Royal Canadian College 🦉 of Organists Ottawa Centre Collège royal canadien des organistes section d'Ottawa



President's Message

ROBERT JONES



President's Message

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A Busy Time is May

he month of May is one most people probably enjoy no doubt because the days are getting longer and warmer. For church organists, all the hard work preparing for Holy Week culminating with Easter Day has hopefully paid off. I find Joseph Jongen's *Chant du mai* a very appropriate prelude.

May is also a very busy month for our Centre. The first event is the Great Bach Marathon 2022 which will be held on Saturday, May 7th at Woodroffe United Church. The marathon begins with children building a small pipe organ! Using the RCCO's OrgelkidsCAN Orgelkit, they will construct the organ (under Josh Zentner-Barrett's supervision) and then Rachel Laurin will play some of the pieces that she had composed specifically for this instrument. This will all lead into the music of Bach for the rest of the afternoon.

Due to the pandemic, our student recital will be offered online for the second consecutive year. Though we will miss the live, in-person recital format, the advantages of an online offering is that you can listen to it again and again, and there will be a variety of organs used. Check our Centre's website. A big thank you to the students who have submitted videos, as well as to Shawn Potter for compiling the videos.

The next Pro Organo recital will be on Monday, May 16th at Knox Presbyterian Church featuring Toronto organist John Paul Farahat. JP has taken a special interest in the music of Victor Togni, who had served as organist of St. Michael's Cathedral in Toronto before his life was cut short in a car accident in 1965 when he was only 30 years old. JP gave a presentation on Togni's music at the Kingston convention last summer.

DEUME es et anches

Two years ago, my choir was learning Deirdre Piper's *Psalm 23*, and we were going to sing it on the Fourth Sunday of Easter, but the pandemic interrupted. Back then, we didn't think it would last that long, and I thought it would be quite appropriate for our parish's birthday in October, but that was not to be. We are in the final stages of getting it ready to sing this spring.

One of the mandates of our College is offering exams, and that will also be carried out in May. Best of luck to our candidates who are preparing for these exams.

We are also using the month of May to participate in the College's Membership Campaign to increase our numbers all across the country. One of the things I treasure about being a member of the RCCO is meeting other organists. My first RCCO convention was in1979 in Edmonton. I met many organists and we would reconnect at subsequent conventions over the years. It was through attending the 1981 convention in

...continued from page 1

London that I got my first church job after university (in Sault Ste. Marie) which eventually led to me coming to Ottawa. Today I was at my father-in-law's funeral in Windsor and one of the attendees happened to be an organist! We sat at the same table and had a great conversation. He doesn't hold a church position now but his church just hired a new organist, and she was a classmate of mine at the University of Windsor. It really is a small world! I urge you to bring a friend especially an organist friend who currently isn't a member of the RCCO — to one of our events: the Great Bach Marathon 2022 and/or the Pro Organo recital.



Pro Organo Ottawa

John Paul Farahat, from Toronto, will play a recital at Knox Presbyterian Church on Elgin, on Monday, May 16th, at 7:30 p.m. Dr. Farahat is the Director of Music and Principal Organist of Saint Basil's Church, the collegiate church of St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto. He also serves as one of five organists at Saint Michael's Cathedral-Basilica, and is on the faculty at Saint Michael's Choir School.

John Paul Farahat wrote Precomposed and Extemporized; Rediscovering the Life and Improvisatory Work of Canadian Organist Victor Togni (1935 - 1965).

John Paul Farahat holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Toronto, where he studied organ,

Karen Holmes

improvisation, and harpsichord with Kevin Komisaruk. He also received instruction from Olivier Latry, Peter Williams, Martin Haselböck, Noam Sivan, and Thomas Murray. He has played recitals in numerous places. You can find details of his programme on the Centre website: www.rcco-ottawa.ca/pro_organo.html

Parking is difficult around Knox. If you don't find a spot on the street, you can go to the underground parking at City Hall - Exit on to Lisgar street. Or take public transit.

Covid protocols will be in place, so please wear a mask. No proof of vaccine is required.

We hope to see you all there!



