



## President's Message

ALISON KRANIAS

# The Joys of Summer

**S**ummer time! The weather is not always what it used to be, but it is still a quieter time of year. If you are a church musician you probably have a few weeks off, and the weeks when you are working there is less to be done between one Sunday and the next. If you teach you might have the whole summer off. This gives you not only time to rest and vacation, but also get some of those things done you can't quite find time for the rest of the year. Funny thing is, sometimes I can't find time for them in the summer either.

I heard a comedian say one of the things he learned about himself during the pandemic is that he will never clean out his basement. If he didn't get it done when he was locked up at home – and he didn't – he never will. We all have things like that, they don't get done because even though we know we should do them, we don't really have to. There are things, though, that are really worth making

time for in the summer. Like that piece of music you've started to learn but haven't mastered yet, or in my case I might just get one of those filing cabinets full of old choir music cleaned out, to make room for the new pieces I've bought for the choir.

One thing I would like to do right now is thank Alexander Reicher for his service as Treasurer. In my April message I was remiss in not including him on my list of members stepping down from the Executive this year. I think my oversight was because he announced his resignation a year ago, giving us time to find a new treasurer who could work alongside Alexander this year. That new treasurer is James Seyler, and I'm confident he will find time this summer, and throughout the year, to stay on top of the books.

I wish you all a wonderful summer!.

*Enjoy your summer!*



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## RCCO Ottawa Centre Executive Slate 2025-2026

The following is the proposed slate of candidates for the RCCO Ottawa Centre Executive for 2025-2026 to be presented to the membership for approval at the RCCO Ottawa Centre's Annual General Meeting currently scheduled for June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church:

President: Ian MacKay  
Vice-President: James Calkin  
Past President: Alison Kranias  
Secretary: Robert Jones  
Treasurer: James Seyler  
Chaplain: The Rev. Canon Christine Piper

**National Councillors:** Alison Kranias  
Sue Sparks  
Karen Holmes

**Member at Large:** Ross Jewell

### Convenors of Committees:

Archives	Robert Jones
Education	(vacant)
Hewitt Memorial Fund	Frances Macdonnell, Elaine Graham
Historic Organs	Sylvain Brisson
Membership	Donald Marjerrison
Newsletter Editors	Suzanne and Rick St. Germain
Pro Organo	Gilles Leclerc
Professional Support	Rev. Dr. Dan Hansen
Program	Heather Rice
Publicity	Laurel O'Connor
Student Concerns	Sue Sparks
Social	Suzanne Marjerrison
Webmaster	Gordon Johnston

Thank you so much to all of those who have let their names stand for office for the coming year.



## Annual General Meeting

Monday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

7:00 for 7:30 pm

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church

(971 Woodroffe Ave, north of the Queensway)

This is your Centre. Our executive values your feedback. Come out and voice your opinions and ideas on what you'd like to have your Centre do. The Annual General Meeting of the Ottawa Centre is our opportunity to conduct the necessary business of the College, but also to celebrate the year past and look forward to the coming year.

We are pleased to announce that Sylvain Brisson, will be recognized as the 2025 Member of the Year. Reception begins at 7:00 pm. Presentation to Sylvain will be at 7:30 followed by the AGM proper.

All members are encouraged to attend and participate in decision-making of your Centre and to hear reports of the various convenors and National Council representatives. There is plenty of parking behind the church.



## Centre Events

**Monday, June 2, 2025, 7:00 for 7:30 pm**

Join us for Ottawa Centre's Annual General Meeting to be held at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 971 Woodroffe Avenue, just north of the Queensway. Reception at 7:00 pm, meeting starts at 7:30 pm. Further details in upcoming issues of *Pipelines*.

**Sunday, June 8, 2025, 7:30 pm**

Recital by Robert Jones in honour of David Palmer. The recital will be held at St. Stephen's Anglican Church (930 Watson St.) will also feature Jonathan Bayley (flute) who taught at the University of Windsor and sang in David Palmer's choir at All Saints.

