



Pipelines

Bouches et anches



President's Message

HEATHER RICE

Songs of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love

As I begin to write this article, I realize that a month from today is Christmas Eve. For the Church, Advent prepares us for Christ's birthday, and Advent has four themes, one for each Sunday.

Hope. As church musicians, we all have hope. Especially this year, we hope that the light at the end of the tunnel re Covid is getting bigger and brighter. We hope more denominations (or Health Units) will be in a position to allow choirs and congregations to gather and sing. We hope that the music we plan to present--be it voluntaries, hymns, anthems--will be well rehearsed, executed, and well received. We can also hope that the working relationship we have with our clergy and choir members is harmonious (I am so fortunate!).

Peace. There are a lot of places in our world—some of them being too close to home — where peace just isn't happening. If only all would let Prince of Peace rule in their hearts...

Joy. The birth of a baby is a joyous occasion and like to think our music on this Holy Day should contain an element of joy. I try to make sure at least one choral piece at our Christmas Eve service is 'joy-filled'. One piece I have done several times over the years (and my Seaway Valley Singers are singing it this year) is John Barnard's *God Has Come In* (OUP X289). My choirs always love to

sing it and it is always well received by the congregation and audience. David Willcocks' arrangement of *Sussex Carol* is another crowd-pleaser.

Love. It may not be a stretch to say that we love our vocation of being a church musician. We don't do it for the money and many organists balance this vocation with other jobs. Why do we love our work? To me, it can be so rewarding. A hymn that is well played and well sung (by congregation and choir) can be a powerful and rewarding experience. The same could be said for our choir members: they wouldn't be coming out faithfully week by week if they didn't like or enjoy it. I always have to remind myself to appreciate their efforts (and to let them know it). They don't have to belong to a choir, especially in our busy society: they choose to. Music that is well done doesn't go unnoticed.

May you and yours experience the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love of the Christmas season.

From last month's Addendum:

Katarina Jovic rightfully pointed out another work by Robert Fleming: his hymn tune *Heritage*, for the text *No Crowded Eastern Street* was one of her favourite Christmas hymns. So my choir will sing it on Christmas Eve.

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I mentioned several fine musical settings by Canadian composers of *In Flanders Fields*. RCCO member Robert Hall (who recently moved to

Ottawa from Sudbury and is Director of Music and Organist at City View United Church) composed a setting that was commissioned in 1986 by The Men's Voyces (Ottawa). This link was recorded

by the University of Guelph Chamber Choir under Bob's direction:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ct24iKYa4cU&list=TLPQMjYxMTIwMjFqPey6-tmwNw&index=1>

Centre Events

IAN GUENETTE, DONALD RUSSELL AND SONDRA GOLDSMITH PROCTOR

Café RCCO - Reflections

Together we will create a series of short audio recordings combined with images presenting our reflections on where we've come during the last year and where we look forward to being in the near future. Positive, happy, joyous expressions of the challenges we've overcome and the hopes we have for the coming seasons.

lighting conditions and times of the day, or, images that inspire you. Take them with your phone - we are looking for content from each of us and not a professional photographer.

and either

- a recording of you reading something positive (around 3 minutes) related to the organ (or piano, choir or church music (a poem, inspirational

suggestions on how to do this will follow but start thinking of something to contribute

We will do the rest - editing, mixing the images and the sound and assembling a meaningful whole from all of our individual contributions. We will be sending a few emails with suggestions and technical advice.

Avoid copyright issues.

