Barnabas Church has an accomplished

volunteer choir under the direction of Organist & Choirmaster Wesley Warren. After 37 years Wesley will retire on January 1<sup>st</sup>, as will their priest Rev. Stewart Murray. Come and join in the singing and say hello to Wesley.

## MEMBERS' NEWS

**Email Address Update:**

**Wanless, John**

johnwanless104@gmail.com



## Pro Organo

GILLES LECLERC

**Our**

next event will bring us to a new venue for Pro

Organo Ottawa: Trinity United, situated at 1099 Maitland Ave., on

**Friday November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 pm.**

We will hear organist Joshua Zentner-Barrett, and cellist-composer Raphael Weinroth-Browne in new music for their combined instruments.



Then on **Friday April 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm**, Charles Francis (U.K./Eastman School of Music) will perform works

by Bach, de Grigny, Franck, Alain and Duruflé on Notre-Dame Basilica-Cathedral's majestic Casavant organ.

Finally, on **Monday May 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm**, Jonathan Oldengarm, organist at Metropolitan United in Toronto, will perform works that convey the animal kingdom, at the stunning Guilbault-Thérien organ of Église Saint-François d'Assise, situated at the corner of Wellington West and Fairmont Ave. As usual, there will be video coverage of the performers on a screen at the front of the church, for most concerts.

Tickets are already available through **EventBrite.ca**, the RCCO website at **www.rcco-ottawa.ca/pro\_organo**, by mail (R.C.C.O., P.O. Box 2270, Stn D, Ottawa, ON K1P 5W4), and will be available at the door.

Presenting concerts like these

is very expensive, and we depend on donations, which are completely tax-receiptable. The names of our donors are printed in all our recital programmes. Here are the donations levels: Patron: \$2,500 / Sponsor: \$1,000-\$2,499 / Donor: \$500-\$999 / Supporter: \$250-\$499 / Contributor: \$100-\$249 / Friend: \$25-\$99. You can both order your season tickets and make a donation on-line by clicking the Donate button on the website [www.rcco-ottawa.ca](http://www.rcco-ottawa.ca) or you can fill in our 2024-2025 season flyer and mail it to the above address. For more information, send us an e-mail to **ProOrgano@rcco-ottawa.ca**, or call 613-798-0264.

We look forward to seeing you on November 22nd and throughout our 36<sup>th</sup> season.



*Let us remember them.*





## Around Town

**Sunday, 1 December, 2024, 3:00 pm**  
**Immaculate Heart of Mary Christmas Concert** at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 1758 Alta Vista Drive. Come enjoy the music of the season! This event will feature local musical groups: the Ottawa Catholic School Board Chamber Choir, the Grand Chœur De La Salle, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church/St Margaret's Church Choirs accompanied by the Ottawa Wind Ensemble, a 35-member orchestral group. They will be joined by soprano soloist Mallory Williams, for special tributes to the musical season. Interspersed with this will be carol singing for all to join in.

This 33<sup>rd</sup> Immaculate Heart of Mary Concert is held in support of the Heron Emergency Food Centre (HEFC). Admission to the Concert is FREE and there is ample and easily accessible parking. There will be collection baskets for voluntary monetary donations (cheque

or cash). Tax receipts can be issued by the charity for donations over \$20 upon request. Those interested in an advance donation or in purchasing advertising in the concert program or who have any questions, please contact the concert organizing committee at 613-791-9115.

Come and enjoy this wonderful prelude to the Christmas season; it's a joyous way to help those in need in our community.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Dimanche, le 1<sup>er</sup> décembre 2024 à 15h00**  
**Concert de Noël à l'Église Immaculate Heart of Mary**, 1758, promenade Alta Vista! Trois chorales, le Ottawa Catholic School Board Chamber Choir, le Grand Chœur De La Salle, et l'Immaculate Heart of Mary Church/St Margaret's Church Choirs, seront accompagnées par le populaire Ensemble à vents d'Ottawa, formation composée de 35 musiciens. Avec à leurs côtés, le soliste soprano

Mallory Williams, ils rendront hommage à la saison musicale. Le tout sera parsemé de chants de Noël qui uniront les voix des chorales et celles du public.

