



VOL. 39, No. 5
JANUARY/JANVIER 2022

Pipelines

Bouches et anches



President's Message

ROBERT JONES

Texts for the New Year

- 1 President's Message
- 2 Centre Events
- 3 Chaplain's Corner
- 4 Supply List
Organ Teachers List
- 5 Our Advertisers

*The old year now hath passed away;
We thank Thee, O our God to-day,
That Thou hast kept us through the year,
When danger and distress were near.*

*In Thee is gladness amid all sadness,
Jesus, Sunshine of my heart!
By Thee are given the gifts of Heaven,
Thou the true Redeemer art!
Our souls Thou wakest, our bonds Thou
breakest,
Who trusts Thee surely hath built securely,
He stands for ever: Hallelujah!
Our hearts are pining to see Thy shining,
Dying or living to Thee are cleaving,
Nought can us sever: Hallelujah!*

These two hymn texts--translated from German by Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)—are for the New Year's Eve and New Year's Day chorales on which Bach composed two of his preludes (BWV 613 and 614) found in the *Orgelbüchlein*. The first contains an element of despair and is in a minor key. The second is exuberant in mood and is in a major key.

As we say good-bye to the year 2021, that first hymn text seems so real. The pandemic certainly had elements of danger and distress. Almost all of our Centre's activities for 2021 were held virtually. Many of us had periods of no in-person worship services, live choral and congregational singing banned

and concerts cancelled: the danger being the spreading of the virus, and the absence of this being distressing for us.

But 2022 is a new year. It is natural to look forward to a new year: we probably all have new hopes, dreams and perhaps resolutions. We hope that the pandemic will come to an end, so that — even with new norms — we can resume having in-person worship, concerts, workshops, choral and congregational singing to name a few.

Our programming team of Sondra, Donald and Ian continue to work very hard to plan events for us. I look forward to seeing you at one of them. I also encourage us all to forward this month's issue of Pipelines to a friend and/or colleague to show some of what we do.

Happy
New
Year

Centre Events

IAN GUENETTE, DONALD RUSSELL AND SONDR A GOLDSMITH PROCTOR

Zoom is our friend. We will continue to use this forum until it is safe to gather.

Sunday, January 9th, at 2:00 pm.
Our Journeys to Hope. We will gather at the *Café* to share thoughts, photos and music of our musical lives. How are you participating? Do you have a photo or a poem or a short piece of music that would support your colleagues during this time? This *Café RCCO* is a time of sharing and support for all of us. Please email your contribution to events@rcco-ottawa.ca this week to participate in the first *Café RCCO* of 2022. Please register to attend the session at events@rcco-ottawa.ca by Saturday, January 8th.

Sunday, February 13th at 2:00 pm
Our Questions for the Examiner, His wisdom for us! In this Centre we are fortunate to have wonderful colleagues to guide us. This *Café RCCO* will be led by Gordon Johnston speaking about the *RCCO* examinations. Gordon has been involved in the examination process for 30+ years and is currently the Chief Examiner of the College. Bring your questions.

Gordon suggests that ‘to get a taste of what I’ll talk about, people could check out a video which I made as a part of the Toronto Centre’s Examination Masterclass series:

<https://youtu.be/WFcCsf4gl7E>.’

Reserve your space for the session at events@rcco-ottawa.ca early. The class will begin at 2:00 pm on Zoom.

On **Sunday, March 6th at 4:00 pm** we are invited to a special service at First Baptist Church led by Rev. John Perkin with Aella providing the choral music in anthems by Susan Labarr, Joan Szymko and Kim Andre Arnessan. Shawn Potter will provide the organ service music. During the season of Lent and the changing of seasons at that time of the spring equinox, the theme will focus on darkness to light, struggle to hope. We will not know the restrictions of gathering until we are closer to the event. Please keep checking in to find out the latest news.

