Vol. 31, No. 1 September/septembre 2013 ROYAL CANADIAN COLLEGE OF ORGANISTS OTTAWA CENTRE Collège royal canadien des organistes section d'Ottawa

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President's Message

Around Town

Pro Organo

Members' News

2013 Godfrey Hewitt Prize Winner

ForeScore App Workshop

Ottawa Centre AGM

Montreal Organ Crawl

Orgelfest Moments

**Organ Teachers List** 

**Our Advertisers** 

Supply List

#### President's Message

DONALD RUSSELL

# Back at it Again: A Sparkling Opportunity

new year is starting; choir members are returning from holiday; the pews are filling up and our careful planning will begin to bear musical fruit. This is only one of at least three 'new years' within the life of a church musician - we also look forward to Advent and New Year's Day.

As the pews fill we may be tempted to lament the drop in numbers and recall the larger congregations of the past. All evidence suggests it is true that church attendance is dropping but we should focus on the many that do attend. A recent report by Statscan entitled *Canadians attend weekly religious services less than 20 years ago* states that 22% of Canadians attend weekly. As organists and church musicians, how can we put 22% in perspective.

I often think that many who attend churches where we make music hear our music only as background - no different than the music in a shopping mall. We have some responsibility to make them aware of the music they hear - its form, its meaning, its history, and the instrument on which it is played. This is a great opportunity to bring our music out of the background and show our instrument to many people.

One way to understand the impact we may have is to consider the words of Benjamin Zander, conductor, teacher, speaker and coauthor of *The Art of Possibility*. He delivers a popular and highly inspirational message called *The transformative power of classical music* in one of the many TED Talks available online. It is well worth giving this a listen. Near the end he comments that only 3% of people love classical music and rather than seeing this as a small number he sees it as a large opportunity - attracting only a few more people will make a huge difference.

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*If the numbers are correct, we have a great opportunity.* 

If the numbers are correct we have a great opportunity. Only a few of those in church each week are classical music lovers and yet we have the opportunity to expose the rest to some great music and, if we dare, teach them about the music. Zander ends his talk explaining one way he measures success - by the sparkle in the eyes of those he encounters.

As we move into the new church year let us try and put such a sparkle in the eyes of all who hear the music we make and let us teach them a little something about what they are hearing - the organ and its music.



#### Wednesdays in October, 2013, 12:15-1:00 p.m.

First Baptist Church will be presenting a series of noon-hour recitals this October. Take time to enjoy fine music making in the beautiful sanctuary of this historic building. Artists will include:

Shawn Potter, organ - 19th and 20th century organ works

Seraphina - Music for voice and harp/ harpsichord by Purcell, Byrd, and English folk tunes based on the poetry of Robert Burns and Thomas Moore

Jeffery Boyd, tenor - Vocal music by Britten and others

First Baptist Church, 140 Laurier Ave. West. Admission by donation. www.firstbaptistottawa.ca.

Second Wednesdays of each month, October 2013 - May 2014, 12:15 p.m. Shawn Potter, Director of Music at First Baptist Church, will present a series of recitals comprising the complete organ works of Dieterich Buxtehude. Recitals will be held on the second Wednesday of every month, October 2013-May 2014, starting at 12:15. First Baptist Church, 140 Laurier Ave West - Admission by donation. www.firstbaptistottawa.ca

**Saturday, October 12, 2013, 7:30 p.m.** The closing recital of Église Saint-François d'Assise's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary Organ Recital Series will be given by Suzanne Ozorak, organist of Saint-Antoine-de-Padoue Cathedral, Longueuil, QC, on Saturday 12 October at 7:30 p.m. Music by Cabanilles, de Cabezon, Verdi, Wagner, Leclerc. Tickets at the door are \$20.00. For more information, call Gilles Leclerc at 613-798-0264.

#### Sunday, November 3, 2013, 3:00 p.m.

The Ottawa Regional Youth Choir conducted by its new director Jamie Loback will give the premiere performance of Ottawa composer Gilles Leclerc's setting on the well-known poem *In Flanders Fields* on November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2013 at St. Joseph's Church, Wilbrod at Cumberland. The programme will also include Fauré's Requiem. The concert begins at 3 p.m. For more information call 613-798-0264



Thanks to all our volunteers who made Orgelfest possible.

