



construction *Pipelines* *Bouches et anches*

President's Message

MOIRA HAYES



A Guiding Hand

"I never weary of great churches. It is my favourite kind of mountain scenery. Mankind was never so happily inspired as when it made a cathedral." Robert Louis Stevenson

Stephen and I have just returned from four weeks in Scotland and England where we enjoyed the great beauty of the countryside from the Orkney Islands to Staffordshire, been awed by the magnificent churches/abbeys dating from the 1100s, and impressed by the rich history contained in castles and palaces. But the quote above that we saw outside Glasgow Cathedral summarised our feelings about the great cathedrals and churches we saw. From the amazing architecture to the magnificent stained glass and organs, we were very impressed.

It was a privilege to worship in four historic churches: St. Magnus in Kirkwall, Orkney, St. Michael's in Linlithgow, associated with Mary, Queen of Scots and where a Canadian friend is the minister, Sandon Hall in Sandon (as in hymn tune), Staffordshire, and Paisley Abbey, where George McPhee OBE is director of music and organist. In 1997, he gave a recital at Knox Presbyterian in Ottawa after a major restoration to its organ. His name came up several times as we inquired about organs in churches. A most interesting one was at the Old High St. Stephen's Church of Scotland in Inverness. The Father Willis organ, installed in 1892 by Hen-

ry Willis, was recently restored by Nicholson of Malvern to its former glory as a mechanical action instrument. George McPhee -- the current President of the Glasgow Centre of the RCO that, on October 9th, celebrated its 100th anniversary -- played the inaugural recital in May 2011. Unfortunately, I did not attend, but we celebrated the occasion and friendship at dinner that evening.



A visit to Ripon Cathedral in Yorkshire, founded in the 7th century, has a Saxon crypt which survives. In 2012, the organ will undergo major restoration. There has been an organ there since 1399. The present one was built by Lewis in 1878, and rebuilt in 1912 by Harrison and Harrison. It has an unusual feature: a mechanical wooden hand dating from 1695 which can be operated by the organist to beat time for the choir! These are but two interesting highlights from organs we saw in many churches throughout our trip.

- Moira Hayes

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2011/12 Programme of Events

IAN MACKAY

Many thanks to those who attended the BBQ at Rockcliffe Park on September 19. It was a lovely afternoon with friends and family and a chance to get caught up with organ news and hear from those who attended the convention in Hamilton in July. Thanks to all who brought such a lovely array of food.

In my last note to you I said that I provide further details about events for the rest of the fall which I hope will be of interest to you. It's a busy fall again particularly with the addition of the fund raising concert scheduled for November. You can read more about that elsewhere in issue of *Pipelines*.

Organ Crawl to Ithaca New York.

After much backing and forthing, the organ crawl was set up for Sept 30 and October 1. We travelled to Cornell University and Ithaca and visited a number of instruments at the University including the newly installed GOArt organ at the Anabel Taylor Chapel.

In 2003 Cornell University began work the new organ for Anabel Taylor Chapel which is based on a German 18th century masterpiece by Arp Schnitger as part of an international research project involving three academic institutions in the field of organ studies: Cornell, the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, and the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester. This interdisciplinary and international effort encompassed scholars, physical scientists, musicians, craftsmen and visual artists from Sweden, Japan, The Netherlands, Germany and New York State. Joining their efforts under the art-

istic direction of Munetaka Yokota at the Gothenburg Organ Art Center (GOART), the members of this team created an organ that is not just a fine vehicle for teaching, performance and scholarship, but also a magnificent work of art.

Arp Schnitger was the most important organ builder of late 17th-century North Germany; although he was active mainly in its northwestern corner, his work was well known in all of the German speaking lands. Many of his works in the northwestern areas survive today and are well-known, but none of his instruments in the eastern areas are extant today, with the one exception of the organ case in Clausthal-Zellerfeld.

Tragically destroyed in the Second World War, the Charlottenburg organ but its unique tonal qualities have been recreated today using original documentation alongside early 20th-century studies and recordings of the instrument. Unique to this Berlin instrument, and still little-understood, is the way in which Schnitger combined North- and Central-German organ aesthetics in its design, to result in an unusual, even exceptional, tonal concept. It was a great privilege to visit and play the instrument and experience such a significant part of organ history within a short drive from Ottawa.

Other organs on the visit list included a 1940's Skinner organ, an Italian chamber organ and a German styled Chamber organ.

