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Collège royal canadien des organistes section d'Ottawa



President's Message

MOIRA HAYES



President's Message

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A Matter of Focus

THE GLORY OF GOD

When in our music God is glorified, and adoration leaves no room for pride, it is as though the whole creation cried, Hallelujah!

How often making music, we have found a new dimension in the world of sound, as worship moved us to a more profound Hallelujah!

So has the church, in liturgy and song, in faith and love, through centuries of wrong, borne witness to the truth in every tongue: Hallelujah!

And did not Jesus sing a song that night when utmost evil strove against the Light? Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight: Hallelujah!

Let every instrument be tuned for praise! Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise! And may God give us faith to sing always: Hallelujah!

Among the many wonderful hymns in our churches' hymnody is the above hymn by Fred Pratt Green written in 1972. I first heard this hymn in Ottawa in 1982 at a national Christian Festival at the Civic Centre and was attracted to the text of this poem. Set to the tune *Engelberg* composed by C.V. Stanford, it reminds us that the purpose of worship is to give glory to God. I like the reference in verse 2 to the effect of music in our worship.

Too much of modern worship is about us.

In one sense that is inevitable and we would not attend church if it was unconnected with us and our needs. But many believe that this present generation has taken this too far and has allowed the culture of the "me" generation to infect worship.

DEUMEE hes et anches

> Think also of this: the giving of glory to God is evangelism. Jesus said then when he is lifted up he would draw people to himself. That statement seems to have a double meaning: the literal lifting up of his body on the cross and also the figurative lifting up of Christ in the act of worship.

> Perhaps what the modern church needs is not another seminar on church growth but a return to being what it truly is: the body of Christ here to glorify God. As a modern statement of faith puts it:

The church lives to praise God. We have no higher calling than to offer the worship that belongs to God day by day, Sunday by Sunday.

(Living Faith 7.3.1)

Among the many privileges we have as church musicians is to lead the worshippers in praise that glorifies God; so let both our choral and instrumental music body forth these high goals. If the hymn is new to you or the congregation, introduce them to a worthy addition to our hymnody. **Pro Organo**

irst a couple of corrections to the review of the September concert! Ryan Jackson was born in Bracebridge, Ontario, and has studied in Toronto, and in the U.S., but not in Europe!

The next concert in the series will take place on Friday, November 23rd, at 7:30 p.m. at Notre-Dame Cathedral-Basilica. You can park free in the lot behind the church; leave a note on your dashboard saying you are in the church. The featured organist will be Jens Korndörfer, who was born in Germany.

Jens Korndörfer graduated from the conservatories in Bayreuth (Church Music B), Paris (DFS Orgue-Interprétation with M. Bouvard and O. Latry) and Oberlin Conservatory of Music (Artist Diploma in the class of J.D. Christie) with the highest distinctions. In September 2005, he became the first German ever appointed organist-in-residence at the Concert Hall Kitara in Sapporo, Japan. Aside from his regular performances in Sapporo and major venues throughout Japan, he gave numerous master classes, recorded a solo CD of German music, and concertized with orchestras. In September 2009, he



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began doctoral studies at McGill-University in Montreal. Mr. Korndörfer has performed extensively in prominent venues, including Westminster Abbey in London, Notre Dame Cathedral and St. Sulpice in Paris, Chapel Royal in Versailles, Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedächtniskirche in Berlin, the Münster in Ulm, Notre Dame Basilica in Montreal, Suntory Hall and Metropolitan

Art Space in Tokyo, and Kyoto Concert Hall. He has won numerous scholarships and prizes, and has published several articles in English, French, German, and Russian music journals. In March 2011, his third CD, Variations on America, was released.