Xaver Varnus Concert in Ottawa

Mark Wednesday, June 1st at 7:00 pm on your calendar now for an organ recital at Notre Dame Basilica. The performer will be Hungarian/Canadian organist Xaver Varnus. This is a charity concert with proceeds going to help refugees from Ukraine. Tickets can be purchased at www.eventbrite.ca

Xaver Varnus was in town in February and Gilles Leclerc and I got to hear him try out the organ at St-François d'Assise — we were very impressed with his rendition of Bach's *Wedge Fugue in E Minor* that he played from memory. He is also an excellent improviser (which ties in nicely with our Centre's recent *Café* on April 24th).

Xaver currently lives in Brooklyn, Nova Scotia. He purchased the former Pilgrim United Church and then he bought a used organ and had it installed there!



He will perform music by Bach, Albinoni and Franck as well as some improvisations.

Robert Jones

The recital is under the patronage of Rob Oliphant (a friend of mine who grew up in Sault Ste. Marie and took organ lessons at my church). Rob is the MP for Don Valley West in Toronto and also serves as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The host of the recital is Dr. Maria Vass-Salazar, Hungary's Ambassador to Canada.

For further information and details about this event, check out the poster on page 10 of this issue of *Pipelines*.

Do join us for what promises to be a very enjoyable music in support of the refugees of Ukraine. See you there!

The Great Bach Marathon!

SONDRA GOLDSMITH PROCTOR



The Great Bach Marathon returns this **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 themselves and begin to make music. They will be joined by special guest Rachel Laurin who will play for them the compositions she wrote especially for this wonderful little Létourneau instrument. It will be a joyful beginning of gathering together, at last, 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 look forward to your generous support of our students, helping to preserve the joy of learning and performing for all students – all of us as we continue to learn each day.

Royal Canadian College of Organists, Ottawa Centre, is active and growing and these children are our future, present among us. Come join us for an inspirational afternoon to celebrate their accomplishments and the music of Mr. Bach!







The RCCO Ottawa Centre is delighted to announce that this year's Member of the Year is Thomas Annand. Thomas has served on the Executive of the Centre and was president from 2009 to 2011. He has given numerous workshops for the Ottawa Centre over the years on the music of Bach as well as baroque performance styles. We seldom hear the NAC Flentrop organ, however, at the National Convention in Ottawa in 2003, there was a wonderful programme with the Capital BrassWorks which he founded. Thomas will receive this honour at the June 6th AGM at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church on Woodroffe Avenue. We appreciate the dedication and support that Tom has given to this Centre.

Tom Annand studied with Graham Steed, John Grew and Marie-Claire Alain. He was music director at St Andrew's Church, Ottawa for 29 years and gave about 200 noon-hour recitals there. He has been a soloist with the National Arts Centre Orchestra and Les Violons du Roy, touring extensively with both. He founded and conducted Capital BrassWorks with which he recorded two albums, and has been the keyboard player in Gruppetto Baroque and Triptych Piano Trio. He was



the harpsichordist, organist and guest conductor of Thirteen Strings for twenty seasons. He has performed as a soloist at the Carmel Bach Festival, Vancouver Baroque Festival and Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival. He presented all the major harpsichord works of Bach in a series of seven concerts in 2004. His Christmas anthems are published by the RCCO and he has composed hundreds of descants as well as choral music and organ works. He is a Fellow of the RCCO.



Join us at our Annual General Meeting 7:30 pm on Monday, June 6^{rth}, 2022 at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church (971 Woodroffe Ave.)

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 Thomas Annand, Past President of the Ottawa Centre, will be recognized as the Member of the Year. David was the RCCO Ottawa Centre President from 2009 to 2011. A gifted performer, Thomas has and continues to give numerous workshops on the music of Bach as well as boroque performance styles. The RCCO Ottawa Centre Executive appreciates his willingness to share and enrich our Centre membership with his knowledge and willingness to help in many ways.

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.





Rev. Christine Piper

Back Yet Again!

As I walked the pathway by the Ottawa River this morning, I gave thanks to be back. Back where, you might wonder? Back on my regular Spring, Summer and Fall hike along the shore, and besides the trees. And to continue the well-loved line, with leafless twigs and branches dancing in the breeze... Yes, my walk from Westboro beach to the Island Park Bridge. I'm back! Today it has its early Spring appearance, we are done with Winter. I see bare leafless branches, the odd lone chickadee darting up and

down a tree trunk, the cloudy sky above. I celebrate the Canada geese making their return overhead, mainly in twos. I am yet to see larger formations. And I wonder about the lone goose out there swimming in the shallows.

