



A few of my favourite things

Resources I use and you can too...

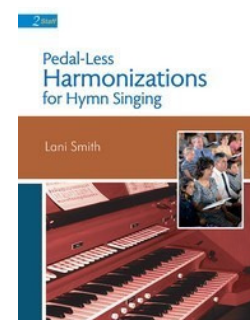
Submitted by Dale Burkholder, Paulin Memorial Presbyterian Church, Windsor

HELP I need to play In this instalment I'm highlighting 3 resources that I use when all of a sudden I need to play something in church.

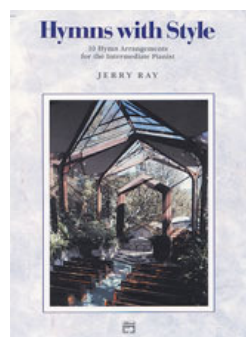
Pedal-Less Harmonizations for Hymn Singing

By: Lani Smith, Lorenz Publishing

This book is absolutely a must for pianists facing the organ console. Lani gives us great tips and harmonies on how to play the organ without using the pedals and making it sound great. Each hymn tune has 2 variations so you don't sound "boring" and a third (optional) Free-Verse harmony for the more adventurous. Tunes include: Aurelia; Bunessan; Duke Street; Hanover; Hyfyrdol; Hymn to Joy; Lasst uns Erfreuen; Laudes Domini; Lobe den Herren; Lyons; Mit Freuden Zart; Monsell; Praise, My Soul and St. Denio.



Hymns with style



By: Jerry Ray, Alfred Music Publishing

This book is for the pianist who wants something easy, with harmonies that are slightly unexpected, familiar tunes, and just down right beautiful. We don't have the time to practice like we should and so this book is great a few times through the song and you can play it. Every church pianist needs this book in their collection. I have been known to grab it for that moment when I realize I have NOTHING for the offering.... Titles include: Abide with Me; Amazing Grace; He Leadeth Me; Holy, Holy, Holy; It Is Well with My Soul; Old Rugged Cross; Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us and How Great Thou Art.

The Essential Collection for the Church Organist

By: Jane Holstein - Hope Publishing Company

Are you tired of Bach, Pachelbel and others in the standard organ repertoire? Do you long for an arrangement of a hymn tune that was written since Canada was founded ???This is the book for you. Jane Holstein has brought together 55 different pieces and put them into a collection that spans the church year. Most of the pieces are based on contemporary hymns like "In the bulb there is a flower", "Great is thy Faithfulness", "Just as I am". The tunes are not obscured by the harmonies so your congregation can appreciate the songs in this collection. Now some of the pieces you will need to work on depending on your skill level. Some of on the easier side. Some are downright LOUD others are (as my organ teacher would say) "schmaltzy". I haven't found anything that was a play once—then play in service. But the rewards are great. Titles include: A Mighty Fortress is Our God; Away in a Manger; Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing; It is Well With My Soul; Joy to the World; Lift High the Cross; The Gift of Love and many more!



Replacing a Pipe Organ with an Electronic Instrument

Submitted by Ron Dosenbach, Organ Advisor

I have several old books on pipe organ design. They tell us, when planning a new church, the standard rule of thumb used by church boards and architects of the time, was to allot 15% of the building cost to the pipe organ's cost. For many years, this was a good guideline to determine the correct size of organ needed by a new church.

To our ears of today, this seems like an extraordinary amount. But, when new organs are quoted on by today's organ builders, the costs usually fall into this range. With today's near worship of modern technology, the assumption persists that anything new is better, so many churches opt for much less expensive electronic instruments.

But are they really cheaper? It depends how you look at it. History shows us that the typical lifespan of a pipe organ is well over 100 years, and the typical lifespan of its electronic counterpart is more like 30-40 years. Indeed, four electronic instruments must usually be purchased in succession to match the life of a single pipe organ. (Incidentally, in Britain, if it doesn't have pipes, it cannot be called an organ) Viewed over the long term, pipe organs are suddenly not so expensive. When churches, or church additions are built, the people usually want to build with the goal that the structure will be in service for many decades. The organ deserves similar respect.