#### **Members' News**

**Daniel Morel** has resigned as Organist and Director of Music of Pleasant Park Baptist Church.

#### Welcome to our newest members:

- Bevell, Ian, GRSM LRAM FASC FMCM, 103-1725 Riverside Drive, Ottawa, ON K1G 0E6, 613-422-8798 (H), ianbevell@gmail.com
- Brown, Rosemary, MusBac, LMus, Knox-St Paul's United Church, 340 Sydney Street, Cornwall, ON K6H 3H6, 613-932-7316 (H), cnwlbrowns@yahoo.ca
- Brown, William, BA, Director of Liturgical Music, St. Columban's Parish, 340 Sydney Street, Cornwall, ON K6H 3H6, 613-932-7316 (H), cnwlbrowns@yahoo.ca
- Hallam-Price, Barbara, BMus, MMus, Director of Music St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church, 6175 Voyageur Drive, Ottawa ON, K1C 2X5, 613 837 8032 (H), 613 745 7834 (W)
- Hargreaves, Blake, 2-498 Lyon Street N., Ottawa, ON, K1R 5X7, 613-255-1394 (H), blakehargreaves@gmail.com
- Larkin, Matthew, Organist/Director of Music, Christ Church Catherdral, 125 Grove Avenue Ottawa, ON K1S 3A9, 613-236-9149 ext12 matthewlarkin@live.com
- Lee, Samuel, 24 Covington Place, Nepean, ON K2G 6B3, 613-226-1267 (H), ajsrlee@gmail.com (student member)
- Murphy, Doretha L., BA, BMus, Organist/Choir Dir: St. Paul's Anglican Church, Almonte, 1950 Rideau River Drive, Ottawa, ON K1S 1T9, 613-565-3993(H), pierre.lamoine@sympatico.ca

Piper, Timothy, pipertl@sympatico.ca

#### Condolences

Ottawa Centre members offer their deepest condolences to Nadia Behmann on the death of her brother.

#### <sup>•</sup> Pro Organo

he new season will start on Friday, September 27, at 7:30 p.m., at First Church of Christ, Scientist, on Metcalfe at Gilmour. Montreal organist Denis Gagné and Quebec tenor Steeve Michaud will present a programme entitled "From the Church to the Opera".



Denis Gagné was born in Montreal,

#### KAREN HOLMES

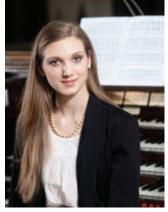
and studied organ with various teachers there, including Yves Préfontaine, Hélène Panneton and Jean Lebuis. He completed studies at the Université de Québec à Montréal, and at the Conservatoire de Montréal. He is active as a concert organist and as an accompanist. He has been organist in several churches in Montreal, and at the moment is organist at St-Léonard and at the Italian parish of Notre-Damedu-Mont-Carmel. At the time of the writing of this announcement, Denis Gagné is playing recitals in France.

Tenor Steeve Michaud has won several important awards and scholarships, including the Altamura-Caruso International Competition, the Puccini-Turandot Competition in Verona, Italy; Jeunesses Musicales du Canada. He has appeared on opera stages throughout Canada, the United States, Europe and Asia. Although he may not sing standing on his head, like Natalie Choquette, his voice will undoubtedly enchant us! He is well-known also for recitals, oratorios and chamber music.

This concert will be co=sponsored by the Christian Science Church. Ticketes will be available at the door, for the concert, and for the series. If you want to buy a series ticket in advance, please contact Karen Holmes. Likewise, if you would like to be recognized on the programme as a patron, please send your donation as soon as possible, or let Karen Holmes know of your intention to do so before the programme is printed!

### 2013 Godfrey Hewitt Prize Winner

he \$5,000 Godfrey Hewitt Memorial Scholarship for 2013 has been awarded to SARAH SVENDSEN.



Hailing from New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, Sarah Svendsen holds a B.Mus. in organ performance from the University of Toronto. A busy recitalist, some of Sarah's most recent engagements have included the 2012 Copenhagen International Organ Festival, the 2012 Stratford Summer Music Festival, and the Calgary Organ Symposium Young Artist's Platform.

