THE ROYAL CANADIAN COLLEGE OF ORGAN-ISTS LE COLLÈGE ROYAL CANADIEN DES

Quarter Notes

The Royal Canadian College of Organists Windsor Essex Centre Le Collège Royal Canadien des Organistes Centre Windsor Essex

Chatham Corner

The Royal Canadian College of Organists *Chatham Centre* Le Collège royal canadien des organistes *Centre Chatham*

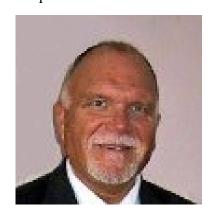
September, 2016

President's Message

The summer months seem to have become a product of memory. And now, those of us involved in teaching, in conducting choirs and leading music programs in churches are trying not to panic as we get our plans and materials in place.

As members of the Windsor Essex Centre we are united by our enthusiasm for organs and organ music. Some of us are teachers, some are composers, many of us are in service to congregations and parishes, and all of us are listeners and aficionados of good music. We all have our own goals, perhaps improving our own skills, deepening our appreciation of what we listen to, or reaching out to students and choir members, congregations or fellow music-lovers. Our Centre can be a rich source of help, resources, support and a place to share your ideas - but only if you bring your needs and ideas forward. Your Executive Committee is planning a varied program of events for the coming year, with opportunities to socialize, to enjoy, to learn, to have fun and to exchange

ideas. As you read about these opportunities in Quarter Notes, mark the dates in your calendar, be engaged and take an active part of the life of our Centre.



Paul Wharram

Upcoming Event

Hymn Sing Festival October 23, 7:30 PM

Living Hope Free Reformed Church

159 Gregory Drive E.

You will be delighted with a festival of favourite hymns for the congregation to sing along. There will be organ solos based on hymn tunes and many local organists including our organ scholarship student will be participating.

There will be a free will offering with the proceeds going to the local food bank.

Quarter Notes and Chatham Corner

Is published 4 times a year by RCCO Windsor Essex Centre

Publication Dates are

September 14- (September 1 deadline)

November 18—(November 5 deadline)

March 9—(March 2 deadline)

June 16—(June 2 deadline)

Contact Dale Burkholder gangalf@live.com to have your events included in our calendar.

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Upcoming Event

Sing Songs and Psalms! - September 25, 2016



Sunday, September 25 – 3:30 pm, Riverside United Church 881 Glidden Ave, Windsor, ON Facilitated Paul Wharram and others and the 25th Annual Spaghetti Dinner

Traditionally, the first event in our fall program has been devoted to choral music. Various formats have been used over the years whether they have been anthem reading sessions and/or the exploration of choral resources. This year, we are adapting a couple of models we introduced a couple of years ago, 'Show and Tell' and 'Tips and Techniques'. Participating members will be asked to each bring a song or a psalm to share with everyone. There has been a lot of interest expressed recently in the singing of Psalms in worship. So, we invite you all to pick at least one psalm (or any other anthem of your choice) and bring copies to share with each other on September 25 at 3:30 pm. Paul Wharram will be coordinating the music and will be in touch with everyone.



Ongoing Event

Organ Meditations at Noontime...



Essex United Church, 53 Talbot St S, Essex from 12 noon until 12:30 pm

Dates and Organists:
September 30 Paul Wharram
October 7 Ron Dossenbach
November 4 Ron Dossenbach

