



Pipelines

Bouches et anches



Hymn Singing: Back to Basics

President's Message

DEIRDRE PIPER

- 1 President's Message
- 2 2008/09 Programme of Events
- 3 Around Town
Pro Organo
- 4 New Organ Works
Members' News
- 5 A Busy September Saturday
Free Organ Music
- 6 Ottawa Premiere BWV 1128
- 7 Supply List
To Note
Organ Teachers List
- 8 Our Advertisers

While our own duties often make it somewhat difficult, we organists should value any opportunity to sit as members of a congregation and to experience the music as it is offered to those in the pews. On different occasions recently I have taken these opportunities. I now feel constrained to speak out of those experiences and, I regret, from the discomfort that I felt after two of them, each involving large congregations brought together specifically for celebration and praise.

My subject is the playing of hymns for congregational singing. Hymns are the corporate voice of the church engaged in public worship. The implications of that statement are several and various:

- i) The whole congregation sings as one body;
- ii) That body of singers will necessarily include both trained and untrained voices, and voices from all points in between;
- iii) The singing is unrehearsed;
- iv) The effort of singing must never detract unduly from an appreciation of the poetry and from the theology which it expresses;
- v) The act of singing must be enjoyable if praise and worship are to proceed worthily and as a vital component of the liturgy (the performing of the people).

It would seem to follow that, in so far as our playing on organ or piano, or the leadership of a 'spirit band,' interferes with, or

negates, any of these things or fails to take into account the vocal reality of the situation, we fall short. I understand our role in this context to be that of a facilitator of hymn singing. So it is inappropriate to perform in a manner that impedes in any way the singing of hymns and their understanding in the liturgical context. Playing that is not rhythmically solid and predictable, for instance, leaves the singers guessing and insecure (this is why hymn tunes are tonal and metrical). Equally, playing that uses the hymn as a vehicle for

Hymns are the corporate voice of the church engaged in public worship

the exhibition of amazing improvisational ability (in itself an admirable art) is both a misuse of the hymn and a possible impediment to the congregation's true corporate act. The art of hymn accompaniment and the leading of massed unrehearsed singing demands both technical competence and the humility to set aside acts of musical exhibitionism. This is true for amateur and professional musicians alike.

There, I've said it. Thank you for your patience.

My best wishes to you all at this tide of All Saints.

- Deirdre.

2008/09 Programme of Events

IAN MACKAY

Messiaen Pre-Concert Lecture Wednesday November 26 at 7:30

On Wednesday, November 26 at 7:30, Notre Dame Cathedral on Sussex Drive, Tom Annand will offer a pre-concert lecture on the organ works of Olivier Messiaen prior to his Pro Organo concert on Friday November 28, 2008. 2008 marks Messiaen's 100th Birthday and, for us as musicians, it's a chance to celebrate his significant contribution to the organ literature. On the surface, much of his work is mysterious but even a scratch below the surface reveals Messiaen's genius and traceable compositional styles and influences. Tom will walk and talk through the entire oeuvre and play excerpts. For those who might be interested, there are several very informative websites which chronicle the life and work of Olivier Messiaen as part of the celebration of his centenary and in particular his passion for the organ, sacred music and composition. One in particular is excellent: www.messiaen2008.com

Looking Ahead...

On December 6th at 10:00am-1:00pm, (location to be determined) Rachel Laurin will offer a workshop on improvisation. During last year's workshop, Rachel walked us through several styles including theme based improvisation (e.g. hymn tunes) and free form styles (toccatas). This year's workshop will focus entirely on improvising on given themes.

On Friday December 19th, 7:30pm at Eglise Saint-Anne, there will be a Member's (and guests) Recital of French Noels especially for the Christmas season...so dig out your Daquin or Balbastre or Dan-

drieu or Corrette or Dupré or Guilman etc. and start practising. Some members have already agreed to participate and others will be confirmed within the next couple of weeks. In addition to featuring the classic organ Noels, there will be congregational singing and other instrumental ensembles including brass and woodwinds. We are hoping to make this a major event for the Ottawa Centre but also for the wider community so please pass the word along to friends, family and colleagues.

Looking Back...

Regrettably, our first snow storm of the season forced the cancellation of the **Super Spooky Halloween Event** scheduled for Woodroffe United Church on October 28th. We had a fun evening lined up and had arranged for the local Cub and Beaver troops join us for the event. Many thanks to those organists who had agreed to play and dress up for the event and to Woodroffe United Church for the venue arrangements. Thanks also to Barbara Neve, our social convenor for making plans to have Halloween treats available after the event.

