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Collège royal canadien des organistes section d'Ottawa

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# President's Message

**ROBERT JONES** 

# **Rays of Sun through the Clouds**

a lot of people, November is probably

one of the least enjoyed months of the

year: the days are getting shorter and colder,

and the brilliant autumn colours of October have disappeared. For the church musician, however, there are great musical possibilities. It begins with All Saints' Day—a Sunday

It begins with All Saints' Day—a Sunday when we observe the saints of the church, or perhaps the saints in our lives. What would this Sunday be without the great hymn *For All the Saints*, with Vaughan Williams' excellent hymn tune to accompany this fine text of Bishop William How? David Cameron's Processional on Vaughan Williams' *Sine Nomine* is an ideal way to set up the hymn. The range of anthems is diverse: from Matthew Larkin's *Give Us the Wings of Faith* for unison voices and organ to William Harris's *Faire is the Heaven* for unaccompanied double choir.

Remembrance Day has gained renewed interest in recent years. Of course, John McRae's poem *In Flanders Fields* has many fine settings by Canadian composers (Derek Healey, Alexander Tilley, Stephen Chatman, Eleanor Daley) and Laurence Binyon's poem *For the Fallen* set wonderfully by Paul Halley and Englishman Douglas Guest.

Canada Music Week, which coincides with St. Cecilia's Day, occurs from November 21-27 this year. 2021 marks the centennial

of Robert Fleming. Though he is probably best remembered for his career composing and working for the National Film Board of Canada, Fleming was also a church musician (serving as organist at St. Matthias Church from 1972-1976). The hymn text Let There be Light was written in 1968 by Frances Wheeler Davis for a collection of hymns used in St. George's Church in St. Anne de Bellevue, Quebec (where Fleming had served as organist from 1957-70). His hymn tune Concord was written for this hymn. How appropriate that Wesley Warren is currently programming Fleming's Mass of St. Thomas at St. Barnabas Church. Sunday, November 21 is also the Reign of Christ—one of the newer feast days in the liturgical calendar.

The final Sunday of November is the first Sunday of Advent, when we begin a new liturgical year. Some churches (including St. Luke's) will have an Advent Carol Service that day—a service full of music.

And our Ottawa RCCO Centre has a couple of events planned for November: Craig Humber will conduct a master class on Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at St-François d'Assise at 1:30, and on Monday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 he will perform a recital at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

You can't convince me that November is "lone and dreary, faint and weary".

President's Message

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# **President's Message**

**ROBERT JONES** 

# **Celebration at a Hidden Gem**

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L ast spring, out of the blue, I received an email from Simon Irving—an organist friend in Dundas who was the RCCO's national president from 1998-2000. Ottawa's L'Église St Jean-Baptiste had just bought an electronic organ, and were looking for some organists to play an inaugural recital on it. (Simon has no idea why they contacted him!) I googled L'Église St Jean-Baptiste only to find out it was almost under my nose at St. Luke's, at the north end of the Dominican University College on Empress Street! I met with Fr. Yves Bériault.

The original chapel housed a large three manual Casavant organ but the building was destroyed in a fire in 1931. The new building had a small 1940 Casavant organ (Op. 1639) that was in the rear gallery. Several years ago they downsized, and the College's library now occupies the original chancel of the chapel, and the organ was moved to side of the current chancel. A leaky roof caused water damage to the organ, and sadly they decided to replace the Casavant with a two manual Johannus electronic organ last spring, rather than repair the Casavant.

I was delighted to have Gilles Leclerc and Heather Rice join me in the recital which was held on Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. One of the provisions was to honour Gabrielle Bourque who had served as organist at St-Jean Baptiste from 1932 until her death in 1997. I was the first to perform, playing music of Denis Bédard, François Couperin, André Campra and William Reed. Heather Rice played next, featuring the music of Antonio Soler, Winnagene Hatch, Mark Sirrett, Bert van der Hoek, Rachel Laurin, Gilles Leclerc and Alfred Fedak. Gilles Leclerc was the final performer, beginning with music of Bach. In 1992, Gilles had composed an Aria for Mlle. Bourque's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary as organist at L'Église St Jean-Baptiste. He played that piece, and concluded the evening with a suite of four improvisations—in the style of Bach—on the name Gabrielle Bourque: Overture, Trio, Prélude de choral, Final.

It was a lovely evening and the audience of about 125 was very enthusiastic about the recital.





IAN GUENETTE, DONALD RUSSELL AND SONDRA GOLDSMITH PROCTOR

The last months have been difficult and exhilarating. What skills have you learned that you never expected 'to need.' Have your Zoom skills improved? Are you able to use your phone in ways that you didn't know before the pandemic was announced? Have you had unexpected time for reflection? What did you learn about yourself?