## Members' News

**Welcome to our newest student member:**

**Nadon, Mathéo.**  
*matheo.nadon@outlook.com*



## Around Town

### Celebrating a Century of Trusted Service

Hulse, Playfair & McGarry Funeral Homes are celebrating 100 years of service to the Ottawa and Gatineau communities.

One of the events to mark this milestone, our Central Chapel, 315 McLeod Street, will host four Sunday

afternoon organ recitals during the month of September 2025, mirroring the organ recitals presented by Charles Hulse & Keith Playfair when they installed their Central Chapel Casavant pipe organ in June of 1946.

Beginning at 4 pm and following Hulse & Playfair's early format, we have invited some of Ottawa's noted organists to present a program.

Four local charities will be honored each Sunday and freewill donations will be accepted. An informal reception in the McGarry Family Reception Centre will follow each recital.

Sunday, September 7 - Tom Annand  
Sunday, September 14 - Bob Jones  
Sunday, September 21 - TBC  
Sunday, September 28 - Shawn Potter

## *RCCO Annual Organist—Clergy and Friends Dinner*



**Monday October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**6:00 pm gather, 6:30 pm dinner**

**KS on the Keys Restaurant**  
**1029 Dazé St.**  
**(NW Bank & Hunt Club)**

**Invite your clergy, choir members or friends. All are welcome.**

**Guest speaker:**  
**Wesley Warren, recently retired organist & choir director of St. Barnabas Anglican Church**

**Dinner cost of \$40.00 is partially subsidized by the Ottawa Centre, and may be paid by cheque or e-transfer.**

**Watch for the September issue of our *Pipelines* newsletter for further details, including menu choices. Respond with your choice of main course to Suzanne Wilson-Marjerrison, RCCO Ottawa Centre Social Convenor, before Oct.17<sup>th</sup>.**





## Member of the Year - Sylvain Brisson

DOMINIQUE BRISSON

Sylvain Brisson grew up in Embrun, Ontario, in a musical family where almost everyone played an instrument and sang in the church choir. In 1981, he obtained a degree in Museology, at Algonquin College in Ottawa, specializing in restoration and conservation of historical artifacts. He also completed field training at Canadian Conservation Institute and National Museum of Science and Technology. He later worked in Blind River Ontario, at the Timber Village Museum, as curator.

In Fall 1981, Sylvain was hired by François Caron Incorporated, the local Casavant organs representative where he worked for many years in apprenticeship with Robert Hiller. Sylvain learned the trade of organ restoration, tuning and maintenance, and received a Certification from the Collège de l'Outaouais. He quickly became the service manager until the early 90s.

In 1993, Sylvain took over the servicing and general care of over 150 pipe organs in the region under the new Orgues S. Brisson Pipe Organs company. With his teammate Jean-François Gariépy, he basically covered the Cornwall to Belleville to Sudbury triangle but also answered many outside calls. During the last 43 years, Sylvain was happy to meet wonderful people that made him

feel part of their community. He will now spend his retirement with his wife, his two children, their spouses and two grandchildren.



Sylvain a grandi à Embrun dans l'Est ontarien. Il est de la sixième génération de Brisson d'en ce village. La musique a toujours fait partie de l'héritage familial. En 1981, il obtient un diplôme en Muséologie du Collège Algonquin,

avec une spécialisation en restauration et en conservation d'artefacts. Il a aussi complété un stage pratique à l'Institut canadien de conservation et au Musée des sciences et technologies. Son premier emploi s'est fait au Timber Village Museum de Blind River en Ontario comme curateur.

À l'automne 1981, Sylvain revient à Ottawa et est embauché par la compagnie François Caron Inc où il a appris le métier d'entretien d'orgues auprès de Robert Hiller. Ceci lui a permis de recevoir une certification du Collège de l'Outaouais comme organier. Sylvain a occupé le poste de gérant des services de cette compagnie jusqu'au début des années 90.