Currently studying with Dr. Patricia Wright, the Minister of Music at Toronto's Metropolitan United Church, Sarah also serves as Assistant Organist at Metropolitan United Church, and is on the Executive of the Toronto Centre as well as the RCCO National Strategic Planning Committee.

Sarah is cofounder/performer in Organized Crime Duo, recently featured in Toronto's Organix'13. In August 2013, she will be a Semi-Finalist in the National Organ-Playing Competition offered by the Royal Canadian College of Organists. In September 2013, she will begin an M.Mus. degree in Organ Performance at Yale University.

Godfrey Hewitt, C.D., D.Mus. (Cantuar), FRCO, Hon. ARSCM, died in 2002 at the age of ninety three. For over seventy years a prominent figure in sacred music in Canada, Dr. Hewitt left a very significant legacy to Canadian music.

Born in England in 1909, he came to Canada in 1931 after serving as Organist for the Archbishop of Canterbury at Lambeth Palace, London, in 1930. He became Organist and Master of the Choristers at Christ Church Cathedral, Ottawa, in 1931, and remained there for half a century, until his retirement in 1980. In 1973, Dr. Hewitt was awarded the Lambeth Doctorate of Music by the Archbishop of Canterburyand made a Member of the Order of Canada in 1976. He was famed as performer, teacher, composer, and organ designer.

FRANCES MACDONNELL

This scholarship was established after his death both to honour his memory and to increase the number of highly-trained professional Canadian organists, not only to serve as organists in universities, concert halls, and churches, but also to teach future generations of performers.

Previous winners of this scholarship were Craig Humber (2005), Isabelle Demers (2006), Michael Unger (2007), Ryan Jackson (2008), Matthieu Latreille (2009), Shawn Potter (2010), Wendy Nieuwenhuis (2011), and Stephen Boda (2012).

The next annual competition for the Godfrey Hewitt Memorial Scholarship in organ will close on April 30, 2014. Details may be found on the web site of the Royal Canadian College of Organists, Ottawa Centre: www.rcco-ottawa.ca

There is also a Godfrey Hewitt Prize of \$5,000, awarded as the Grand Prize bi-annually at the National Organ-Playing Competition at the RCCO Convention, to be awarded next in August 2013.

Further details may be obtained from: Frances Macdonnell at 613-726-7984 bmacdonnell@sympatico.ca

### ForeScore App Workshop

Sunday afternoon, June 23, at the Anglican Church of St. John the Evangelist, Gordon Johnston gave a fascinating workshop on how to use the "ForScore" App on an iPad to help organize music, whether for a Sunday morning service or for a recital.

Gordon showed us how to scan pages of music and create PDF's of them, and then how to load and programme them into an iPad, which allows musicians to avoid using actual music and having to turn actual pages when playing, or having to rely on a page-turner. Many of us saw Angela Hewitt using this app already, when she played the Schumann Piano Quintet in Ottawa last year: although she usually plays from memory, she figured that the string quartet were using music on that occasion, so why shouldn't she? And she will probably use it again at her Art of Fugue recital in August during Orgelfest.

But from the point of view of church organists, this app provides a security and

convenience beyond description, once you feel happy getting it working. The pages can be turned by touching the iPad screen with a fingertip (or a nose!) or, if you possess the right equipment, through a toepiston: Gordon has installed toe-pistons to the right and left of his expression pedals, about halfway up the pedals so as not to be confused with the regular toe-pistons, which enable him to turn pages forwards or backwards with a toe movement. Angela uses a Bluetooth AirTurn which she operates wirelessly with her left foot under the piano.

Having this app means you aren't stuck with having opened the wrong hymnbook



#### FRANCES MACDONNELL

or the wrong psalm, or having left the postlude in the practice room - you have loaded all that morning's music into your iPad, with hymns, psalms, service music, anthems, voluntaries (and you have checked it in advance to make sure it's all there, in the right order, page after page!)

Gordon showed us how to prepare music for entry into ForScore (making PDFs from printed music), and how to import music into ForScore via iTunes or Dropbox. He also showed us how to create "setlists" as one might do to organize the music for a church service. This has inspired even such a techno-dinosaur as myself to think about getting the necessary equipment - as soon as Orgelfest is over!

