



# Pipelines

## Bouches et anches

## Music Enables True Worship

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DEIRDRE PIPER

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**D**ear fellow organists and other musicianly friends,

While idly browsing recently, I stumbled over this tasty morsel:

*Of the arts necessary to life which furnish a concrete result, there is carpentry which produces the chair; architecture, the house; shipbuilding, the ship; tailoring, the garment; forging, the blade. Of useless arts, there is harp playing, dancing, flute playing, of which, when the operation ceases, the result disappears with it.*

These are the words of St. Basil (c.330-c.379), Bishop of Caesarea in Asia Minor. I think it would be fair to say that his restrictive views on music (and on harp- and flute-playing in particular!) would not resonate sympathetically with our own views in 2009.\*

Or would they? After all, when in the world of fiscal policy push comes to shove, we all know what appears as if on cue right at the top of the cutting list. Despite mountains of evidence to the contrary, music - and the fine arts generally - are still perceived, certainly in North American culture, to be but frills; real life, it would seem, can do very nicely without them for, after all, they are "useless arts." The result is that those who are committed to the fine arts, whether as creators, performers or patrons, and all those who understand the centrality of the arts in the life of a truly healthy people (not to mention their unrecognized but enormous contribution to the economy), are required

repeatedly to justify the continuation of financial support whether it be in the provision of quality arts programs in our schools and colleges or in the adequate funding of arts-granting organizations to support amateur and professional artistic activities. We today are called to counter another culture that refuses to acknowledge the multi-dimensionality of the human person, a being which, to be truly complete, needs to feed and nurture its spiritual, emotional and aesthetic realities just as much as its physical.

So those of us who serve as musicians in the church where people come for that nurturing have this special responsibility to feed the hungry with sonic sustenance of a quality whose effect will not disappear when its operation ceases. It is our responsibility - and here we can, surely, be at one with St. Basil - to provide music that enables true worship, that is sacramentally offered, and which is Gospel centred.

At this, the coldest time of the year, I offer my warmest greetings to you all.

- Deirdre

\* To be fair to him, it was his job to help separate the Christian community from the prevailing counter-culture of the late Roman empire in which licentiousness and debauchery were often accompanied, indeed enabled, by instrumental and vocal music. For, as he observes elsewhere: "playing instruments is essentially idle and unproductive, leading to licentious behaviour .. the use of flutes ... is but a step to shameful songs and thence to drunkenness and worse." [My apologies to any harpists or flautists among you!]

## Looking Back

Thanks to Karen Holmes for her very informative and practical session on hymn playing at St. Luke's Church. Whereas the events for the fall of 2008 were focused on more academic matters related to the organ, the events for winter and spring of 2009 will be geared to assisting members (including students) to develop and refine practical skills as church musicians.

## Looking Forward

On February 21, 2009 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church (971 Woodroffe Avenue), the Ottawa Centre will host a day-long event for members and potential members on:

1. working with small choirs;
2. finding and choosing practical and approachable repertoire; and
3. challenges working with clergy and church volunteers.

This event will feature three experienced centre members who collectively have worked in different denominational and liturgical traditions and with a range of other professional staff and volunteers. We are hoping that members might promote this event personally to organists and church musicians who are not presently members of the College but who might benefit or welcome this opportunity to expand their skills. Our membership convenor Don Marjerrison has lists of churches and musicians who are not presently connected to the College. Please contact him and offer to make a few calls to promote the event.

In March, the annual student recital will take place on Tuesday March 3 at St. Andrew's Church. Robert Jones, our Convenor of Student Concerns, is coordinating this event and will be in touch with teachers shortly to confirm scheduling and those who will be playing.

In April, the Centre will offer another 'Pedals, Pipes and Pizza' event at Dominion Chalmers United Church in Centretown. This event was very

successful last year and is another opportunity to promote the organ among young piano students. This year's event coincides with the Kiwanis Music Festival open to students 8 years and older.