And I give thanks that I am back here on my hike, even as the Pandemic continues. Or would it be more accurate to say, despite the Pandemic? I grieve as so many may also be witnessing their river view once again, but as their witness includes the pain of loss. "My brother died of the Pandemic," words ringing in my ears from an 'in the pews chat' a Sunday or so ago. You will know your version of that chat, witnessing to where you, and the other, have been, and are now, as you emerge from Winter. And please know that sharing your experience, your thoughts and feelings will surely benefit your neighbour and, indeed, yourself. Especially as you deeply listen in return. We are in this together.

And we are not alone. The Creator who loves us is alongside you, me, and



everyone. And will bless us through the gift of these Spring days, one hour, one passing minute at a time as we open our hearts to Her listening care, to His robust attention. And as, from day to day, new leaves emerge on those branches overhead, symbolizing the hope of the new Spring season...

Thanks be to God, now and always.



A Note from the Treasurer

now you will have received your membership renewal statements from National Office. The College year begins on June 1st and fees are due by May 31st, 2022.

Category	National	Centre	r.
Regular	\$ 100	\$ 24	
Joint	\$150	\$ 26	
35 and under	\$ 61	\$17	
18 and under	\$ 20	\$ 0	
Institution	\$ 100	\$ 24	
Dual / Affiliate	\$ 95	\$ 24	
AGO, FQAO, or RCO			

The Ottawa Centre is a registered charity. Income tax receipts will be given for all donations. If you wish to make a donation to one of our Centre funds, you may do so on our website directly or by downloading a donation form. Please specify on the form which fund you would like to donate to. A list and description of the scholarship funds can be found on our website at

For detailed information on how to renew your membership online, please go to the RCCO national website at

> https://www.rcco.ca/Renew-**Membership-Information**

ALEXANDER REICKER

If your membership category is in.correct on the statement, please correct it and enclose the total fee shown below. The 2022/2023 fees (without a magazine subscription) are listed below:

	National	Centre	Total Fee	Notes
	\$ 100	\$ 24	\$ 124	Open to induviduals over the age of 35.
	\$ 150	\$ 26	\$ 176	Open to 2-4 members living at the same address.
	\$ 61	\$17	\$ 78	Open to those under 35 OR enrolled full-time in post-secondary education.
	\$ 20	\$ 0	\$ 20	Open to individuals age 18 or under.
	\$ 100	\$ 24	\$ 124	Open to churches, schools and other organizations.
	\$ 95	\$ 24	\$ 119	Open to members of affiliate organizations wishing to join the RCCO.
CO				** Non-member subscription to Pipelines is \$25 for 10 issues

http://www.rcco-ottawa.ca/schol.html

The COVID-19 Pandemic has significantly impacted Pro Organo.

We encourage you to support Pro Organo by making donations on line on our website or by cheque. Your financial support is most welcome as it is the generous donations of our patrons that make these concerts possible. See the

bottom of our web page for more details about upcoming concerts.

You may also purchase subscriptions to To avoid missing any publications, please renew promptly. It also saves us much time and money if all renewals are in by the due date, May 31st, 2022.

> Alexander Reicker Treasurer

Nicholas Capazolli Concert Review

DONALD MARJERRISON

Friday evening, April 1st, we heard a varied and fascinating organ recital by Nicholas Capazzoli at Basilique-Cathédrale Notre-Dame. Dr. Capazzoli is the organist at Christ Church Cathedral (Anglican) in Montreal. He is also Director of Chapel Music at the Montreal Diocesan Theological College. He has won several prizes, including at the CIOC in 2017, First Prize in the 2015 Taylor Organ Competition, as well as First Prize in the 2013 Mid-Atlantic AGO/Quimby Competition for Young Organists and Carol Teti Memorial Organ Competition.

Nicholas opened the recital with the *Imperial March, Op.32* by Edward Elgar which was written for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 for full orchestra. This popular arrangement was written by Sir George Clement Martin, then-organist of St. Paul's Cathedral London. Nicholas played it with tasteful dynamics and colourful stops that portrayed an orchestral style.

Pièce symphonique, op. 16 by Charles Tournemire is probably an homage to his teacher César Franck. Nicholas used registrations evocative of Franck colours. It was played skilfully, moving easily between manuals and building to a crescendo with angular harmony and then ends quietly on strings.

