Vol. 39, No.8 April/avril 2022 Royal Canadian College of Organists Ottawa Centre Collège royal canadien des organistes section d'Ottawa



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# The Hope of Spring

hough we have still had lots of cold weather, there are sure signs of spring in the air. The days are getting longer, birdsong is more prevalent, and perhaps the provincial government's recent relaxation of some pandemic safety protocols is similar to the end of a hibernation.

Many churches will actually get to hold services in Holy Week for the first time in three years. We might not be able to do everything like we could before the pandemic, but having services is a good start. One of the results of the pandemic has been that many churches are recording their services and posting them on the internet. It has not only given me a chance to hear what is going on in other churches, but it has also given me the opportunity to hear my own services. Do I like what I hear? Is my hymn playing steady and accurate? With fewer people attending right now, the congregational singing isn't as strong. Have I adjusted my choice of stops to coincide?

On March 27<sup>th</sup>, our Centre had an inperson worship service at First Baptist Church featuring their organist Shawn Potter, their pastor, The Reverend John Perkin, as well as Aella — a fine choral ensemble of upper voices directed by Jennifer Berntson. Titled *A Service of the Ninth Hour*, it was rooted in the monastic canonical hour of *Nones* (mid afternoon — the Ninth Hour). Being in the middle of Lent, the service focussed on the theme of darkness to light and struggle to hope. Perkin came to First two years ago after serving as chaplain at Mount Alison University in New Brunswick and knew Shawn who had earned his under-graduate degree there. What a pleasure it was to be at the service: a carefully-planned liturgy that was well executed. Created in 2016, Aella was in fine form, singing new repertoire with great blend and precision. Shawn's sensitive accompaniment to the choir as well as on the congregational hymns helped contribute to the success of the service.

DEUMEE hes et anches

Our first Pro Organo concert of 2022 was held on Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 at Notre Dame Basilica featuring Nicholas Capozzoli, the new organist of Montreal's Christ Church Cathedral. Consider inviting someone who has never attended a Pro Organo concert to one of our events.

Created in 2020 by our sister organization the Royal College of Organists in England, **International Organ Day**, which is held on the Saturday after Easter, will be on April 23<sup>rd</sup> this year. It is an opportunity to celebrate organs, organ music and organists around the world. Our national office is hoping that Centres across Canada can promote this important event on or near April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Here in Ottawa Centre we'll celebrate International Organ Day on Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at

#### ...continued from page 1

2:00 pm in a Zoom event led by Tom Annand. He will focus on how we need to be thinking about the music we are preparing for the Great Bach Marathon in May.

Of course, we are all concerned and worried about the conflict that is taking place in the Ukraine. John Rutter has responded

with a brand new composition, *A Ukrainian Prayer*. My Seaway Valley Singers began learning it last week, and this week my St. Luke's Choir will begin learning it. The following link is an interview with Mr. Rutter, plus a recording of him conducting it: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lJl3kVwl2-U

Have a great April!



## **Centre Events** Ian Guenette, Donald Russell and Sondra Goldsmith Proctor

Sunday, April 24th, 2022, 2:00p.m.

#### Where is the Breath?

When you begin thinking about preparing a work of Bach to rehearse for the first or thirtieth time, what do you think about? Do you think about the notes and fingering and rhythmic content first or do you try to make it flow immediately? What do we need to prepare for each phrase? What is our lesson plan?

I remember the first time that I played for Marie-Claire Alain. She was turning pages for me in a master class. She felt my tension. Before I began to play, she said 'Breathe with the music.' I took a breath and began to not be concerned about whether or not she would be impressed but whether the music would have life... Would the phrases allow the breath of the music to be showcased? When I finished, there was applause. She put her hand on mine and said that she 'had similar problems to mine. We would work well together.'

Sometimes as older players we forget the joy of making music because we are so busy providing music. Sometimes as younger players we are so concerned about getting the notes and rhythm correct that we forget the breath of the music. Where is the heartbeat that keeps everything moving forward with joy? Does it bog down with that half measure that always seems to cause difficulty? How do we correct the problems without losing the breath of the music? How do we take the tension out of performance?