You can find several videos (and audios) of Jens Korndörfer on Youtube, some of them partial performances from the Canadian International Organ Competition in Montreal. On November 23rd, you can hear him playing live, the following programme: Bach - Sinfonia from Cantata 29; two settings of "Nun komm" der Heiden Heiland; Prelude and Fugue in *B*-flat minor (for harpsichord) arranged by Max Reger. Jehan Alain - Second Fantasy, Couperin - 2 movements from Messe pour les Paroisses, Vierne - two Pièces de Fantaisie. Beethoven - Andante from Symphony 5 (arr. Korndörfer). Wagner - Overture to the Flying Dutchman (arr. Edwin Lemare).

It will be interesting to hear these different approaches to arrangement and transcription!

Orgelfest Update

et me tell you something about workshops planned for our 2013 Convention. All will take place in the mornings, while delegates are still wide awake, and they will be in the air-conditioned hotel, the Delta-City Centre. As usual, there will be a couple of anthemreading sessions - one led by Mark Sirett, from Kingston, and one by Kirk Adsett, the organist of St. Matthew's Anglican Church.

There will be several RCCO "presidential" personalities. Former National President Valerie Hall will talk about ways to involve young people in your church music programme, a subject important to us all.

Former National President Giles Bry-

ant will talk about "doable Britten". Ben-

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jamin Britten was born in 1913, so it will be an appropriate time to focus on him, and even if you don't think your choir will sing any Britten, Giles Bryant is always very entertaining!

And this will be your chance to get to know our next National President, James Bailey, who will address a subject to do with RCCO history and activity.

Our National Archivist, Margaret Leask, who has long experience with hymnology, will talk about finding your congregation's core repertoire.

Neil Cockburn, well-known for his well-organized and interesting presentations, will talk about Bach's The Art of Fugue.

And if you just feel like relaxing, Newfoundlander David Peters will do a presentation on the pipe organs of Newfoundland and Labrador. I have seen his pictures of instruments and churches, and they are beautiful, and David is a typical Newfoundlander, with lots of entertaining tales. Certains des ateliers seront traduits.

Most of these workshops will be happening two at a time, so you will have to make some choices, but there will be something of interest for everybody. You can consider partnering with someone, and reporting to each other on the workshop each one missed. The workshops will be only for Convention registrants, so when the registration form appears (soon!), send it in before you forget!



Sunday, November 11, 2012, 7:30p.m. A quartet of singers from Musica Divina will perform music from the past, highlighting Remembrance Day. St. Luke's Church: 760 Somerset Street West (3 blocks west of Bronson Ave). Admission by donation. Info: www.stlukesottawa.ca, music@stlukesottawa.ca, Tel (613) 235-3416.

Sunday, November 25, 2012, 7:30 p.m. Mary Muckle, harp, with Kirsten Carlson, flute, and harps in ensemble, celebrating Celtic Harpers and Kings in the music of Thurlough O'Carolan, Jared Denhard and G. F. Handel. St. Luke's Church: 760 Somerset Street West (3 blocks west of Bronson Ave). Admission by donation. Info: www.stlukesottawa.ca, music@ stlukesottawa.ca, Tel (613) 235-3416.

Friday, November 30, 2012, 7:30 p.m. Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols sung by the Choir of St. Luke's Church under the direction of Robert Jones. St. Luke's Church: 760 Somerset Street West (3 blocks west of Bronson Avenue). Info. (613) 235-3416 or www.stlukesottawa.ca

Dimanche, 2 décembre, 2012, 19h, 21^e concert annuel : « Alta Vista Carol Sing », à l'église Immaculate Heart of Mary, 1758, promenade Alta Vista. Venez chanter Noël avec : le Choeur du Moulin, la chorale Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Choir et l'Ensemble à vents d'Ottawa ainsi que le soliste ténor, Dr Fraser Rubens. Entrée et stationnement gratuits. Des dons en appui à la Banque alimentaire du chemin Heron seraient grandement appréciés. Pour plus d'information, s.v.p. joindre Francine Brisebois au 613-791-9115.

