



Pipelines

Bouches et anches



President's Message

DONALD RUSSELL

Desire and Persistence

During the past two months several sporting events have attracted my attention. As you might guess, the successes of our Canadian athletes at the Sochi Olympics was one, but the other was much more local - the Carleton Ravens winning their tenth national basketball championship in twelve years. As I reflected on these events and all of the press and media surrounding them, I realized I could learn a few things from the athletes and their coaches that would help me as I work to develop my skills as an organist. Perhaps they may help you, too.

First, I was struck by an television interview with the principal of Meraker High School, Kjell Lundemo, from Trøndelag, Norway. Students from that school have won 13 medals in the last three Olympics. One of the principles underlying their success is that they train for the long term: "Our goal is to get our students to their best when they are seniors, that means around the age of 27. No, we are focusing very little on results while they are students here but we are trying to teach them how to exercise in the right way and do a good job with their workouts."¹ In other words, they work to instill in their students the character traits that will serve them well in the long run: desire and perseverance.²

After the Olympics I read an in-depth article commenting on the success of the Carleton University basketball program. The article attributes much of the success of the

team over the last decade to the team's coach, Dave Smart. Anyone who has watched him coach will very quickly realize that, as a coach, he is extremely focused and extremely intense. Coach Smart is quoted³ as saying "It's more about the process and less about the results." His approach to perfecting his team is based on working hard on the fundamentals: "It starts with the fact that we just work hard."



In support of my organ practice I have been working through an excellent book called *Bach and the Art of Improvisation*⁴ by Pamela Ruiter-Feenstra. It is clear from her description that Bach had similar traits to those listed above - a focus on the fundamentals and on taking the time needed to perfect them. She comments that one aspect of Bach's tremendous improvisation abilities came after many years of practice and that his great skills arose because he had worked through all of the difficulties that he encountered. Not

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only did he learn a successful way of improvising, but he also learned many ways that did not work, and persisted to discover *why* they did not work.

Very often we find ourselves focused on the end-goal – the dream of performing one of “those” pieces. But we are then tempted to move forward too fast. We might end up out on a musical limb. We then have the ability to play a few challenging works but without having built up, over time, the strong fundamental skills that it takes to learn a wide and varied repertoire of new pieces.

As an example, when I was (much?) younger and first learning scales, I did not



treat them all the same. Sure, I perfected C major but I only worked on f-sharp harmonic minor enough to move on. I’ve regretted that ever since (now that I have apparently “grown up”) - you never know when a piece or an improvisation will unexpectedly take you to one of those distant keys. I am spending some time now to go back and fill in those gaps.

I have discovered a desire to firm up my fundamental skills and the will to persist in the effort.

- Donald Russell

¹ <http://screen.yahoo.com/tr-ndelag-norway-winter-olympics-041902963.html>

² Ellen Emmerentze Jervell, *How Norway Scores So Much Olympic Gold*, Wall Street Journal, Feb 8, 2014

³ Conn, Jordan, *The Canadian College Basketball Dynasty You’ve Never Heard Of*, <http://grantland.com/features/carleton-university-basketball-canada-syracuse-tyler-ennis-kansas-andrew-wiggins/>, March 3, 2014

⁴ Ruiter-Feenstra, Pamela, *Bach and the Art of Improvisation, Volume One: Chorale-based Works*. Ann Arbor, MI: CHI Press, 2011



Around Town

Wednesdays in May, 2014, 12:15 p.m.

First Baptist Church will be presenting a series of noon-hour organ recitals this May. Take time to enjoy fine music making in the beautiful sanctuary of this historic building. Artists will include:

- Robert Jones - Ottawa, ON
- Shawn Potter - Ottawa, ON
- Sondra Goldsmith Proctor - Canton, NY
- Helen Tucker - Montreal, QC

First Baptist Church Church, 140 Laurier Ave West - Admission by donation - <http://www.firstbaptistottawa.ca>

Sunday, April 6, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

A Meditation for Passiontide, an Organ Recital of Seasonal Music by Wesley R. Warren. Wesley will play works by Bruhns, Boehm, Bach, Bossi, Sowerby and Franck in a one hour presentation, without intermission. Proceeds of a free-will offering will be given to the church’s ‘Choral Foundation Fund’ to support the Choral Scholars programme. St. Barnabas Anglican Church (Kent at James). Further info at www.stbarnabasottawa.com.