How do we allow the organ to breathe? How do we allow the acoustic of the room become a part of the music making? Do you sing the lines? Bach left clues in the music for us to use as a guide for our music-making. Plan to attend the Zoom session on **Sunday, April 24, at 2:00 p.m**. led by Thomas Annand who will help us become more musical and expressive. Tom will open the session with a presentation showing us the breath signposts for better communication with our congregations and audiences. Discover and rediscover with him the soul of music making. He will then open the microphone for a question and answer period. Come with your questions.

To register, send us an email at events@rcco-ottawa.ca.

#### International Organ Day

The Royal Canadian College of Organists is joining other organizations around of the world to recognize the International Organ Day on April 23rd. The Ottawa Centre will recognize the Day during the Café RCCO with Thomas Annand on Sunday, April 24th, at 2:00 pm., as indicated above, During the past two years organs have been much more silent than normal. We celebrate their life-giving sounds as the earth around us welcomes Spring and we welcome our congregations and audiences to hear once again the beauty of hymns sung with beautiful organ accompaniments, the restorative preludes and postludes of services, and the lovely concerts that we have missed.

The Ottawa Centre encourages each of us to make notice of this special event in our program booklets, bulletins and in our announcements to groups of people. Playing a special composition for the prelude or postlude on April 24<sup>th</sup> will highlight the importance of the organ in worship life.

Please send copies of your program booklets, bulletins, service leaflets and

concert program to:

RCCO Ottawa Centre P.O. Box 2270 Station D Ottawa, ON K1P 5W4 <u>Attn</u>: S. Goldsmith Proctor

### Saturday, May 7th, 2022, beginning at 1:30 pm

#### The Great Bach Marathon

The Great Bach Marathon returns on **Saturday, May 7, beginning at 1:30 p.m**. at Woodroffe United Church. The program begins with the OrgelkidsCAN Orgelkit in pieces at the front of the church. Students will be led by Joshua Zentner-Barrett to construct the organ so that Rachel Laurin may then play the compositions she wrote especially for this Létourneau instrument. It will be a joyful beginning of gathering together for the first time in two years.

We will have the pleasure of hearing young students playing their early pieces by Bach. The RCCO prizewinners from the Ottawa Piano Festival will perform. Members of the RCCO will also perform music that speaks to them and to all of us.

Hearing live music prepared by energetic performers – both inexperienced and experienced – will fill our hearts with joy. The event will help us look forward to what will be as we reopen music making to the world.

This event is a Benefit for Scholarships for Beginning Organ Students. We are helping to preserve the joy of learning and performing for all students – all of us as we continue to learn each day.

If you have not reserved a place to perform on the program, please contact **sondragoldsmithproctor@gmail.com** now.





Rev. Christine Piper

#### Out of the Darkness, Easter Moments

Writing as I am on Saturday, March 26, 2022, I look forward to attending the service entitled From Darkness to Light offered tomorrow at First Baptist Church, advertised as placing an emphasis on Lent and the changing of seasons at the time of the Spring equinox. Speaking of the movement from Darkness to Light, I am aware that the editors of Pipelines hope to publish on the weekend when we celebrate Palm Sunday. I find that I am struck by how, after this light filled celebration, we ourselves shall move into the dark realities of Holy Week, symbolized ultimately through our observance of Good Friday. Reminding me that liturgically as a church we ourselves shall travel, yes, from Light into Darkness before we can re-connect with the good news of Easter Sunday: Jesus Christ is Risen, Alleluia!

Liturgically we tend to move within straight lines. Within our everyday lives however I would suggest our experiences tend to be more circular. In these last two years within our world, we hit the depths of what it means to live through a Pandemic. In recent months those among us in downtown Ottawa experienced the intrusion into their space of the Truckers' Convoy. And we have been, and continue to be, hit by our shocked concern for the people of the Ukraine as their country has been invaded by Russia. And indeed, for our world.