Ce 33<sup>e</sup> Concert de Noël Immaculate Heart of Mary est offert en appui au Heron Emergency Food Centre (HEFC). L'entrée est GRATUITE et le stationnement est vaste et facile d'accès. Des paniers de collecte seront disponibles pour ceux qui voudront faire un don (chèque ou comptant) au HEFC. Des reçus pour fins d'impôt seront émis pour tout don de plus de 20 \$ pour ceux ou celles qui en font la demande. Si vous désirez faire un don à l'avance du concert, acheter de la publicité dans le programme du concert, ou pour toute question, veuillez joindre le Comité organisateur du concert au 613-791-9115.

Venez profiter de ce magnifique prélude à la période des Fêtes de Noël. Quelle occasion joyeuse d'aider les moins fortunés de notre communauté!

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2024



### November 5

Amos Friesen, cello  
 The multilingual Cello

### November 12

Jenifir Thies-Thompson, flute  
 Matthew Larkin, piano  
 Flute sonatas by Bach & Poulenc

### November 19

Bronwyn Thies-Thompson, soprano  
 Matthew Larkin, piano  
 Songs by Amy Beach & more

### November 26

Pauline Van Der Roest, mezzo-soprano  
 Art Song and more

**All Concerts live-streamed at:**

**[www.youtube.com@standrewottawa-concerts](http://www.youtube.com@standrewottawa-concerts)**



### St. Andrew's Church

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church  
 Concert Series

Matthew Larkin, Custodian of Music  
[music@standrewsottawa.ca](mailto:music@standrewsottawa.ca)

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Rev. Christine Piper

### 'I Don't Have It In Me'

In the last while, an organist whom I know well lamented: *I don't have it in me*. This lament appeared to come from the very depths of their being. Indeed, I have not heard them offer such a statement before! What I found out was that they had been asked to play what they described as 'those funny hymns' in the Sunday morning service.

On further – and may I add the words 'self-discerning?' – reflection, this individual then proceeded to offer that organists may indeed have their own well-honed and mature

musical tastes and desires. And these can support and fit in with our work settings; and indeed, contribute to the musical and spiritual development of the congregation very well. Yet, as we serve in the church, there will come those times when we find ourselves being asked to perform music that, even as this meets the needs of our congregation, or some parts of that community, would certainly not be our choice! But the music they selected is seen by the minister or choir director with whom we work as being



appropriate for this current service. Indeed, we may find ourselves asking whether we run the risk, perhaps, of misusing our powers if we dig in our heels and refuse to cooperate.

And yet there needs to be allowance in any job, for its performer to find a way of releasing the emotions that come with seeing it through. If saying for the first time, at least in a friend's hearing: *I don't have it in me!* can give vent to the unexpected emotions that such a request has released in him or her, then so be it! We surely need to take care of ourselves, and express for ourselves - and if it can help, those we are close to - the emotions that come with being out there on the job.

Thanks be to God for such opportunities to let off steam as we are in the business of working together with our leadership team!

# In Flanders Fields

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.*

*Let us remember them.*





## Isabelle Demers Concert Review

TATE PUMFREY

**I**sabelle Demers kicked off the first recital in the Pro Organo series on Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup> with a concert at St. Clement's Parish, sponsored by the RCCO Ottawa Centre, the Godfrey Hewitt Scholarship, and the Canadian International Organ Competition. It was held in memory of composer-organist Rachel Laurin, who served at St. Clement's from 2012-2023. Demers, who was recently named Associate Professor of Organ at McGill University, played a recital featuring works by Laurin, as well as Bach, Franck, and Vierne.

The first half began with J. S. Bach's *Prelude and Fugue in B Minor, BWV 544*, which Demers played with great ease. Although the organ at St. Clement's, Casavant op. 701, built in 1914 and expanded in 1988, is generally a Romantic instrument, the mixtures are brighter than what you would expect to find on a Casavant at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and lend a great flexibility to the organ for playing Baroque repertoire.

Pieces one to six from Laurin's *Douze courtes pièces, Volume 7*, followed. These short works are often of a softer character, particularly these first six. Demers made great use of the expressive capabilities of this organ, often orchestrating delicate crescendos with impeccable smoothness. Franck's *Chorale in E Major* finished the first half. The French character of the organ really shone here, especially the Great Trompette 8' and Clairon 4' in the loudest section near the end of the work. These two stops were rebuilt in 1988 with Cavaillé-Coll tongues, which gives them a Gallic intensity rarely heard in North America and particularly suited to the Franck.

