

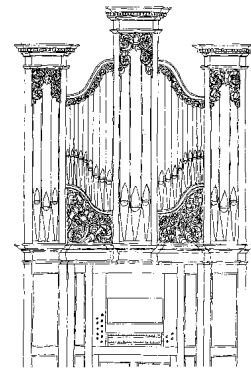


# QUARTER NOTES

The Royal Canadian College of Organists  
*Windsor Centre*

Le Collège royal canadien des organistes  
*Centre Windsor*

Website : [www.rcco-windsor.com](http://www.rcco-windsor.com)



## MUSIC IN THE CHURCH TODAY: WHAT IS OUR ROLE?

DECEMBER 2011

On Sunday, January 22, we host a panel discussion on changing ideals for music in the church and how we as church musicians can fulfill our role as leaders. We all know that clergy and congregations are expecting music to speak to the wider world as they (and we) seek to include them. Our panelists—area clergy and church musicians--will give their thoughts on music in worship and their observations on experiences where worship and music have collaborated in inspirational ways. Audience questions will round out the evening. We hope that listeners will be stimulated to find new means and possible resources as they develop skills in leading the planning and performance of music in their church settings.

**DATE:** Sunday, January 22, 2012. Dinner at 6 pm (\$ 12 each), discussion at 7 pm

**PLACE:** All Saints' Church (Scott Hall), City Hall Square

PANELISTS (to date):

Archdeacon Kim Van Allen, Rector, All Saints' Church

Rev. Ann Corbet, Minister, Bedford United Church;

Rev. Chuck Congram, Retired Pastor, Lakeshore Presbyterian Church;

Bob Langlois, Pastoral Minister, Ste. Anne's Parish, Tecumseh

Ron Kingham, St. John's Anglican Church, Leamington

Brian Jackson, Minister and Arts Pastor, Parkwood Gospel Temple

Michael Ricketts Music Director St. Alphonsus Church and St. Matthew's Church and organist Temple Beth-El

Plan to attend for a lively discussion!

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### *Inside this issue:*

President's Message **2**  
Executive List

Christmas Concert **3**  
Come Sing Messiah report

Spaghetti Dinner revisited **3**

Upcoming Events **4**  
Joanne Quimby Memorial Bursary

Upcoming Choral techniques **4**  
Workshop

Theatre organ concert report **5**

Advertisers **6**  
Supply Organist List

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DECEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

*From the President:*

With Handel's Messiah still resounding in my head, I want to extend thanks on behalf of the Centre to everyone who went out of their way to make the event on November 13 at Epworth United Church in Kingsville such a success. First of all, to Paul Wharram whose expert leadership and teaching prepared the chorus so well on just three rehearsals; next to Bob Kissner and the congregation at the church for their warm hospitality in hosting us; thirdly, thanks to Ben Schinkel, Judy Boutin and Nancy Tapley for their support work in registering chorus members, getting the program ready, and welcoming the audience; and finally, to the many members who sang in the rehearsed chorus.

I'm quite excited at the level of interest and commitment expressed at the special meetings of National Council November 17-19 as we began to act on the results of the survey, This is Your Voice, conducted among members last January. Published in the summer, members' thoughts (from a large majority) on the College as it is now and how it should evolve came through loud and clear. Judy Boutin and I represented our centre and region. Issues of an aging and declining membership, our identity in a rapidly changing landscape of music in worship, fulfilling our mission when organs are more and more sidelined by churches—these received full and honest debate, and I think augur well for a college more in tune with the 21st century. I'm really looking forward to the January 22 panel discussion when we will



have an opportunity to share our own views.

The rest of our season brings events which we hope will be of great interest to everyone and which respond to the brief survey you completed at our Spaghetti Dinner. Please check this Newsletter for articles and for the calendar of these events.

Wishing all of you a blessed Christmas season, and good health and prosperity in 2012.

David Palmer

## YOUR EXECUTIVE

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CHAPLAIN:	FATHER WURM	



## **CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

St. Matthew's Church, 1600 Norfolk, is presenting a Festival of Lessons and Carols for Christmas, Sunday, Dec. 18, at 7:30 pm. A combined choir from Westminster United, Corpus Christi, Holy Name, and St. Alphonsus Roman Catholic, Paulin Memorial Presbyterian, and St. James' and St. Matthew's Anglican Churches will be directed by Mike Ricketts and accompanied by Judy Boutin, piano, and Kevin Masterson, trumpet. A free will offering will be taken for the Downtown Mission.