Jehan Alain's Scherzo from the Suite pour orgue followed. It opens with an eerie introduction played on high pitched stops. The quiet part has an ostinato in the left hand against a small melodic reed stop. The first half ended with Diptych for the Baptism of Our Lord by Joel Peters. Joel is an organist-composer in Montreal. Written in 2017, these two movements depict the drama of Christ's baptism. The first piece, the River Jordan, conveys the flowing waters of the river Jordan with complex rhythms that emulate the twists and turns of the river. Nicholas used colourful quiet stops with a slow melody in the pedal as a contrast to the ostinato effects in the manual parts. There are quick silent breaks in the composition which reflect the river's unpredictability.



The other movement, the *Voice of the Lord*, is a paraphrase of psalm 29. Nicholas played this with energy and a moderately loud registration. The pedal underpins the piece like a toccata. With the ostinato in the manuals, the listener feels a timelessness or eternity. It is abruptly broken by a succession of quick staccato chords moving up and down the keyboard depicting chaos or terror and then returns to a beautiful full even sound which perhaps depicts God's everpresence.

The second half of the programme began with two familiar hymn tunes arranged in the gospel jazz style by the British pianist, organist and composer Ian Farrington. The first piece, When I lay my Burden down, has many registrations for effect and colour. Nicholas played it with a bouncy rhythmic flair which was very enjoyable. The second piece, Amazing Grace, has several seamless movements to highlight the tune in many ways. Some effects used, included ornamentation and oompah in the left hand and pedal. It ends quietly on strings. Clearly, Nicholas is very comfortable playing this style of music as well as the regular repertoire and had taken the time to register these pieces beautifully.

The recital ended with the large scale work by Alexandre Guilmant, *Sonata no. 1 in D minor, op.42*. The *Introduction* *and Allegro* opens with a pompous French overture and then follows after a fiery pedal solo two contrasting themes in a classical form. The movement was played with a fast tempo. There are lovely melodic lines and contrapuntal features similar to Mendelssohn.

The *Pastorale* had a dreamy quality, very colourful and with a folk-like lilt which ended with a gorgeous string sound. The *Finale* is a relentless Toccata which Nicholas played splendidly.

This progamme had so many enjoyable moments. Nicholas played this varied programme with energy and panache. It was most delightful throughout for this listener and was warmly received by the audience.

The recent renovations to the Casavant Frères / Guilbault-Thérien 1989 organ have enhanced and integrated the sound of the instrument.

Thanks to Karen Holmes for organizing this second in-person concert since the pandemic. Although the audience was smaller than pre-pandemic recitals, we hope that more people will attend as the pandemic subsides.

Thanks also to you, the audience who attended, for your support of Pro Organo and your patience with Covid protocols to keep everyone safe.

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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

Next Deadline





Our Advertisers



1096, ch. St-Pierre Embrun, ON K0A 1W0 Cell: 613.769-6218 Email: sborgans@hotmail.com

Entretien – fabrication – restauration Maintenance – New instruments – Restoration

St John's Presbyterian Church, Cornwall seeks a part-time ORGANIST / DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Are you looking for a church with a heart?

St. John's Presbyterian Church, a caring community, is seeking a part-time Organist/Director of Music (8-10 hrs/wk) to provide musical leadership in worship.

We are a mid-sized congregation located in downtown Cornwall, Ontario with a small, able choir, a 2 manual, 30-stop C. Franklin Legge pipe organ and a grand piano. Stipend in keeping with RCCO guidelines.

For more information or to apply, please contact St. John's Church at:

613-932-8693

or via email at applications@stjohnscornwall.ca



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VACANCY FOR REGULAR SOLOIST

at the First Church of Christ, Scientist, Ottawa starting September 4, 2022.

Soloist works with the Organist to sing a solo each Sunday morning and lead the congregation in three hymns.

Any voice type would be suitable. Auditions are planned for Saturday June 25, 2022.