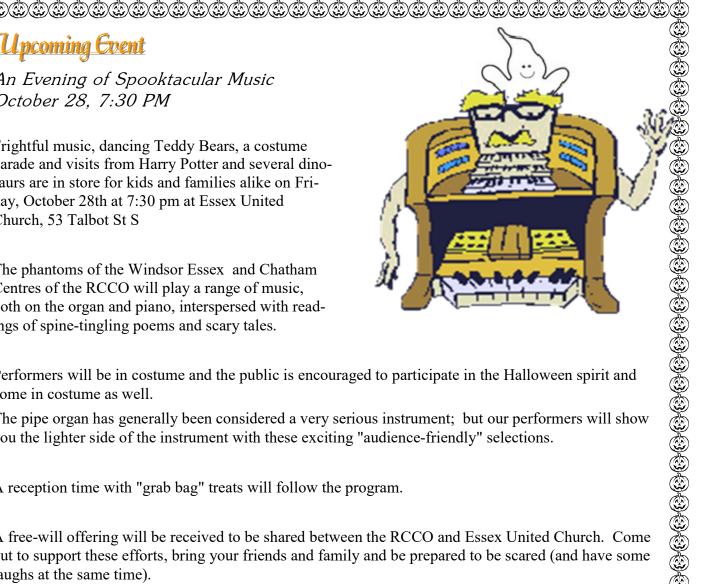
Take some time for yourself...Come and pray... Come and meditate...Come and offer thanks... Come and be quiet...Come and be with God... Come and enjoy!

<u>Upcoming Event</u>

An Evening of Spooktacular Music October 28, 7:30 PM

Frightful music, dancing Teddy Bears, a costume parade and visits from Harry Potter and several dinosaurs are in store for kids and families alike on Friday, October 28th at 7:30 pm at Essex United Church, 53 Talbot St S

The phantoms of the Windsor Essex and Chatham Centres of the RCCO will play a range of music, both on the organ and piano, interspersed with readings of spine-tingling poems and scary tales.



Performers will be in costume and the public is encouraged to participate in the Halloween spirit and come in costume as well.

The pipe organ has generally been considered a very serious instrument; but our performers will show you the lighter side of the instrument with these exciting "audience-friendly" selections.

A reception time with "grab bag" treats will follow the program.

A free-will offering will be received to be shared between the RCCO and Essex United Church. Come out to support these efforts, bring your friends and family and be prepared to be scared (and have some laughs at the same time).



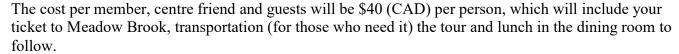
Upcoming Event

Meadow Brook Field Trip and Pipe Organ Encounter November 12, 2016

Plans have been finalized for a field trip to historic Meadow Brook in Rochester, Michigan for a tour of the country estate home of the Dodge and Wilson families, built in the 1920s.

Our tour will include a unique encounter with and demonstration of the magnificent pipe / player organ believed to be the third largest residential organ in

the world. Our hosts and tour guides will be house organist Pete Townsend and his wife Irene.

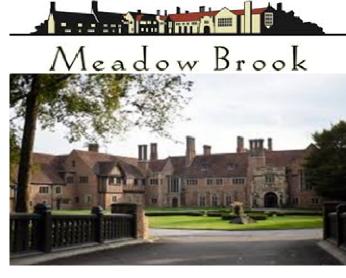


Transportation will be provided in vans to be driven by several of our members departing at 8:30 am from Morris Sutton Funeral Home, 68 Giles Blvd E, Windsor. You must bring your passport!

If you are planning to attend and be part of this exciting field trip, kindly advise Ron Dossenbach by email at dossen54@gmail.com or call him at 519-980-5672 NO LATER THAT OCTOBER 15. We require a minimum of 20 people signed up in advance and the invitation is open to Windsor Essex and Chatham RCCO Centres and their friends. When advising Ron, please indicate if you will be bringing a guest.

Payment can be made to Ben on the day. If you register for the event and do not show are have to cancel, we may still request your \$40 if we fall short of the minimum number. Some members have said they would prefer to drive separately, which is fine provided that we know in advance of your intentions and that you meet us at Meadow Brook by 9:45 am on November 12th.

If you have any questions, contact Ron Dossenbach.



<u> Upcoming Events</u>

Vladimir Soloviev Concerts

On October 9th 3:00 PM, piano soloist Vladimir Soloviev will be featured in a concert at Tecumseh United Church, 333 Lacasse Blvd, Tecumseh, ON.