## **COME SING MESSIAH A GREAT SUCCESS**

On November 13, close to forty five singers from various church and community choirs in Windsor and Essex County as well as some members of the RCCO Windsor Centre performed excerpts from Handel's Messiah at Epworth United Church in Kingsville. A number of people in the audience joined in the singing and together created a glorious sound and uplifting performance.

Under the direction of Paul Wharram, singers in the core choir participated in three rehearsals and enthusiastically embraced eight of Messiah's most familiar choruses. Five soloists enhanced the performance with admirable interpretations of the arias and recitatives. Alyssa Epp and Jessica Pistor were the soprano soloists; Amelia Daigle sang the alto solos while Jean Giroux was the tenor and Andrew Hampton, the bass.

David Palmer masterfully accompanied the chorus and soloists at the organ.

Appreciation is extended to all who helped organize this event, especially to Bob Kissner and the folks at Epworth United Church for their warm reception. Paul Wharram

## **SPAGHETTI DINNER 2011 REVISITED**

As I work away out in the kitchen I am always struck by the hum of happy people talking and laughing while they eat, drink punch, buy music etc. etc. And that's why I continue to prepare the food for this event each year.

2011 was no different from other years. Richard Helmer and I prepared the salad on Saturday; Margita got the chairs and tables in place, played the accompaniments for the anthem reading, made punch, and dipped noodles; Paul van Heughten ran around organizing things for us and then amazed us all with the speed with which he cleaned up pots and ran the dishwasher; my two favourite spaghetti stirrers (Gail Coomber and Mary O'Neail) worked away and carried on a busy conversation with everyone in the kitchen while Ben did his favourite thing – collected money – and Dorothy Shuttleworth socialized while making everyone who arrived feel welcome. And the door prizes! I've never seen so many – in particular bottles of wine (what does that say about organists?). I was expecting 4 or 5 and we ended up with 14! And, by the way, this year I won a bottle of wine and it was delicious.

Thanks again, everyone who helped in any way: your help was greatly appreciated. Also, by the way, we welcomed a new Centre Friend – Linda Shepley from Glenwood United Church. We're pleased you decided to join us, Linda. See you next year. Judy Boutin

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

1. Sunday January 22nd– Music in the Church Today-What is our Role? Clergy/musician panel discussion-See front page for details
2. Saturday February 11th Choral Techniques Workshop with Joel Tranquilla at St.Matthew's Church (pg5 for details)
3. Saturday March 17th 1pm Organ Crawl in the County– dinner at the Sweetmans to follow!
4. Sunday May 6th Hymn Tasting Event at Essex United Church
5. June Annual General meeting and College Service at Paulin Memorial Church

### **UPCOMING CHORAL TECHNIQUES FOR CONDUCTORS WORKSHOP**

We're excited that Joel Tranquilla, Conductor of the Windsor Classic Chorale and the Windsor Symphony Chorus, will lead us in a workshop of Choral Techniques for conductors. He'll talk about basic conducting technique, score preparation and organization of the choral rehearsal, among other topics. Joel, who has a Bachelor of Music degree from Mt. Alison University in his native New Brunswick, is currently in the doctoral conducting program at Michigan State University. Volunteers to conduct are welcome--please contact David Palmer ([dpalmer@uwindsor.ca](mailto:dpalmer@uwindsor.ca)) if you'd like to participate in this way. The workshop will be held at St. Matthew's Church from 1-3 pm Feb 11th.



### **JOANNE QUIMBY MEMORIAL BURSARY**

Joanne Quimby served as organist in a number of churches in Essex County. Although she had only a basic education in organ, she loved the instrument, and took additional lessons in order to improve her playing.

The Joanne Quimby Memorial Bursary will be available to organists like Joanne who have basic skills, but do not have RCCO, Conservatory or University qualifications and are currently employed in a church. To qualify, an applicant must be a member of the RCCO or a Centre Friend. Applicants will be auditioned by an independent panel of judges (no RCCO members) and there will be a maximum of one student per year until the money runs out. The amount of the bursary will be \$500 (10 lessons at \$50 apiece).

The first award will be available in the spring of 2012.