Please email summarizing qualifications and experience no later than Saturday June 18, 2022 to :

Barbara Allen, Music Committee Chair, ratempo@rogers.com

Information about our Church can be found at ChristianScienceOttawa.com

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 2022 AT 7PM NOTRE-DAME CATHEDRAL IN OTTAWA



CHARITY CONCERT BY THE LEGENDARY ORGAN VIRTUOSO AND HIS MUSICIAN FRIENDS TO HELP REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE

UNDER THE DISTINGUISHED PATRONAGE OF

THE HONOURABLE ROBERT OLIPHANT, PC, MP PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

HOSTED BY

HER EXCELLENCY DR. MARIA VASS-SALAZAR AMBASSADOR OF HUNGARY TO CANADA

MR. SANDOR BALLA PRESIDENT OF THE HUNGARIAN CANADIAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Organist, improviser, author, lecturer and media personality, Varnus has had a dramatic impact on audiences' acceptance and appreciation of organ music. Over the course of his career, Varnus has played live to more than six million people worldwide, recorded fifty-three albums, made sixty concert films, and written five books. His videos have surpassed 29 million views on YouTube. Varnus' Bach concert film, recorded at his recital in the Berliner Dom, has become the most watched organ concert movie in music history, with 12 million views. His "Quadruple Platinum Disc Award" winning album "From Ravel to Vangelis", released by SONY in 2007, is the bestselling collection of organ recordings ever.

"Words on paper are a flimsy medium with which to describe the eye-opening power of yesterday's performance. Put simply, Varnus is a monster talent, every bit as stimulating and individual as the late Glenn Gould. That's not a name to be invoked lightly, but Varnus, like Gould, has more than virtuosity and interpretive strength, he has the rare talent of being able to make us hear his instrument in a new way, as though he were re-inventing it on the spot."

THE GLOBE AND MAIL

"Xaver Varnus has been called the Horowitz of the organ (New York Times), or contrariwise the Paganini of the organ (Le Figaro). And even the Glenn Gould of the organ. But he is none of the above. Instead, he is plainly the Xaver Varnus of the organ, a self-assured prodigy with a mind of his own."

THE TORONTO STAR

"Varnus is one of the most influential figures in organ music in the early 21st century." THE NEW CLASSICAL FM, TORONTO

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT THE FOLLOWING LINK EVENTBRITE.CA







Royal Canadian College 🐲 of Organists Ottawa Centre Collège royal canadien des organistes section d'Ottawa

iches et anches

AGM Special Edition

RCCO Ottawa Centre Executive Slate 2022-2023

The following is the proposed slate of candidates for the RCCO Ottawa Centre Executive for 2022-2023:

President:	Robert Jones
Vice-President:	Alison Kranias
Past President	Heather Rice
Secretary:	Sue Sparks
Treasurer:	Alexander Reicker
Chaplain:	The Rev. Canon Christine Piper

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Join us at our Annual General Meeting 7:30 pm on Monday, June 6^{rth}, 2022 at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church (971 Woodroffe Ave.)

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.

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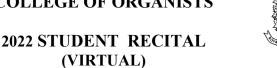


2022 Student Recital Programme

ROBERT JONES

Attached below is the programme for Ottawa Centre's 2022 Student Recital. Once again it is a virtual event due to the Covid-19 health restrictions currently in place. The participants recorded their pieces that were then assembled into a YouTube video that will be made available shortly. Expect an email with details shortly.

OTTAWA CENTRE, THE ROYAL CANADIAN COLLEGE OF ORGANISTS



CENTRE D'OTTAWA, LE COLLÈGE ROYAL CANADIEN DES ORGANISTES

2022 RÉCITAL D'ÉTUDIANT(E)S (VIRTUEL)

♦ Rebecca Lee: Prelude and Fugue in A Major (BWV 536) Organ: Rodgers 558

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

* Yi ZhouPrelude on 'Rockingham'Healey Willan (1880-1968)Organ: Casavant (Op. 1539; 1937); St. Luke's Anglican Church, Ottawa

- Patrick Yang: Prelude and Fugue in F Major (BWV 556) attrib. J. S. Bach (1685-1750) Sonata in A Major (Op. 65, No. 3) Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) *ii) Andante tranquillo Organ: Casavant (Op. 2875; 1966); First Baptist Church, Ottawa*
- Aurora Xu: Sonata in Bb Major (Op. 65, No. 4) Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) *iii)* Allegretto Organ: Casavant (Op. 2875; 1966); First Baptist Church, Ottawa
- Aleesha Katary: Fantasia in G major (*Pièce d'orgue*) (BWV 572) J. S. Bach (1685-1750) Récit de tierce en taille Nicolas de Grigny (1672-1703) Organ: Rodgers Trillium 927; St. Martin's Anglican Church, Ottawa
- Samuel Lee: Marche Moderne, op. 2
 Années de pèlerinage II, S.161 I. Sposalizio
 Franz Liszt (1811-1886) arr. Edwin H. Lemare
 Organ: Casavant (Op. 615; 1915, 1996); St-Jean-Baptiste, Montreal.