As small number of members gathered for the **Visit to St Brigid's (now the Irish-Canadian Cultural Centre)** to both see and play the tubular-pneumatic organ which is Casavant Opus 429. The organ is in poor shape and tune but still interesting in that it is one of very few instruments from that era that remains essentially unaltered since its original installation in 1910. The organ has three manuals and pedal with 23 stops. Notwithstanding the work that would need to be done to bring the instrument back to life, the

acoustic was excellent owing in large part to the wooden interior of the church. The Centre has plans to host regular concerts and event throughout the year and have embarked on a campaign to repair and refurbish the interior and exterior over the coming years.

Organ specs for St. Brigid's Casavant opus 429 are as follows:

Great

8' Open Diapason
8' Doppel Flote
8' Salicional
4' Principal
2' Fifteenth
8' Trumpet

Swell

16' Bourdon
8' Open Diapason
8' Stopped Diapason
8' Viola da gamba
8' Voix Céleste
4' Hohlflute
2' Piccolo
8' Oboe
8' Cornopean
Tremulant

Choir

8' Melodia
8' Dulciana
2' Flute
8' Clarinet

Pedal

16' Open Diapason
16' Bourdon
8' Flute

Sw 8ves; Sw/Gt; Sw sup/Gt; Sw sub/Gt;
Sw/Ch; Ch/Gt; Ch sub/Gt; Gt 8ves
Gt/Ped; Sw/Ped; Ch/Ped

Swell pedal, Crescendo pedal

Three combination pedals.

Member's News

Membership: change of address:

Simon Pinsonneault
1623, Wainfleet
Orléans, Ontario
K1C 3G3

"We extend our sympathy to Gordon Johnston on the death of his mother in Salt Lake City on Wed, 8 October 2008."

"Heartly congratulations to Mai-yu Chan on her recent election to the Board

of Directors of the 'Friends of the Canadian War Museum (CWM)'; members will recall that two years ago Mai-yu was named CWM Volunteer of the Year."

- Info from "The Torch" Vol 19 No 3 (Aug 2008)

Around Town

Sunday, 2 November, 7:30 pm.

Quintet from 'Musica Divina' presents "Remembrance" – music from the last five centuries. St. Luke's Church, 760 Somerset Street West (3 blocks west of Bronson Avenue). Admission by donation. 613-235-3416; www.stlukesottawa.ca.

Sunday, 16 November, 7:30 pm.

Twelfth Night Society & Men's Voyces; Andrew Huggett (recorder), Madeleine Owen (lute, theorbo), The Queene's Musicke: An evening of Yuletide song and dance at the court of Elizabeth I. St. Luke's Anglican Church, 760 Somerset Street West (3 blocks west of Bronson) (613)235-3416, www.stlukesottawa.ca. #2 Bus stop at our door. The church is wheel-

chair accessible. Admission by donation.

Sunday, 30 November, 7:30 pm.

Deanne Van Rooyen (harp). An evening of harp music and other surprises from around the world. St. Luke's Anglican Church, 760 Somerset Street West (3 blocks west of Bronson) #2 Bus stop at our door. (613) 235-3416, www.stlukesottawa.ca. The church is wheel-chair accessible. Admission by donation.

Wednesdays 3, 10 and 19 December, 12:30-1:00 p.m.

Noon days at Knox. Knox Presbyterian Church (Elgin/Lisgar).

Sunday, 14 December, 4:00 p.m.

Festivals of Lessons and Carols. Knox

Presbyterian Church (Elgin/Lisgar).

Sunday, 14 December, 7:30 pm.

Opus Four (flute quartet: Kirsten Carlson, Natasha Chapman, Loyda Lastra, Cathy Rollins Baerg) with guest harpist Mary Muckle. Opus Four and guest harpist Mary Muckle present an enjoyable evening of flute and harp selections that include unfamiliar Christmas music as well as some old favourites. St. Luke's Anglican Church, 760 Somerset Street West (3 blocks west of Bronson Ave.) Ottawa. K1R 6P9, #2 Bus stops at our door. (613) 235-3416, www.stlukesottawa.ca. The church is wheel-chair accessible. Admission by donation.



Pro Organo

KAREN HOLMES

The next concert in the Pro Organo Ottawa series, on Friday, November 28th at 8 p.m., features Thomas Annand on the organ at Notre-Dame Cathedral-Basilica (Sussex and Guigues). This historic programme will be a celebration of the 100th birthday of Olivier Messiaen, coming up on December 10th.