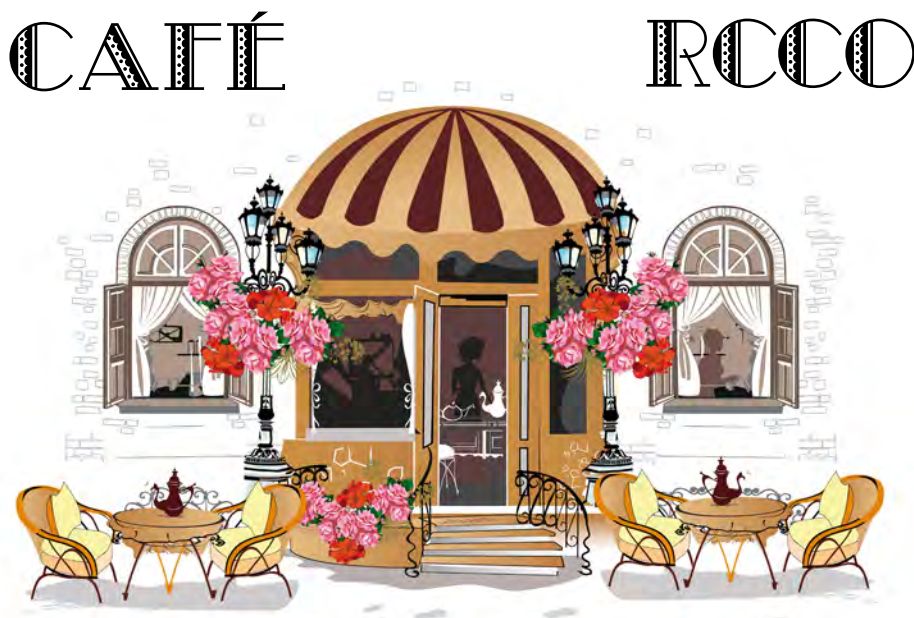
The Great Bach Marathon

The Great Bach Marathon is returning to Woodroffe United Church on Saturday, May 7, 2022. We are looking forward to an in-person event. Please select your favorite piece of Johann Sebastian Bach to perform. We will have several hours on two days before the event to 'remember' the organ. Please email Sondra Goldsmith Proctor to volunteer to play. She will keep the master list so that we can hear a wide variety of Bach's works. Have you listened to Bach during the pandemic? What spoke to you? Please share the music with our audience.

Sometimes, the most meaningful music is not the most complex. Please perform the Bach that sets a mood or speaks to your soul. Sharing with others is a wonderful part of the ministry of music.

People are hungry to hear music performed live. We can fulfill part of that need. Please begin to think about your musical offering to support the Organ Student Scholarship Fund. Will you play a chorale prelude or a trio sonata or an overture or a prelude and fugue? We have young students who need our support. How will you participate?

To volunteer to assist during the event, to perform or both, please contact: sondragoldsmithproctor@gmail.com.



We ask you to submit pictures or recordings or both and we will combine them to make short videos which will then be organized into a presentation intended to capture our hopes for the coming months.

Shortly, we will circulate by email some suggestions, technical advice, and detailed information on how to submit your contributions.

Please submit:

- a series of pictures (5 - 10) related to the organ (or piano), choir or church music, perhaps your console in various

message, scripture, hymn lyrics, etc). Be dramatic (or not) but capture your voice. Just google organ and poetry for some interesting ideas. You can use your phone to record or we will send instructions on how to use Zoom for this task.

or

- a recording of you playing some uplifting (organ (or piano) music (around 3 minutes). Perhaps a short improvisation inspired by your photographs. Again, no need to look for a professional recording - detailed

Around Town

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

DECEMBER 2021 - Youtube

We are pleased to inform you that the annual Immaculate Heart of Mary Christmas Concert will again be held this year virtually due to the ongoing of the COVID pandemic. It will be available via YouTube from approximately December 13, 2021, to January 6, 2022. Again this year, this event will feature local excellent musical groups: the Ottawa Catholic School Board Chamber Choir, the Kanata Choral Society, the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Choir, and the Ottawa Wind Ensemble - Brass. They will be joined by soprano soloist Suzannah Waddington, a member of the Cafritz Young Artists of the Washington National Opera.

This 30th Immaculate Heart of Mary Concert is held in support of the Heron Emergency Food Centre (HEFC). Donations will be accepted via the GoFundMe link: <http://sound4u.ca/ihm2021>, which will subsequently lead to the Youtube Virtual Concert link. Should you need information about alternate methods to donate or if you have any further questions, please contact the concert organizing committee at 613-791-9115. Enjoy this wonderful prelude to the Christmas season, while helping those in need in our community.

À VOS AGENDAS!

CONCERT DE NOËL IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

DÉCEMBRE 2021 - Youtube

Nous avons le plaisir de vous informer que le concert annuel de Noël de l'Église Immaculate Heart of Mary se tiendra à nouveau cette année de façon virtuelle dû à la pandémie continue de COVID. Il sera disponible sur YouTube approximativement du 13 décembre 2021 au 6 janvier 2022. Cette année encore, cet événement mettra en vedette d'excellents groupes musicaux locaux : les Ottawa Catholic School Board Chamber Choir, la Kanata Choral Society, la Immaculate Heart of Mary Adult Church Choir, ainsi que le Ottawa Wind Ensemble - cuivres. Ils seront rejoints par la soprano soliste Suzannah Waddington, membre des Cafritz Young Artists of the Washington National Opera.

Ce 30^e concert de l'Immaculate Heart of Mary est organisé au profit du Heron Emergency Food Centre (HEFC). Les dons seront acceptés via le lien GoFundMe : <http://sound4u.ca/ihm2021>, qui mènera subséquemment vers le lien du concert virtuel YouTube. Pour d'autres renseignements relativement à des façons alternatives pour faire un don ou pour toute autre question, n'hésitez pas à joindre le comité organisateur du concert au 613-791-9115. Profitez de ce merveilleux prélude à la saison de Noël, tout en aidant les personnes dans le besoin de notre communauté.