At the same time, we surely have not been without encounters with our Risen Lord in a myriad of biggish to small ways through these times. For example, we have heard how medical personnel within hospitals here in Ottawa and beyond, went all out to be there for the hundreds of sick persons arriving at the doors of their hospitals. I still recall folks standing on the balconies of our neighbouring apartment building and banging on saucepans and trays as they offered a celebratory cacophony of sound! And we have heard and read about how the people of Poland and other neighbouring countries have opened their doors to refugees from the Ukraine. And, indeed, how during the confusion of that Convoy, individual truckers, and individual neighbours tried to be there for each other?

I am aware that active musicians within our organisation, and the choristers with whom they work, in response to the reality of the Pandemic, experienced moving into the darkness of having to abstain from their normal liturgical offerings to all the variations of what it can mean to try to offer the music of the church as we have been in isolation and distanced. Indeed, as so many tend to connect with their active faith through the offering of music, this has indeed been a dark time. And yet through this time, even as Church musicians may not have had a choir of musicians singing their hearts out within a church building, they were surely encouraged by their singers being ready to prepare music in other ways, notably through using the gift of Zoom that emerged through these times. I am sure that all active church organists and choir directors have Easter stories to tell about what emerged for them through these not easy months and weeks.

And we also have had our personal experiences. I recall one of our retired members reporting how the gift of flowers upon her coffee table brought her so much joy even as in isolation she tried to cope with the daily demands of fighting severe illness. For me, as I sat at our dining room table in late January into early February an off repeated *Easter* moment within the stressful realities of that time lay in my sighting of the robins that appeared on the branches of our fruit trees on the other side of those windows. They had come to feed on those yellow berries that appear annually in the Spring. This warmed my heart, strengthening me in my isolation, and for the demands of the day ahead.

While we have surely felt the pain and despair of Good Friday through these times, I thank God for all the Easter moments that we surely have experienced, giving us the will to live again through yet another day, secure in our faith that God loves us and those for whom we worry. That indeed the Risen Christ can move beyond human death to be there for all, even those who have already passed into the great unknown. Thanks be to God.

Christ is risen Alleluia



Happy Easter Joyeuses Pâques



# Scholarships

he RCCO National Office and the Ottawa Centre have funds available to help members young or old, at any stage of their career, to participate in educational and professional development activities.

**Ottawa Centre Scholarships** 

#### Anthony King-Douglas Gibson Scholarship and Allen Cureton Scholarship

These scholarships, worth up to \$500 and \$300 respectively, are awarded annually to Ottawa Centre members planning to attend a summer course, conference or other professional development activity. The funds can contribute toward the cost of attending an RCCO convention, but must be applied to an organized course or event; not to be used for private lessons. Deadline for applications is April 30th, 2022, by letter to the Centre President describing vour planned activity, its cost, as well as a brief description of your educational background and proposed professional development activity.

#### **Student Membership Grant**

The RCCO Ottawa Centre is pleased to offer a complimentary student membership for any organ student meeting the RCCO requirements:

- The organ student is under 35 years of age
- The organ student meets the National RCCO criteria for Student Membership
- The organ student is a member of the RCCO Ottawa Centre
- The student's teacher is a member of the RCCO
- The organ student may apply for the grant each year that he/she meets the above criteria
- Renewals are subject to the availability of funds

**STEP 1:** Fill out the Application form at http://www.rcco-ottawa.ca/ pdf/Student%20Membership%20 Grant%20Application.pdf for the Centre Treasurer to indicate that you qualify for the Membership Grant.

**STEP 2:** The student should go to the National Office website at www.rcco.ca to process their membership as a student and pay their membership directly with National Office, selecting the Ottawa Centre as their choice of Centres. For information: email: RCCO National Office at info@rcco.ca or call 416-929-6400 Office Manager: Hayley, Hours: Mon. to Fri. 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

The student will then be reimbursed for only their membership fee after the Ottawa Centre receives confirmation of their membership from the National RCCO.