Judy Boutin

## **REPORT ON THEATRE**

### **ORGAN CONCERT**

Our RCCO Centre hosted its first ever theatre organ concert, a sure sign that the RCCO is not a collection of musicians of limited scope.

On October 27, Bedford United Church hosted this event. It recently was the recipient of a wonderful gift, a new pipe organ. A small 1953 Casavant, Opus 2189, was moved from Sarnia. Additional elements were added from Chalmer United Church,

Woodstock. The benefactor ensured that Dodington and Dodington Pipe Organ Services assembled a mighty instrument with 65 stops that is capable of all styles of organ music, including the theatre organ genre.

Bedford organist Ron Dossenbach started the show with two brief tunes, including The Simpsons Theme. The Youtube video link shows what it sounds like.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h54ptoR9ZhY>

Then Bob Nagy played a few theatre organ tunes, complete with Hallowe'en schtick. Both schtick and music were well-received by the enthusiastic audience. Bob, supply organist to Bedford and several other nearby churches, deserves a special round of thanks for a concert that almost did not occur. Early in the planning stages, there were insufficient performers with insufficient repertoire. Then Bob called on his friends from his time as a member of the Motor City Theater Organ Society, which led to the final performer, John Lauter.

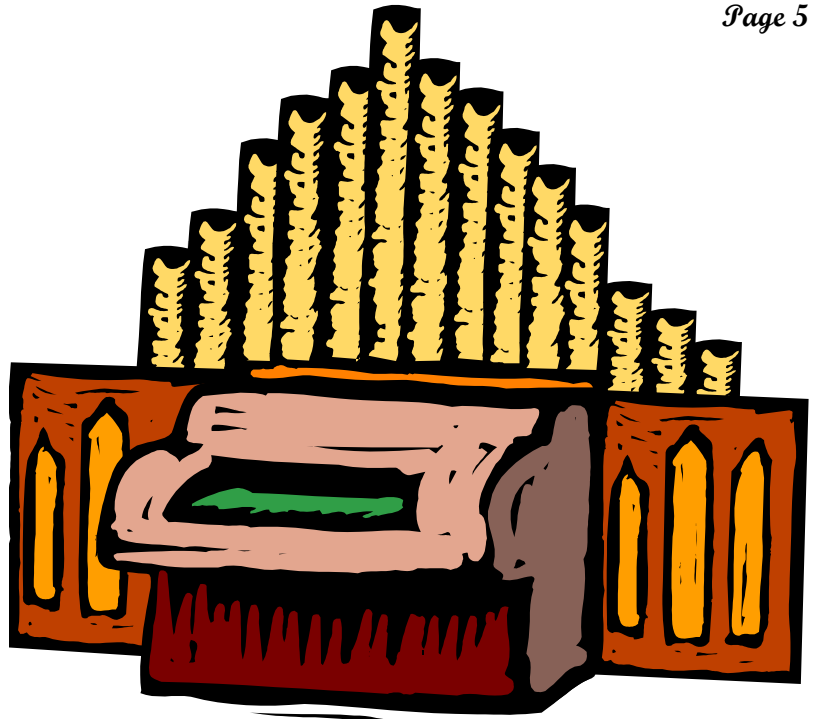
John is a renowned theatre organist who has given solo theatre organ concerts across the United States and Canada. We were treated to a full concert, from Gershwin and show tunes to Raiders of the Lost Ark to show tunes. All of this was delivered with entertaining and humorous narrative.

He repeatedly praised the wonderful blend of classical and theatre organ sonorities that are available.

Lauter deserves credit for giving us the full theatre organ treatment on a two manual instrument without second touch.

The organ's benefactor, John Robson, has a long held belief that the organ should be used for entertainment as well as worship. We certainly were entertained. Thanks again, John.

Ron Dossenbach







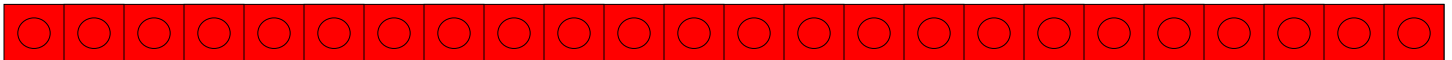
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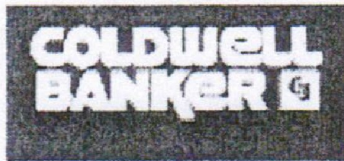


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