



President's Message

DONALD RUSSELL

Pipelines

Bouches et anches

It was a dark and stormy winter night...

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S I've been practicing the organ for years (decades) and I have some very vivid and timeless memories of practice sessions that seem to have happened long ago but that might have happened in the recent past. I have had the privilege of practicing on some very good organs but my memory is not so much of those organs. I remember a few wonderful stops - nice gentle flute stops and a few really big pedal reads. I remember some beautiful buildings, fine oak and rich carpeting. But what I remember most is the vast dark empty space.

Many of us will have had similar experiences, I hope. Late on a Saturday night, in the depths of February, setting out to do some last minute practice. The building is a large church - not large by the standards of a European cathedral but large enough. The few lights that are on are just enough to light the way from the back door of the chancel to the organ bench but the walls of the rest of the building are so far away that the light does not fill the space. Perhaps a candle flickers in the distance but not it is not enough to give any sense of scale. In the darkness, the room seems to go on forever. And it is often cold - there is little heat for the organist to practice - visions of Bob Cratchet shaking by the coal fire from when my annual viewing of Dicken's A Christmas Carol a few weeks ago.

Going about the business at hand, the organ is turned on, the music is placed carefully on the music rack and I begin to work on those

one or two passages that still give me some concern. Slowly the music builds with a warmth that fills what seems to be an almost infinite space. Bach is pervading what, to me in the darkness, I can imagine to be the whole of reality. For a wonderful few minutes, with the focus of someone who must play in the morning, the entire universe contains me, this organ and the heavenly music of Bach. There is simply nothing else - no problems, no politics, no bills, no tiredness. Then I lift the final chord prepared to start again, perhaps a little more work on bar 74 and something happens. First, the sudden silence, then, a gust of wind causes one of the windows, high up in the nave, to rattle and the roof creaks just a little bit.

I'm not generally afraid of the dark but being in such a large space that is suddenly so empty, so full of the unknown, certainly encourages a little bit of adrenaline to enter the blood stream and I know there are only two choices. Either it is time to pack up and leave (not in a panic but quickly nonetheless) or, I must play again. Once more through that prelude, filling the space with the music of Bach and holding back the unknown, pushing the darkness out of that once so empty space.

Experiences like this are only experienced by a few. Not all have had the opportunity to fill a vast space with power and majesty, seemingly forcing back into the darkness the evil spirits that shake the rafters trying to get in.

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Practice can be lonely - perhaps it should be. Practice is work - progress requires effort and persistence. But practice on an organ in a church is also a high

privilege. Be present in your practice time and treasure those times - times that are perhaps not quite enjoyable but very, very much alive and sometimes just a little frightening - when, alone, you can push

back a little on the darkness and fill a vast space with the power of music.

- Donald Russell

Centre Events

MATTHEW MOREL

Our next Centre event, taking place on Saturday, February 7th at 2 pm at Christ Church Church Cathedral, 414 Sparks Street off Bay, will provide an in-depth look into the technical history and music of electronic organs from the Profane (tonewheel and transistor) to the Sacred (modern).

Jazz organist Don Cummings will demonstrate tonewheels, accompanying technician Richard Vernon and musician Matt Morel. Matthew Larkin will demonstrate modern electronic organs to accompany presentations by Dan Amorim from Rogers Organs and organist Ross Dixon.

This event is open to everyone – all are welcome. Admission is free for RCCO members and \$10 for non-members.

- Matthew Morel, Programme Convenor

Members News

Sincerest Condolences:

Sincerest condolences are extended to Sandra Dean, whose husband died in January after a long illness. A Memorial Service was held on Saturday, January 17, at Bell's Corners United Church.

Membership List Update:

Goldsmith-Proctor, Sondra:
Corrected phone number is
315.386.4752

van den Boogaard, Teresa:
Corrected email address is
tvboogaard@gmail.com

New member: **Robinson**, Doug.
648, rue Principale, Lachute,
QC J8H 1Z1 450.562.3006 (H)
robinson52@sympatico.ca

Congratulations:

Matthew Kronberg, an organ student of Wesley Warren, has won the gold medal for Grade 7 organ from the Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto, for highest marks in the June, 2014 examinations. The gold medal will be presented to Matthew at a ceremony on February 1, 2015 in Toronto.

