



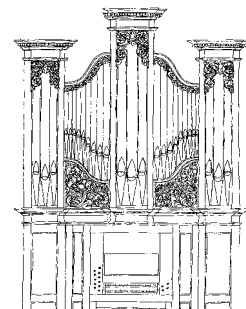
THE ROYAL CANADIAN COLLEGE OF ORGAN-
ISTS
LE COLLÈGE ROYAL CANADIEN DES
ORGANISTES

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*



November, 2016

President's Message



Paul Wharram

With Advent and Christmas just around the corner, I am sure you are all actively involved in planning special music, services and concerts

for the season. This season is always exciting for me, exploring new music, interpreting the familiar and traditional and above all, sharing music of all kinds with singers, parishioners and other music lovers. It is my hope that in the hustle and bustle, in the hours of preparation and practice and in the excitement of sharing and performing, we all find joy and contentment. May this Christmas bring you happiness and good health!

I'd like to follow up on a matter that was introduced to you at the AGM last June. You will recall a recommendation was made that the Windsor Essex

Centre aim to maximize its communication with members by creating a working group to assess current practices, explore means of expanding our website and social media and bring recommendations back to the Executive Committee.

Here's an update. Given the importance of this matter, the executive committee decided to assume responsibility for this initiative itself; and to this end, members have already completed a questionnaire and responded to these questions:

- Who are the target audiences of the RCCO Windsor Essex Centre?
- What topics and sources of information are most important to them?
- ♪ In what ways can we be of service to our audiences?
- ♪ What types of content support our goals and objectives?
- ♪ What should be our social media goals and objectives?
- ♪ What social media platforms are available to us and at what cost, if any?
- ♪ Should RCCO Windsor Essex have a

presence in all popular social media networks? (all inclusive)

Members of the committee are currently reviewing the results, the trends and themes and have been tasked with drafting 3 or 4 change objectives to be presented at the next executive meeting. We hope to be in a position to share our thoughts and suggestions in a future newsletter. In the meantime, however, the results of a national 'mini' survey regarding the publication Organ Canada have been received by the National Council. Following is a synopsis:

The overall response rate was 28%, which is considered excellent when compared to the industry norm. (Thank you to all from our Centre who participated in the survey.) Six content types were rated and then

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.

Executive Committee

Windsor Essex Centre

President

PAUL WHARRAM, paul.wharram@gmail.com

Past President & Membership

DAVID PALMER, dpalmer@uwindsor.ca

Treasurer

BEN SCHINKEL, organ@start.ca

Communications

DALE BURKHOLDER gangalf@live.com

Secretary

JEAN LOWDEN jel_09@bell.net

Organ Advisor

RON DOSSENBACH dossen54@gmail.com

Scholarships

HENRY BOON hlboon@cogeco.ca

Executive Committee

Chatham Centre

President: NANCY TAPLEY

Vice President: HARRY ROFFEL

Secretary/Treasurer: KEITH GROEN

Membership : DON POLE

Publicity: SANDRA BARNES

& HARRY ROFFEL

Upcoming Event

Pedals, Pipes and Pizza—March 14, 2017

An introduction to the pipe organ
for young people:

- ♫ How does the pipe organ work?
- ♫ How does it make its sounds?
- ♫ What does it feel like to play?

Tuesday, March 14, 2017 10:00
am to 12:20 pm

Epworth United Church – Kings-
ville

56 Division Road South, Kingsville



Facilitators: Paul Wharram
Bob Kissner, David Palmer
and Ron Dossenbach

For information, call (519)
712-8972 or email
paul.wharram@gmail.com

Nancy's New Toy!!!

Nancy Tapley, President of the Chatham RCCO Centre is hosting a evening at her home to introduce her new digital Hauptwerk organ on Friday December 2 at 7:30 pm. The address is 17 Stanley Ave. in Chatham and Nancy's phone number is 519-354-0463 . Refreshments will be served and guests are invited to bring some wine or other drinks if you wish. Please let Nancy know in advance if you plan to attend.

(Continued on page 3)



Upcoming Event

Essex County Organ Crawl-May 16, 23, 2017

HOT OFF THE PRESS!

We are pleased to confirm an **Essex County Organ Crawl** in collaboration with ElderCollege.

What? Essex County has a number of excellent church organs. This program provides an opportunity for anyone interested in pipe organs to discover the valuable heritage of the 'King of Instruments' in our community. Participants will learn about how a pipe organ works and explore parts of organs not generally accessible. Participants will visit three churches/venues in each session to hear about the design of the organ and its unique characteristics, to hear music played, and if desired, have an opportunity to play the instruments. Sites are located in close proximity and can be easily accessed in some cases on foot. Participants are responsible for their own transportation and will be provided with driving instructions at the first session.

When? Tuesday, May 16, and Tuesday, May, 23, 2017 – 1:30 – 4:30 pm

Where? May 16 - In Leamington: **St. John's Anglican Church**, 60 Erie Street North; **First Baptist Church**, 3 Fox Street; and **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**, 311 Sherk Street, and on May 23 - In Essex and Harrow: **Christian Reformed Church**, 276 Talbot Street South, Essex; **Essex United Church**, 53 Talbot Street South Essex; and **Harrow United Church**, 45 Munger Avenue East, Harrow

Who: RCCO Members and Centre Friends can participate at no cost. The organ crawl is open to the public (i.e. over 55 years old) who register through ElderCollege. There will be an administrative fee for non-RCCO members or centre friends.