Also in April we are planning an organ crawl to Rochester New York. Rochester is about a 4 hour drive from Ottawa which is comfortable for a two day event in the late spring when the weather is predictably better than earlier in the year. So...New York here we come! This event that will feature visits to three new instruments that have been installed in Rochester plus other notable instruments associated with the Eastman School of Music. A highlight will be opportunity to hear and play the new two-manual, thirty-three-stop organ named after David Craighead and Russell Saunders, two venerable professors of organ at the Eastman School of Music.



*Replica of the 1776 Casparini organ for the Church of the Holy Ghost in Vilnius, Lithuania. Installed in Christ Church, Rochester, New York and dedicated in October, 2008.*

The result of a six-year interdisciplinary research project between the Göteborg Organ Art Center (GOArt) and the Eastman School of Music on the processes of eighteenth-century organ building, this new organ is a scientific reconstruction of an organ from 1776 built by Adam Gottlob Casparini for the Holy Ghost Church in Vilnius, Lithuania, and represents a Baltic-North European building style from

the height of Enlightenment-era Europe. Other organs include the circa 1770 Italian organ at the Memorial Art Gallery, the Brombaugh at St. Michael's Church and the Fisk at Downtown United Presbyterian Church among others.

Details are still being worked out, but stay tuned to Pipelines and the web site for more information. We are also hoping to turn this event into a joint event with the Kingston and Montreal Centres.

That brings us to May when we're planning to host a hymn sing somewhere in the Ottawa Valley as a way to connect the urban side of the College with our rural counterparts. Stay tuned for more details as this event evolves.

Looking forward to September, we are hoping to arrange a special recital and reception at the NAC to celebrate the College's Centenary. Stay tuned.

Other events under consideration are a masterclass on the organ works of Felix Mendelssohn (2009 is the composer's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday), and a session on music for praise bands. I am always looking for ideas for workshops and other events and am happy to receive any advice from any member. Please feel free to contact me at: mackay\_sap@hotmail.com

## Lilian Forsyth Scholarship

Applications are now being accepted for the 2009 Lilian Forsyth Scholarship for church music. The award of up to \$1,500 may be used for summer study programs, regular diploma or degree courses, or private tuition. Candidates should be active church musicians who have completed basic musical training.

Application deadline is February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009. For application forms or information, contact the Registrar, Lilian Forsyth Scholarship, Knox Presbyterian Church, 120 Lisgar Street, Ottawa, ON K2P 0C2; E-mail: knoxottawa@bellnet.ca; Fax: (613) 238-4775; web: www.knoxottawa.ca

## Around Town

### Sunday, 8 February, 7:30 p.m.

*Nixon McMillan* of East Lansing Michigan, will play an *organ recital* featuring the music of Felix Mendelssohn and Herbert Howells. From 1973-83 he was Director of Music at First United Church in Waterloo. He obtained his B.Mus from Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, and his M.A. and Ph.D from the University of Iowa. His dissertation was on the organ works of Herbert Howells. More recently he was ordained an Episcopal priest and is currently Interim Rector at Trinity Episcopal Church, Grand Ledge, Michigan (a suburb of Lansing). His recital will include the following: Mendelssohn: *Prelude & Fugue in D minor, Trio in F major, Sonata in D minor (No. 6)*; Howells: *Fugue, Chorale and Epilogue, Master Tallis's Testament, Paeon*. St. Luke's Church, 760 Somerset St. W. (3 blocks west of Bronson Ave). Admission is by donation.

### Sunday, 15 February, 7:30 p.m.

*The Girls Choir of Christ Church Cathedral*, directed by Timothy Piper, presents an evening of choral music at St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church, 579 Parkdale Ave at Sherwood Details TBA For info, call 613-563-1409.

### Sunday, 22 February, 7:30 p.m.

Bonnie Cooper (soprano) and Marek Krowicki (piano) offer the music of Mozart, Wolf, Debussy and William Bolcom. St. Luke's Church, 760 Somerset St. W. (3 blocks west of Bronson Ave). Admission is by donation.

