

President's Message

DAVID LAFRANCHISE

Spiritual Breadth of Music

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Summer at last! Whether it brings the opportunity to tackle a special project, or a break from daily or weekly commitments, it also gives us time to think about why we love making music, whatever our involvement may be.

We live in a world of background music, awash in a sea of sound. Music masks the clatter of dishes and buzz of conversation in a restaurant. It keeps us awake as we perform mindless tasks and promotes positive feelings as we shop. Personal sound tracks, like branded clothing, advertise the groups we identify with. It's the growing dialect of a universal language.

But it is still accepted that music has a different purpose. It can be a way to express our emotions when our conscious thoughts fail. It is also one way to capture or recapture the sense of transcendence. Few nowadays accept the idea of the music of the spheres, the ancient idea that we are connected to the Universe by the vibrations of the unheard music generated

by the motion of the heavens. When contemplating the Universe, astronomers still speak of music, but as a metaphor, as in Hubert Reeves' question "why is there music rather than noise?".

As music lovers, listeners, teachers and performers (whether for ourselves or others) we enjoy making music, but we also bear witness to those deeper aspects. We prize those composers who, in Peter Hurford's words "encompass technical perfection and great spiritual breadth". We appreciate performers who strive, in the same way, to combine technical mastery and spiritual understanding. As teachers and leaders we give others the tools to express their own thoughts and feelings.





RCCO Ottawa Centre Executive Slate 2016-2017

The following is the proposed slate of candidates for the RCCO Ottawa Centre Executive for 2016-2017 to be presented to the membership for approval at the RCCO Ottawa Centre's Annual General Meeting on June 6th, 2016 at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church:

President: David LaFranchise
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Historic Organs	John Wanless
Membership	Donald Marjerrison
Newsletter Editor	Suzanne and Rick St. Germain
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Webmaster	Ross Jewell

National Councillors: David Lafranchise
Donald Russell
Frances Macdonnell
Donald Marjerrison

Members at Large: Sondra Goldsmith Proctor

Join us at our Annual General Meeting on Monday, June 6th, 2016 at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church (971 Woodroffe Ave.)

Refreshments at 7:00 pm with meeting to follow at 7:30 pm.

This is your Centre. Our executive values your feedback. Come out and voice your opinions and ideas on what you'd like to have your Centre do. The Annual General Meeting of the Ottawa Centre is our opportunity to conduct the necessary business of the College, but also to celebrate the year past and look forward to the coming year.

We are pleased to announce that Rev. Dr. Daniel Hansen, our Professional Support Convenor, will be recognized as the Member of the Year. Daniel has held the position of Professional Support for many years and has provided his time, expertise and support to many members of our Centre.

All members are encouraged to attend and participate in decision-making of your Centre and to hear reports of the various convenors and National Council representatives. There is plenty of parking and the room is air-conditioned.





Member of the Year - Rev. Dr. Dan Hansen

We are pleased to announce that Rev. Dr. Daniel Hansen, ThD, MDiv, GrDip, BMus and our Professional Support Convenor, will be recognized as the Ottawa Centre Member of the Year for 2016. Daniel has held the position of Professional Support for many years and has provided his time, expertise and support to many members of our Centre.

A native of Stratford, Ontario, Dan graduated with an undergraduate degree in church music from the world-renowned Westminster Choir College in Princeton, N.J.(1982). Returning to Canada, he went on to do advanced music performance studies in organ with John Tuttle and Bernard Lagacé, and received a diploma from Concordia University (Montreal).

In 1984, he was the winner of the Leslie Bell Prize for Choral Conducting, an annual competition managed by the Ontario Arts Council. This enabled him to study with Helmuth Rilling at the Oregon Bach Festival. He also studied orchestral conducting at the Royal Conservatory of Music (Toronto), and was selected to train as a choral conductor with Wayne Riddell (Tudor Singers) and John Washburn (Vancouver Chamber Choir), supported by the Canada Council.

His experience as a church musician in various denominations led him to studies in theology, completing a master's degree in divinity from Emmanuel College (Victoria University of the University of



Toronto) and then, returning to the U.S.A. a doctorate in theology from Boston University School of Theology (1998). His doctoral dissertation was on the perceived and actual identity of the church musician in the United Church of Canada.