Sunday, April 13, 2014, 7:30 p.m.

La Compagnie Baroque Mont-Royal: Vincent Lauzer (recorder), Marie-Laurence Primeau (recorder, viola da gamba) & Susan Toman (harpsichord). La Compagnie Baroque Mont-Royal presents virtuosic chamber music from Italy and England, including works by Corelli, Uccellini, Purcell, Byrd, Rossi, and more! St. Luke’s Church, 760 Somerset Street West. Admission by donation.

Tuesday, April 15, 2014, 8:00 p.m.

The Office of Tenebrae. The St. Barnabas Choir will sing plainsong psalms and antiphons, *Responsories* by Healey Willan and the *Miserere* by Gregorio Allegri. The *Lamentations of Jeremiah* will be chanted by celebrant, Fr. James Beall (Associate Priest). St. Barnabas Anglican Church (Kent at James). Further information at www.stbarnabasottawa.com.

Sunday, April 27, 2014, 7:30 p.m.

Thomas Brawn (flute) with Joanne Griffin & Heather Flinn (harp). Regular St. Luke’s performer flutist Thomas Brawn welcomes newcomers, harpists Joanne Griffin and Heather Flinn into the fold in

a varied program of solos, duets and trios both old and new. St. Luke’s Church, 760 Somerset Street West (3 blocks west of Bronson). Admission by donation.

Sunday, May 11, 2014, 7:30 p.m.

Stephanie Piercey Beames (soprano) with Michael Rose (piano). An evening of French Art Song, including works by Berlioz, Fauré, Debussy and Liszt. St. Luke’s Church, 760 Somerset Street West. Admission by donation.

Sunday, May 25, 2014, 7:30 p.m.

The Choir of St. Luke’s Church. The Choir of St. Luke’s presents a mix of sacred and secular music to conclude the 2013-14 series. St. Luke’s Church, 760 Somerset Street West (3 blocks west of Bronson). Admission by donation.

Members News

Address change:

Reicker, Alexander. 319 Iroquois Rd, Ottawa K2A 3M3



Field Trip to Casavant Frères

SHAWN POTTER

On March 13th, a group of eight members from the Ottawa Centre, including our three teenaged students, went on a field trip to Casavant Frères organ workshop in Saint-Hyacinthe, QC, where we were most kindly welcomed and hosted by Jacquelin Rochette, Artistic Director of Casavant Frères.

Jacquelin led a fascinating and amusing tour through the various steps in the organ-building process: case design,

casting of pipes, voicing of pipes, design of console, etc. We were even fortunate enough to witness the “throwing of pipes”, where molten tin and lead are spread across a long table to cool and solidify before being rolled into sheets of metal, which will eventually be shaped into pipes.

Many parts of the organ workshop remain unchanged from the 19th century, and to walk through the various rooms felt

a bit like a walk through time.

Many thanks to Frances Macdonnell for organizing this trip, and to Jacquelin Rochette for offering a very generous three-hour tour. With three large organs presently being built in the factory, it was a most generous gift indeed!

- Shawn Potter

View more photos of the visit on our web site at <http://rcco-ottawa.ca/casavant> (courtesy Ross Jewell)

Warm hospitality and lots of stories from our host, Jacquelin Rochette, Artistic Director at Casavant Frères



The Ottawa contingent having the time of their lives. (l-r): Ian Guenette, Samuel Lee, Ruth Neil, Emma Drinnan, David LaFranchise, Frances Macdonnell, Ross Jewell and Shawn Potter



“Throwing pipes” with molten metal. Seriously hot stuff!