Sunday, December 2, 2012, 7:00 p.m. 21st Annual Concert: "Alta Vista Carol Sing", to be held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 1758 Alta Vista Drive. Come sing the carols of the Season with dedicated volunteers from *le Choeur du Moulin*, the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Choir and the Ottawa Wind Ensemble. They will be joined by Dr. Fraser Rubens, tenor soloist. Free admission and ample parking. Donations in support of the Heron Emergency Food Centre would be appreciated. For more information, please contact Francine Brisebois at 613-791-9115.

Sunday, December 9, 2012, 7:30 p.m. Hear the angels, and others sing... For the 4th successful year in a row, singers coached by opera singer Maria Knapik perform Christmas and Christmas-related solos, duets and ensembles by various great composers to celebrate the December holidays. St. Luke's Church: 760 Somerset Street West (3 blocks west of Bronson Ave). Admission by donation. Info: www.stlukesottawa.ca, music@ stlukesottawa.ca, Tel (613) 235-3416. Sunday, January 13, 2013, 7:30 p.m. Opus Four flute quartet: Cathy Baerg, Diana Lam, Loyda Lastra, Kelly Richardson, returns to St. Luke's for an evening of new and delightful music for the flute family. St. Luke's Church: 760 Somerset Street West (3 blocks west of Bronson Ave). Admission by donation. Info: www. stlukesottawa.ca, music@stlukesottawa. ca, Tel (613) 235-3416.

Sunday, January 27, 2013, 7:30 p.m. Sarah Molenaar (clarinet) with Cécile Desrosiers (piano). An evening of clarinet works showcasing the lyrical qualities of the clarinet including music of Reade, Gaubert, and Poulenc among others. St. Luke's Church: 760 Somerset Street West (3 blocks west of Bronson Ave). Admission by donation. Info: www.stlukesottawa.ca, music@stlukesottawa.ca, Tel (613) 235-3416.

Sunday, February 10, 2013, 7:30 p.m. Denis Boudreault (tenor) with Frédéric Lacroix (piano). Franz Schubert's masterpiece Die schöne Müllerin: a cycle of German lieder that follows the journey of a young miller through love, happiness, jealousy, and disillusions. St. Luke's Church: 760 Somerset Street West (3 blocks west of Bronson Ave). Admission by donation. Info: www.stlukesottawa.ca, music@ stlukesottawa.ca, Tel (613) 235-3416.

November/novembre 2012

Student Membership Grant

he RCCO Ottawa Centre is pleased to offer a one-year student membership (on a one-time basis) for any organ student meeting the following criteria:

- the organ student is studying with an RCCO member
- the student is between the ages of 16 and 22 (both ages inclusive)
- the student has not previously received this grant



- the organ teacher concerned advises the Executive that his/her student is interested in RCCO membership
- the student meets the criteria for College student membership

DON MARJERRISON

To qualify the student for the membership grant, the organ teacher makes a request to the Centre Executive concerning their student. The Centre will provide the membership grant based on the teacher's recommendation and the student's qualification based on the above criteria. Upon Centre approval, the student then makes the application for RCCO membership in the normal way using the form found on the RCCO website, www.rcco-ottawa.ca. The completed form is then submitted by mail to the Ottawa Centre.

Fundraining Concert Review

On October 14 at Rideau Park United Church, the Ottawa Centre of the RCCO presented a Members' Recital and Sale of Music, with all proceeds to go towards the costs of Orgelfest 2013. We are delighted to report that the event raised over \$1,500! We are very grateful to Rideau Park United Church and its organist, Richard Glasser, for their help in organizing this benefit event. Arranging practice time for ten organists is quite a feat! - and a team of volunteers from the parish helped with the afternoon's organization.

The organists who played in this event, planned by Frances Macdonnell, were Rachel Laurin, Kirk Adsett, Elaine Graham, Bob Jones, Karen Holmes and Mai-yu Chan playing a duet, Dianne Ferguson, Gordon Johnston, Alexander Reicker, and Mervyn Games.