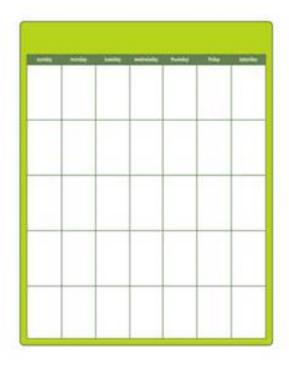
Also on October 13th 7:30 PM at Westminster United Church on Thursday, October 13th, 2016 at 7:30 pm. Admission is \$15, \$10 for students. Tickets may be purchased at the door or by contacting Westminster United Church at 519-258-1471.

Both events will be organized in a similar way as a TED-talk, the lecture-recital will focus on answering the simple question: "What is Classical Music for?" It will explore the aesthetic and humanistic appeal of art through a program of three great pieces of Classical music: Brahms Sonata no.1, op.1, Bach-Busoni Chaconne BWV 1004 and Beethoven Sonata no. 30, op. 109.

During his Undergraduate studies at the University of Western Ontario, Vladimir worked with Professor John-Paul Bracey. He received his Master's Degree at the Eastman School of Music. Vladimir is a Toronto based pianist and has performed music of contemporary Canadian composers, as well as works of Chopin, Liszt and Rachmaninoff."

Festival of Lessons and Carols

November 27, 2016, 7:00 PM Paulin Memorial Presbyterian Church choir with guest accompanists. This year will feature an Advent EvenSong format. Freewill offering.



Christmas Through the Eyes of Children

The County Classic Chorale presents 'Christmas Through the Eyes of Children', Saturday, November 26 at 7:30 pm and Sunday, November 27 at 3:00 featuring the choir of the South Shore Christian School and a performance of Brother Heinrich's Christmas by John Rutter. Location to be announced.

Your event can go here—contact Dale Burkholder at <u>gangalf@live.com</u> with the event details. Our next deadline is November 1.

Pictures wanted Have you taken pictures at an RCCO event? Please send them to Dale Burkholder (gangalf@live.com) to include on our website and in our newsletter.

Mentréal Organ Festival

Joint AGO Northeast Regional & RCCO National Convention







2 - 6 July, 2017

Welcome to Montréal

Highlights include Olivier Latry, Nathan Laube, Cherry Rhodes, the new 116-rank Symphony Hall organ, and much, much more!

Pre-register and Pay Only a \$100 Deposit

The first 500 people to pre-register will receive a complimentary copy of *Te Deum Laudamus*: Volumes One and Two: a collection of Canadian Organ Compositions compiled by the RCCO in tribute to Gerald Bales.

Pre-register today and pick up both volumes at the Montreal Organ Festival in July!

Le Centre Sheraton Montreal Hotel is located in the heart of vibrant downtown Montreal near great restaurants and close to most Montreal Organ Festival events.

For more information go to www.montrealorganfestival.org

What did you do on your summer va-

cation?

By Paul Wharram

During the second week of August, I had a wonderful vacation along the Rhine River travelling from Amsterdam to Basel, Switzerland. As I am sure it is with many of you, I sought ought every opportunity to visit grand cathedrals and learn more about their magnificent pipe organs. Here are four such memorable instruments.

The Basilica of Saint Nicholas is located in the Old Centre district of Amsterdam, Netherlands. It is Amsterdam's major Catholic church.



The Sauer organ (1889) of the St.