So, when an older pipe organ falls into disrepair and the builder presents a gigantic repair estimate, it may not be as gigantic a cost after all. To be sure, not every pipe organ deserves to be treated to lavish rebuilding. Some are, well, junk. Organ consultants can usually be relied upon to help church boards make this determination.

If the church does have an old pipe organ, it is mostly likely fully paid for. Its restoration to reliable condition should be weighed against the cost of a pipe organ replacement, not an electronic replacement.

What is wrong with electronic organs? They do have many advantages. Cost is less, maintenance is less, they take up much less space, and can often sound very close to a real pipe organ. But, they do not last as long as one would hope before troubles set in - the elements inside become obsolete, often making repairs impossible. Also, most electronic organs, even high quality organs, come in second place when faced off with a pipe organ in the same room.

The next article will deal with a subject that can lengthen or shorten the life of any organ: humidity.





The Historic Spreckels Outdoor Organ in San Diego

Submitted by Nancy Tapley

While in San Diego California this past February, I had the opportunity to hear a concert on the outdoor organ in Balboa park called the Spreckels organ. The organ is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year as it was donated by John D. Spreckels and dedicated on New Year's Eve 1914. The outdoor pavilion seats 2400 and it is said before planes and traffic noise, the powerful organ could be heard 2 miles away. The organ was donated with the provision that all concerts must be free!



Having never heard of an outdoor organ, I was fascinated to see and hear such an instrument but also curious to understand how changes in weather would not make it impossible to maintain. There is no heat or air conditioning in the organ enclosure so there is about a 40 degree temperature variance during the year.

The ideal concert environment would see the outside and inside temperature the same which was the conditions under which I heard the instrument. I heard a bit of spot tuning only before the concert. However, in extreme heat and humidity, when the door is raised, the warm air collides with the cooler inside air and the organ is significantly out of tune until the temperature stabilizes, the pipes at the front will be out of tune from those farther back until this happens. Apparently open wood flutes, even the large ones can go wildly out of tune during times of changing humidity.

The organ was built by the Austin organ Company of Hartford Connecticut and was designed as a "Symphonic Concert Organ". It began with 46 ranks over 4 manuals and pedals. it has undergone a complete restoration in the 1980's and along with several additions though the years , now has 73 ranks. The mechanical combination action with a single memory level which was cutting edge 100 years ago, has been improved to multi-level combinations for a total of 2,376 general pistons.



The present civic organist -Carol Williams- played a concert for the humane society charity day called "Bark in the Park" . The concert included "How Much is that Doggie in the Window", "Memory from Cats", "Baby Elephant Walk" and "All Creatures Great and Small". it was well attended and fun for all.

If you get to San Diego, make sure to go to Balboa park on a any Sunday afternoon at 2 pm for a free organ concert.

Canadian College of Organists in Kingsville

Reprinted from The Kingville Reporter, June 16, 2015

Kingsville was privileged on Friday, June 5th, to host the annual conference of the regional Chapters of the Royal Canadian College of Organists (RCCO).

Convened at The Church of the Epiphany, the RCCO Annual Conference featured some remarkable organ performances by several up and coming organ students. The Conference was chaired by President Paul Wharram. Mr. Wharram is organist par excellent at The Church of the Epiphany in Kingsville.

A lovely Evening Prayer service conducted by Rev. Canon Bryan Girling of Epiphany church, included hymns accompanied by organ music performed by a group of very accomplished students of organs and organ music.

Ashley Allen, Anita Sehra and Josh Palmer began the service with Music for Meditation a concert of organ works composed by Pachelbel, Burkhardt and Rheinberger.

Jonathan Kaberuka played famous Notre Dame Cathedral composer the last Louis Vierne's "berceuse". Vierne who was visually impaired, composed much of his later music in Braille.

The prayer service ended with Cameron Adams rendering of J.S. Bach's "Prelude in D Minor" and, thereafter, Joyce Fung offered a rousing performance of Leon Boellman's 4th Movement from his Suite Gothique (some often term this, because of its spooky music, the Halloween Suite!).