After an intermission, some members of the St. Clement's choir sang the Gregorian chants *Gaudemus* (the Introit from All Saints) and *Laeta Dies* (a Sequence for St. Benedict), which nicely introduced Laurin's *Concert Piece #5* (Tone Poem in Honour of St. Benedict on *Gaudemus* and *Laeta Dies*). This virtuosic work showcased Demers' technical mastery, which notably included extended

passages of hand-crossing. The remaining six pieces from the *Douze courtes pièces, Volume 7*, were then heard. The last work in this volume, *Chant Vespéral*, is imbued with a deep sense of peace, which is fitting, for this is the last piece of the last volume Rachel completed, and Vespers is likewise the evening prayer service of the Divine Office.

Extracts from Vierne's *Symphony No. 1* brought the concert to an end. The scherzo-like *Allegro Vivace* flew

along with great speed and control, and the famous *Final* was an appropriately bombastic concert-closer; Rachel played the *Final* at her last Mass as organist of St. Clement's. A lengthy standing ovation ensued, which prompted Demers to conclude with the *Fugue Triangulaire* from *Douze courtes pièces, op. 43* as the encore.

Overall, a masterful recital by one of Canada's finest concert organists on one of the finest organs in the nation's capital.

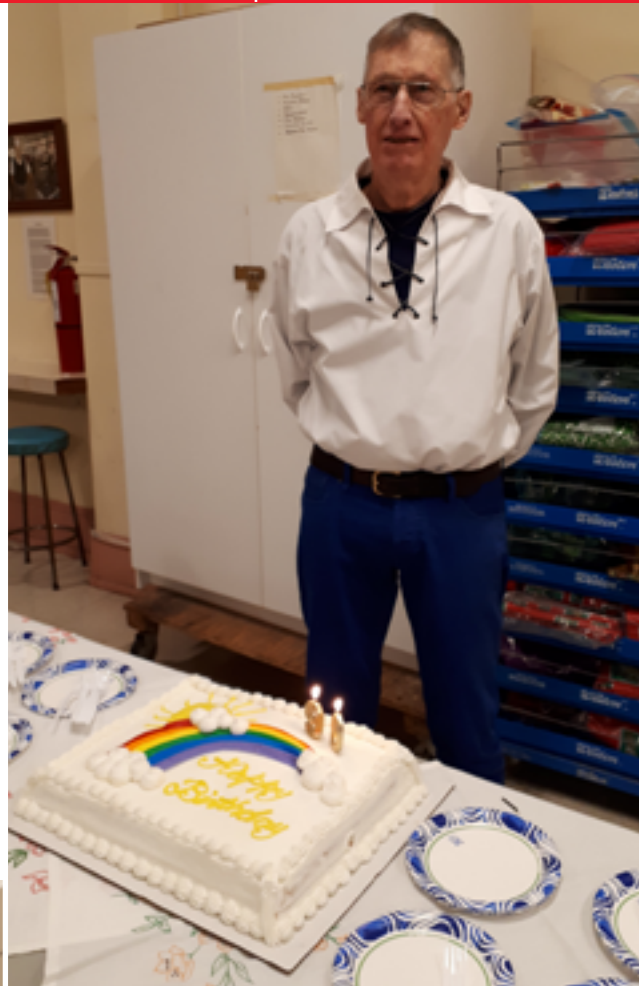






## Celebrating a Big Birthday!

On Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated the **90th birthday** of our archivist, **Larry Kempffer** at St. Giles Presbyterian Church. The evening began in the church with some of Larry's favorite hymns, memories and prayers. Larry spoke of his time as the RCCO Archivist. Our Chaplain, Rev. Christine Piper, also spoke and gave Larry a blessing. We then all proceeded downstairs for a reception with Birthday Cake! Larry was svelte and in fine form, as usual, surrounded by many friends and admirers. Happy Birthday, Larry!