Nicholas Church is highlighted annually during the International Organ Concert Series held in the summer months. Renowned organists from the rich Dutch organ playing tradition and from abroad come to Amsterdam to play this fine romantic instrument.

www.muziekindenicolaas.nl/orgeldispositie.html

Cologne Cathedral

Construction of Cologne Cathedral commenced in 1248 and was halted in 1473, leaving it unfinished. Work restarted in the 19th century and was completed, to the original plan, in



1880. The cathedral is the largest Gothic church in Northern Europe and has the second-tallest spires.

The organs of Cologne Cathedral are the major source of instrumental music at the cathedral, being played for daily services and accompanying the choir, as well as being used for concerts and recitals. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cologne Cathedral organs

Strasbourg Cathedral, France

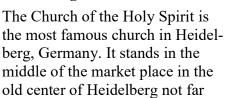
Strasbourg Cathedral de Notre-Dame is known as one of the most beautiful gothic cathedrals in Europe. The Cathedral stands on the exact site of a roman temple built on a little hill above the muddy ground. The first version of the church was starting to be built



during 1015 by proposal of Bishop Werner von Habsburg, but fire destroyed most of the original Romanesque building.

The presence of an organ is attested as early as year 1260. There was also two other instruments built and modified in 1291 and 1327. The oldest sections of the actual organ case are not older than 1385. The bird's nest was built in the same period. It is built in fir and is hung from the wall by a very large vertical oak beam.

Church of the Holy Spirit, Heidelberg





from the Heidelberg Castle. The steeple of the church, rising above the roofs, dominates the town. <u>kirchenmusik-heidelberg.de/orgel</u>

J Feel the Winds

RCCO Organ Festival, Kingston, Ontario, July 11-14, 2016
By David Palmer

30 years ago, Kingston Centre hosted the national convention, and this year decided it was time to do it again. They took as their theme Kingston's lovely location on Lake Ontario, stroked by its breezes, and evoked generally by Jessie Adams in her hymn, "I feel the winds of God today." The town crier welcomed us the first morning on the steps of St. George's Cathedral, to treaty lands of First Nations people. I had the good fortune to attend with my wife Lonnie. The setting was perfect: sunshine (albeit quite warm), an elegantly organized convention, and very hospitable hosts.

The gathering had special significance for us of Windsor Essex Centre. Ron Dossenbach was there to receive two qualifications: the Service Playing Certificate and the diploma of Colleague of the Royal Canadian College of Organists. He crowned this achievement by winning the Kathleen Williams Scholarship (\$400) for highest marks in the Colleague exam. Another two of our members were awarded their Service Playing Certificates: Jonathan Kaberuka and Paul Wharram. I was proud to witness all these recognitions.

The College congratulated its new President, Peter Bishop, and Vice-Presidents, Chellan Hoffman (Calgary) and Rafael de Castro (Montreal) at the Annual General Meeting and at the Convocation.

The planning committee presented up-and-coming performers for the concerts. At the top of memorable ones is Isabelle Demers, a young Canadian who is nothing short of a phenomenon. Her completely memorized recital on the large organ of St. George's Cathedral brought the house down. Her commission of a new piece from Canadian composer Rachel Laurin featured 20 minutes of an astoundingly virtuosic set of variations for pedals alone, based on the tune, "In the Good Old Summertime", which Baylor University (where she teaches) holds as its fight song. It was difficult to believe one's eyes as we watched (and listened) to her transcription of the "Festival at Baghdad" from Rimsky-Korsakoff's Scheherezade.

Toronto organist Rachel Mahon, who has just completed two years as an Assistant Organist at St. Paul's Cathedral in London, UK, gave an exciting program with an English accent at Bridge Street United Church in Belleville, including music by Stanford, Whitlock and Healey Willan (Canadian by adoption, as we know).

Brilliant young organist from Germany, Felix Hell, put his touring Rodgers organ through its paces in demanding music by Bach, Reger and Liszt. The setting was the stunning new Isabel Bader Centre on the Queen's University campus.

The Capital Chamber Choir, a relatively new group from Ottawa, conducted by Jamie Loback, enthralled everyone with tight blend, easy soaring sounds and great expressivity. Their performance in St. George's Cathedral of some difficult works included several premieres.