Kiwanis Music Festival

JENNIFER LOVELESS



The organ classes for this year’s Kiwanis Music Festival will be held at St. Luke’s Anglican Church, 760 Somerset Street West, on Friday April 11th at 10:30am.

Come and encourage our young organists! For more information please check the Ottawa Kiwanis website at <http://www.ottawakiwanismusicfestival.com>.

- Jennifer Loveless, Student Concerns





Pro Organo

Karen Holmes

The last concert of the season will take place at Église Saint-François-d'Assise on MONDAY, May 5th, at the usual time of 7:30 p.m. The featured artist will be Shawn Potter, the Organist and Choir-Director at First Baptist Church.

After a season of varied programmes, this concert will feature quintessential organ music from the German Baroque period: pieces by Buxtehude, Scheidemann, Sweelinck, Bach and Weckmann. (You can find the full programme on the Centre website.)

Shawn Potter holds a master's degree in organ performance from McGill University's Schulich School of Music, where he studied organ with Hans-Ola

Ericsson and John Grew, and harpsichord and continuo with Hank Knox. Originally from Nova Scotia, Shawn graduated in 2010 with a bachelor's degree in music from Mount Allison University, where he held a Canadian Merit National Scholarship as well as a Mount Allison Bell Scholarship. He has held numerous grants and fellowships including a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) grant, allowing him to pursue a wide variety of interests, ranging from 17th century North German music to



the organ works of Olivier Messiaen. Shawn has held organ scholar positions in Montreal at both Christ Church Cathedral and the Church of St John the Evangelist. He was the winner of the national RCCO organ-playing competition in 2013, and the winner of the Godfrey Hewitt Memorial Scholarship in 2010. The Godfrey Hewitt Memorial Fund will co-sponsor the recital on May 5th.

At this concert, we will again have video presentation at the front of the church, and you will be able to find out about the 2013-14 season of Pro Organo Ottawa! See you there.



CD Review - Mervyn Games, FRCCO

FRANCES MADONNELL

First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Ottawa is celebrating the 100th anniversary of its building in 2014, and its three-manual Casavant organ, though slightly rebuilt in 1936, dates from the foundation of the building. As part of the celebrations, Mervyn Games, who has been the Organist of the Christian Science Church since 2012, has recorded a CD of organ works particularly suited to the church's organ.

The excellent diction of Joanne Thomas, the church's soprano soloist, is heard beautifully in an arrangement of *Brother James's Air*, followed by Searle Wright's chorale prelude on the same theme, and also in an arrangement of Mary Baker Eddy's words, *Mother's Evening Prayer*, set to music by Handel, adapted by Bliss Schnewlin. The clean, somewhat dry acoustic of the church is well suited to the clear expression of these vocal solos, delicately accompanied by Mr. Games. The Searle Wright piece displays several characteristic sounds of the organ, moving from flutes to the clarinet, and finishing with the celeste's ethereal sound.

Several Bach works are featured, with

the familiar graceful lines of *Jesu, joy of man's desiring* leading into a sprightly trio arrangements of a cantata movement, and winding up with the *Fugue on the Magnificat, BWV 733*, in which the clear contrapuntal texture of the fugal exposition is completed by a dramatic entry of the pedal reed towards the end.



A group of chorale preludes by Healey Willan, demonstrating the flutes and mutations of the organ, are followed by Howells' *Psalms Prelude No. 1, Set. 1*. Mr. Games's expertise is shown in the gradual build-up and withdrawal of the registration in a perfect Howells style. César Franck's *Andantino* moves brightly along, with the oboe stop ornamenting the melody.

The great Canadian composer Rachel Laurin has dedicated pieces to several

different organists, and she dedicated *Soliloquy* (from *Twelve Short Pieces for Organ, Vol. II*) to Mervyn Games in 2012. This piece uses the Nazard to highlight the "elegant melismatic lines and evocative harmonies" (to quote the programme notes) which are so characteristic of Ms. Laurin's work.