After serving for many years as a church musician in Canada and the U.S.A., Dan was ordained as a minister by the Toronto Conference of the United Church (1997). Since that time, he has trained as an educational supervisor for ministers-in-training, a spiritual director (Haden Institute), and as an intentional interim minister (Interim Ministry Network).

As an ordained minister, Dan serves the Zion-Mt. Zion Pastoral Charge of the United Church of Canada, which includes two Pembroke churches (Zion Evangelical United and Mt. Zion United). He enjoys writing a weekly essay (Thursdays) for

the Pembroke Daily Observer, where readers can be challenged regarding how faith meets life, and by raising important questions.

As a therapist, Dan was recently promoted to advanced candidate status with the Ontario Association of Jungian Analysts (OAJA). He has a private practice in Renfrew for Jungian analysis, as well as psychological and spiritual counselling.

Dan is a member of Spiritual Directors International (SDI), the Canadian Association of Psychodynamic Therapy (CAPT), the Royal Canadian College of Organists (RCCO), Societas Liturgica (SL), and the North American Academy of Liturgy (NAAL).

He moved to the Ottawa Valley in 2003, and calls Renfrew home. Since then, he has been working as the professional support person for the Ottawa Centre (RCCO), a position which utilizes his musical, spiritual, and psychological background in an educational context. He is also a frequent contributor to the centre's monthly newsletter Pipelines.

Dan is the co-parent of two teenage boys, Drew and Luke, and the owner of Greta, a long-haired, miniature dachshund.



Pro Organo season tickets are now available online at
www.rcco-ottawa.ca

Members' News

Volunteer Medal Award

Congratulations to Ottawa Centre member Mai-Yu Chan on her selection by the Governor General to receive the *Sovereign's Award for Volunteers* medal. Very impressive.





A Memorable Canton Organ Crawl

RICK ST. GERMAIN

Canton. You've heard of it, right? Apparently I live under a rock because I hadn't. Sure, I knew of the rural charm of upstate New York just across the border to the south of us. I simply wasn't paying attention. A steeple fire changed all that.

St. Lawrence County with its rich colonial heritage is home to a wide range of fine organs in local churches. Nestled improbably in their midst is the charming campus of St. Lawrence University and its magnificent Gunnison Memorial Chapel, site of the aforementioned steeple. While the October 2013 fire was restricted to the steeple itself, water and smoke damage to the chapel meant that its four-manual organ was unavailable for the next 18 months. Musician-in-Residence Sondra Goldsmith Proctor would have to find another large instrument for practice. She reached out to us here in Ottawa for help and we welcomed her with open arms. After braving the weekly two-hour transit for two long winters, it was Sondra's turn in May to welcome us home to Canton to visit her local organs.

A contingent of 16 Ottawa Centre members retraced Sondra's route to Potsdam, NY to join a number of local organ enthusiasts at First Presbyterian Church, sporting turrets and finials in Arts and Crafts style architecture expertly crafted in brick-red Potsdam Sandstone, a local specialty. Awaiting us inside, amidst a bevy of colourful knitted baby blankets for newborns in Africa, lay a magnificent four-manual Casavant organ. We immediately fell in love with its rich tones and colours — so much so that it took

considerable effort (and gentle prodding from Sondra) to pry ourselves away to the next venue.

Fifteen minutes down the road in rural Colton, NY lies the tiny Zion Episcopal Church with its two-manual Hook and Hastings organ, a real little gem. Sadly, she is rarely played, but sang beautifully for us as we paid her the attention she deserves in this tiny



space. More Potsdam Sandstone and finials here added to the charm.

Returning to the SLU campus in Colton for lunch, courtesy of the University Chaplain, The Rev. Kathleen Buckley, we enjoyed a leisurely side trip to nearby Unitarian Universalist Church with its 1868 two-manual Andrews tracker

organ. Ready access to the pipe chamber revealed the mechanical charms of tracker mechanics, including a beefy wind chest weighted down with rough-hewn stone blocks. The sound of our playing filled the semi-circular space framed with stained glass, including a panel dedicated to St. Cecilia in memory of beloved former organist Carrie Storrs who served there for 48 years.



Final stop was to see the magnificent Esty organ in the newly-restored Gunnison Memorial Chapel, proudly topped with a shiny new copper-clad steeple. Though this "chapel" is larger than most churches I've visited, the 1926 Esty with its four-manual Casavant console has no problem filling the space with exceptional tone and colour — a real treat for us both visually and musically.