The Godfrey Hewitt Memorial



Scholarship was established in memory of the late Godfrey Hewitt, C.D., D.Mus. (Cantuar), FRCO, Hon. ARSCM. The \$6,000 Scholarship is awarded each spring on the basis of application with letters of recommendation, a recording of requested repertoire, and a study plan for the following year.

Required repertoire for the following spring's competition and other requirements can be found on the Centre website: <u>rcco-ottawa.ca/require.html</u>. All applicants shall satisfy the following requirements:

- Canadian citizenship, or landed immigrant status in Canada;
- aged 35 years or less;
- graduate, or about to graduate from university, conservatory or college;
- RCCO Associate diploma or similar academic level of qualification;
- stated intention of teaching organ (either in an academic institution or privately, not necessarily as the candidate's primary career).

Application forms and submission

details are available on the RCCO Ottawa Centre web site at <u>http://rcco-ottawa.ca/</u> <u>pdf/hewittapplic.pdf</u> or may be requested in writing from:

> Godfrey Hewitt Memorial Scholarship Committee c/o Frances Macdonnell 303 - 3099 Carling Avenue Ottawa, Ontario K2H 5A6

Application deadlne is April 30th, 2022.

#### Ottawa Kiwanis Music Festival Organ Scholarship

The Ottawa Centre provides \$500 for organ scholarships through the annual Kiwanis Festival of Music and Dance. These scholarships are awarded by the organ adjudicator.

The Kiwanis Club also offers \$600 in memory of one of our former members, Arnt Loa, making a total of \$1100 in scholarship money available to the competitors. Further details may be found at <u>http://www. ottawakiwanismusicfestival.com/</u> <u>performance-scholarships/</u>

#### **Student Organ Lessons Bursary**

One bursary will be made available each year from the Development Fund to enable an organ student of any age to take a series of organ lessons when in financial need. The lessons are to be given by an RCCO member and the bursary is paid to the teacher upon completion of the lessons. The value of this bursary is the same as for the beginning student scholarship. To apply, please contact the Student Concerns coordinator before **April 30<sup>th</sup>**, **2022**..

#### Examination Preparation Bursary

The Ottawa Centre is offering support for centre members who wish to pursue certification from the RCCO. The Examination Bursary of \$200 is intended to be used by the examination candidate to pay for a small number of lessons from a senior organist familiar with the examination requirements and standards.

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The lessons may be on the topics of the candidates choice (repertoire, practical tests, written tests or ear training) and the Centre can provide recommendations on appropriate teachers with experience of the standards of performance expected for successfully completing RCCO examinations.

To be awarded an Examination Bursary please contact in confidence the Education convenor for the Ottawa Centre. **Applications are typically made in the fall.** Payment will be made to the applicant after confirmation of registration for an examination has been received.

#### **National Office Scholarships**

#### The Lorna and Murray Holmes Scholarship

The Lorna Holmes Scholarship is available annually, and provides \$1,000 to a student entering organ or church music studies at a Canadian University. Preference will be given to students beginning undergraduate studies. Applicants must hold membership in the College. A letter of application must be accompanied by a proof of acceptance at a Canadian university, and two letters of reference from people able to assess the candidate's suitability for the scholarship. Application deadline is May 15th, 2022. Complete applications should be sent to: The Lorna Holmes Scholarship. c/o The Royal Canadian College of Organists, 414 - 15 Case Goods Lane, Toronto, ON M5A 3C4. Further details can be found on the national website at https://www.rcco.ca/sch-holmes

#### **Barry Cabena Music Scholarship**

The Barrie Cabena Music Scholarship Fund was initiated by the Waterloo Wellington Center of the RCCO in 2004 on the occasion of Dr. Cabena's 71st birthday. Its purpose is, firstly, to honour the contribution made to excellence in church music in Canada by Barrie Cabena, composer, teacher, performer, and secondly, to assist a deserving student(s) in the formal study of organ, church music, and/or composition at the postsecondary school level.