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

Patrick Wedd, the renowned Canadian organist and church musician accompanied the Boys and Men from Christ Church Cathedral in Ottawa, led by Matthew Larkin, in the college service, a full-blown Anglican evensong. A moving experience of gorgeous singing, organ playing and eloquent preaching from Rev. Sherman Hesselgrave, our RCCO chaplain, nevertheless made me wonder why we don't have other denominational styles of liturgy represented more often in our conventions.

Excellent workshops, an exciting version of the annual organ academy for young students and a lunch-time cruise amid the Thousand Islands and completed the variety of events. If you haven't attended a national convention, plan now to do so, especially for the Montreal Organ Festival, July 2-7, 2017. This promises to be an exciting and landmark event, co-sponsored with the American Guild of Organists—Northeast Region, with international artists playing an unparalleled array of superb organs. As well, you'll have an opportunity to get to know your organist-church music colleagues from all parts of the continent.

From the Membership Chair

To all Centre Friends: we hope you've had a refreshing summer, and look forward very much to your being a part of centre activities this coming year. The Annual Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, September 25 at Riverside United Church is a good time to submit your dues (\$30). See you there!

New Executive Committee Member

Henry Boon

Henry Boon was born in a small town in a northern province of The Netherlands.

At a young age he attended organ recitals in a local church, which happened to house an organ build by the famous German organ builder, Arp Schnitger.

After immigrating to Canada, Henry studied piano and organ, the latter with David Ourchterlony at Timothy Eaton Memorial in Toronto. After moving to Windsor he continued organ studies with Gordon Young in Detroit, while studying harmony and counterpoint at the Detroit Institute of Musical Arts with Albert Filmore.

In 1973, Henry graduated from the University of Windsor with a Bachelor of Music and a year later with a Bachelor of Education. Henry taught instrumental and vocal music at Assumption High School for 25 years.

In 2009, Henry came in first out of 76 submissions in the "Great Canadian Hymn Writing Competition," sponsored by the Pax Christi Chorale in Toronto, with a composition entitled: "I Heard that God was Power." In 2014 and 2015, Henry won awards with two seasonal compositions: "The Wondrous Story," and "Do Not Be Afraid," sponsored by the Amadeus choir of Toronto, under direction of Dr. Lydia Adams. Henry's wife, Susan, wrote the lyrics for each composition. Henry Boon is currently music director at Tecumseh United Church. His favorite pastimes are walking on the Green Way, traveling, reading, visiting with friends and, of course, composing.

An Evening with Cameron

<u>Carpenter</u>

By Henry Boon

Last April, I was in Toronto to see and hear Cameron Carpenter play his Marshall & Ogletree digital "International Touring Organ." The venue was Koerner Hall which, as you know, is located right next to the Royal Conservatory, at Bloor and Avenue road.

Carpenter is a controversial organist in that he has often regarded the pipe organ as something from "another culture" and, perhaps because he is an atheist, has little regard for the institution of the church. In addition, the average musician would have difficulty with his interpretation of most of the music he plays since, in many instances, he completely disregards the suggested dynamics and often inserts notes that are completely foreign to the written score. His mohawk haircut and silk suit - the latter was changed into a t-shirt and denim slacks after the intermission - would likely not sit all that well with the purist.

That having been said, it is difficult to not respect his views and philosophy on music, and his enthusiasm for the digital organ is shared by many. But the aspect of his artistry that is most amazing is his technical prowess on the keyboard. The recital offered no specific program since Carpenter himself introduced each selection with a short explanation as to the reason for his approach to the work. Talk about dynamic variety in range and power. One moment one could "feel" the bass sounds produced by eight refrigerator size woofers, while midranges and tweeters were contained in a battery of speakers which were distributed in a large arc across the entire width of the stage. The five manual console as easily was transformed into a theatre organ while Bach was performed with sounds that resembled the finest Baroque organs in northern Europe. The development and construction of the organ was a close collaboration between Carpenter and Marshall & Ogletree.