*Photos courtesy Suzanne Marjerrison*



## OTTAWA CENTRE EXECUTIVE 2024-2025

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			<b>NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING:</b> <b>MONDAY, 18 NOVEMBER / 7:30 P.M.</b> WEB MEETING		

## Supply List

### Sunday Supply Organists:

Thomas Annand 613-261-0376 t.annand50@gmail.com Sundays, weddings, funerals, any denomination  
 Elizabeth Brown 613-608-1220 lizbrown2007@hotmail.com Sundays, weddings, funerals, any denomination  
 Frances Macdonnell 613-726-7984 fbmacdonnell@sympatico.ca

### Wedding and Funeral Organists:

James Calkin 613-236-9149 x20 james.calkin@ottawacathedral.ca  
 Simon Pinsonneault 613-299-1886 simon.pinsonneault@tc.gc.ca

Please note that this list is provided by the RCCO for informational purposes only and that, while the RCCO does require background screening in the form of a certified Police Records Check, the primary responsibility for safeguarding vulnerable persons lies with the employer. Potential employers are therefore urged to make their own appropriate checks and precautions, such as seeking references.

## 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

**Robert Jones**, MMus, ARCCO. Info: robertpjones12345@gmail.com or 613-220-3420

## Next Deadline





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## Newsletter Advertising Rates

Full Page 7¼"x8¾" \$80	Half Page 7¼"x3½" or 4¼"x8¾" \$40	Quarter Page 4¼"x3½" or 2¼"x7¼" \$20	Eighth Page (business card size) 2¼"x3½" \$15
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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 organizer/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.





Join us for our next exciting  
**Pro Organo Recital**  
featuring  
**Joshua  
Zentner-Barrett**  
and  
**Raphael  
Weinroth-Browne**  
Ottawa

***Worlds Within: Soundscapes for Cello and Organ***

Works by Arvo Pärt, Peteris Vasks, Édouard Batiste and Raphael Weinroth-Browne.

**Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 p.m.**

**Trinity United Church  
(1099 Maitland Ave.)**

Tickets available through Eventbrite, on our website or at the door.

For further information, visit our website at

[http://rcco-ottawa.ca/pro\\_organo.html](http://rcco-ottawa.ca/pro_organo.html)

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Monday Lundi  
October Octobre

7:30 pm **28** 19h30

Église Ste-Anne/St. Clément Church  
(528 Old St. Patrick)

**Isabelle Demers**  
Montréal

**In Memoriam:**

Rachel Laurin (1961-2023)

In collaboration with the Canadian International  
Organ Competition / En collaboration avec le  
Concours international d'orgue du Canada

Works by Laurin, including the premiere of  
her last organ works.

Friday Vendredi  
November Novembre

7:30 pm **22** 19h30

Trinity United Church  
(1099 Maitland)

Worlds within: Soundscapes  
for Cello and Organ  
Mondes intérieurs: Sonorités  
pour violoncelle et orgue



**Joshua Zentner-Barrett** (organ)

**Raphael Weinroth-Browne** (cello)

Ottawa

Works by Arvo Pärt, Peteris Vasks, Édouard Batiste, and Raphael Weinroth-Browne



Friday Vendredi  
April Avril

7:30 pm **4** 19h30

Basilique-Cathédrale Notre-Dame  
(356 Sussex)

**Charles Francis**

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Eastman School of Music, USA

**Great Organ Works**  
**Grandes pages de l'orgue**

Works by Bach, de Grigny,  
Franck, Alain and Duruflé

Monday Lundi  
May Mai

7:30 pm **5** 19h30

Église Saint-François-d'Assise  
(20 Fairmont at Wellington)

**Jonathan Oldengarm**

Toronto

**Animals in music**  
**Les animaux dans la musique**

Works by Saint-Saëns,  
Poglietti, Bédard and Messiaen



## SUBSCRIPTION ABONNEMENT 2024-2025

Tickets will be available through EventBrite, the RCO website,  
by mail to the RCO, or at the door. Donations are welcome.  
Info: [rcco-ottawa.ca/pro\\_organo.html](http://rcco-ottawa.ca/pro_organo.html)

Season tickets / Billets de saison:

x \$95 (adults / adultes) ..... = \_\_\_\_  
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x \$45 (student / étudiant) ..... = \_\_\_\_  
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