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Pipelines

Bouches et anches



President's Message

ROBERT JONES

New Year, New Opportunities

T As I write this, Christmas is now in the rearview mirror. For many of us, weeks of preparation and rehearsals for Christmas concerts and services have come and gone. Each Christmas has its unique story or experience. For 2020 and 2021, Covid-19 played a big part in how we navigated through the Christmas season. This year it might have been the weather.

I continue to be amazed with the advanced technology we have at our finger tips where you can access things immediately. Viewing concerts and services from all around the world at the press of a button is wonderful. We enjoyed watching some of the Festival of Lessons and Carols from York Minster from the comfort of our living room. Ordering music and getting it instantly via digital download can be quick and easy. I have a package of old Christmas cards that were made up years ago (before I started at St. Luke's), with a sketch of the previous St. Luke's Church on the front cover. On the inside is the poem *The Work of Christmas* by Howard Thurman (1899-1981). It really describes the spirit and mission of our beloved parish. On December 7th I received an email from a parishioner that this poem had been set to music by Dan Forrest. I tracked it down, listened to a recording of it and then purchased the music via digital download. The next day my choir began learning it and then sang it on Christmas Eve!

January marks the beginning of a new year. For those directing church or community choirs, it's the beginning of the 2nd half of the academic year, to which our schedules are closely linked.

One of my resources for choosing music is the Choral Public Domain Library at <https://www.cpd.org/wiki/>. 2023 marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens as well as John Bacchus Dykes. Some of you may be familiar with Lemmens' organ works, but he also composed a few choral pieces. Dykes penned some great hymn tunes that have stood the test of time. Three that come to mind, that are familiar to several denominations, include *Nicaea (Holy, Holy, Holy)*, *Melita (Eternal Father, Strong to Save)* and *Dominus Regit Me (The King of Love My Shepherd Is)*.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity falls in January (18-25). It can be an excellent opportunity to plan a service with other churches and perhaps team up with other choirs.

For our Ottawa Centre, we are delighted to have Sylvain Brisson lead a session regarding the maintenance of your pipe organ: Saturday, January 28th at 11:00am at Woodroffe United Church. In my last year at the University of Windsor, All Saints' Church had just got a new organ built by Karl Wilhelm, and David Palmer showed us how to tune some of the

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reed pipes. This proved invaluable for me because after university I was in Sault Ste. Marie for 17 years and the organ technician lived southeast of London, Ontario.

I look forward to seeing you at Woodroffe United Church on January 28th.

As many of you know, the congregation of St. Luke's Anglican Church voted on

December 18th to disestablish itself as a parish. Almost 40 years ago, St. Luke's began a soup kitchen, now known as St. Luke's Table: it has expanded significantly and is now one of five community ministries run by the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa. The repairs to St. Luke's Church after the devastating fire of October 11 will allow St. Luke's Table to use the entire building.

Since the fire, the Parish of St. Luke's has been holding its worship services in the Chapel at All Saints' Church (Westboro), located at 347 Richmond Road, just west of Churchill Avenue. The final service will be held on Sunday, January 8 at 1:00, to which the public is invited.

Centre Events

IAN GUENETTE AND SONDRAGOLDSMITH PROCTOR

It's 2023! A time of new beginnings and looking over our shoulders at what is yet to be completed from 2022 and the pandemic is upon us. As you ponder your activities for the new year, please remember to place several RCCO-Ottawa Centre events on your calendar. No matter how experienced we are or how much of a novice we feel, we still have so much to learn and share. For those of us who have failed retirement, it is a time of growth and learning. For those beginning careers in music, it is a time of important networking. For those in the mid-part of their career, it is time to energize among all the other constraints on your time.

This past fall I promised myself an hour to an hour and a half each week to work on four hand/four feet repertoire with a colleague in the music department at St. Lawrence University. For both of us it was a refreshing moment in the week to re-engage with our love for all music. It was health giving. We are going to work together again this coming semester.

To begin your revitalization, plan to attend **Sylvain Brisson's Café RCCO** on our shared role with the organ technician who comes when we call in panic. What have you always wondered about tuning an organ? How and what do we need to prepare for the technician's visit? Do we take the important time to thoroughly review the instrument to make certain that all of the instrument's needs – or most of them- can be addressed during the technician's visit? Bring your questions and concerns about a technician's work and learn how we can better assist the technician in maintaining our instruments. Learn how we can better communicate with our technician. We will meet at **Woodroffe United Church on Saturday, January 28, at 11:00am**. Katarina Jovic is our host for this event.