The music will consist of pieces by Messiaen, or pieces connected to him and/or La Trinité church where he played in Paris. The *pièce de résistance* will be a newly-commissioned work called *Sonatine* by renowned Canadian composer Gary Kulesha. Most of you will be aware that Kulesha has written works for many

major Canadian orchestras, but it is not well-known that he studied organ. This will be his first major composition for organ. Kulesha says that his whole compositional output has been influenced by his study of Messiaen's musical language and compositional techniques.

You will not need to be reminded of Tom Annand's talent as a performer. If you feel you are not partial to contemporary music, come out for this historic event. This is a concert honouring one of the most important composers of organ music, and the Ottawa Centre has commissioned a new piece by one of Canada's most important contemporary composers.

Prior to this recital, Tom will be holding a workshop at Notre-Dame on Wednesday, November 26th, at 7:30 p.m. During this workshop, Tom will be talking about Messiaen and this recital programme and this will undoubtedly add to our appreciation of his recital.

Here is the programme for November 28th:

Alexandre Guilmant - *Grand Chœur* (alla Handel); Marcel Dupré - *Légende, Marche* (from *Sept pièces*); Gary Kulesha - *Sonatine* (world première); Naji Hakim - *Agapé*; Olivier Messiaen - *Messe de la Pentecôte*.

From the Webmaster...

ROSS JEWELL

Don't forget to visit the Ottawa Centre website rcco-ottawa.ca for information about our centre. The site has a wealth of information on our centre and activities.

If you have written music that is published or recorded CDs, we have a page to advertise those items. If you would like to have your music or CDs added to this page, please send the information to web-

master@rcco-ottawa.ca. If you already have publications listed, you can have the listings modified or you can add to the listing by e-mailing the webmaster.

You will also find information on Pro Organo, Centre activities, the organ supply and organ teacher lists. There is also a list of all our scholarships and requirements. Some scholarships are aimed at students

and others are offered to our members to help in the expenses of attending professional development activities. Please look at these lists and apply for scholarships.

If you know of anyone that should be a member of our centre, there is a membership information and application on line as well. The website is there for your information. Bookmark it and visit regularly.

Ludger Lohman Concert - Review

JAMES GALKIN

Ludger Lohmann performed the opening concert in Pro Organo's 20th season earlier this month at Saint-François-d'Assise Church. Increasingly well-known in this country for his teaching at the McGill Summer Academy for Organists and now as a jurist at the Canadian International Organ Competition, Lohmann is professor of organ at the *Stuttgart Hochschule für Musik* and organist at St-Eberhard Cathedral in that city.



*Ludger Lohmann (center)
with Gilles Leclerc and Karen Holmes*

At his concert on October 6th, Lohmann showed himself an organist of the highest order, combining technical brilliance and control, ardour and restraint. The program was a survey of German contributions to the organ sonata form by Hindemith, Distler, Ritter as well as the more well-known sonatas of Bach and Mendelssohn.

Throughout the program I was continually impressed by two aspects of Lohmann's performance: touch and registration. In the Bach *Triosonate* (BWV 529) lines unfolded naturally, gracefully, unhurriedly. Each note presented itself pearl-like, even in the context of the mind-bending texture of a Bach Trio Sonata. The second half of the program featured works by Hugo Distler and August Ritter and was an exemplary demonstration of the art of registration. From the luminous last movement of the Distler to the subtly graded colours of the symphonic Ritter Sonata, Lohmann made the two manual Guilbault-Thérien instrument seem 50% larger!

Though uncredited, the program notes were a very welcome addition to the eve-

ning's music; especially helpful were the biographical notes on Distler and Ritter, putting into a larger cultural context the music we were hearing (in my case for the first time).



*Among Lohmann's many admirers
from the German Embassy.*

Thank you to Karen Holmes for her ongoing efforts to bring artists of this calibre to Ottawa. And to Gilles Leclerc, many thanks, for his efforts to keep the Saint-Francois organ a vital component of our National Capital organ patrimony.

Centre Profile - David Huddleson

KAREN HOLMES

David Huddleson came to Ottawa in 1995, and since that time we have come to know him through his activities with the RCCO. However, you may not know much about his pre-Ottawa life!

David was born and educated in Belfast, Northern Ireland. He took piano lessons and played for his Sunday School at a young age. He was persuaded to learn the organ and, at the age of 14, he became organist of St. Matthias Church in Belfast.

In 1957, David and his wife Frances moved to Montreal, where David had a job in the drawing office of Canadian Vickers, a ship-building company. David joined the choir at St. Cyprian's Church, and within six months he had become the organist. In 1958, Montreal organist Ed Brown invited David to join the RCCO, and of course, it wasn't long before he was

part of the executive.

He served several years as Secretary, and then Chair of the Centre. From 1965 to 1979, he was organist at Trinity Church, St. Bruno. In 1979, he joined the Cathedral Singers at Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal and, in 1980, he became assistant organist to Gerald Wheeler.

