

MEDIA RELEASE

Pro Organo: a unique Ottawa organ concert series, starting this weekend – the finest organists on the finest organs

15 October 2025 – OTTAWA, ON – Music for the mightiest of instruments will fill the equally magnificent building of Saint-François d'Assise in Ottawa's Wellington West neighbourhood at the first of four recitals in the Royal Canadian College of Organists, Ottawa Centre's *Pro Organo* series.

Gilles Leclerc, composer, choir director, and organist at Saint-François d'Assise, says: 'It's always a delight to have Pro Organo Ottawa back at Saint-François d'Assise. Over the years, we have heard some of the world's outstanding organists thanks to this series. I hope that, over the next season, many more will discover the great pipe organs we have here in Ottawa.'

The first performance in the 37th annual recital series takes place on **Sunday, October 19, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.** and features Alexander Straus-Fausto playing works by both well-known and lesser-known composers: J.S. Bach, César Franck, Sperindio Bertolo, Thierry Escaich, Florence Price, Margaret Sandresky, and Canada's own Rachel Laurin.

The next three performances feature:

- Francine Nguyen-Savaria playing works by Brahms, Vierne, and Alain at the beautiful Notre-Dame Cathedral on Sussex Drive, on Friday, March 20, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.;
- Valerie Hall performing Canadian organ music in memory of organist Dianne Ferguson at Rideau Park United Church, 2203 Alta Vista Drive, on Sunday, April 26, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.; and
- Aaron James playing the music of Bach, Guilmant, Duruflé, and Robin on Monday, June 15, 2026 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Clement's, 528 Old St. Patrick Street, Ottawa.

Season tickets can be purchased in advance at http://www.rcco-ottawa.ca/pro_organo#tickets, while individual tickets will be available at the door for each concert.

As the pipe organ can be at some distance from the audience, a video camera and projection screen will be set up so that the audience can see the performers up close. All four concerts in the series will allow attendees to not only hear, but watch the recitalists play.

The pipe organ is unmatched for its sheer power, musical expressivity, and variety of sound.

– 30 –

About the Royal Canadian College of Organists (RCCO), Ottawa Centre:

A community with a passion for the organ and its music.

RCCO, Ottawa Centre – PO Box 2270, Station D, Ottawa, ON K1P 5W4

<http://www.rcco-ottawa.ca/> | Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ottawaorgans/>

Executive 2025-2026: <http://www.rcco-ottawa.ca/executive.html>

Information: (613) 798-0264