Looking Ahead:

Lecture Recital on the organ works of Jehan Alain with Thomas Annand - Tuesday, November 8, 2011 at 7:30 at Knox Church at the corner of Elgin and Lisgar. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE VENUE HAS CHANGED TO KNOX

Our colleague Tom Annand has agreed to offer a lecture recital of the organ works of Jehan Alain in celebration of his 100th birthday. There have been many events celebrating this famous composer's legacy around the organ world and this is our opportunity to hear more about this short life but significant output and to hear how his works fit into the 20th century French organ school.

Alain was born in the western suburbs of Paris, into a family of musicians. His father, Albert Alain was an enthusiastic organist, composer and organ-builder who had studied with Guilmant and Vierne.

...continued on page 3



In August, 2013, we will be hosting *Orgelfest Ottawa 2013*, the RCO National Convention, to include the National Playing Competition, Convocation, annual meetings, concerts, workshops and social events. The planning committee has been formed chaired by Karen Holmes with Moira Hayes as Co-Chair. Other members include Gilles Leclerc (Programme), Frances Macdonnell (Secretary), Rick St. Germain (Graphics), Ross Jewell (Webmaster), and Don Marjerrison (Treasurer).

We need your help to fill key committee posts — we need a Registrar, and coordinators for Transportation, Venues, Billeting for young people, and others, plus lots of extra helpers during the events. If you're interested in helping with the advance planning, please let us know. This will be a great occasion to show off local instruments and venues, and how well Ottawa Centre members work together! We look forward to your participation!

- Karen Holmes



...continued from page 2

His youngest sister is the well known organist Marie-Claire Alain. Between 1927 and 1939, he attended the Paris Conservatoire where he achieved much success. He studied the organ with Dupré and composition with Dukas. His short career as a composer began in 1929, when Alain was 18, and lasted until the outbreak of the Second World War 10 years later. His output was influenced not only by the musical language of the earlier Debussy and his contemporary Olivier Messiaen. Tragically, he was killed by enemy action in 1940 and thus his musical output stands as a small but very significant part of the French organ school in the 20th century.

RCCO Annual Pub Night Monday, November 28, 2011.

As before, we will meet at the Heart and Crown in the Byward Market 67 Clarence Street, for an evening of fun. Meet at 6:00 for a pub dinner and then organ DVDs and YouTube videos of organs, organists, preacher bloopers, etc. The pub has given us the use of a private room for FREE so all we need to do is show up and have fun.

RCCO Christmas Event Saturday, December 17 at 5:00pm

We are planning a different sort of Christmas event this year that will be geared to children and youth and involve the organ but not exclusively. The idea is a bit unorthodox but will roughly be based around the Nine Lessons and Carols

format of readings and music interspersed between the readings. The event will feature young singers, organists, pianists and other instrumentalists and will be billed as something just 'off the beaten path'. There are many Christmas music events in Ottawa but very few are geared to children in a meaningful way. The programme is coming together and we hope to be able to announce it fully in early November. Stay tuned for details.

I will have more on events scheduled for our winter and spring terms next month

- Ian MacKay

*e-mail: mackay_sap@hotmail.com
(Please note the 'underscore' between
mackay and sap.)*



A Concert for the Philippines

GILLES LECLERC

CANADIANS MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF POOR FILIPINO MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

A benefit concert entitled "Love Notes to the Philippines" will be held on November 12th, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at Saint François d'Assise church situated at the corner of Wellington Street at Fairmont Avenue to raise funds for a training program in nutrition and care of infants and the elderly in the barangay districts near Manila in the Philippines.

The concert will feature performances by the widely renowned Ottawa organist and composer, Gilles Maurice Leclerc, the president of the Royal Canadian College of Organists, and by two choirs, Himig Pilipino Chorale Ensemble under the direction of Nejie Escares, and a children's choir from Maryvale Academy under the direction of Francesca Bailey, choir director and organist at Saint Patrick's Basilica.

The concert is being presented by LINCCO, l'Institut pour la culture et la cooperation, which raises funds for education programmes in the developing world. The funds will be administered by a partner organization in the Philippines,

the Family Cooperation Health Services Foundation (FAMCOHSEF) which has been training community health care workers and providing clinical care in the Philippines for over 20 years.