The Scholarship is awarded in even-

numbered years to Canadian students enrolled in a full time music major or minor program at the undergraduate or graduate level, inside or outside Canada. Applicants will have demonstrated involvement and proficiency in musical activities in their church and/or community.

The Waterloo-Wellington Centre administers the scholarship and full application details can be found at http://rccoww.ca/?page\_id=51. The

deadline for applications is May 1st, 2022.

#### The Clifford McAree Scholarship

The scholarship of \$1000 will be awarded annually to allow a student to attend an Organ Festival of the RCCO. This scholarship will give the chosen student a chance to attend workshops, listen to exceptional organ performances, and start the essential process of networking with other organists. It may be used for any expenses associated with attending such an event (e.g. registration fee, transportation, meals, accommodation, etc.)

The applicant must be enrolled in a programme leading to a degree in organ performance. The applicant may reside anywhere in Canada.

Deadline for applications is **April 30<sup>th</sup>**, **2022.** For further information, contact the National Office at **info@rcco.ca** or call toll free at 1.800.259.3621 to discuss the simple application process.

#### The John Goss Memorial Scolarship

Awarded every two years in the even numbered years, the John Goss Memorial Scholarship is in memory of the late John Goss, FRCO, former conductor of the National Ballet of Canada and relative of his namesake, the British composer Sir John Goss. The scholarship of up to \$3,500 is awarded to an individual for advanced organ study within or outside of Canada. This may be applied for short, medium, or long-term study, in a variety of scenarios (e.g. one-on-one private instruction or masterclass instruction, conservatory/university studies, organ academy program).

The 2022 eligibility information and

application form is available at https:// www.rcco.ca/resources/PDFs/Misc/ Goss\_Scholarship%20Application%20 Form%202022.pdf. The application deadline is April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

All applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Canadian citizen.
- Aged 30 years or less on June 30th in the year of the award.
- Member of the RCCO.
- Associate diploma of the RCCO or equivalent or superior qualifications.
- Graduated from a university, conservatory or college within three years of the application.
- Intend to remain in or return to Canada for the purpose, though not necessarily the exclusive purpose, of performing on the organ.

#### The Lilian Forsyth Scholarship

The scholarship of up to \$2500 is presented annually, and aimed at persons pursuing a career in church music or actively involved in music directly related to the worship of the Christian community. This will include organists, choir directors, composers, and other musicians. It is preferable that such candidates should have completed their basic musical training.

Deadline for applications is **April 30<sup>th</sup>**, **2022**.

For application forms or information contact the Registrar, Lilian Forsyth Scholarship, Knox Presbyterian Church, 120 Lisgar Street, Ottawa, ON K2P 0C2. FAX: (613) 238-4775. E-mail: **forsythscholarship@gmail.com** or visit our web site at <u>www.knoxottawa.ca/</u> <u>ministries/worship/pages/lilian-forsythscholarship/</u>



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## **Organ Teachers List**

**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

### **Next Deadline**





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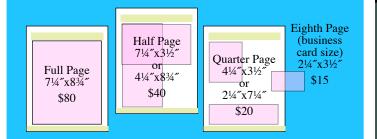
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### **Advertising Policy**

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.

### 2021-2022 Season

# The Finest Organists on the Finest Organs Amours et délices de l'orgue

# Organ Recital – Récital d'Orgue

A series presented by the Royal Canadian College of Organists - Ottawa Centre Une Présentation du Collège Royal Canadien des Organistes.

# John Paul Farahat (Toronto)

### www.rcco-ottawa.ca



Monday May 16, 2022 7:30 p.m. *Le lundi 16 mai 2022 à 19h30* 

Knox Presbyterian Church (Elgin at Lisgar)

Details of programme will be posted on www.rcco-ottawa.ca/pro\_organo.html

Individual Tickets at the door / Billets individuels à la porte : \$25 Regular/régulier, \$20 Seniors/âge d'or, \$15 Students/étudiant

Currently proof of vaccination with ID and masking are mandatory.

Further information can be obtained from Karen Holmes: proorgano@rcco-ottawa.ca