On **Sunday, April 24th at 2:00 pm** we will focus on Johann Sebastian Bach and how we need to be thinking about the

music we are preparing for the Great Bach Marathon. Additional details will follow in the February Pipelines. This will be a Zoom event.

Our hope is that on **Saturday, May 7th from 1:30 – 6:00 pm** we will be able to gather at Woodroffe United Church to participate and hear the *Great Bach Marathon*. Let’s each select a favorite piece of Bach to play or something that you learned during the worst of the pandemic. We will provide more information in the February Pipelines. We have reserved two days of rehearsal time on the Woodroffe pipe organ. (One of the important skills I have gained during the pandemic is how to thoroughly clean the keys of the organ. I will provide that service during the Marathon. sgp)

Thank you for your words of encouragement during the past 23 months. It has made a huge difference in what we have been able to provide as programme for the Centre.

CAFFÉ

RCCO





Rev. Christine Piper

For Birth or Death?

*...were we led all that way
for Birth or Death?*

*There was a Birth, certainly.
We had evidence and no doubt.
I had seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different;
this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us,
like Death, our death.
We returned to our places,
these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here,
in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their
gods.
I should be glad of another death.*

*Final extract of
The Journey of the Magi,
by T.S. Eliot*

Yes, they had experienced birth and death before. And yet in searching for, and then finding the Christ child, and all that this experience brought them, their vision was surely irrevocably changed? Yes, there was joy in witnessing that birth; yet returning to the status quo of the life they had left, yes ‘to the old dispensation’ where their kinsmen worshipped and depended on multiple gods, would in its wake have been hugely trying. Indeed, I could understand that for them, while on one level they had witnessed a birth, this would for them as they returned home also have been like going through ‘a hard and bitter agony.’ For they would have discovered that they could never think of the old ways that they had left in the same way again. Seeing this birth had brought into their lives the death of how things used to be...

I think of our journey through the new terrain of a world caught in the throes of Covid 19. This has not been joyful like the Magi’s experience. But surely it has been a hugely deep experience for us all? Together we have experienced and tried to find our way through a world now dominated by a pandemic. There is, surely, no

returning to ‘the old dispensation.’ Even as for many of us, we have come nowhere near the rigours and terror of what it can mean to be, or love and care for someone who has the disease, we have still experienced the death of what was before a way of life that seems perhaps in retrospect, and on a general level, smoothly predictable and holding few surprises...

And so, what can keep us going, I ask myself? What would have kept the Magi going? For Eliot, it seems that maybe it was their hope of *another death*. Perhaps the death once and for all of the old assumptions that accompanied their life in that *old dispensation*? Finding and seeing the Christ child had irrevocably changed them. Just as this same discovery, whenever or however we may have experienced it, has on some level irrevocably changed each, and everyone, of us. Once we discover the Christ, nothing can ever seem the same way again. It is surely like we have experienced death to be re-birthed in this way.

Thanks be to God.

As we prepare to celebrate the Feast of Epiphany on January 6th, I have quoted above the last lines of *The Journey of the Magi*, a poem by T.S. Eliot. Before coming across this poem last Sunday through the church service at St Bartholomew’s in Ottawa, I had thought of the Magi’s visitation to the Holy Family in Bethlehem as simply bringing them great joy! Eliot’s poem however reminds me that hugely deep experiences can be multi faceted in their impact, indeed life changing. And sometimes in not a simple way.

Eliot is suggesting that, as the Magi followed that star in the Eastern sky and found and saw the babe for whom they had been searching, there would, surely, have been in this experience something that transformed their whole perspective?



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NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING:
MONDAY, 10 JANUARY / 7:30 P.M.
WEB MEETING

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Amy Andonian	613 224-8117	Sundays, weddings, funerals. Organ and piano. All denominations.
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
Simon Pinsonneault	613-299-1886	simon.pinsonneault@tc.gc.ca
Donald Russell	613-738-9223	russell.kimberwick@me.com
Wesley R. Warren	613 726-6341	Weddings and Funerals

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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