His final selection was the Passacaglia & Fugue by Bach. We all know the considerable challenge it takes to perform this work. Cameron Carpenter played the Passacaglia at a tempo that was similar to most performances. However, the fugue was something different all together. The tempo was faster than any I've heard prior to this performance and the totally amazing ornamentation this man inserts, creating entirely new elements, elevated the piece to totally new heights. Instead of keeping the registration constant, Carpenter's use of the enormous range of sounds was widely displayed in the fugue.

At the conclusion of the concert, the audience broke into spontaneous cheering and whistling and gave Carpenter three standing ovations, which meant that we got two encores. Controversial as he may be, Carpenter is a force to be reckoned with in the world of organs and organists!

It has been said that E Power Biggs did much to bring the pipe organ to the masses, while Pavarotti did much the same for the opera. I believe Cameron Carpenter is well on the way to bring the organ - albeit digital - to greater prominence and popularity.

What I wouldn't give to bring a hall full of young musicians to one of his concerts.

Some Takeaways from the AJO National Convention

By: Ron Dossenbach, Organ Advisor

A few weeks ago, I was fortunate to attend the American Institute of Organbuilders national convention in Boston. As a member, I have attended several of their symposiums, but this was my first convention. If Montreal is the premier organ city in Canada, then Boston surely is the American premier organ city counterpart.

Organ crawls abounded, featuring amazing concert organists displaying their instruments' wide tonal capabilities. The lectures helped us organbuilder types expand our scope of experience. All well and good, but what about the takeaways that may be of interest to organists?

Although the presence of the organ in today's culture is on the decline, it is by no means out. New organs are being commissioned every year, just not as many as in the past. What IS on the increase is the number of organ relocation projects.

Many of our churches are in trouble, either closing or combining with neighboring congregations. This is stranding many fine organs in buildings that are either closed or the organ is not used by the new occupants. Lincoln Road United, the former Our Lady of the Rosary, and St. Andrews Presbyterian are some local examples. There are over 500 such stranded organs in North America with the number steadily growing. The industry has adapted to relocate some of these instruments to new homes. Some firms do nothing but this kind of work. It allows a church to get a "new" instrument at a fraction of the cost of a new one.

Another trend is the increasing popularity of early 20th century organs, especially those that have remained unchanged tonally. It was not so long ago that churches with these old "dull" instruments had a hard time finding an organist that would want to play the old behemoths. Today, there are reports of builders who have been requested to undo the changes made through the years and return these instruments to something closer to their original state.

Often, an instrument is simply cleaned, releathered where necessary, and tonally refinished with due time and effort. Many older churches were installed rather cheaply and quickly with little profit margin. As a result, the pipes were often never given the large amount of time necessary to make each rank of pipes have the correct balance of tone and volume needed for clear and beautiful music. (The famous Roales Disney Organ in Anaheim CA took 2,00 hours of on site tonal finishing.) Many instruments were transformed from producing a thick wall of loud, dull foggy sound to an organ that became exquisitely balanced, with stops that blended without the sound becoming too thick.

One final item. The Boston Symphony Hall houses a big Aeolian Skinner which was in dire need of an overhaul. The \$1 Million plus project returned the instrument to the lovely symphonic instrument it once was. One benefactor underwrote the cost. Afterward, someone else asked about the maintenance fund, the scarcity of which allowed the instrument to need such herculean rescue work in the first place. That person donated the same amount as the rebuilding project for regular upkeep through the years. To organbuilders and organists alike, hallelujah!

De-Mystifying MJDJ

Part 1

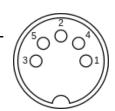
By: Dale Burkholder

Since 1982, the world of music has been changed by 4 little letters MIDI. No doubt you have heard these letters talked about but like many people, they mean nothing. I hope to share some of my knowledge of MIDI and how it relates to the world of organs in the next coming issues of Quarter Notes.

MIDI stands for Musical Instrument Digital Interface. Yeah, like that helped. Basically it is a way for musical instruments to communication with each other using compters.