All those members who were there thoroughly enjoyed the workshop and Gordon's demonstration of how it all works on his own digital organ. Thank you, Gordon, for leading us into the future in such a reassuring way!

### **Ottawa Centre AGM**

June 17th, our Annual General Meeting was held at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church on Woodroffe Avenue. At 7:00 pm, Suzanne Marjerrison provided refreshments as the members and guests arrived. Before the meeting, we had two special presentations. Member-



Outgoing Centre president Moira Hayes presents the Member of the Year plaque to Robert Jones

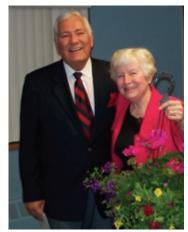
ship Convenor, Donald Marjerrison, spoke about the contribution that Robert Jones has made to our Centre, especially as Student Affairs Convenor for many years. Centre President, Moira Hayes, presented Robert with the Member of the Year plaque. Also honoured was our Chaplain, Rev. Dr. Mervin Saunders, celebrating a dual anniversary: fifty years an ordained Baptist Church minister and the golden anniversary of marriage with his wife, Helen.

Following the presentations, the group moved to the sanctuary where Frances Macdonnell led us in singing the hymns from the six finalists for the National Hymn Competition in order to vote and select a winner. The words of the hymn were written by Jamie Macdonnell.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the slate of Executive members for the Centre was presented by Dr. Deirdre Piper and acclaimed by the members present. Karen Holmes expressed our thanks to outgoing

Donald Marjerrison

President, Moira Hayes, for all her work over the past two years. Thanks also to Zachary Windus as Secretary for the past year. New members on the Executive include, Centre President, Dr. Donald Russell, Secretary, Shawn Potter, Programme Co-Convenors, Matthew Morel and Blake Hargreaves.



Rev. Dr. Mervin Saunders with wife Helen

#### **Montreal Organ Crawl**

he bus arrived promptly and we left the Delta Hotel at 8:15 a.m going on the scenic Quebec side of the Ottawa River to Montreal. Although several may have been tired after the wonderful events of Orgelfest, our 32 guests on the Crawl were enthusiastic about this trip.

We did not have much time to spend at the Oratory because we were half an hour late due to traffic. Rafael de Castro, President of the Montreal Centre, met us at the Oratory and guided us quickly to the organ gallery. M. Sinclair was there because they did the latest modifications and improvements to the organ. Some people had an opportunity to play it. Clearly, everyone was impressed with the size of the building, the organ and its sound. We will need to return to hear what Juget-Sinclair have done to improve the organ. The bus made its way down from the Oratory via a scenic route overlooking the city to St. James United.

The Letourneau modifications to the St. James United organ have made it clearer and very well balanced. After Andrew Forrest gave a brief history and Philip Crozier gave a brief recital, the registrants had an opportunity to play this organ.

We had a leisurely lunch around the Cathedral area and met at Christ Church Cathedral where again many played the organ. I had forgotten how wonderful this Wilhelm (1980) organ sounds. We took a group photo there.

We then went to Église du Gesù where François Zeitouni gave us a brief recital and history of the organ. We had over one hour to play this wonderful Casavant instrument.

DONALD MARJERRISON

At 4:30 p.m. we boarded the bus for our return with a half hour stop. Thanks to Suzanne Marjerrison for providing light snacks on the bus. Rafael really planned this well for us and we had the red-carpet treatment. Many in the group were very impressed and are looking forward to the Montreal 2017 Convention.

No doubt we all will have more to say about Orgelfest 2013 and bravo to all the organizers, volunteers, artists, students, competitors, presenters, vendors and especially the registrants who came to support our Convention.