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To end the day, Sondra invited us all to her home for tea, good company and some of the finest blueberry scones I have ever tasted — a fitting tribute to an exceptional day. We were granted a guided tour of the

lovingly restored house by husband David Van Epps, master furniture builder and carpenter. As I enjoyed yet another scone, I had the good fortune to meet Sondra's colleague Carol Smith, a transplanted Canadian from Montreal who worked

quietly behind the scenes to help organize the day's events. To Sondra, David and Carol, our heartfelt thanks for this day of discovery, warmth and hospitality during our visit to the organs of St. Lawrence County.



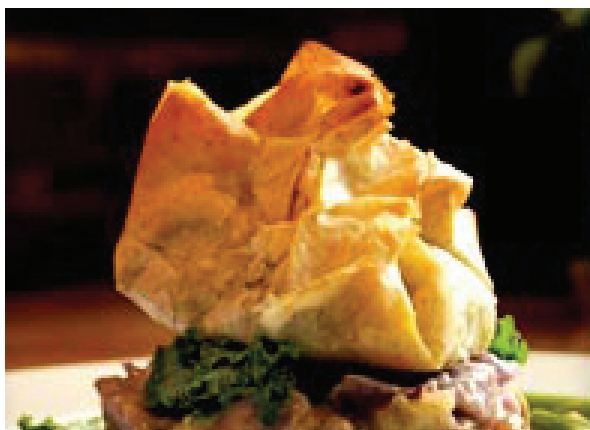
*Our gracious hosts:
Sondra Goldsmith Proctor (centre) assisted by
husband David Van Epps, and colleague Carol Smith*

Online BONUS

Download a slide show of our visit.
Simply click on the image here at right
or on our Centre website at rcco-ottawa.ca



RCCO Annual Organist–Clergy Dinner



KS on the Keys Restaurant
1029 Dazé St.
(NW Bank & Hunt Club)

Monday September 19th, 2016
6:00 pm gather, 6:30 pm dinner

Cost: \$38.00 (includes tip)

Guest speaker:
Thomas Leslie
RCCO Region 2 Director
CIOC Executive Director

MENU:

Salad: garden or caesar (chosen at the restaurant)

Entrées: (choose at restaurant)

Chicken, salmon, vegetarian pasta, and vegetarian stir-fry

Dessert: Cheesecake with strawberry coulis

Pop/Tea/Coffee

Please register by Sept. 12th by sending a cheque payable to RCCO, Ottawa Centre and mailing it to:

Suzanne Marjerrison
476 Evered Avenue
Ottawa ON K1Z 5K8
613-724-3793

or register and pay on line at rcco-ottawa.ca

Originally from Halifax, Nova Scotia, Thomas Leslie brings multifaceted experience to his role as Executive Director of the CIOC and as the RCCO's Regional Director to Region 2 (Eastern Ontario and Quebec).

He joins the CIOC from the Faculty of Medicine of McGill University, Montreal, where he earned awards as an administrator who worked on behalf of students and faculty to enhance and modernize administrative policies and procedures. As a Student Advisor in the Department of Human Genetics, he built one of the most vibrant graduate programs currently offered at the University, and established a weekly departmental e-newsletter which is widely regarded as one of the best of its kind at McGill.

As Business Manager for acclaimed conductor and composer Julian Wachner, Mr. Leslie has had the opportunity to collaborate with many of the world's

leading artistic organizations including: The American Guild of Organists, Chorus America, New York City Opera, the Canadian Opera Company, L'Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal, and l'Orchestre Métropolitain.

As RCCO Regional Director he has excelled in liaising with the various Centres to bring innovation to the fore. It was his vision to host a joint RCCO/AGO Organ Festival in Montreal now scheduled for the summer of 2017. His vision and leadership have brought forth many new initiatives in his region.

Thomas Leslie is a classical singer who has performed regularly throughout Eastern Canada and the United States. He has music degrees from McGill and Wilfrid Laurier Universities, and is in the final stages of an Executive MBA program at l'Université du Québec à Montréal. He was Music Director at St. Ansgar Lutheran Church in Montreal.





Laurin - Portman CD Review

FRANCES MACDONNELL

Rachel Laurin, one of Canada's greatest composers, offers a collection of several of her recent works on sacred themes for this latest recording. The music is played by Brenda Portman on her four manual Casavant organ (Opus 3671, 1990) in Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church in Cincinnati, an instrument very much suited to this music which is both brilliant and reflective. Brenda Portman was a competitor in the 2014 Canadian International Organ Competition, and her friendship and collaboration with Rachel Laurin date from that time.