On **January 9, 2022** let us gather at the Café RCCO to quietly celebrate the good work that musicians have done around the world and in the Ottawa area during the continuing pandemic. Everyone has learned many skills that are newly important. Music and prayers will give thanks for the work that the organist community has provided in the past months and prayers to give strength for the coming months.

The time and place will be provided in the December Pipelines. We are looking forward to an in-person event.

There will be other events announced as we can confirm them within the current Covid regulations.

The Great Bach Marathon will return on **Saturday, May 7, 2022**. Graciously

hosted by Woodroffe United Church we will celebrate not only the music of Johann Sebastian Bach but also the joy of being together. If you would like to play and be able to commit to this event. please contact Sondra Goldsmith Proctor at

**sondragoldsmithproctor@gmail.com**. We will have two days prior to the event to share time to rehearse on the Woodroffe organ.

The theme of this year's Great Bach Marathon is *Joy*. Choose 5-7 minutes of music that helps you celebrate our profession and the joy of making music. Please contact Sondra Goldsmith Proctor to discuss your selection(s). We will work to have only one presentation of each title on the program..however, if you are passionate about an already selected



composition of Bach's repertoire, we will work to make certain that you have the time to perform at a different time.

Your committee of Donald Russell, Ian Guenette and Sondra Goldsmith Proctor look forward to greeting you in person. It has been a long, arduous span of time where some have felt isolated and others have been able and expected to keep working through the unexpected, constantly changing requirements. Let us look forward to remembering the collegiality and friendships in person.

# **In Flanders Fields**

In Flanders fields the poppies blow Between the crosses, row on row, That mark our place; and in the sky The larks, still bravely singing, fly Scarce heard amid the guns below. We are the Dead. Short days ago We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow, Loved and were loved, and now we lie In Flanders fields. Take up our quarrel with the foe: To you from failing hands we throw The torch; be yours to hold it high. If ye break faith with us who die We shall not sleep, though poppies grow In Flanders fields.

Let us remember

them.

# Pro Organo

e're at last able to have live concerts! Craig Humber will play at St. Andrew's Church (Wellington at Kent) on Monday, November 8th, at 7:30 p.m. Doors will open at 7 o'clock, and you will have to wear a mask and be physically distanced. Craig Humber is a Canadian organist now based in Vienna, Austria. He won the first Godfrey Hewitt Memorial scholarship in

2005, and therefore, this concert is co-sponsored by the Godfrey Hewitt Memorial Fund. Craig Humber will play works by Bach, Brahms and Reger. The price of the concert will be \$25 regular, \$20 for seniors and \$15 for students as in the past. Craig Humber will also teach a Master Class at St. François d'Assise Church on Saturday, November 6 at 1:30 p.m. The class will be free for students and RCCO members, and \$10 for nonmembers. Please mark the dates in your calendar!

#### KAREN HOLMES



Nous pouvons enfin présenter de vrais récitals! Craig Humber va jouer à l'église St. Andrew's (Wellington à Kent) le lundi, 8 novembre à 19 heures 30. Les portes seront ouvertes à 19 heures, et les auditeurs doivent être masqués, et tenir une distance sociale. Craig Humber est organiste canadien basé maintenant à Vienne en Autriche. Il est lauréat de la première bourse à la mémoire de Godfrey Hewitt, et donc, ce concert est une coprésentation du Fonds Godfrey Hewitt. Au programme seront des œuvres de J.-S. Bach, de Brahms et de Reger. Les billets coûteront 25\$ (régulier), 20\$ (âge d'or) et 15\$ (étudiant) comme autrefois. Craig Humber enseignera aussi un cours de perfectionnement à l'Église Saint François d'Assise le samedi 6 novembre à 13 heures 30. La classe sera gratuite pour des étudiants et pour des membres du CRCO, et \$10 pour ceux qui ne sont pas membres. Veuillez indiquer les dates sur vos calendriers!.



Donald Russell receives the Member of the Year plaque from Heather Rice outside the Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre. Donald has provided an invaluable liaison with Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre which resulted in the Fundraising Members' Recital for Pro Organo in 2017 and he continues in that role. You will find Donald's Bio and his contributions to the RCCO Ottawa Centre in the May issue of Pipelines. photo taken by Don Marjerrison

# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Rev. Christine Piper

#### The Liturgically Rich Month of November

The month of November in 2021 is rich in the liturgical churches as we celebrate All Saints Day on Sunday November 7 (transferred from November 1), Remembrance Day on November 14 (transferred from November 11), The Reign of Christ on November 21 and, on its last Sunday, the first Sunday of Advent.