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SAT., FEB. 7th @ 2 PM
CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
414 SPARKS ST. (btw Branson & Bay)

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Student Recital

JENNIFER LOVELESS

This year's RCCO Student Recital will take place on Saturday, February 28th at 2 pm at Southminster United Church, 15 Aylmer Avenue off Bank, just south of the Rideau Canal. Come out and support Ottawa's young organists!

Students of all ages are encouraged to perform. Please send all pieces/



composers and a very short bio to Jennifer@notredameottawa.com by Tuesday, February 24th. Each student is allowed up to three hours of practice time. Please contact Martha Hanna at suc@rogers.com to book practice time.

- Jennifer Loveless, Student Affairs

Pro Organo

KAREN HOLMES

PLEASE NOTE THE CORRECTED DATE!! The next concert in the Pro Organo series will take place on **Friday, March 6**. The date on the season flyer and on the tickets is wrong! (But of course, the ticket will be accepted on the 6th.) As announced, the concert will take place at Notre-Dame Cathedral-Basilica (Sussex at Guigues), and the featured artist will be Hans-Ola Ericsson. Hans-Ola Ericsson was born in Stockholm, Sweden. He studied organ and composition there and in Freiburg, Germany, in the USA, and in Venice and Paris. In 1989, he was appointed full Professor of Organ Performance at the Luleå University of Technology in Sweden. He performs throughout Europe, and in Japan, Korea and Canada, and has worked closely with several composers, including Messiaen. His recording of

the complete organ works of Messiaen is highly acclaimed.



Note the Recital Date:
March 6th at 7:30 p.m.

In 1996, Ericsson was appointed permanent Guest Professor at the University of Arts in Bremen. In 2000, he became a member of the Royal Academy of Music in Stockholm. Since 2011, Professor Ericsson has been Professor of Organ Performance and University Organist at McGill University in Montreal.

Hans-Ola Ericsson's programme on MARCH 6 will include works by Sibelius, Anonymous, Hambraeus, J.S. Bach, Bach/Reger, Rameau and Messiaen. Full details will be published next month, or you can consult the Centre web-site.

Professor Ericsson will also lead a Master Class at Notre-Dame on the following day, March 7th from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. Details below.

Hans-Ola Ericsson Master Class

KAREN HOLMES

Internationally renowned organist Hans-Ola Ericsson has kindly agreed to offer a masterclass to our Ottawa organ students on Saturday, March 7th, from 1:30 to 3:30 pm in the organ balcony of Notre-Dame Cathedral-Basilica (Sussex/Guigues).

Professor Ericsson is currently Professor of Organ Performance and

University Organist at McGill University in Montreal. Although Professor Ericsson is a specialist in both early and modern music, he will be happy to hear repertoire from any period. Since this event falls between the RCCO Student Recital and the Kiwanis Music Festival, organ students may bring any repertoire they are working on.

Students interested in performing in the masterclass should send the title/composer of the pieces they wish to play to Jennifer@notredameottawa.com by February 27th.

This educational event is open to all RCCO members (\$10 admission for non-members), and will be of wide interest. All are welcome to attend.

Around Town

Friday, February 6, 2015, 7:30 p.m.

Wesley Warren will present an organ recital for the RCCO Edmonton Centre, as part of their 'Organic' Series, at First Presbyterian Church, Edmonton. He will give a workshop entitled "Fine Tuning your Choir" the next day, Saturday, February 7, 1:30-4 p.m. Further information can be obtained by consulting the RCCO Edmonton website. Wesley is a Travelling Clinician for the RCCO National Office for 2015, and will present recitals/workshops in other centres as well.

Sunday, February 15, 2015, 8:00 p.m.

Misty Banyard (coloratura soprano) with Cristalle Watson (piano) Some love songs in honour of Valentine's day as well as music of Renaldo Hahn and Richard Strauss. St. Luke's Church: 760 Somerset Street West (3 blocks west of Bronson Ave). Admission by donation. Info: (613) 235-3416, www.stlukesottawa.ca/connect/recital-series, music@stlukesottawa.ca

Friday/Saturday, February 27/28, 2015

Kanata United Church. A weekend with John Bell, noted Glasgow-based hymn writer, song-leader, liturgist and preacher, Singing and Preaching for the 21st Century. Three workshops entitled *Singing the*

World Upside Down, *Christian Belief in an Age of Doubt* and *Consumerism*, and *The Dangerous Delights of Congregational Song* will appeal to church musicians, clergy and members of choirs and congregations. To register and for more information go to www.kuc.ca.