The central work on this CD is *Quatre Pèlerinages en Lorraine* (Op. 30), four works based on Gregorian themes, illustrating various moods and topics of the history of this area in France over the past millennium. The first, *Cathédrale de Metz*, depicts a glorious procession in the Cathedral of Metz, based on the *Gloria of Messe XV*. The second, *Invocation*, paints a meditative picture of the Shrine of Our Lady of Sion, based on the *Litany of Loreto*. The third, *Fileuse*, a programmatic description of the calling of St. Jeanne-d'Arc by the Archangel Michael in the village of Domremy, is based on the *Alleluia of the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel*. The last, *Marche pour la Paix*, describes the present-day movement for peace which is centred in Verdun, the site of a horrific Great War battle; the *Marche* is based on the Gregorian response *Da pacem, Domine*. One could happily re-play these four pieces over and over again, enjoying the development of the ideas from mediaeval plainsong to Rachel Laurin's idiomatic modern language.

But meanwhile, there are other works on this CD too! It opens and closes with fanfare-like works on a massive scale. The opening piece, *Acclamations* (Op. 37), was composed in 2003 for a ten minute procession in the Cathédrale-Basilique

de Notre-Dame in Ottawa by the Order of the Knights of Malta in 2003, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Canadian Branch of the Order, and sounds extremely exciting in the Cincinnati church too. The final work on the CD is Rachel's *Fantasy and Fugue on the Genevan Psalm 47*, (Op. 62) which was commissioned by the RCCO to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the opening of the organ in the Winspear Centre, Edmonton. That premiere was played in 2012 by Duo Majoya (Marnie Giesbrecht and Joachim Segger), but in the performance on this CD, the composer herself joins Brenda

and around the world, uses musical motives derived from the motet, but what is most fascinating is how its three movements so affectionately mirror and reflect the movements of Bales's own *Petite Suite*, in Rachel's completely twenty-first century harmonic language.

Also included on the CD are *Poème symphonique pour le temps de l'Avent* (Op. 69) dating from 2013, and *Étude-caprice "Beelzebub's Laugh"*, Op. 66, an enjoyable programme piece which was commissioned by Ken Cowan for performance at an AGO Regional Convention also in 2013.

In the *Poème symphonique*, Brenda Portman is able to demonstrate the full range of the organ in illustrating the text of the hymn *Creator alme siderum*; we hear the stars sparkling on high mutations, the powers of Earth and Heaven appearing in fanfares of different reed choruses, and the final rest of the departed on celeste stops, while the continuing human appeal of the Kyrie appears and reappears on flutes and diapasons.

This is a wonderful new CD recording of music on sacred themes by Rachel Laurin, beautifully played by Brenda Portman on an admirable Casavant instrument in Cincinnati. There are full programme notes, biographies of the composer and the performer, and the complete specification of the organ.

This CD, *Pilgrimages - Music of Rachel Laurin*, is produced by RAVEN as OAR-975, and is available from www.RavenCD.com with free shipping.



Portman on the organ. The *Fantasy* is based on the Louis Bourgeois melody, while the second theme is a quotation from Jacques Hétu's *Concerto for Organ and Orchestra* as an homage to M. Hétu who died in 2010. The *Fugue* which concludes the CD covers the entire instrument with four hands and four feet and every possible stop, showing off in particular the fine Casavant reeds.

Earlier on the CD, Rachel Laurin pays tribute to beloved Canadian composer Gerald Bales in her *Petite suite sur un motet de Gerald Bales* (Op. 41), in which Brenda Portman's thoughtful playing illustrates three themes from Gerald Bales's well-known motet *Let the Earth Celebrate the Lord*. The RCCO commissioned this organ work in 2005 as a tribute to Gerald Bales who died in 2002; it was published by the RCCO in Volume II of *Te Deum Laudamus*. This work, often played now both in Canada



Kingston Organ Festival News

With the summer holidays fast approaching, the final preparations for our annual RCCO organ festival is reaching fever pace in Kingston. There's a lot to like in the festival programme with something for everyone, from classical to theatre to student activities. Even a scenic lunch on a cruise of the Thousand Islands.