The music ranged from Bach to Canadian music to jazz chorale preludes! All the way from Rachel Laurin's thrilling opening, playing her own music, to the closing piece played by Mervyn Games who brought the audience to their feet singing *Land of hope and glory* as part of Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1*, the recital was highly varied and displayed the different musical personalities of ten of our members. Thank you to all the organists who gave their time and talent for this event!

Mai-yu Chan kindly organized a very successful sale of music, books, CD's, "enhanced" tote bags, and pew cushions, both before and after the recital. George Old (of Con Brio Music, which he has now closed) had given the RCCO, Ottawa Centre, a lot of mint-issue music and books which sold very well. Mai-yu also provided refreshments, and organized a team of volunteers to man the doors and run the sale. The volunteers included Dianne Ferguson, Elaine Graham, Ross Jewell, Bob Jones, Larry Kempffer, and Alison Kranias. Donald Russell had kindly provided a poster to advertise the event. Thank you, one and all, to our volunteers!

This was the first fund-raising event towards Orgelfest 2013, and the audience showed a considerable interest in the

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upcoming National Convention. We are sure that as time passes, every single one of our members will want to become involved in the planning for and execution of the events of Orgelfest 2013. This was an excellent start! Mai-yu Chan is the Volunteers Co-ordinator for Orgelfest 2013 and will be contacting everyone to help; please offer her your help; you can reach her at fosterg@rogers.com or 613-726-0818.

- Frances Macdonnell



Concert organists Gordon Johnston, Elaine Graham, Dianne Ferguson, Karen Holmes, Rachel Laurin, Mai-yu Chan, Kirk Adsett, Bob Jones, Mervyn Games and Alexander Reicker.

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.



Music for Around the House

Music for Around the House: Musings on Favourite Recordings

Bach: The Well-Tempered Clavier (Hyperion, 2007), Angela Hewitt, piano.

I first heard Angela Hewitt perform at the Bach International Piano Completion at Roy Thompson Hall in 1985. A church member had a table at the gala at the convention centre, with tickets to the performance. Back then, she played a suite, and maybe a concerto, too. Olivier Messiaen was one of the judges. And she won! Hewitt is as delightful today as she was back then. This is my all-time favourite album. Her playing of Bach is clear and alive, as well as creatively sensitive. This recording is good for all times, but I especially like to it during the mornings, when I start up the computer, put out the dog, and get a cup of coffee. Although, I favour these pieces on the pipe organ, her playing works so well on the modern piano. She awakens something in the depth of my being.

Opera Arias: Mozart, Haydn, Gluck (Deutsche Gramophone, 1997), the English Concert, Trevor Pinnock, and Anne Sophie von Otter, soprano.

I consider this music for all day long. Great singing. Great playing. It includes many of the Italian hits we learned as singers earlier on in our training. I can put this album on at anytime. My kids, however, might object, but, too bad. This is definitely a recording to listen to while you work around the house, and prepare a meal, even when you come home from work. I am not sure where I got this recording, or who gave it to me, but it is very inspirational. You can even sing along!

Sound Over All Waters (Pelagos, 1998), Theresa Thomason, vocalist, with Paul Halley, composer, and Keramion.

I picked up this jazz recording when Halley and Thomason were taking part in a worship conference in Toronto at Eglinton-St. George's United Church around 2005. Peter Merrick conducted the choir. And I am so glad that I attended and got it! It is tremendously musical and moving. Halley's arrangements of the traditional gospel songs and hymns are amazing. It also has selections with plainchant and organ, newly harmonized. When you want to celebrate, put this album on. When you want to be coaxed out of a bad mood, this is the one for you! No matter what is going on in your life, it will make you smile, inwardly and outwardly.

> Richard Strauss: Four Last Songs (Deutsche Gramophone, 1974), Hebert von Karajan, conductor, and Gundula Janowitz, soprano.