Sunday, March 1, 2015, 8:00 p.m.

Mary Muckle & Julie Leduc (harp), Douglas Brierley (violin), Virginia Dunsby (flutes) & Ottawa Youth Harp Ensemble *Close by the Sea*: music from Celtic and Nordic islands. St. Luke's Church: 760 Somerset Street West (3 blocks west of Bronson Ave). Admission by donation. Info: (613) 235-3416, www.stlukesottawa.ca/connect/recital-series, music@stlukesottawa.ca

Thursday, March 5, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

Discover the sound world of Swedish film auteur Ingmar Bergman at the historic Mayfair Theatre! Musicologist Alexis Luko (Carleton University) guides us through the sound decisions Bergman made for a variety of his career-defining films, with Adam Saikaley (piano) and Matt Morel (cello) demonstrating select musical excerpts alongside Luko's commentary. We also feature a look at

period film trailers, courtesy of Dr. James Deaville's Trailaurality SSHRC project. A screening of the Bergman film 'Persona' will follow. Presented by the Ottawa New Music Creators.

Sunday, March 15, 2015, 8:00 p.m.

Duo Rideau: Catherine Donkin & Amélie Langlois (piano duets) 20 fingers flying across the keys! Come and join Duo Rideau for an exciting evening of piano duets. St. Luke's Church: 760 Somerset Street West (3 blocks west of Bronson Ave). Admission by donation. Info: (613) 235-3416, www.stlukesottawa.ca/connect/recital-series, music@stlukesottawa.ca

Sunday, March 29, 2015, 8:00 p.m.

An Evening at the Opera with Hayley Swanton (soprano), Heidi Jost (mezzo-soprano), Ken Mak ([counter] tenor), Norman Brown (baritone) and Frédéric Lacroix (piano). A Gala Concert featuring some of Ottawa's finest singers performing some of the most renowned operatic arias. St. Luke's Church: 760 Somerset Street West (3 blocks west of Bronson Ave). Admission by donation. Info: (613) 235-3416, www.stlukesottawa.ca/connect/recital-series, music@stlukesottawa.ca

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The Vinyl Organ Pub Night 2015

Monday, January 12th at 7 pm



Wellington Gastropub
1325 Wellington Ave.

On Monday January 12th, members gathered at the Wellington Gastropub in Hintonberg for a listening party of significant organ performances on vinyl.

This event was co-presented by Tetra Speakers, a locally based and internationally respected speaker company, who brought in its audiophile-quality equipment. We listened to such organists as Francis Jackson, Simon Preston, Marie-Claire Alain, Pierre Cochereau, and Rosalind Haas while nibbling on delicious food provided by the pub. Proceeds were split between the Parkdale Food Bank and the Kiwanis music scholarships. Also, as a measure of thanks, Tetra is offering a discount of 20% on its products to RCCO members.



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**NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING:
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND, 1:00 PM,
ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Supply List

Amy Andonian	613 224-8117	Sundays, weddings, funerals. Lutheran, Anglican, Presbyterian, United.
Nadia Behmann	613-723-8601	nadia@behmann.ca Weddings and Funerals.
James Brough	613-733-2972	Piano & organ, all styles of music. Any denomination. Sundays, weddings, funerals.
Mai-Yu Chan	613-726-0818	fosterg@rogers.com
Janice Gray	613-276-3172	janicenlpegypt@hotmail.com
Frances Macdonnell	613-726-7984	fbmacdonnell@sympatico.ca
Daniel Morel	613-228-8331	danmorel@rogers.com Sundays, weddings, funerals.
Simon Pinsonneault	613-299-1886	simon.pinsonneault@tc.gc.ca
Gavan Quinn	613-792-1492	gavanquinn@gmail.com, Weddings and funerals
Donald Russell	613-738-9223	russell.kimberwick@me.com
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



Next Deadline

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Organ Recital - Récital D' Orgue

Hans-Ola Ericsson (Organiste, Suède, Montréal)



www.rcco-ottawa.ca

Friday March 6, 2015 7:30 pm
le vendredi 6 mars 2015 à 19h30

(This is the correct date – original flyer was incorrect)

Basilique-Cathédrale Notre-Dame
(Sussex/ St. Patrick)

Sibelius, Anonymus, Hambraeus, Bach, Bach-Reger,
Rameau, Messiaen

Adult / Adulte \$25 (\$20 senior /âge d'or - \$15 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.