Of particular note to us here in Ottawa: our very own **Donald Marjerrison** will be receiving a Distinguished Service Award during the Convocation ceremony for a lifetime of dedicated service to the RCCO. A very high honour well deserved. So do plan to join us in Kingston for a great time and in support of Don and all of our participating members.



The John White Memorial Composition Competition

The Toronto Centre of the Royal Canadian College of Organists is pleased to announce a competition in organ composition by a Canadian composer in celebration of the 150th anniversary of Canada's confederation.

The winning composition will receive its premiere at a Toronto Centre recital in May of 2017 and will receive a cash prize of \$2,500.

The organ piece should be:

- A festive work in celebration of Canada's 150th birthday

- By a Canadian composer familiar with the capabilities and limitations of the pipe organ
- A work of medium difficulty, suitable for a 3-manual instrument, with a maximum length of 10 minutes
- A work which will be a worthy contribution to organ recital repertoire
- An unpublished work which has not been previously performed

The Toronto Centre will hold the right of first performance of this work.

Submitted works should be sent to the National Office, Royal Canadian College of Organists by **November 1, 2016** to:

The Royal Canadian College of Organists
National Office
204 St. George St., Suite 202,
Toronto, ON M5R 2N5
info@rcco.ca

The submitted works will be judged with composers' names removed by a committee of Toronto Centre members. The winner will be announced in January or February of 2017.



2016 Lilian Forsyth Scholarship

DENISE HAWKINS

Regarding the 2016 Lilian Forsyth Scholarship for Church Music, the

DEADLINE HAS BEEN EXTENDED to JUNE 30th, 2016.

Applications are still being received for the 2016 Lilian Forsyth Scholarship. The award of up to \$1500 is intended to assist a Canadian student to pursue a proposed program of study directly related to music in worship.



Knox Church, Ottawa, administers the scholarship. Full details and application forms are available on our website at:

<http://knoxottawa.ca/ministries/worship/pages/lilian-forsyth-scholarship>

For further information contact the Registrar at:

forsythscholarship@gmail.com

OTTAWA CENTRE EXECUTIVE 2015-2016

OTTAWA CENTRE EXECUTIVE

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OTTAWA, ON K1P 5W4

NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING:

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH, 1:30 PM,
ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



Supply List

Amy Andonian	613 224-8117	Sundays, weddings, funerals. Organ and piano. All denominations.
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.
Elizabeth Brown	613-608-1210	lizbrown2007@hotmail.com Sundays, weddings, funerals, any denomination
Janice Gray	613-276-3172	janicenlpegypt@hotmail.com
Frances Macdonnell	613-726-7984	fbmacdonnell@sympatico.ca
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Simon Pinsonneault	613-299-1886	simon.pinsonneault@tc.gc.ca
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Carolyn Whitley	613-599-8229	c-whitley@rogers.com

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: 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, (Kent St. at James), Ottawa. Info: 613-726-6341



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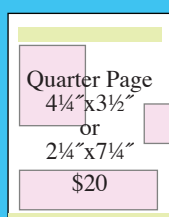
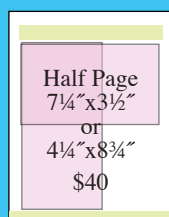
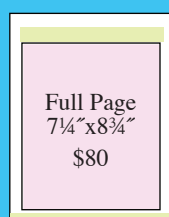


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Région de Kingston & Ottawa Region



Newsletter Advertising Rates



Eighth Page
(business
card size)
2 1/4" x 3 1/2"
\$15

Advertising Policy

1. Any Ottawa Centre member may announce his/her event on the Around Town section of the newsletter free of charge if **he/she** is the coordinator, conductor, **soloist**, or organist/accompanist of the event.
2. If a member wishes to place a free announcement in Around Town for an event of another organization he/she is a member of (not covered by Policy 1), the member must make a written request to the RCCO Centre Executive for approval of that one specific event. Approval may be granted on the basis that this **extraordinary** event would be of specific interest to our members: e.g., church/choral, and/or organ/bells, **and/or** the encouragement of young organists and pianists.
3. If a non-member wishes to announce an event of his/her organization in Around Town **free of charge**, he/she must make a written request to the RCCO Centre Executive for approval of that one specific event. Approval may be granted per Policy 2; in most circumstances, however, we would expect the Organization to pay as per the rates set out by the Centre for advertising.