



Pipelines

Bouches et anches



President's Message

ROBERT JONES

Making Music for Spring

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We have a maple tree in our front yard and, one day last week, shortly after 4 pm, I looked out our window and counted seven robins in the tree! Every day at this time they drop in for a short visit. One day we saw 18 of them. Certainly there are no worms available to them, but apparently they'll settle for bits of fruit (not that we have been supplying any). It is a mystery. But February is the shortest month, so maybe spring is around the corner, which is very refreshing after the very long stretch of cold weather we have endured. *(Photo courtesy Lynn Jones)*



February is another month filled with wonderful possibilities for the church musician. For many years, Black History Month has been celebrated in February. Most hymnals contain hymns of Afro-American origin. Kola Owolabi is an organist and composer of note (pun intended). He is professor of organ at the University of Notre Dame, but grew up in Canada, earning his undergrad degree at McGill. His solo organ composition *Dance* was selected for the RCCO's 2013 National Competition in Ottawa where all of the finalists performed this piece.

February 2nd is the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, which is 40 days after Christmas. One anthem I learned while I was still in high school was *When to the Temple Mary Went* by Johannes Eccard. It wasn't until 2 years ago when I actually got to conduct it. Of course, many musical settings of *The Song of Simeon* abound.

Some churches (or organists!) take the opportunity to celebrate the anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's accession to the throne, which is on February 6th. Of course, this year it is quite the milestone (her 70th).

I can't help but think of Healey Willan in February, as this February 16th is the 41st anniversary of his death. Some of his choral and organ music is available for free on the Choral Public Domain Library (CPDL) and/or the Petrucci Music Library (IMSLP).

In many denominations, the Last Sunday after the Epiphany features the gospel passage about Jesus' transfiguration. This year that falls on February 27th.

Perhaps what I am looking forward to the most is that maybe, just maybe, the Omicron variant has now peaked. The provincial government is relaxing some of its Covid protocols. Let's keep our fingers crossed that we are on the road to returning to normalcy and that our spring events, two Pro Organo spring recitals and the Bach Marathon can indeed be held as live events.

Café RCCO is Coming Your Way!

Please join our Zoom sessions to help all of us focus on how we meet the needs of our parishes, keep ourselves practicing, and share the learnings and frustrations of the time of Covid-19.

We have a gift of experienced members who are plowing through all the new responsibilities we must undertake and are willing to share their learnings. Here's what's in store: *Café RCCO*

Sunday, February 13th, 2022, 2:00p.m.

Please welcome Peter Nikiforuk, the RCCO national president and an experienced examiner, who will lead our discussion on the RCCO examinations. How recently have you looked at the requirements for the exams? Do you know the repertoire for each level? Why would you want to spend the time and energy to take the examinations?

Recently, I went through all the material that is on line to answer those questions for myself. The repertoire is stunning and appropriate for each level. The ear training is so valuable for all of us to review. Each year I set personal goals for learning new music and polishing skills. As each of us knows, some years go more easily than others in working to achieve goals.

What are your musical goals for 2022? What have you decided to 'polish' in your musical skills? When people say to me that they are too old to participate, I think of the first time that I sat in a master class in Europe. The organizers said that I was too old to participate. Master classes are for the young people in the field. I had a private discussion with the organizers. When I asked why they thought adults should stop learning, there was silence in the room. Yes, I became an assistant to the master organist and kept learning.

We learn from the first day of life until our last day. Have you set goals for this year, and, perhaps for 2023?

We have the opportunity of engaging our brains and bodies for all of our life.

How will you participate? To participate in Café RCCO on Sunday, February 13 at 2:00 PM with Peter Nikiforuk, please register at events@rcco-ottawa.ca.

You will receive a link to the meeting the day before the event. This event will be a virtual presentation.

Sunday, March 6th, 2022, 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, our host, will provide the organ service music. During the season of Lent and the changing of seasons 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. Please register for this event at events@rcco-ottawa.ca.