In the Apostles' Creed, we confess our shared belief in the Communion of all the Saints. What does this mean? Firstly, through our common baptism, we all belong to this Communion, secondly, we all share in the communion of bread and wine, and thirdly, we celebrate all those whose lives have offered what I might call extraordinary witness to Christ's person and ministry. On All Saints Day, I tend to veer towards holding up this third group. A wonderful resource\* published by the Anglican Church, lists and offers a synopsis of the lives of all this group of saints (including men and women who have not been canonized but are memorialized). As well it offers proper prayers appointed for the day reserved for each saint, thus offering through our church year fitting liturgical resources to celebrate their lives and what they offered. Hymns that celebrate this day include Jerusalem the Golden, Who are these like Stars Appearing? By All your Saints Still Striving and For All the Saints.

Remembrance Day, otherwise known as Poppy Day, came into being to commemorate the formal ending of the hostilities of the First World War on Armistice Day *at the* 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month in 1918. While this tradition evolved out of Armistice Day, during the Second World War it became widely known as Remembrance Day to commemorate the contributions of all who served in the two World Wars and, indeed, later conflicts. As an ordained priest it has been my deep privilege to participate in ecumenical celebrations at the Cenotaph in whichever parish I may be serving, listening to and marking with all those present, the bugle calls of The Last Post symbolizing 'a soldier's last duty as "sitting sentry", in other words his death'; and, through the Reveille, 'his "rising" above his mortal duties.'

The Reign of Christ Sunday, a relatively new celebration, observed on the Last Sunday after Pentecost marks the end of the period in the church year known as Ordinary Time. I love this celebration marking the ending of our church year. Indeed, I tend to think of this Sunday as a huge exclamation mark celebrating Christ's reign among all people, and through the whole of the last twelve months. Not only do we celebrate all the service in Christ's name that has been offered up to and including this day, but as well all that we anticipate in the days and years to come.

And, so, we are ready on the last Sunday of November, the 28<sup>th</sup>, to observe and celebrate the first Sunday of the new church year, the first Sunday of the season of Advent, indeed marked by the color purple or blue. Purple signifies the spirit of repentance with which we prepare to greet the newborn Christ on Christmas Eve. I am reminded of the opening words of the Collect for this day, *Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness...* Blue stands for the spirit of hope that we hold through this season. I quote the words that start the Prayer that is offered over the gifts in the Anglican Church on this day: *God of Love and power, your word stirs within us the expectation of the coming of your Son...* 

As your chaplain, it will be my privilege to offer prayers for every one of you as you are responsible for offering the music of the Church through this liturgically rich month of November. And may I now come full circle, and close this brief essay by quoting the beautiful words from the closing verse of the hymn, For All the Saints:

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, through gates of pearl, streams in the countless host, singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Alleluia! Alleluia!

\*For All the Saints, Prayers and adings for Saints Days. Accordi

Readings for Saints Days. According to the Calendar of the Book of Alternative Services of the Anglican church of Canada. Compiled by Stephen Reynolds. Anglican book Center, 1994

- Christine



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# Supply List

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	Thomas Annand	613-261-0376	t.annand50@gmail.com Available for all services, Sundays, weddings, funerals
	Nadia Behmann	613-723-8601	nadia@behmann.ca Weddings and Funerals.
	James Brough	613-733-2972	Piano & organ, all styles of music. Any denomination. Sundays, weddings, funerals.
	Elizabeth Brown	613-608-1210	lizbrown2007@hotmail.com Sundays, weddings, funerals, any denomination
	Matthew Larkin	613-862-4106	matthewlarkin@live.com Weddings, funerals, Sunday services, all denominations
	Gilles Leclerc	613-798-0264	gilles.leclerc7@sympatico.ca
	Frances Macdonnell	613-726-7984	fbmacdonnell@sympatico.ca
	Daniel Morel	613-228-8331	moreldan15@gmail.com Sundays, weddings, funerals.
	Leora Anne Nauta	613-816-8629	Choral conducting and organ. Any denomination, any service, Sat./Sun., weddings, funerals.
	Simon Pinsonneault	613-299-1886	simon.pinsonneault@tc.gc.ca
	Gavan Quinn	613-695-0533	gavanquinn@gmail.com
	Donald Russell	613-738-9223	russell.kimberwick@me.com
	Wesley R. Warren	613 726-6341	Weddings and Funerals
1			

# Organ Teachers List

**Thomas Annand,** MMus, BMus (Hons), FRCCO Teaches at all levels, also theory, history Info: t.annand50@gmail.com or 613-261-0376

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:pentland1212@eastlink.ca

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, Ottawa. Info: 613-726-6341

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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 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.