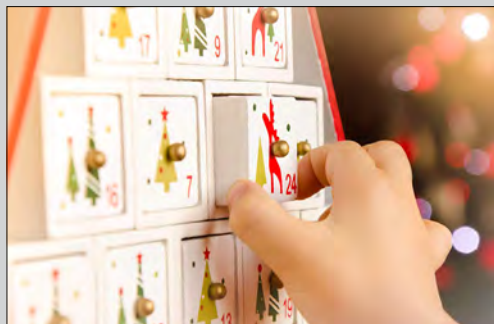
CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Rev. Christine Piper

Celebrating the Dynamic Season of Advent

Many families buy Advent calendars whose doors they can open each day as they anticipate the coming of Christmas. This is a lovely custom that I fondly remember.



This countdown towards Christmas can, however, run the risk of blinding us to the wonder of what I might call the amazingly dynamic season that anticipates Christmas. Indeed, it's not just about moving through a countdown. On this coming Sunday, November 28th, we celebrate its beginning, indeed the beginning of the new church year as we enter the season of Advent.

The name for this season derives from the Latin word *Adventus* which means 'coming.' Throughout this season, our hymns such as *O Come, O Come Emmanuel, O Come Divine Messiah* and *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus* will sing out our wondrous expectation of the one who has already come, yet who is still to come. Indeed, as I was putting these thoughts together, I was moved to think of it as the ever-in-motion, indeed, now-but-not-yet church season!

Throughout these late-November and December days, we shall celebrate these two advents, these two comings: our anticipation of the celebration for another year of the birth of the infant Jesus (born in a stable to Mary, a young woman like your granddaughter or mine), and, as well, the season's recognition *that God's reign has not yet come among us in all its fullness as we long for Jesus' presence to again show us the way.** Indeed, we could argue that the Church is, on one level, ever rooted in a season called Advent!

May I wish each, and every one of you, this season's sentiments of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

- Christine

**Birthing a Blessing*. The Whole People of God, Advent 1, Kelowna, BC: Wood Lake Publishing Inc., November 30, 1997, page 3C/S-9

Craig Humber Concert Review

GORDON JOHNSTON

On Monday, November 8th, Pro Organo returned in grand style with a recital by Craig Humber, a Canadian organist presently based in Vienna. The recital was held at St Andrew's Church, and there was a good audience sprinkled around the church, distanced and masked.

The recital opened with the Bach *Prelude and Fugue in D major, BWV 532* – you know the one, with the dramatic pedal scale to start. It was played with great panache and flair, and was thoroughly enjoyable. The fugue was taken at a lively tempo, full of energy and drive. It was a wonderful way to begin the recital and to welcome us back to in-person organ concerts. This was followed by the chorale prelude *Schmucke Dich, o liebe Seele, BWV 654*, quite a contrast to the opening P&F. The ornaments were clean and crisp, adding life to the music without calling attention to themselves.

Then we took a deep dive into the organ music of Brahms, with his *Prelude and Fugue in a minor*, three preludes from *Op. 122*, and the *Prelude and Fugue in g minor*. Brahms seems to be channeling Bach in his preludes and fugues, following strict form and structure – and then every

once in a while, there's a burst of free-form Brahms, moments of unrestrained Romanticism and daring, adventurous harmonic progressions. The *Op. 122* chorale preludes are well known to organists, so it was refreshing to hear them in this clean, satisfying performance. The *prelude on O wie selig seid ihr doch, ihr Frommen* played on the Swell oboe came as a bit of a surprise, but it worked!



Recitalist Craig Humber assisted by Ian MacKay, page-turner and stop manger

The main work of the second half of the programme was Max Reger's monumental *fantasia and fugue on Hallelujah! Gott zu loben*. It's a fantastic piece, full of drama and contrasts, and Craig Humber played it exceptionally well. From the very beginning, the listener felt drawn into the music, listening for bits of the chorale melody and following Reger's transformation of it. The opening is almost a partita, a set of variations on the hymn tune. Then comes the most magnificent fugue, full of grandeur and joy. What a wonderful performance! What a great way to welcome us back to live organ music. There couldn't have been a better performer or a more engaging performance.

I did find it ironic that the last artist hosted by Pro Organo, Jan Kraybill, gave a terrific masterclass but cancelled her concert because of Covid (that's the day the first lockdown happened, she hopped a plane home). Now, to bookend the experience, we had a cancelled masterclass but a terrific recital. Thanks, Pro Organo, and thanks Craig Humber.



*May the true spirit
of Christmas
bring joy to your heart.*

*Merry Christmas
Joyeux Noël*

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OTTAWA CENTRE EXECUTIVE

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Thomas Annand, MMus, BMus (Hons), FRCCO Teaches at all levels, also theory, history Info: t.annand50@gmail.com or 613-261-0376

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, Ottawa. Info: 613-726-6341

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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.