En 1993, Sylvain reprend officiellement la compagnie sous le nom de Orgues S. Brisson Pipe Organs. Avec son collègue Jean-François Gariépy, il entretient plus de 150 orgues dans la région, soit de Cornwall à Belleville à Sudbury, tout en dépannant quelques paroisses à l'extérieur de cette zone. Pendant les 43 dernières années, Sylvain a apprécié rencontrer des personnes qui l'ont accueilli chaleureusement dans leurs paroisses. Pendant sa retraite, il prévoit voyager avec son épouse et passer plus de temps avec ses deux enfants, leurs conjoints et ses deux petits-enfants.



## Kiwanis Music Festival Scholarships

FRANCES MACDONNELL

**F**ollowing this year's Ottawa Kiwanis Music Festival organ classes, held on March 31 in the First Church of Christ, Scientist, with Dr. John Brough as the adjudicator, the scholarships were awarded as follows:

**Kiwanis Arnt Loa Scholarship (\$600)**  
**Aleesha Katary** (previously studying with Frances Macdonnell and Tom Annand, now studying with Peter Nikiforuk while at Waterloo University)

**RCCO Ottawa Centre Scholarship (\$500)** **Ethan Sue**, studying with Shawn Potter.

Congratulations to these students and their teachers!





## Jonathan Oldengarm Concert Review

ROBERT JONES

**On** Monday, May 5th, at l'Église Saint-François d'Assise, Jonathan Oldengarm—the Minister of Music at Toronto's Metropolitan United Church—played an outstanding recital to close out the 36<sup>th</sup> season of Pro Organo. Titled *Animals in Music*, several of the pieces chosen referenced various animals: from four legged creatures (cats and a lamb) to several of our feathered friends.

The programme began with Handel's *Concerto in F Major* (nicknamed *Cuckoo and Nightingale*). The opening movement, a lyrical Largo, is followed by an Allegro, a dialogue between the cuckoo and the nightingale. The designation ad libitum is indicated in the third movement, and Oldengarm's stylistic approach

The highlight of the evening for me was Oldengarm's rendition of *O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig* (from Bach's Leipzig collection). Sparing use of rubato to highlight cadential points added to the performance. The 10 2/3' Quint in the pedal is intended to sound like a 32' pitch, and it really did under the 16' plenum in the manuals.

Denis Bédard's delightful *Cat Suite* was next on the programme. The first movement (fittingly named *Prrrelude*) opens very much like Mendelssohn's *Prelude in G major*. One could certainly visualize the cats chasing each other in the second movement, *Cats at Play*. The hautbois was used very expressively in the third movement *Catnap* as one pictured the cats yawning before the concluding *Toc-cat-a*, a fitting conclusion.



The nickname *Cat Fugue* was never used by the Domenico Scarlatti but originates from a story about how he came up with an unusual motif on which the fugue is built. (Legend has it that Scarlatti had a cat who was prone to walking across the keyboard, always curious about its sounds.) The subject of this fugue sounds like his cat walking up the keyboard and then turned around and quickly ran down the keyboard!

The second half of the recital opened with Alessandro Poglietti's *Aria*

*Allemagna* a set of variations which date from 1677. Different dance forms of the period were employed in the variations, such as a canzona, allemande, courante, sarabande and gigue.

It was rather fitting that an organist and composer like Alexandre Guilmant arrange an organ transcription of *The Swan* from Camille Saint-Saëns' *Carnival of the Animals*. The serene and fluid accompaniment in the manuals contrasted effectively with the pedal's 4' Prestant singing out on the melody.

Commissioned in 1992 by the Toronto Centre of the RCCO, Larysa Kuzmenko's *Atlantis* begins with an overture that sets the mood for the work. The second section, a passacaglia – with a very active subject – builds in intensity to the full resources of the organ. The final section, an epilogue, uses some of the material from the overture as the piece comes to a quiet close.

Georg Muffat's *Toccata septima* is a fantasia-like work. It begins in the style of a French overture followed by fugal sections alternating with freer improvised style sections with the various themes all coming together to bring the piece to a majestic conclusion.

On behalf of our Centre, I would like to offer a huge thank you to the committee – chaired by Gilles Leclerc – for producing the Pro Organo series this year. A lot of time and effort goes into such an endeavour: it was a job well done.