Throughout the 1980's, he was one of the most active substitute organists in Montreal. Meanwhile, he was co-Chair (with Karl Raudsepp) of the 1985 National Convention in Montreal, and Vice-Chair in 1993 of the Montreal ICO (International Congress of Organists).

David retired in 1995, and looking for a change, he and Francis moved to Ottawa, where they could also be closer to their son and his family. David soon got involved with the RCCO here, and he

was part of the organizing committee for the 2003 Convention. He sings regularly and plays occasionally at St. James Anglican Church in Manotick, and has also substituted in several Ottawa churches.

While working, David travelled extensively, and has many stories to tell of organs in various parts of the world. For example, during the 1994 meetings with the International Civil Aviation Organization as Chief Cartographer, he played the Walker organ in Nairobi Cathedral!

During the winter, David migrates to Clearwater, Florida where he sings with various choirs and sometimes has the chance to accompany or substitute for services. He has recently finished the complete (down to the last nut and bolt!) **restoration of his 1964 Triumph Vitesse sports car. But that's another story...**

Organ of St. Stephan, Budapest

George Old

It was a privilege to visit Budapest, Hungary this past summer -- doubly so since it included a visit to St. Stephan's Basilica with its exquisite Cavaillé-Coll organ. The original instrument was built in 1904 - 1905 by the company Josef Angster and Son. Josef Angster was student and follower of the Parisian organ builder Cavaillé - Coll. The instrument,



opus 450, had three manuals, 65 registers and pneumatic action. The wooden frame designed by Josef Kauser was realized by the Thek Furniture Factory. In 1932 the organ was enlarged by the Angster Co. and had four manuals with 76 registers and electro-pneumatic action. In 1938 the Rieger Organbuilder Company made a new console, replaced the windchests and increased the number of registers to 79.

The complete registration works started in 1993 by Varadi and Sons organ builders from Budapest. Currently the organist is ISTVAN KOLOSS who was born in 1932 and a pupil of Ferenc Gergely (organ) and Istavain Szelenyi (composition). His playing is available on the CD, UN-GARISCHE ORGELMUSIK, Magyar Orgonazene.



Supply List

Robert Dunlop	613-235-3778	
Janice Gray	613-730-0401	janicenlpegypt@hotmail.com
Bobbie Jean Huff	613-239-0446	bobbiejean@rogers.com
		Most familiar with Catholic, Anglican, United services.
Paula Lin	613-721-2850	paula.w.lin@gmail.com
Frances Macdonnell	613-726-7984,	fbmacdon@magma.ca
Dorothea Mawhinney	613-237-1320 (ext. 2404),	
Simon Pinsonneault	613- 949-5841 (W)	pinsosi@tc.gc.ca

*Please note: Supply list can also be found on the RCCO Ottawa web site at <http://www.rcco-ottawa.ca>
Anyone interested in adding their names to the Supply List,
please contact Suzanne St-Germain at 613-841-0246
or via email at newsletter@rcco-ottawa.ca*

Organ Teachers List

D. Mervyn Games, B.Mus., FRCO, ARCM. Students in piano, organ, and theory at all levels. For info call 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: pentland@hotmail.com

Heather Rice, ARCT, BMus, ARCCO (ChM). Welcomes students in piano, organ, voice and theory, Beginner - Intermediate, Children - Adult. Lessons at St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church, 579 Parkdale Ave. at Sherwood. Call 613-563-1409 or email choirmaster@bellnet.ca.

Wesley R. Warren, M.Mus., FRCO, (ChM), ARCT. Beginning to advanced organ students at St. Barnabas Anglican Church, (Kent St. at James), Ottawa. Info: 613-726-6341

Newsletter submissions

Send your articles and photos to:

Suzanne St-Germain
628 Tourelle Drive
Orleans, ON K4A 3H4
613-841-0246

newsletter@rcco-ottawa.ca
or
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NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING:

7:00 PM, MONDAY NOVEMBER 3RD
ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN



ORGAN RECITAL D'ORGUE

THOMAS ANNAND (OTTAWA)

Friday November 28, 2008 8:00 pm
Vendredi 28 novembre 2008 à 20 h

2008-2009 20th Season – 20^e Saison



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This series is presented by the Royal Canadian College of Organists – Ottawa Centre
Une présentation du Collège royal canadien des organistes – section d'Ottawa

We thank the City of Ottawa for
its assistance in this series of
organ recitals.
Nous remercions la Ville d'Ottawa
pour l'aide apportée à la tenue
de cette série de concerts.