For further information contact Sheila Jones, LINCCO Board Member at 819-777-7043 or at jones.sheila7@gmail.com
LINCCO: [/www.lincco.org](http://www.lincco.org)



LES CANADIENS CONTRIBUENT À LA VIE DES MÈRES ET ENFANTS DÉMUNIS AUX PHILIPPINES

Un concert bénéfique sous le thème de Notes d'amour pour les Philippines aura lieu le 12 novembre 2011 à 19h00 à l'église Saint-François d'Assise, sise à l'angle des rues Wellington ouest et Fairmont. Les profits seront versés au

programme de formation en nutrition pour les enfants et les aînés qui habitent des quartiers démunis de Manilles.

Les musiciens qui prêteront leur concours à l'événement sont l'organiste et compositeur Gilles Maurice Leclerc, organiste de Saint-François d'Assise, Himig Pilipino Chorale Ensemble sous la direction de Nejie Escares et le chœur d'enfants de Maryvale Academy sous la direction de Francesca Bailey, organiste et directrice des chœurs de la Basilique St. Patrick, rue Kent.

Le concert est présenté par LINCCO, l'Institut pour la culture et la coopération, qui récolte des fonds pour subvenir aux programmes de formation dans les pays en développement. Les fonds recueillis seront gérés par une association-soeur de LINCCO aux Philippines, soit la Family Cooperation Health Services Foundation (FAMCOHSEF) qui oeuvre dans le domaine de la santé aux Philippines depuis 20 ans.

Pour plus de renseignements, communiquez avec Sheila Jones, membre du conseil d'administration de LINCCO au 819-777-7043 ou en acheminant un courriel à jones.sheila7@gmail.com. LINCCO: [/www.lincco.org](http://www.lincco.org)



Around Town

Saturday, November 5, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Woodroffe United Church concert series presents *Dances and More*, an evening of piano duets with Amélie Langlois and Catherine Donkin. Woodroffe United Church, 207 Woodroffe Avenue. Tickets at the door \$15 / \$12 for seniors and students, or in advance at the church office. For further information, contact Katarina Jovic at the church at 613-722-9250 or via the web site at www.woodroffeunited.org

Sunday, November 13, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

The Men's Voyces: James Macdonnell & Meredith Macdonnell (counter-tenor, bass), Robert Mann (counter-tenor), Charles Donnelly (tenor), David Brearley (baritone), John van der Leeden (bass). The King's Musick - A program of Tudor music by The Men's Voyces, in which the pastimes of Henry VIII are described through music that would have been heard at his court. St. Luke's Church (760 Somerset Street West, 3 blocks west of Bronson Avenue). Admission by donation. Info: Tel. (613) 235-3416, visit www.stlukesottawa.ca, or email pentland@hotmail.com or music@stlukesottawa.ca.

Sunday, November 27, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

New York City organist Gail Archer will be the featured performer in the recital series at St. Luke's Church. She is devoting the evening to music of Franz Liszt as 2011 is the 200th anniversary of his birth. Dr. Archer is college organist at Vassar

College, and director of the music program at Barnard College, Columbia University where she conducts the Barnard-Columbia Chorus. She serves as director of the artist and young organ artist recitals at historic Central Synagogue, New York City. Programme includes *Evocation à la Chapelle Sixtine, Ave Maris Stella, Einleitung zur Legende der heiligen Elisabeth, Ein feste Burg is Unser Gott (transcription of the overture by Otto Nicolai), Pilgerchor aus "Tannhauser" by Richard Wagner (transcription by Franz Liszt), and Praeludium und Fuge uber B-A-C-H*. Like other recitals in the series at St. Luke's, admission is by donation Info: Tel. (613) 235-3416, visit www.stlukesottawa.ca, or email pentland@hotmail.com or music@stlukesottawa.ca.

Sunday, December 4, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

The 20th Annual *Alta Vista Carol Sing*, will be held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 1758 Alta Vista Drive. Come sing the carols of the Season with dedicated volunteers from the *Choeur du Moulin*, the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Choir and the *Ottawa Wind Ensemble*. They will be joined by Dr. Fraser Rubens, tenor soloist. Free admission and ample parking. Donations in support of the Heron Emergency Food Centre would be appreciated. For more information, please contact Francine Brisebois at 613-791-9115.