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2025-26

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## Ottawa Centre Student Recital

DONALD MARJERRISON

On Saturday, May 24th, two student organists and three piano students, gave a recital at Kitchissippi United Church. **Mathéo Nadon**, a student of Robert Jones & Adrian Ross, played organ works by Johann Speth: *Magnificat Octavi Toni*, *André Raison Trio en Passacaille*, and the hymn tune *Southwell*.

Following were three pianists, scholarship winners in the recent Ottawa Piano Festival, playing works of J.S. Bach from memory. **Hanru Li** played *Little Prelude in D minor (BWV 926)*. **Heather Cai** played *Sinfonia in G Major (BWV 796)*, and **Qiran Fu** played *Prelude & Fugue in F major (BWV 880)*.

The programme concluded with **Yi Zhou**, a student of Robert Jones, playing three organ works. The first work was *Prelude & Fugue in G Major* by Felix Mendelssohn followed by the audience singing the hymn *Good Christians All*,

*Rejoice and Sing* on the Hymn tune *Vulpius*. Yi finished with the *Prelude & Fugue in B-flat major (BWV 560)* attributed to J.S. Bach.

The recitalists gave a superb effort and excellent performances. Robert Jones

emceed the event and gave interesting introductions to each work that was performed. It was a most enjoyable afternoon concert for those present.

Thanks to Robert Jones for organizing this event.



L-R: Mathéo Nadon, Qiran Fu, Heather Cai, Hanru Li, Yi Zhou (Photo courtesy Suzanne Marjerrison)

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Rev. Christine Piper

### On Being Real

This morning, as I have settled down to write my 'Chaplain's Corner' for *Pipelines*, I do so with a fresh resolve to be *real* with all of you! In response you may be wondering, Christine, have you not been *real*, with us in your previous articles? May I assure you that I have always tried to be real, conveying, as it were, where I am at in the moment; even as I am often concerned in that reality not with myself, but with all of you with whom I am trying, sincerely, to be in touch.

But there are varying degrees of being real; and today – in my wisdom - I have

decided to take this one step further. Not because I have seen any lack in our communications and those of others within our community, but because life at its fullest is so very real, demanding surely that we try to be authentic with the other... Indeed, each day we are challenged to act and be in touch with our neighbors – often members of our church communities where we serve in good faith – hopefully from the center of who we are. It is not always easy: indeed, it can take courage and, yes, experience to do just that.

One legitimate question may indeed be: When were we last in communication with the other from the center of who we



are as persons, and yet also appropriately within the moment with which we are being graced? We do not want to overwhelm the other with personal matters that are best shared with close friends and family. And yet, experience has certainly taught me that when *the other* tries, within the realities and parameters of the moment in which we find ourselves, to be sincerely authentic with me in their communication, I am offered the privilege of being touched – indeed challenged – to be authentic in return. As a result, something good unfolds between us: they are touched and, somehow, in their response convey this, in turn touching myself, nudging me to hold on to – and to offer – my sincere being in my response.

And yes, something *real* unfolds between us, encouraging us in this world where communication can often be shallow and – do I dare say it? – half baked. What we offer in the fullness of who we are as church deeply matters, and, indeed, is important to Christ Jesus who dwells at its center.

Thanks be to God

## OTTAWA CENTRE EXECUTIVE 2024-2025

### OTTAWA CENTRE EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT	ALISON KRANIAS	613-791-6516
VICE-PRESIDENT	IAN MacKAY	613-447-8955
PAST PRESIDENT	ROBERT JONES	613-220-3420
SECRETARY	GORDON JOHNSTON	613-983-8362
TREASURER	ALEXANDER REICKER & JAMES SEYLER	613-884-8539 613.821.2175
CHAPLAIN	REV. CANON CHRISTINE PIPER	613-725-2164