The programme is framed by two works in celebratory mood, Stanley's *Trumpet Voluntary* and Jan Zwart's *Fantasia on 'A safe stronghold our God is still'*. The closing piece particularly highlights the confident mood of strength and reassurance which the Christian Science Church fosters in the world. In the middle of the programme, Buxtehude's *Prelude, Fugue and Chaconne* dances joyously through the centuries, showing to their best both the organ's pedal reed and its excellent principal chorus.

My only wish was that the CD insert had printed the specifications of the organ, but it is very good to have a recording of this fine organ played by its resident organist, Mervyn Games, in a most rewarding style. I enjoyed listening to it very much.

- Frances Macdonnell



The Vinyl Organ Pub Night

Monday, March 10th at 7 pm



Wellington Gastropub
1325 Wellington Ave.

On Monday March 10th, an eclectic group of vinyl aficionados met at the Wellington Gastropub in Hintonberg for a listening party of significant organ performances on vinyl. The vinyl albums featured during the evening are listed at left below.

This event was co-presented by Tetra Speakers (a locally based but internationally respected speaker company) who graciously provided its audiophile-quality equipment for the listening pleasure of all.

Proceeds from the evening were donated to the Parkdale Food Bank and the Kiwanis music scholarships.



J.S. Bach: *Six Schübler Chorales* performed by Marie Claire Alain at Marcussen St-Jacques à Varde, Denmark

Frescobaldi pieces performed by Gustav Leonhardt in Innsbruck

Langlais plays Langlais at St-Clotilde

Gerald Bales (with brass): *Fanfare: Festival of Music at the Cathedral church of St Mark*. Side A: Music of Gerald Bales, Side B: Music of William France, Healey Willan, Frederick Karam Walther and Stanley

John Grew plays *French Noëls* on the Redpath Hall organ at McGill





Scholarships

The Ottawa Centre has funds available to help members young or old, at any stage of their career, to participate in educational and professional development activities.

Ottawa Centre Scholarships

Anthony King-Douglas Gibson Scholarship and Allen Cureton Scholarship

These scholarships, worth up to \$500 and \$300 respectively, are awarded annually to Ottawa Centre members planning to attend a summer course, conference or other professional development activity. The funds can contribute toward the cost of attending an RCCO convention, but must be applied to an organized course or event; not to be used for private lessons. Deadline for applications is April 30th, 2014, by letter to the Centre President describing your planned activity, its cost, as well as a brief description of your educational background and present church music activities. Mail submissions to: President, RCCO Ottawa Centre, Box 2270 Station D, Ottawa K1P 5W4

Kiwanis Festival Scholarship

The Ottawa Centre offers a \$500 organ scholarship through the annual Kiwanis Festival of Music and Dance.

The Godfrey Hewitt Memorial Scholarship Trust Fund:

The Godfrey Hewitt Memorial Scholarship was established in memory of the late Godfrey Hewitt, C.D., D.Mus. (Cantuar), FRCO, Hon. ARSCM. Its purpose is to provide an annual scholarship of \$5,000 to an advanced Canadian organ student (or landed immigrant in Canada) who wishes to pursue courses of study either at a university or with a particular teacher, either within Canada or abroad. Funds may be used for tuition, travel, living expenses, and such other purposes as may be appropriate to the circumstances of the award.

Required repertoire for the following spring's competition will be announced in the autumn of each year. All applicants shall satisfy the following requirements:

- Canadian citizenship, or landed immigrant status in Canada;

- aged 35 years or less;
- graduate, or about to graduate from university, conservatory or college;
- RCCO Associate diploma or similar academic level of qualification;
- stated intention of teaching organ (either in an academic institution or privately, not necessarily as the candidate's primary career).