### Sunday, 1 March, 3:00 p.m.

*Chamber music* at the Carleton University Humanities Theatre (Paterson Bldg., 6<sup>th</sup> floor). Programme: *Trisolde* - Deirdre Piper & Elaine Keillor (piano duet); *Three Songs from the Sanskrit* - Wanda Procyshyn (voice) & Elaine Keillor (piano); *Sonata: fur Elaine* - Elaine Keillor (piano); *Triptych* - Anne Contant (cello) & Elaine Keillor (piano). Admission: free-will offering at the door.

### Sunday, 8 March, 7:30 p.m.

*The Trillium Trio* of Cathy Baerg (flute), Steven Smith (cello) and Joan Milliken (piano) present an exciting and varied program featuring works by Martinu and Piazzolla as well as two Ottawa composers, Glen Morley and Margrit Cattell. St. Luke's Church, 760 Somerset St. W. (3 blocks west of Bronson Ave). Admission is by donation.

### Sunday, 22 March, 7:30 p.m.

Carole Portelance (mezzo soprano) Marlene Basarab (piano) present *Banalités* by Poulenc, an aria from Donizetti's *Anna Bolena*, and songs by Charles St. Ives. St. Luke's Church, 760 Somerset Street West (three blocks west of Bronson Ave). Admission is by donation.

### Sunday, 5 April, 7:30 p.m.

Thomas Brawn (flute), Jonathan Bayley (flute) and Robert Jones (organ) explore what might happen with Bach, Loeillet and Cimarosa in the same room. St. Luke's Church, 760 Somerset Street West (3 blocks west of Bronson Ave). Admission is by donation.

## Members News

### Membership List Update:

**Jovic**, Katarina: please correct first name spelling to "Katarina".

**Macdonnell**, Frances: new email address is: fbmacdonnell@sympatico.ca

**Murfin**, Keith: Please delete the "work" phone number. New email address is : murfin1@sympatico.ca.

## Pro Organo

KAREN HOLMES

**P**ro Organo, Ottawa - **Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 8 p.m.**, Dominion-Chalmers United Church (O'Connor and Cooper).

Marnie Giesbrecht was the 2000-02 National President of the RCCO and in 2007, co-chair, with her husband Joachim Segger, of Windspiration: Edmonton Organ Festival and RCCO national convention. She is Professor of Music at the University of Alberta. Joachim Segger is Professor of Music at The King's University College in Edmonton and Adjunct Professor of Piano at the University of Alberta. Marnie and Joachim direct the music at First Presbyterian Church in Edmonton. Together they perform and record as Duo Majoya.



Their programs and CDs present a kaleidoscopic variety of organ duets, piano duets and organ and piano duos. Duo Majoya's organ and piano recital at the American Guild of Organists' Convention in Los Angeles, July 2004, received an immediate standing ovation and was hailed as "Sensational!!" by Guild President and Program Committee Chair, Fred Swann. Their recital on March 27th will include: *Destinations* (2008) by Cheryl Cooney, Majoya arrangements of the *Albinoni Adagio* and Bach's *Air in D Major, Duet Suite* by Denis Bedard, *Skyscape* (or *Images*) by jazz pianist and composer Joe Utterback.



## If Organists Wrote the Wedding News

This past Saturday, at well after the stated time of 2:00 pm, Ann Jones and Bob Smith were married at Our Lady of Bad Acoustics [OLBA]. This needless delay was caused by the late arrival of the bride's Aunt Betty, who apparently forces people to wait for her whenever she can. This gaff was deftly covered by the organist, Rory Laudfuss, who improvised on various themes of his own devising, quietly but cleverly working "Get Me to the Church On Time" into the pedals. During this time the organist was informed of the status of things by the wedding coordinator, Ima Thority, with her unique system of hand signals.

Mr. Laudfuss chose to wear his lightweight summer robe of shimmering burgundy over his cutoffs and T-shirt. His shoes, in tastefully scuffed black, were from Organmaster, accessorized with upgraded laces from L. L. Bean. The wedding party wore the usual stuff.

