

OTTAWA CENTRE,  
THE ROYAL CANADIAN  
COLLEGE OF ORGANISTS



CENTRE D'OTTAWA,  
LE COLLÈGE ROYAL CANADIEN  
DES ORGANISTES

2021 STUDENT RECITAL  
(VIRTUAL)

2021 RÉCITAL D'ÉTUDIANT(E)S  
(VIRTUEL)

- ◆ Aleesha Katary: Trio Sonata No. 1 in Eb Major (BWV 525) J. S. Bach (1685-1750)  
    iii) *Allegro*  
Sonata in C Minor (Op. 65, No. 2) Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)  
    i) *Grave*  
    ii) *Adagio*  
    *Organ: Casavant (1912/1936); First Church of Christ, Scientist, Ottawa*
- \* Minako Uchino: Récit de Tierce en taille (from *Livre d'Orgue*) Nicolas de Grigny (1672-1703)  
Prelude and Fugue in G Major (Op. 37, No. 2) Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)  
    *Organ: Casavant (1912/1936); First Church of Christ, Scientist, Ottawa*
- ❁ Aurora Xu: Sonata in C Minor (Op. 65, No. 2) Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)  
    i) *Grave*  
    ii) *Adagio*  
    *Organ: Casavant (Op. 2875; 1966); First Baptist Church, Ottawa*
- ❖ Maria Gajraj: La Primavera Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)  
    i) *Allegro*  
    ii) *Largo*  
    iii) *Allegro Pastorale*  
Andante (K. 616) W. A. Mozart (1756-1791)  
    *Organ: Phoenix LT 355; St. George's Catholic Church, Ottawa*
- ❖❁ Rebecca Lee: Prelude and Fugue in G Major (Op. 37, No. 2) Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)  
    *Organ: Hellmuth Wolff (1981); Redpath Hall, McGill University*
- ❖❁ Samuel Lee: Overture (from *Die Meistersinger*) Richard Wagner (1813-1883)  
transcribed by Edwin H. Lemare (1865-1934)  
    *Organ: Casavant (Op. 615; 1915, 1996); St-Jean-Baptiste, Montreal.*

**Teachers:**

- ❖ Hans-Ola Ericsson
- \* Jennifer Loveless
- ◆ Frances Macdonnell
- ❁ Jonathan Oldengarm
- ❁ Shawn Potter

## THE ARTISTS

**Maria Gajraj** is a dynamic multi-instrumentalist, specializing in piano and organ performance. She recently completed her Master's Degree in Organ Performance and Church Music at McGill University, studying with Hans-Ola Ericsson. Maria graduated with Distinction in 2019 from Carleton University, where she obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Music, studying the organ with Jennifer Loveless. Maria has received scholarships from the Royal Canadian College of Organists, and placed first in local music competitions from 2016-2019. She received the Kiwanis Club of Ottawa Arnt Loa Scholarship twice, and received a Graduate Excellence Fellowship from McGill University. She is the most recent recipient of the Arthur and Helen Henderson Scholarship. Maria has performed in public masterclasses and played solo concerts throughout Ottawa and Cornwall, and most recently, live-streamed organ recitals during the 2020 COVID pandemic. Maria has had a private piano teaching studio for the past seven years. She has mentored her students as they compete in music festivals, and organizes seasonal recitals for her piano students. She has been working within churches of various denominations for the past five years, playing for choirs, soloists, and instrumentalists, and directing choirs.

**Aleesha Katary** is in Grade Ten at Earl of March High School in Kanata. As well as studying the organ with Frances Macdonnell, she is also continuing her piano lessons, and is a soprano in the Christ Church Cathedral Girls' Choir. Even during the lockdown, she has played a number of organ voluntaries at Christ Church Cathedral and at St. Stephen's Anglican Church and at Woodroffe United Church. Aleesha is the co-founder of an initiative called 'Music For Seniors' in which local high school students create monthly virtual concerts for retirement homes, long-term care homes, and hospitals. She has also started teaching piano to under-represented youth through the initiative 'Missions Through Music' which is based in San Francisco.

In 2015, **Rebecca Lee** was awarded an organ scholarship from the RCCO to start learning organ with Karen Holmes. Since then, she has also participated in the Kiwanis Music Festival. After graduating from Sir Robert Borden High School last year, she is now studying organ performance with Hans-Ola Ericsson and Jonathan Oldengarm at McGill University in Montreal.

With a study scholarship awarded in 2011 from the Royal Canadian College of Organists, **Samuel Lee** began his organ study with Karen Holmes. He then successfully completed the CRCCO in 2014, ARCCO in 2016, and FRCCO in 2018. After graduating from the University of Ottawa with a Bachelor's Degree in Piano Performance with David Jalbert in 2018, he has successfully finished a Master's Degree in Organ Performance at McGill University in Montreal in 2020. Presently, he is on his first year in pursuing his Doctoral study in organ performance in McGill University, studying with Hans-Ola Ericsson and Jonathan Oldengarm.

**Minako Uchino** trained as a Radiation Oncologist in Japan. Since arriving in Canada in 2009, she has been pursuing two careers simultaneously, in music and medicine. She is now based in Ottawa and studying carillon and organ at Carleton University. In 2019, she became a carillonneur member of the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America as the first Japanese carillonneur. She played the organ with Edogawa Symphony Orchestra in Tokyo as the guest organist for their regular concert.

**Aurora Xu** is in her last year working towards an undergraduate degree in Health Sciences at University of Ottawa. Upon her arrival in Canada back in 2017, she was fortunate to start organ lessons with Shawn Potter. Aurora has received the RCCO Organ Academy Bursary which allows her to attend student academies and various workshops in Calgary and Halifax. Besides, she received the Kiwanis Club of Ottawa Arnt Loa Scholarship twice. In her spare time, she enjoys singing with the Ottawa Regional Youth Choir and the adult choir at First Baptist Church. She is looking forward to working in both health and music fields in the future.