Now, here is a recording I used to play when I felt depressed, during romantic longings or challenges. But, now, that life is much more exciting and fulfilling, I play it more to be reminded of how well Strauss can be played and sung. It is a classic, and everyone should have it in their library. No comparison to any other recording today, even by popular singers. Though the lower part of Janowitz's voice is rather chesty, the focus she has on her top, and how she is able to sing on the upper edge of the pitch, soaring endlessly, makes the recording what it is: one of a kind. Of course, it is the combination or music, text, singer, and orchestra that make this great. Put simply, it is like a good hymn. As the British hymnologist Erik Routley used to say in his classes, "A good hymn is well-written, wellplayed, and well-sung." Nevertheless, this music and its performance stir you from the depths of your soul; you are forever moved, even challenged to greater, fuller life.

Johannes Brahms: Eleven Choral Preludes, Opus 122 (Titanic, 1979), Bernard Lagacé, organ.

Recorded at Eighth Church of Christ Scientist, in New York City, this recording introduced me to Lagacé's playing. I picked it up at the old Sam the Record Man's in Toronto. Once I heard it, however, I wanted to study with Lagacé.

REV. DR. DAN HANSEN

There was something about his playing, and his deep connection with the music that I had not heard since my Westminster Choir College days. It was powerfully moving. Interesting, the recording is supposedly available over the Internet as a free download. Definitely, this cannot be background music to one's work around the house. As with the Strauss recording, you have to sit to listen, paying attention, even reading the words along side, or keeping them in mind. It is a moment of prayer and awe.

Worship Again (Reunion Records, 2002), Michael W. Smith, vocalist, with band.

One for the road. A live recording with some wonderful praise songs. An enthusiastic crowd joins in. Memorable, singable tunes. I used to play this is the car when my boys were young, and we would sing along. With the changing scenes of life, we have since moved on to Bowie, Grammy and dance hits, and Justin Bieber. But, after a parishioner gave me one by another praise singer, I got this album out again. Life seems to be moving on, and what good is it if one can't just praise the Lord. As the Scriptures say, "For everything there is a season." While I am driving to my church office in the mornings, I usually listen to Julie Nesrallah's (the lady with the hair!) CBC 2 radio show entitled Tempo. Lots of piano and orchestral music there. Sometimes, organist Peter Togni, now in Nova Scotia, fills in for Julie when she is away, likely singing somewhere.

Regarding my children, you might wonder if I am giving in to the prevalent culture and cheap church music—repetitious and sappy praise choruses. Maybe so in some ways, but they are also learning about music, and taking music lessons. At home, or out in the world, moving out of the box can perhaps give us an expanded sense of just what is in the box, what we value, and how we understand and utilize those perceptions in all of life.

- Dan Hansen

OTTAWA CENTRE EXECUTIVE 2012-2013

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D. Mervyn Games, B.Mus., FRCO, ARCM. Students in piano, organ, and theory at all levels. For info call 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:pentland@hotmail.com

Heather Rice, ARCT, BMus, ARCCO (ChM). Welcomes students in piano, organ, voice and theory, Beginner - Intermediate, Children - Adult. Call 613-563-1409

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Newsletter submissions

Send your articles and photos to:

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newsletter@rcco-ottawa.ca or sstgermain@rogers.com



Next Deadline



ORGAN RECITAL D'ORGUE

JENS KORNDÖRFER

(Germany, Montreal / Allemagne, Montréal)



www.rcco-ottawa.ca

Friday November 23, 2012 7:30 pm le vendredi 23 novembre 2012 à 19h30

Basilique-Cathédrale Notre-Dame (Sussex/ Guigues)

Wagner, Beethoven, Widor, Tournemire, Vierne

Adult / Adulte \$20 (\$15 senior /âge d'or - \$10 student /étudiant)

This series is presented by the Royal Canadian College of Organists – Ottawa Centre Une présentation du Collège royal canadien des organistes – section d'Ottawa

We thank the City of Ottawa for its assistance in this series of organ recitals. Nous remercions la Ville d'Ottawa pour l'aide apportée à la tenue de cette série de concerts.