The organ is the fourth rebuild of what was originally a dreadful theatre organ which was stolen from a now-torn-down burlesque hall in a bad part of town. In addition to its original pipework, it has a Harmonic Flute which was purchased from Our Lady of Ostentation when they got rid of their pipe organ and purchased a new Hammond B-3 for their rock band. Of course, it is voiced entirely wrong for OLBA. The organ also contains an Assyrian Trumpet which was purchased via the internet and installed by a group of auto enthusiasts who sing bass in the church's

choir, as a surprise "present" to the previous organist while he was on vacation. As there is a memo from the church's session that this should never be used during regular services, Mr. Laudfuss makes a point of using it during weddings, regardless of the tuning. The combination action, which had always been unreliable, died a miserable death two summers ago during a particularly memorable funeral.

As the Processional, Wagner's *Bridal March* was used at the insistence of the late aunt [no, not in THAT sense], though Mr. Laudfuss had strongly urged them to choose something else, given how stickily Lohengrin's and Elsa's nuptials turned sour. This Processional went much more quickly than it had in rehearsal, as the bridal party practically ran down the aisle, forcing the organist to improvise an ending half-way through. Then, after a visiting clergy-type person had mumbled for a few minutes, Mr. Laudfuss got to play only the first four bars only of Schubert's "Ave Maria" [the part before the tune comes in], while the bridal couple did something with candles. The organ's Celestes were beautiful. Gypsy Rose Lee had loved them in her day.

Some time later somebody's relative attempted to sing "The Wedding Song", missing several of the entries, and attempting to sing during the interludes. Though Mr. Laudfuss is not a singer, he tried to sing forcefully enough to direct this person back to the proper place in the score. When the singer insisted on singing more

loudly than that, Mr. Laudfuss was forced to play the voice part on the Bombardes, which drowned out the subtle "chiff" the flute stops make at the beginning of each note, and which might otherwise have been the sole bright spot in this otherwise boring song.

The Recessional was the Widor *Toc-cata in F Major*, which Mr. Laudfuss first learned while an undergraduate at Seymour Butz College of Arts and Agricultural Sciences, and has since polished at various weddings, funerals, and his other regular gig as organist at the local hockey rink. As the organ at OLBA chose this moment to have a note stick open ["cipher"] on the Assyrian Trumpet, he was forced to modulate into the key of the offending note. As the general welter of noise seemed to hurry the bridal party down the aisle, he was not forced to play the entire Toccata, but did manage to work in several themes from Handel's "Fireworks Music", as well as "Tea for Two."

The bride and groom went to some college where they obviously did not learn anything about music, or much else, from anything Mr. Laudfuss could tell. After their honeymoon, they plan to blend into suburbia and produce children. The highlight of each year will be their replay of Mr. Laudfuss's brilliant work at their wedding.



## Commissioned Piece

KAREN HOLMES

Many of you enjoyed Tom Annand's performance of "Sonatine" by Gary Kulesha at the November 28<sup>th</sup> Pro Organo recital. This piece was commissioned by the Ottawa Centre in honour of Olivier Messiaen's hundredth birthday and to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> season of Pro Organo Ottawa. The Centre applied for grants to cover the cost of the commission, but of

course money is tight these days, and we did not receive any assistance. We have been able to pay the \$3,750 composer's fee, but this has left our account somewhat depleted. We would be grateful for any donations made for this special project. We will publish a list of donors on future recital programmes and in the newsletter, and if the piece were to be

published, these names would be listed in the publication, too. If you are interested in donating, please send a cheque to the Ottawa Centre address with the indication "commission". The Centre address is:

Royal Canadian College of Organists,  
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### NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING:

7:30 PM, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16<sup>TH</sup>  
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Dorothea Mawhinney	613-237-1320 (ext. 2404),	
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*Please note: Supply list can also be found on the RCCO Ottawa web site at <http://www.rcco-ottawa.ca>  
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or via email at [newsletter@rcco-ottawa.ca](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:newsletter@rcco-ottawa.ca)  
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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.