Saturday, December 10, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Woodroffe United Church concert series

presents *Stille Nacht* with the Stairwell Carollers. Woodroffe United Church, 207 Woodroffe Avenue. Tickets at the door \$15 / \$12 for seniors and students, or in advance at the church office. For further information, contact Katarina Jovic at the church at 613-722-9250 or via the web site at www.woodroffeunited.org

Sunday, December 11, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Hear the angels, and others sing... Eight singers, coached by Polish soprano Maria Knapik, present Christmas and Christmas-related songs in duets and ensembles. St. Luke's Church (760 Somerset Street West, 3 blocks west of Bronson Avenue). Admission by donation. Info: Tel. (613) 235-3416, visit www.stlukesottawa.ca, or email pentland@hotmail.com or music@stlukesottawa.ca.



Student Membership Grant

DON MARJERRISON

The RCCO Ottawa Centre is pleased to offer a one-year student membership (on a one-time basis) for any organ student meeting the following criteria:

- the organ student is studying with an RCCO member
- the student is between the ages of 16 and 22 (both ages inclusive)
- the student has not previously re-

ceived this grant

- the organ teacher concerned advises the Executive that his/her student is interested in RCCO membership
- the student meets the criteria for College student membership

To qualify the student for the membership grant, the organ teacher makes a request to the Centre Executive concerning

their student. The Centre will provide the membership grant based on the teacher's recommendation and the student's qualification based on the above criteria. Upon Centre approval, the student then makes the application for RCCO membership in the normal way using the form found on the RCCO website, www.rcco-ottawa.ca. The completed form is then submitted by mail to the Ottawa Centre.



Isabelle Demers CD Review

FRANCES MACDONNELL

Canadian organists and lovers of organ music alike will be thrilled with a 2011 CD recording by Acis Productions featuring the work of two outstanding Canadian musicians. It consists of selected organ works by the Canadian composer Rachel Laurin, played by the brilliant young Canadian concert organist Isabelle Demers. Rachel's position as one of Canada's greatest living composers of organ music is well known to us all, and Isabelle Demers is rapidly being recognized as one of Canada's best and brightest performers on the organ.



The CD was recorded in L'Église des Saints-Anges de Lachine (Montréal), which houses the historic four-manual Casavant Opus 869 (dating from 1921, restored between 2001 - 06). The programme, brilliantly balanced, consists centrally of Laurin's massive *Symphonie no. 1* (Op. 36) surrounded by the *Douzes courtes pièces* (Op. 43) in two groups of six miniatures each, while the recording is opened and closed with two other major pieces, the *Introduction et passacaille sur un thème de Raymond Daveluy* (Op. 44) and the *Étude Héroïque* (Op. 38). At very nearly seventy-six minutes in length, this CD is very good value for money!

The *Symphonie*, at thirty minutes playing time, takes up nearly half of the CD and is a triumphant success. From the mysterious opening of the first-movement *Prélude*, through the *Scherzo*, *Aria*, and *Toccata*, Isabelle Demers shows her complete grasp of the dramatic depths of

this work. The *Toccata*, composed before the rest of the *Symphonie* and perhaps inspiring its general form, certainly provides Demers with a wonderful opportunity to display her virtuosic playing, though perhaps an even more enjoyable part of the performance is the charmingly limpid playing in the *Scherzo*. The full range of the Casavant organ's enormous registration capacity is demonstrated with complete control by Demers in the enormous *Prélude*.

In Laurin's own words about the *Introduction et Passacaille*: "Through this musical homage, one can see an evocative portrait of the rich personality of M. Daveluy, as well as the reflection of a full artistic life." Demers brilliantly presents the stirring combination of enormous chords and chromatic pedal solos which make up the *Introduction*, and which return again at the end of the *Passacaille*. The theme, taken from Daveluy's *Quatrième Sonate pour orgue*, is presented at the opening of the *Passacaille*, and leads into the twenty-one variations of the *Passacaille* which show off all the powers of the organ. Both Laurin and Demers emphasize the Regeresque qualities of this work in their programme notes.

The *Douzes courtes pièces*, which are charming miniatures, were composed to be played in smaller moments in services or recitals. From the evocative meditative feel of the *Invocation*, played on the flutes, to the boisterous jollity of the *Rondo*, each of these twelve pieces is approachable by players and audiences alike, and will serve well as voluntaries or as short concert pieces; only two of these short pieces exceed three minutes in length each, and four of them are fugues.