So how do I know if I have MIDI? For most (if not all) digital pianos you will have 2 or 3 connectors that are the size of a nickel and have 5 pins in it. By using a special cable your keyboard can talk with another musical instrument.

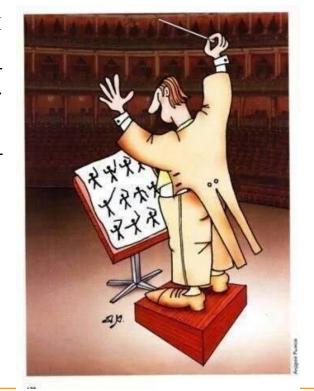
For newer organ consoles you will have a small screen (about 4 inches wide) in the console. When you turn on the organ it will say something like "Classic Organs", "Peterson Instruments", "Rodgers", "Allen", or "Johannus". In this case the controller is integrated into the console so they work together seamlessly.



Ok so I have MIDI why would I use it? I have used MIDI to "accompany my

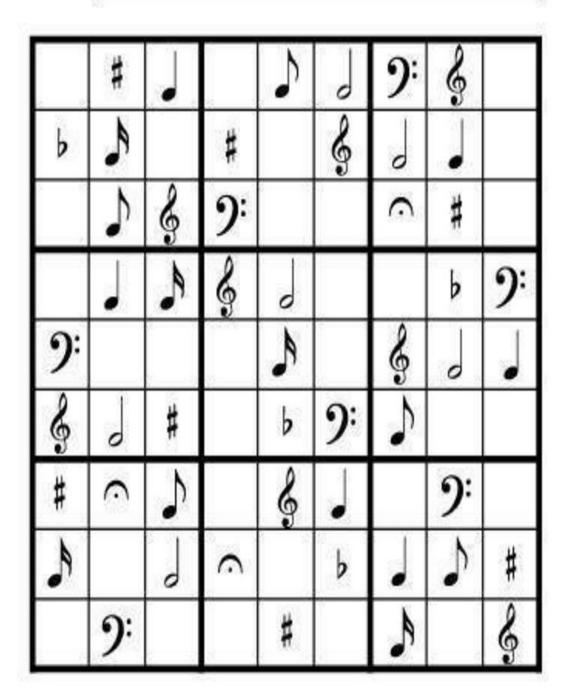
choir". By "pre-recording" the accompaniment I can push a button on my laptop and it plays the organ so I can stand and be the conductor. Paul Wharram does the same thing but with his early Sunday worship service. I can also play piano/organ duets with must me. I can even play the Boellman Tocatta (ok that maybe cheating). I can also include other instruments like drums, violins, piano, etc in my music. The possibilities are limited by your imagination and instruments available.

Next issue I will go over terms that you will need to know.



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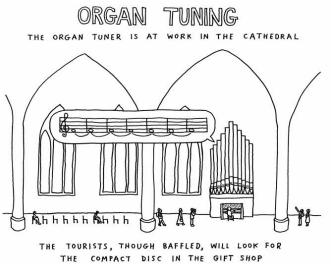
Church Organist/Choir Director Opening

Bedford United Church, Windsor (<u>www.bedfordunited.ca</u>) has a vacancy for permanent Organist / Choir Director.

Bedford is completely wheelchair accessible on both floors, including washrooms. Special wireless headsets are also available for the hearing impaired.

A committee has been set up to review applications and organize auditions for a permanent organist and choir director.

For more information and if you are interested in applying for this position (or know of someone who might be), direct your inquires to Linda Smith, Chair of the M&P Committee at this email address - llsmith@uwindsor.ca



<u>Do You need a Supply</u>

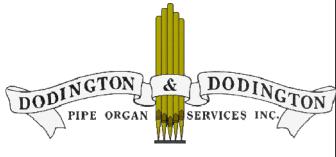
Organist?

The Windsor Essex Centre RCCO provides a list of supply organists available to cover vacations and emergencies including 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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