Sunday, April 24th, 2022, at 2:00 pm

Thomas Annand will help us focus on Johann Sebastian Bach and how we need to be thinking about the music we are preparing for the Great Bach Marathon.

We will be given thought-provoking ideas to assist in our learning and performing for the playing of Bach. There will be time for questions. Please register for this Zoom event at events@rcco-ottawa.ca.

Saturday, May 7th, 2022, 1:30-6 pm,

Our hope is that on we will be able to gather at Woodroffe United Church to participate and hear the Great Bach Marathon. Let us each select a favorite piece of Bach to play or one that you have learned during the worst of the pandemic. We have one group of children and their teacher working to be ready to perform. We have adults preparing to perform. Are you one of them? Please contact Sondra at sondragoldsmithproctor@gmail.com to save your place and your composition in the Great Bach Marathon. We have reserved two days of rehearsal time on the Woodroffe organ. (I am prepared to clean the organ between each organist and pianist sgp).

Please make certain that you are vaccinated and boosted so that your participation in the live events is secure. Together we can begin to move forward.

CAFÉ RCCO



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Rev. Christine Piper

Cana-Grace!

As I prepared to preach on the second Sunday after Epiphany, I discovered what has been described as ***Cana-Grace!*** *

I quote, *'Sometimes the church has forgotten that our Lord once attended a wedding feast and said yes to gladness and joy.'*** And, yes, this was the wedding at Cana where the wine had run out, even as the festivities were still in full swing! But, unlike most weddings of that time, at the wedding in Cana, the wine running out proved not to be the last straw! Through Jesus' transforming touch in turning six barrels of water into wine, the guests' experience was that wine continued to be on offer. Indeed, unlike at most weddings, the very best wine was being served at the end! It was as though, through this, not only were the physical needs of those thirsty wedding guests more than met, but so also was their need for the touch of God.*** And yes, even as folks were becoming tired, their hearts and souls were wondrously revived. The guests knew deep joy! One of the commentaries describes this joy as ***Cana-Grace.*** Indeed, Deirdre Piper, with whom I reside, reminded me that a text from one of the Hindu Upanishads expresses, *'It is from joy that we come, and it is by joy that we live, and it is to joy that we shall return.'*

And have we not all experienced a sense of the wine running out through the last two years that have been dominated by this worldwide Pandemic? And for some of us, we have experienced all of this even as we have also been visited by the losses and deep cares that ordinary every day life can bring.

Speaking of the Pandemic, what

stories could we all share regarding what it has meant for Omicron to raise its head among us even now? And yet for us, as people of faith, the promise of ***Cana-Grace*** is ours even through the continuation of what may feel like the continuation of these familiar dried - up days!

I have been moved to think that as Jesus somehow, through his transforming presence, turned water into the best of mature wines, so surely does God work God's power in and through our souls. I am reminded of the doxology that we offer at the close of the Anglican Eucharist service: *'Glory to God whose power working within us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine...'* Indeed, how we look forward to offering this once again! Surely our expression of praise in this instance is an example of ***Cana-Grace!*** Reminding us of the solace

and care we can look for from God even now as we try to see where and how our times are unfolding. I give thanks for the image of fulsome wine, symbolising God's goodness, and care, that the story that the wedding at Cana offers us. And that we too, even in these unlikely times, times that have been so not easy for some among us, can somehow be gently touched in spirit by ***Cana-Grace!***

**David Steele, 'Cana Grace,' in Presbyterian Outlook, 174, no.14 (April 13, 1992): p.6*

***Robert M. Brearley, John 2:1-11, Pastoral Perspective, Second Sunday after the Epiphany in Feasting on the Word, Year C, Volume 1. Louisville: Westminster John Know Press, 2009, p. 260*

****Ann M. Svennungsen, 'The Gospel, John 2: 1-11 (RCL, BCP, RC)', Second Sunday after the Epiphany, New Proclamation, Year C. 2006-2007, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, P105*



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Elizabeth Brown	613-608-1210	lizbrown2007@hotmail.com Sundays, weddings, funerals, any denomination
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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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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.