On Saturday, February 4 at 2:00pm, Timothy Piper, Music Director and Organist at Church of St. Bartholomew, will present a mini-recital on the 2013 Létourneau Organ. After the recital, we will share light refreshments.

Tuesday, February 7 at 7:30pm, Organist Thomas Annand will present works of César Franck at Notre-Dame Basilica Cathédrale. We will celebrate Franck's incredible works with the concert and a video conversation with Donald Russell and Thomas Annand discussing the technical aspects of playing Franck's compositions. The video will arrive in



your inbox approximately one week ahead of the concert. It will give us insights to help us hear all the nuances of the music during the performance. If you have questions regarding performance practices of César Franck, please email them to sondragoldsmithproctor@gmail.com. She will share the thoughts and questions with Thomas Annand and Donald Russell. Jennifer Loveless is our host for this event.

The Great Bach Marathon is returning on **Saturday, March 25**. This year's Marathon will provide a separate track for the young people to (re)discover the small OrgelkidsCAN pipe organ. Each young student will be able to play their prepared Bach pieces on the small organ in a separate space. If you are teaching piano to children, please send me an email expressing your interest in your students' participating in this program. Afterwards, the young people will join the adults to listen to an organist

or two and perform their prepared pieces on the piano. Katarina Jovic is our host for this event.

This Marathon will include guest instrumentalists performing with members of the RCCO. The Marathon will **begin at 1:30pm and conclude by 6:00pm**. If you have not volunteered to play on the Marathon, please do so by January 15. If you are unable to commit by that time but are interested, please contact sondragoldsmithproctor@gmail.com to reserve a space in the program.

There are many ways to share your music making. Do you occasionally perform with an instrumentalist in services? Would that person volunteer to join you in presenting a special work of Bach? Do you play four hand/four feet organ with a colleague? Please volunteer and let me know your chosen work. I will reserve your title for you. Now, let's make music together!

The Great Bach Marathon is a benefit for beginning organ students. We will have a poster for you in the next Pipelines to print and hang up in your church or school. The future depends on us. We can support our students.

Each of you makes the difference in the Ottawa Centre. We look forward to seeing many of you at the programme/education opportunities in the coming months.

Happy New Year! Let's go!

Members' News

Welcome Back -- Rejoining Members:

Shingarov, Boris and Sophia

boris.shingarov.com 613-254-8422

Aaron Tan Concert Review

GILLES LECLERC

Following a very successful recital at Dominion-Chalmers in early October, Pro Organo Ottawa was pleased to welcome Aaron Tan on Monday evening, 14 November, for a second event held at the historic Ste-Anne / St. Clement's church in Lowertown. Aaron Tan has quickly established himself among North America's leading young artists. He most recently was the winner of the Canadian International Organ Competition, making him the only person to have won three major North American organ competitions.

It's always a pleasure to return to Ste-Anne / St. Clement's that I consider has one of the best symphonic organs in the city. The repertoire and the organ were a perfect match and Aaron Tan brought out the instrument's qualities throughout his programme.

He opened with a robust reading of Marcel Dupré's *Carillon*, from *Sept pièces*, op. 27. The following piece, the peaceful *Ave Maria* from *Cathedral Windows* by Karg-Elert, led us into a very contrasting atmosphere that showed off the organ's beautiful *Viole de gambe* and *voix céleste* stops. From the beginning of the recital, one sensed Tan's ability to render the music's essence, never distorting it to create an effect. It comes down to understanding the music one plays and Tan honours the music so well in this way.

The following four pieces were grouped under the theme of light, each of which had a title that either explicitly mentioned light or a source thereof. Karg-Elert's



choral prelude on *Wie schon leucht' uns des morgenstern* was given a beautiful and intimate reading. It was followed by the mystical *Lumière* from Jeanne Demessieux's *Sept Méditations sur le Saint Esprit*, op. 6. The registrations here provided a sense of spatial rapport between the manuals that was most effective in the church's acoustics.

Next followed Aaron Tan's own transcription of *Les Étoiles* by French composer Henri Duparc. Originally a symphonic piece, written in 1874, Tan captured the orchestral textures of the work with nuanced and blended registrations. It is a great addition to the repertoire of organ transcriptions as Duparc, it would appear, never composed anything for our instrument.

The final piece of this section was *Poème symphonique pour le Temps de l'Avent*, op. 69, by Rachel Laurin, the organist of Ste-Anne / St. Clement's. Written in 2013 for Isabelle Demers' inaugural recital of the Casavant organ at the Palais Montcalm in Quebec City, the work is based

on two themes, *Conditor alma siderum* and the *Kyrie* from *Mass XVIII*. It is comprised of a set of variations that describe the texts of the Gregorian tunes featured. As the programme notes indicated, there are references to stars, curses, doom, prayer and redemption. Tan provided a wide palette of colours that enhanced the piece's both playful and dramatic qualities.