In his Homily, Canon Girling addressed the role of organ music as a significant part of worship and he

recalled many of the great church organists he has enjoyed throughout his ministry career.



The RCCO is Canada's oldest association of musicians dating from 1909. It is both a national and an international nondenominational community of professional and amateur organists, church musicians, choral conductors and anybody else who loves to share the joyous music of the organ or of church music.

Indeed, the guest speaker at the Conference's annual meeting was William (Bill) Lupton, Mr. Lupton is organist and Director of Music at Huron University College, London, Ontario and Past President of the Royal Schools of Church Music (RSMC) Canada, Niagara-Huron Branch.

The RSMC in Canada works to enhance the best use of music in worship, church life, and in our communities. Specifically, the RSMC encourages music-making in general, and singing in particular and it provides training in essential skills for church music leading to development understanding of the role of music in church and worship.

The College of Organists annual meeting featured and acknowledgement of the role of local organ teachers Margita Lange, Brian Sweetman and David Palmer and Master Class teacher Nancy Tapley.

President Paul Wharram also outlined the work RCCO members have done, and will continue to do, to reach out to the community included a Partnership with Canterbury ElderCollege.

ElderCollege's Director, Dr. Lloyd Brown-John, was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation to ElderCollege for its role in offering exciting courses on both organ music and choral work included church

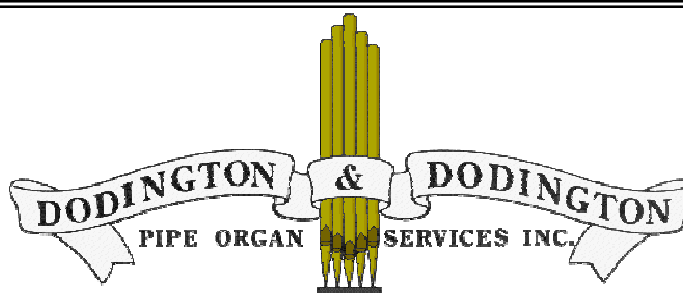


Do You need a Supply

Organist ?

1. Nancy Tapley Nancytapley2@gmail.com
2. Jonathan Kaberuka jkaberuka@live.ca

The Windsor-Essex Centre RCCO provides a list of supply organists available to cover vacations and emergencies but there is currently none available to cover Sunday services. If you are a member or know of a member who would be willing to provide this service, please let us know and we will include their information on our supply list.



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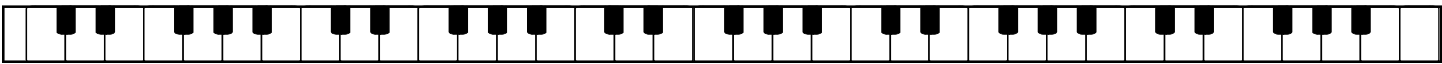
music. Paul Wharram gleefully noted the now famous ElderCollege “Organ Crawl” course which featured organs in several churches in Windsor and Essex College. A Chatham “Organ Crawl” course is being developed for ElderCollege’s next semester.

The Conference included a spectacular dinner prepared by volunteers under the guidance of noted Kingsville Master Chef Diane Yanik. Her team was rousinglly applauded by conference attendees.

Noted Kingsville organist at Epworth United Church and Kingsville Fire Chief Bob Kissner who has participated in one of the RCCO ElderCollege courses in Kingsville, was unable to attend the Conference due to other responsibilities. And, of course, as Mr. Kissner was not available neither was the Fire Department’s favourite mascot Taz available for comment.

The RCCO Conference ended on a high note (perhaps a high organ note!) with an announcement that noted regional organist, Windsor Symphony Orchestra performer and Professor Emeritus from the University of Windsor David Palmer was to be a recipient of a national award for his contribution to the study and promotion of organ music.

Kingsville is fortunate to have such a rich resource of accomplished organs musicians and choral directors. The RCCO annual conference suggested an even more exciting musical future.



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