### NATIONAL COUNCILLORS

ALISON KRANIAS	613-761-6516
KAREN HOLMES	613-728-8041
SUE SPARKS	613-798-3739

### MEMBER AT LARGE

Shirley Stratilo-Fleischhaker

### CONVENORS OF COMMITTEES

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GODFREY HEWITT FUND	FRANCES MACDONNELL	613-726-7984
	ELAINE GRAHAM	613-729-8277
HISTORIC ORGANS	JOHN WANLESS	613-283-2590
MEMBERSHIP	DONALD MARJERRISON	613-724-3793
NEWSLETTER	RICK & SUZANNE ST. GERMAIN	613-841-0246
PRO ORGANO	GILLES LECLERC	613-798-0264
PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT	REV. DR. DAN HANSEN	613-635-2127
PROGRAM/EDUCATION	HEATHER RICE	613-563-1409
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SOCIAL CONVENOR	SUZANNE MARJERRISON	613-724-3793
STUDENT CONCERNS	SUE SPARKS	613-798-3739
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OTTAWA, ON K1P 5W4

**NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING:**  
**MONDAY, 23 AUGUST / 7:30 P.M.**  
ANNUAL GENERALX 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 873-660-8252 citationsimon@gmail.com

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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### ST. MATTHEW'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Located in the Glebe, St. Matthew's Anglican is a vibrant Christian community that has a standard of excellent music making. The music program supports the life of the Parish of St. Matthew's in its contribution to the worship experience.

St. Matthew's holds weekly Holy Eucharist services and a monthly Choral Evensong. Music for worship is anchored in the Anglican choral tradition. The adult choir is a group of 25 members, including four paid choral scholars, plus a small children's choir.

The ideal candidate will hold a Bachelor of Music degree or Diploma from the Royal Canadian College of Organists and will have strong communication and interpersonal skills. Familiarity with Anglican liturgy and choral music is essential. The candidate must have experience directing choirs and instrumentalists.

This position is 20 hours per week and includes benefits. Compensation is based on RCCO guidelines and as negotiated. The Director of Music reports to the Incumbent and Churchwardens.

A full job description can be found by clicking on [this link](#).

Please submit your application by May 31st, 2025 to: [admin@stmatthewsottawa.ca](mailto:admin@stmatthewsottawa.ca)





# Preparation for the Choir Training Certificate Examination

FRANCES MACDONNELL

As

I have done several times before, I plan to offer a series of Saturday-morning workshops to prepare RCCO members for the RCCO's Certificate in Choir-Training examination, which is offered by the College each May. Quite a few of our members have taken this examination - and enjoyed it!

This is a fun examination to take! - and it hones your skills in conducting a small choir, a skill everyone needs. It involves preparing to conduct a small choir in a simple rehearsal in front of an examiner: rehearsing one hymn, one anthem, and a short psalm. These are all planned and prepared in advance: there are no rehearsal surprises! I will provide my own small choir, the Cranmer Singers, as the test choir, and they will be as helpful to the candidates as they can.

There is also a written examination, in which candidates answer three questions:

- Add chord symbols to a given melodic line, using Roman numerals;
- Analyze the harmony of a passage from a short anthem, and answer a few easy point-form questions about the anthem;

- Write a short paragraph (100 words or less) on four out of ten questions on basic subjects such as: sight-singing; vocal training; conducting techniques; congregational singing; the organization, recruitment, and training of choirs; and so on.

There will also be two simple ear test questions on the day of the written examination. We will prepare approaches for all these questions in advance.

These Requirements are all for useful common-sense musical skills which we all in fact have, but which we all need to practise in order to gain confidence. And we will practise them all during the workshops in advance of the exam.

To prepare members who may be interested in taking this Certificate examination, I will provide a series of six (6) workshops on Saturday mornings through next fall and winter. In the course of these workshops, we will practise all these skills, and there will be some easy written homework, so that candidates are fully prepared for the Requirements of this examination, which results in an RCCO certificate which you can hang on the wall of your Choir Room!

The first of these six workshops will be held on **Saturday September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, from 10 am until noon** at my apartment, 303-3099 Carling Avenue. I'm located on Carling Avenue just west of Bayshore Drive; there is a large visitors' parking lot directly in front of the building. Subsequent workshops will be scheduled at times to be convenient to all participants.