The *Étude Héroïque* which closes this CD, composed in 2004, is perhaps the most often-performed of these works. Again, planned as a programme to balance the opening work of the CD, the massive chords of the opening are followed by an extensive pedal solo, while the melodic mid-section leads into an exciting episodic development. Demers' brilliant and fluent performance effectively displays

the layering effects of the registration, and the full organ which closes the piece demonstrates its heroic ending.

The CD cover and booklet contain many photographs of the interior and exterior of the church and of the organ of L'Église des Saints-Anges, which happily was Demers's first practice organ and still remains her favourite practice organ when she is in Montréal. Having studied at the Montréal Conservatoire, she studied in Paris for a year before completing her Master's and Doctorate degrees from the Juilliard School in New York. She is about to release a recording of Max Reger's *Seven Chorale Fantasies*, on a grant from the Theodore Presser Foundation.



The informative programme notes to this Acis CD are written by both Rachel Laurin and Isabelle Demers and are fully bilingual, except for the one page describing the Casavant organ which is printed only in French; the full specifications of the organ are listed.

I highly recommend this recording, which displays not only a virtuosic organist in Isabelle Demers, but a highly-contrasting selection of organ works by the always exciting composer Rachel Laurin. Copies of the CD may be ordered through Amazon.com or by contacting www.rachellaurin.com.



Thomas Trotter Concert Review

ALLISON KRANIAS

On Monday October 17th, organist Thomas Trotter presented a number of rarely-heard works in his recital at St. Andrew's Church. Trotter comes from England, where he presides over both the 1834 organ in Town Hall Birmingham, and the modern Klais organ in Symphony Hall. He was not content to just play, instead introducing most of the pieces using the live cam that allowed us to view his hands and feet while he played. This was much more effective than speaking over the organ loft rail would have been, and allowed the audience to connect with him in a more personal way.



His program began with J.S. Bach's transcription of a Vivaldi *concerto in d minor*. His style was clear and direct, making the *Allegro* light and playful, and the patterns of fugal entries and sequences distinctly heard. The *Largo* provided a lovely contrast, although perhaps he could have lingered a little more on the gentle melodic lines. His crisp playing made me look forward to the final *Allegro*, and I was not disappointed.

This was followed by three studies by Robert Schumann originally written for pedal piano. Schumann acquired such an instrument to more easily study the contrapuntal works of J.S. Bach, and the

Six Studies he wrote for this instrument explore canonic form. In playing them on the organ, Mr. Trotter used a registration that brought out the distinctly Romantic style of these pieces, bringing out the long, lyrical lines and allowing the first voice to sing out over the second, which was played softly, like an echo.

Another novel experience awaited us in the next selection by Ad Wammes, a modern Dutch composer. With its high-pitched sound and repetitive structure, his *Miroir* has a distinct sound one normally associates with electronic pop music. The piece is structured around a short ostinato with a Calypso rhythm in the right hand, set against longer counter-melodies. It was full of variety, as if it was a set of variations.

Three pieces by Jehan Alain followed, giving the audience a wonderful sampling of this composer's work. Again we heard a hearkening back to earlier music, with Alain's *Variations sur un thème de Clément Jannequin*. Here the ancient tune was brought out beautifully on reed stops, with modern harmonies flowing below it. Alain's *Deux Danses à Agni Yavishta* showcased Trotter's strong rhythmic playing, and the set of pieces culminated in *Litanies*, where a relentless ostinato represents fervent prayer.



The second half of the program was entirely devoted to Liszt's landmark organ work *Fantasia and Fugue on the chorale Ad now, ad salutarem undam*. As Trotter remarked in his program notes, "one can only marvel at the inexhaustible fertility of Liszt's imagination in building a massive structure of 765 bars from a short four-line

chorale." And it was equally impressive to hear Trotter take on this work, from the virtuoso pedal work in the cadenza, to the crisp, energetic rhythms of the fugue, to his elegant rubato in the lyrical sections, and to his registration throughout the piece, which made full use of the diverse colours of the Guilbault-Thérien organ to bring out the varied moods of this piece.

Thomas Trotter's playing of this impressive work brought the audience to its feet, and they were treated to an encore of Polish salon music, originally written for piano, to send them on their way.

2011-2012 Educational Programmes

In any given year, there are always one or more purely educational meetings for our membership. In 2012, there will be two such workshops:

Saturday, February 11, 2012, 10 a.m. to 12 noon: Kirkland Adsett, Director of Music, St. Matthew's Anglican Church, presents *A Workshop on Improvisation*. St. Matthew's Anglican Church, 217 First Avenue, Ottawa.