Photo courtesy Suzanne Marjerrison













## OTTAWA CENTRE EXECUTIVE 2013-2014

Communa on Conn

OTTAWA CENTRE EXECUTIVE			CONVENORS OF COMMITTEES			
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### 🔊 Supply List

Amy Andonian	613 224-8117	Sundays, weddings, funerals. Lutheran, Anglican, Presbyterian, United
Carl Bear		carl.f.bear@gmail.com
		Experience in Protestant and Catholic contexts. Especially interested in a long term position
Nadia Behmann	613-723-8601	nadia@behmann.ca Weddings and Funerals.
Elizabeth Brown	613-608-1210	lizbrown2007@hotmail.com Weddings, funerals, Sunday services, any denomination
Mai-Yu Chan	613-726-0818	fosterg@rogers.com
Joash Fang	613-853-0877	jfang057@uottawa.ca Sundays, weddings, funerals
Janice Gray	613-276-3172	janicenlpegypt@hotmail.com
Frances Macdonnell	613-726-7984	fbmacdonnell@sympatico.ca
Daniel Morel	613 228-8331	danmorel@rogers.com Sunday services, weddings, funerals.
Simon Pinsonneault	613 299-1886	simon.pinsonneault@tc.gc.ca
Gavan Quinn	613-792-1492	gavanquinn@gmail.com, Weddings, funerals
Donald Russell	613-738-9223	russell.kimberwick@me.com
Blaine Sack	613-206-1179	blainesack@yahoo.ca, Weddings, funerals, and other special services
Wesley R. Warren	613 726-6341	Weddings and Funerals
-		-

Please note: Supply list can also be found on the RCCO Ottawa web site at http://www.rcco-ottawa.ca Anyone interested in adding their names to the Supply List, please contact Suzanne St-Germain at 613-841-0246 or via email at newsletter@rcco-ottawa.ca

### 🔎 Organ Teachers List

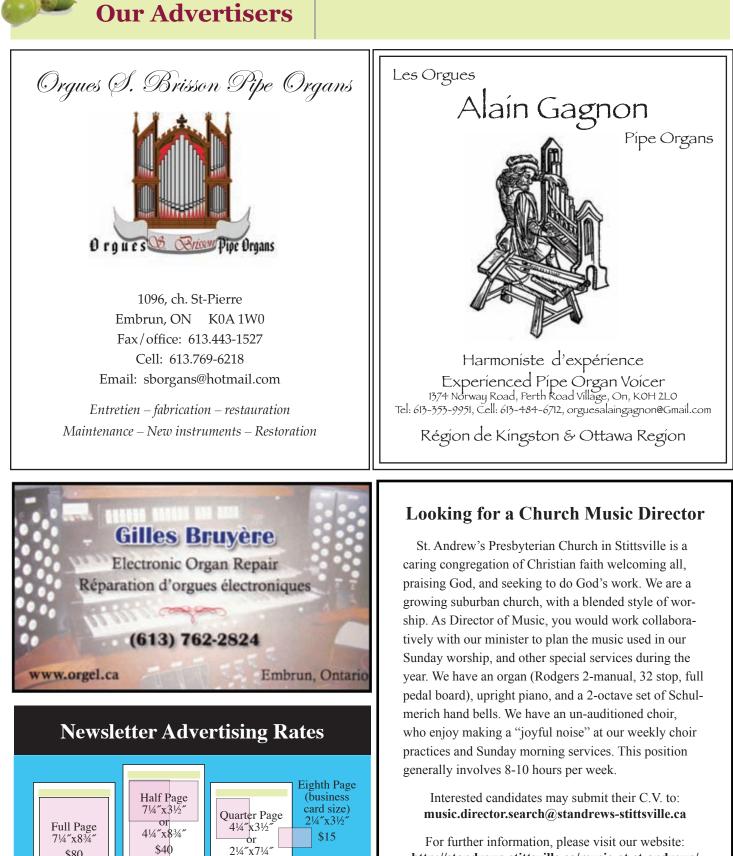
**D. Mervyn Games**, B.Mus., FRCO, ARCM. Students in piano, organ, and theory at all levels. Info: mervyn.games@gmail.com or 613-729-2515.

**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: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

Wesley R. Warren, M.Mus., FRCO, (ChM), ARCT. Beginning to advanced organ students, piano and theory. St. Barnabas Anglican Church, (Kent St. at James), Ottawa. Info: 613-726-6341





For further information, please visit our website: http://standrews-stittsville.ca/music-at-st-andrews/ music-director-search/

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