Teachers:

- ♦ Thomas Annand
- ✤ Hans-Ola Ericsson
- * Robert Jones
- Jennifer Loveless
- Jonathan Oldengarm
- Shawn Potter

The Artists

Aleesha Katary is a Grade Eleven student at Earl of March High School in Kanata. She started studying the organ with Frances Macdonnell and is now studying with Thomas Annand. She plays the flute in her school's senior band, is continuing her piano lessons, and is a Prefect in the Christ Church Cathedral Girls' Choir. Even during the lockdown, she has played a number of organ voluntaries at Christ Church Cathedral, St. Stephen's Anglican Church, Kanata United Church, St. Martin's Anglican Church, and at Woodroffe United Church. Aleesha is the co-founder of an initiative called 'Music For Seniors' where local high school students create monthly virtual concerts for retirement homes, long-term care homes and hospitals. This initiative was created over a year ago and continues to build the bond between students and seniors while providing entertainment to local isolated seniors.

In 2015, **Rebecca Lee** was awarded an organ scholarship from the RCCO to start learning organ with Karen Holmes. Since then, she has also participated in the Kiwanis Music Festival. After graduating from Sir Robert Borden High School last year, she is now stuing organ performance with Hans-Ola Ericsson and Jonathan Oldengarm at McGill University in Montreal.

Beginning his organ study with Karen Holmes, **Samuel Lee** soon successfully completed the CRCCO in 2014, ARCCO in 2016, and FRCCO in 2018, while at the same time studying his Bachelor's Degree in Piano Performance with David Jalbert in the University of Ottawa. Samuel has also assumed the role of Organ Scholar under the mentorship of Dave Dawson, Music Director of St. Martin's Anglican Church. After completing a Master's Degree in Organ Performance at McGill University, Montreal, with Hans-Ola Ericsson and Christian Lane in 2020, Samuel continues his Doctoral study in organ performance in McGill University with Jonathan Oldengarm, and with Isabelle Demers next year. Last summer, Samuel won a third place in the RCCO National Organ Playing Competition. Currently, Samuel is the Organist/Pianist at the Montreal West United Church.

Aurora Xu is in her last year working towards an undergraduate degree in Health Sciences at University of Ottawa. She started organ lessons shortly after she arrived in Ottawa in 2017. Aurora had received the RCCO Organ Academy Bursary which allowed her to attend student academies and various workshops in Calgary and Halifax. Additionally, she received the Kiwanis Club of Ottawa Arnt Loa Scholarship twice. In her spare time, she enjoys singing with the Ottawa Regional Youth Choir and the adult choir at St. Joseph's Parish. Currently, she is doing her collaborative pianist internship with ORYC. She is looking forward to working in both health and music fields in the future.

Patrick Yang is a current grade 11 international baccalaureate student at Colonel By Secondary School. He grew up in a quiet suburban neighbourhood in Montreal where he began learning piano at the age of 6. In 2013, Patrick moved to Beijing, China, where he continued studying the piano and began learning the violin and the clarinet. In 2016, he moved again, this time to Budapest, Hungary, where he studied piano under Geza Klembala and Nora Deutsch, acquiring a performance diploma from the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM). Then, in 2019, he moved to Ottawa where he started learning the organ after being intrigued by Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D minor. Since October 2019, he has been studying under Shawn Potter, the director of music at First Baptist Church in downtown Ottawa and the 2013 winner of the RCCO Orgelfest Godfrey Hewitt Prize. With Shawn, Patrick has studied a variety of organ music, including works from Mendelssohn, Couperin, Bach, Bédard, and more. He is also a four-time winner of the Kiwanis Music Festival, winning both the regular and Bach organ classes at the novice and intermediate level. In his spare time, he enjoys reading mystery novels, coding and playing video games.

Yi Zhou came to Canada in 2017 and graduated in 2020 with a master's degree in statistics from Carleton University. She is now employed by Agriculture and Agri-food Canada. In 2019, Yi was awarded an organ scholarship from the Ottawa RCCO Centre to learn the organ with Robert Jones. She paused the lessons in 2020 because of COVID-19 and resumed her lessons several months ago. She is looking forward to serving as an organist at church.