Saturday, May 12, 2012, 1:00 to 3 p.m. Valerie Hall, Director of Music, Holy Rosary Cathedral, Regina, Saskatchewan, presents *A Workshop on Canadian and American Organ Music*. Paroisse St-Francois d'Assise, 1060 Wellington Street West, Ottawa.

Watch for further information to be published in upcoming issues of *Pipelines / Bouches et Anches*.

Members News

Address Change:

Heather Rice can no longer be reached at choirmaster@bellnet.ca. Home phone contact is still valid – 613-563-1409. Also, note the following address update: 403 – 762 Somerset St W, Ottawa, ON K1R 6P9. [Just a change of apartment #]



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1. Any Ottawa Centre member may announce his/her events in the *Around Town* section of the newsletter free of charge if they are the coordinator, conductor 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 event would be of specific interest to our members: i.e Church/Choral, and/organ/bells, encouragement of young organists and pianists.
3. If a non-member wishes to freely announce an event of his/her Organizations in *Around Town*, he/she must make a written request to the RCCO Ottawa Centre Executive for approval of that one specific event. Approval may be granted as per policy 2, however in most circumstances we would expect the Organization to pay as per the rates set out by the Centre for advertising.

OTTAWA CENTRE EXECUTIVE 2011-2012

OTTAWA CENTRE EXECUTIVE

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**NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING:
SUNDAY, NOV 20TH, 1:00 P.M.
ST PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Robert Dunlop	613-235-3778		
Janice Gray	613-276-3172	janicenlpegypt@hotmail.com	
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Gavan Quinn	613-792-1492	gavanquinn@gmail.com	Weddings&Funerals
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*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:

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Next Deadline

The Royal Canadian College of Organists presents

Lecture-Recital on the organ works of Jehan Alain

Thomas Annand

Tuesday, November 8, 2011 7:30pm

Knox Presbyterian Church

120 Lisgar at Elgin Street

Jehan Alain (1911-1940) was born into a musical family headed by his organist father, Albert. The elder Alain had built an organ in their home and home schooled three of his children (Jehan, Olivier, and Marie-Claire) on this now famous instrument. At age 16, Jehan Alain enrolled in the Paris Conservatoire, where he continued his organ studies with Marcel Dupré and composition with Paul Dukas. Alain was organist at Église Saint-Nicolas de Maisons-Lafitte and the synagogue at the Rue Notre-Dame-de-Nazareth prior to serving in the French army at the outbreak of the war in 1939. Alain died fighting the Germans in Petit-puyon in June 1940, at age 29.

In his short career Alain produced approximately 120 works (38 for organ) and, as a whole, his output is strikingly consistent and complete unto itself. Alain's music makes extensive use of the church modes, as well as colouristic dissonance. A somewhat rhapsodic approach to rhythm creates an ecstatic building up of bold, colorful and phantasmagoric sections in the *Litanies* and the *Trois Danses* that can be tremendously exciting to hear. In *Le Jardin suspendu* and short works such as *Choral d'orien* he created smooth, mysterious textures that suggest an otherworldly, even divine presence.

This lecture - recital is geared to members and students alike and will focus on Alain's short but influential career as a composer for organ between 1929-1939. His few works for the instrument have become an important part of the wider organ repertoire and are a glimpse of the direction the French School might have taken had his career not been cut short by his death.



ORGAN MUSIC by REQUEST

Friday November 18, 2011 7:30 pm

le vendredi 18 novembre 2011 à 19h30



KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

(Elgin / Lisgar)

Music voted by you, the audience.

The popular choices to date are:

Bach - "Kommst Du, nun Jesu" (Schübler); Franck - Choral 3; Laurin - Toccata; Vierne - Carillon de Westminster; Widor - Toccata. Others are still to be decided. Two hymns are on the plus side. (All my hope and Praise my soul)

A list of potential works to be played can be found on the [Ballot form](#). Votes will cost \$5 each (with tax receipts available for donations of \$10 or more). You can cast as many votes as you wish for a piece you want to hear, or even against one you don't want to hear!

Voting closes on November 1, 2011.

See interim results on www.rcco-ottawa.ca. If your favourite piece needs more votes, you can send in more votes.