To mark the 200th anniversary of César Franck's birth, Tan played *Fantaisie en ut majeur*, op. 16, from *Six pièces (1868)*, to great effect on this venerable Casavant. With perfect registrations, the piece was given a sombre and restrained reading as required. Each section, *Poco Lento*, *Allegretto cantando* and the closing *Adagio*, flowed into one another effortlessly.

The recital concluded with the *Final* from *Symphonie No 5*, op. 47 by Louis Vierne. This reading was most satisfying for its perfect tempo, registrations and energy required. One would hope that Tan might one day record all of Vierne's great symphonies.

As this was Aaron Tan's first time in Ottawa, hopefully Pro Organo Ottawa will have the pleasure of welcoming him back soon. A special note of thanks to Father Erik Deprey, pastor of Ste-Anne / St. Clement's for his kind words of welcome before the concert in which he conveyed the importance of beauty we bring through organ music. As Rachel Laurin could not join us for the recital, our thoughts and prayers were and are with her during this time.

Pro Organo

KAREN HOLMES

The next recital in the series will be Sarah Svendsen at Notre-Dame Cathedral-Basilica at Sussex and St. Patrick on Friday, April 21st, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. Sarah will also conduct a Master Class on Saturday morning, April 22, at 10 a.m. Anyone wishing to play in the Master Class should contact Karen Holmes (<khre@rogers.com>).

Sarah Svendsen maintains a busy international concert career as a

soloist and musical collaborator. As both a soloist as well as an ensemble performer, Dr. Svendsen is known for her imaginative and engaging performances, including the athletic, inspiring, and fun performance style of her Comedy Duo, "Organized Crime". Svendsen is an active member of the Canadian organ community. She is the Curriculum Design and Program Coordinator for the Summer Organ Academy of the Royal Canadian

College of Organists (RCCO) and serves on the RCCO's National Strategic Planning Committee. Her work in this area is focused on developing outreach initiatives for organ appreciation and education, as well as disseminating information regarding organist and musician health and safety. Dr. Svendsen was born and raised in rural Nova Scotia and is now based in Toronto.



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, 9 JANUARY / 7:30 P.M.
WEB MEETING

Supply List

Sunday Supply Organists:

Amy Andonian	613 224-8117	Sundays, weddings, funerals. Organ and piano. All denominations.
Elizabeth Brown	613-608-1210	lizbrown2007@hotmail.com Sundays, weddings, funerals, any denomination
Glenn Keefe	289-830-6607	gkeefe78@gmail.com United and Anglican services.
Matthew Larkin	613-862-4106	matthewlarkin1963@gmail.com Weddings, funerals, Sunday services, all denominations
Frances Macdonnell	613-726-7984	fbmacdonnell@sympatico.ca

Wedding and Funeral Organists:

Nadia Behmann	613-723-8601	nadia@behmann.ca Weddings and Funerals.
Gilles Leclerc	613-798-0264	gilles.leclerc7@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

Robert P. Jones, M.Mus., ARCCO (ChM). All levels of students (teenager or adult).
Lessons at St. Stephen's Church (930 Watson Street) 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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St Mary Magdalene Anglican Church in Picton, ON, is searching for a MUSIC DIRECTOR

The position is about 10 hours per week with compensation following RCCO guidelines, and the start date is flexible.

We are blessed with a beautiful Casavant pipe organ and a wonderful Yamaha grand piano.

Both instruments are in excellent condition.

The Music Director is responsible for providing organ or piano accompaniment for services on Sunday mornings and other special occasions, as well as directing our church choir and leading one midweek choir rehearsal. Flexibility in musical style (traditional and more modern) is desirable.

For more information and to apply for this position, please contact

Kathy Condie at kjcondie2@gmail.com



THE ROYAL CANADIAN
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National Organ Competition



Apply Now for the 2023 National Organ Competition

Applications are now being accepted. Apply below:

[Application](#)

Application Deadline: February 1, 2023

The competition will take place July 1 and 5, 2023 in conjunction with [Organ Festival Canada](#). A maximum of six competitors will be chosen from the preliminary round to advance to the live rounds, where they will compete for \$8500 in prizes.

The National Organ Competition was established to encourage and reward a high standard of organ playing. The Competition is open to Canadian organists, permanent residents and non-Canadian organists studying toward a degree or diploma in Canada, who are under the age of 30 and are members of the Royal Canadian College of Organists. Previous first prize winners are not eligible.

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