

## **Preparation for Service-Playing or other Examinations, 2013 - 2014**

Some of our members who participated in *Orgelfest Academy* would like to carry on their studies and perhaps prepare for an RCCO examination in June 2014. Other members of the Ottawa Centre may also wish to participate in this educational activity through the coming year. There are several levels of possible introductory examinations, which include:

### The Worship Accompanist Certificate

This, the simplest of the examinations, involves playing only several hymns and a simple anthem accompaniment, all prepared in advance. It results in a certificate of proficiency. (This examination can, if wished, be taken on the piano.)

### The Service-Playing Certificate

A more advanced examination, this one involves a simple sight-reading test on the organ, as well as playing several hymns and voluntaries and an anthem accompaniment, all prepared in advance. It too results in a certificate of proficiency.

### The Colleague Diploma in Performance

This examination involves one three-hour paperwork examination and ear test, as well as a practical examination in which the candidate plays two pieces and two hymns prepared in advance, and performs simple sight-reading, transposition, and score-reading tests at sight. The paperwork involves writing SATB parts for a hymn-tune, completing a 16-bar melody with cadential chords, analysing a short anthem, and writing a short essay on the topic of Early English organ music.

The closing date for applying for an examination will be March 15, 2014. In preparation for this, there will be workshops held on the following dates, at places to be announced:

Saturday October 19, at Trinity Anglican Church, 1230 Bank Street, 10 am - noon  
Saturday November 16  
Saturday February 1  
Saturday May 3

As well, there will be a more intensive period of study for three days for those who are available during March Break, March 10 - 14, 2014; this may include a tour to the Casavant Organ Factory..

The emphasis during these workshops will be on service-playing skills, including hymn-playing, anthem accompaniment, and simple sight-reading. These workshops will be of benefit to any church musicians whether or not they wish to take an examination next spring or not.

Attention - Students: It is expected that the RCCO Student Recital will be on Saturday February 15. Please note that Dr. John Grew, recently retired from McGill University, is to give a master-class on Saturday March 29 at Ste-Anne's (now St. Clement's) Church. The Kiwanis Music Festival takes place in April. More details about all these student programmes will be forthcoming.