Application forms and submission details are available on the RCCO Ottawa Centre web site (www.rcco-ottawa.ca), or may be requested in writing from:

Godfrey Hewitt Memorial Scholarship Committee
c/o Frances Macdonnell
303 - 3099 Carling Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario K2H 5A6



Applications must include: 1) a detailed resumé and proof of citizenship or landed immigrant status, 2) a specific plan of study for the year, 3) three references, 4) a cassette/CD made in the past 12 months of three major works (see web site for details) and 5) a non-refundable fee of \$40 payable to RCCO—Ottawa Centre. Deadline for submissions is April 30th, 2014. The Godfrey Hewitt Memorial Scholarship of \$5,000 has been awarded annually to advanced Canadian organ students each year since 2005.

National Office Scholarships:

The Lorna and Murray Holmes Scholarship:

The Lorna Holmes Scholarship is available annually, and provides \$1,000 to a student entering organ or church music

studies at a Canadian University. Preference will be given to students beginning undergraduate studies. Applicants must hold membership in the College. A letter of application must be accompanied by a proof of acceptance at a Canadian university, and two letters of reference from people able to assess the candidate's suitability for the scholarship. Application deadline is May 15th, 2014. Complete applications should be sent to: The Lorna Holmes Scholarship, c/o The Royal Canadian College of Organists, 202-204 St. George Street, Toronto, ON. M5R 2N5

Barrie Cabena Music Scholarship

The Waterloo-Wellington Centre administers the Barrie Cabena Music Scholarship. Its purpose is, firstly, to honour the contribution made to excellence in church music in Canada by Barrie Cabena, composer, teacher, performer, and secondly, to assist a deserving student(s) in the formal study of organ, church music, and/or composition at the post-secondary school level.



The Barrie Cabena Music Scholarship Fund was initiated by the Waterloo Wellington Center of the RCCO in 2004 on the occasion of Dr. Cabena's 71st birthday. Contributions may be made to the "RCCO Cabena Scholarship".

Receipts will be issued by the RCCO National Office.

Full details are found on the downloadable application form.

Applications for the 2014 Barrie Cabena Scholarship will be received up to May 1st, 2014.

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**NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING:
SUNDAY, APRIL 6TH, 1:00 PM,
ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**



Supply List

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Mai-Yu Chan	613-726-0818	fosterg@rogers.com
Frances Macdonnell	613-726-7984	fbmacdonnell@sympatico.ca
Daniel Morel	613 228-8331	danmorel@rogers.com Sunday services, weddings, funerals.
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Donald Russell	613-738-9223	russell.kimberwick@me.com
Wesley R. Warren	613 726-6341	Weddings and Funerals

*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. Info: mervyn.games@gmail.com or 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. Call 613-563-1409

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



Next Deadline



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Advertising Policy

1. Any Ottawa Centre member may announce his/her event on the Around Town section of the newsletter free of charge if **he/she** is the coordinator, conductor, **soloist**, or 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 **extraordinary** event would be of specific interest to our members: e.g., church/choral, and/or organ/bells, **and/or** the encouragement of young organists and pianists.

3. If a non-member wishes to announce an event of his/her organization in Around Town **free of charge**, he/she must make a written request to the RCCO Centre Executive for approval of that one specific event. Approval may be granted as per Policy 2; in most circumstances, however, we would expect the Organization to pay as per the rates set out by the Centre for advertising.

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Une présentation du Collège royal canadien des organistes, Section d'Ottawa



Info: 613-728-8041 or 613-798-4111
www.rcco-ottawa.ca/pro_organos

SHAWN POTTER (Ottawa)

Organ Recital - Récital D' Orgue



Monday May 5, 2014 7:30 pm
le lundi 5 mai 2014 à 19h30

Église St-François-d'Assise
(Wellington / Fairmont)

**Bach, Buxtehude, d'Angelbert, de Grigny, Muffat,
Weckmann**

A co-presentation with the *Godfrey Hewitt Memorial
Fund*

www.rcco-ottawa.ca

Adult / Adulte \$25 (\$20 senior /âge d'or - \$15 student /étudiant)

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.