If you would like to sign up, even tentatively, for these workshops, or for further information, please contact me at [fbmacdonnell@sympatico.ca](mailto:fbmacdonnell@sympatico.ca), or call 613-726-7984. This notice will again be in the September issue of Pipelines.

I look forward to meeting prospective Choir Training Certificate candidates at 10 am on Saturday September 20!

## **First workshop:**

Saturday September 20, 2025  
10 am till noon  
303 - 3099 Carling Avenue (ring #20  
at the front door of the building)





## Around Town

### Sunday, June 22, 2025 at 4:00 pm

The series of monthly **Choral Evensongs** at St. Thomas's Anglican Church will continue on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, when the Choir of St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church, directed by Tim Piper, will present a Choral Evensong service at 4.00 pm. St. Thomas's Anglican Church is located at 2345 Alta Vista Drive. There is plenty of on-site parking and the church is wheelchair accessible. Bus 44 stops outside the door. The service will last less than an hour. All are welcome.

### Celebrating a Century of Trusted Service

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Sunday, September 14 - Bob Jones  
Sunday, September 21 - TBC  
Sunday, September 28 - Shawn Potter

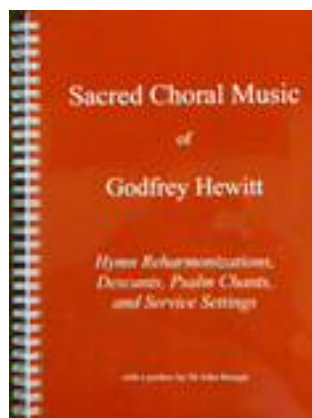


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(Purchasers of this book may copy individual pieces for performance purposes)

# Pro Organo

Season / saison 37  
2025-26

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Sunday  
October 19 dimanche  
3:00 pm 15h00

Église St-François d'Assise Church  
(20 ave Fairmont Ave./ at/angle  
rue Wellington St. West/Ouest)

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Friday  
March 20 vendredi  
7:30 pm 19h30

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GRANDES OEUVRES POUR ORGUE /  
GREAT ORGAN WORKS

Works by / Oeuvres de :

Brahms, Vierne & Alain



Sunday  
April 26 dimanche  
3:00 pm 15h00

Église Unie Rideau Park United Church  
(2203 prom. Alta Vista Drive)

**Valerie Hall**

Regina

CANADIAN ORGAN MUSIC /  
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In Memory of / À la mémoire de  
Dianne Ferguson

Monday  
June 15 lundi  
7:30 pm 19h30

Paroisse St. Clement's Church  
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**Aaron James**

Toronto

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MUSIQUE POUR LA PENTECÔTE

Works by / Oeuvres de :

Bach, Guilman, Duruflé & Robin



## SUBSCRIPTION ABONNEMENT 2025-2026

Tickets will be available through EventBrite, the RCCO website,  
by mail to the RCCO, or at the door. Donations are welcome.  
Info: rcco-ottawa.ca/pro\_organo.html

Season tickets / Billets de saison:

\_\_\_ x \$95 (adults / adultes) ..... = \_\_\_  
\_\_\_ x \$80 (senior / âge d'or) ..... = \_\_\_  
\_\_\_ x \$45 (student / étudiant) ..... = \_\_\_  
\_\_\_ Don/Donation\* ..... = \_\_\_  
Total = \_\_\_

Individual Tickets at the door / Billets individuels à la porte : \$30, \$25, \$15

\* Tax receipts for donations / Reçu d'impôts en échange de votre don

Name/Nom: \_\_\_\_\_

Address/Adresse: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code/Code postal: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail/Courriel: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of donor, for programmes/Nom du donateur, pour les programmes: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheque payable to:

RCCO - Ottawa Centre

PO Box 2270, Stn. D

Ottawa ON K1P 5W4

or/ou ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express

Name on card/Nom sur la carte \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number/ Numéro de la carte \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry date/ Date de l'expiration \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

SVP postez votre chèque au :

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