What else? The details of the organ crawl have not yet been released to the public-at-large. So stay informed through our website, Facebook page or ElderCollege at <http://www1.uwindsor.ca/canterbury/eldercollege>

(Continued from page 2)

What's a Hauptwerk Organ?

Hauptwerk is an advanced computer organ system - a virtual pipe organ that takes full advantage of the enormous processing power of the latest computers to provide very complex pipe organ modeling and per-pipe sound shaping, while maintaining the enormous polyphony necessary to model a pipe organ successfully. At its core, Hauptwerk is a powerful and high-performance specialist software sampler, specifically designed and optimized for modeling pipe organs through the use of MIDI. <https://www.hauptwerk.com>.

Upcoming Event

Windsor Essex Social RCCO and Pot Luck Dinner-Saturday, February 18, 2017

Our president, Paul Wharram will host our annual February potluck at his home in Kingsville.

The theme of the evening, with emphasis on the organ and organ music, will be 'How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.'

More details to follow. Mark your calendars now.

How do I love thee?

Upcoming Events

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. Free-will offering.

Your event can go here—contact Dale Burkholder at gangalf@live.com 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.




A Unique Visual Choral Concert

The County Classic Chorale—November 26 and 27

The County Classic Chorale will bring to its audiences a truly memorable concert event on November 26 and 27 in Leamington when it presents Christmas through the Eyes of Children. The 60-member community choir will be joined by the South Shore Christian School choir resulting in 80 voices singing a program of well-known carols and choral classics of the season. The featured work will be John Rutter's narrated fable Brother Heinrich's Christmas, the story of a singing donkey and angels. During each performance, art work drawn by the school's students will be shown depicting the music as imagined by the children. The children's choir is under the direction of Elaine Penner, who is also the school's principal and the accompanist of the County Classic Chorale. Joining as guest performers will be oboist Lynne Marie Mangan from Michigan and bassoonist Robert Hutson from London, Ontario. The concerts will be held at Leamington United Church, 9 John Street at 7:30 pm on Saturday, November 26 and 3:00 pm on Sunday, November 27. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for children and are available at the door or in advance from chorale members. For more information, see the chorale's website at <http://www.countyclassicchorale.com> or on Face Book <https://www.facebook.com/countyclassicchorale>.

THE COUNTY CLASSIC CHORALE PRESENTS

Christmas Through the Eyes of Children



Director Paul Wharram
Accompanist Elaine Penner

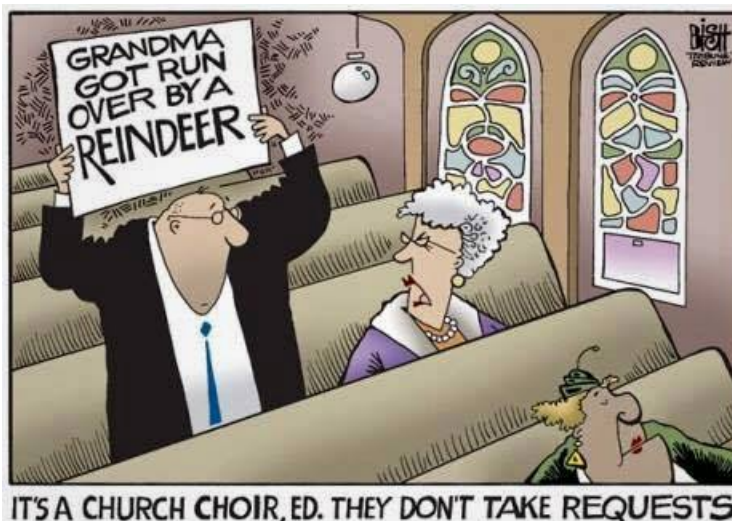
Featuring
South Shore Christian School Children's Choir,
John Rutter's "Brother Heinrich's Christmas"

Saturday, November 26 - 7:30 pm
Sunday, November 27 - 3:00 pm

Leamington United Church
9 John Street, Leamington, ON

Tickets: Adults \$12 | Students \$6

Available in advance at Wharram's Jewellery, Thomson Pharmacy in Leamington and from the singers.
www.countyclassicchorale.com



Essex United Church Hosts Halloween-Themed Evening

by Shelby Hernandez and Paul Wharram

Members of Essex United Church hosted 'An Evening of Spooktacular Music,' a haunting Halloween event last Friday evening. Members of the community were invited to participate in all the activities the event offered in the church basement.

In the celebration of the event, a Halloween spectacle, the church members dressed in costume and many of the audience members were, too. In addition to a costume parade, prizes and Halloween candy were available.

There were also performances of all kinds, including singers, scary stories, poetry, and piano recitals; but the main source of entertainment was the organists.



The Windsor Essex and Chatham Centres of the Royal Canadian College of Organists (RCCO) played a wide range of spooky tunes meant to engage the audience and make them see the organ in a much different way. "The organ is a grand instrument, it's an instrument that's been around for hundreds of hundreds of years and not many people are familiar with what the instrument can do, except perhaps when they go to church and they hear it accompanying the choir and accompanying the hymns," Paul Wharram, the President of the Windsor Essex Centre for the RCCO, said. "The organ has a much more diverse sound to it that many people aren't aware of, so this is an opportunity to make the

organ a little bit more user-friendly and a little bit more relatable to the general public.

Many selections were played during the event, including a Teddy Bear Picnic, a few Harry Potter selections, as well as tunes from television shows. Particularly for the television shows, the audience was told they could guess aloud what theme song was being played. The packed audience took full advantage of that opportunity.

Here's a summary of the program: Bach's Toccata in D Minor and Hal Hopson's Processional in C (Nancy Tapley); Potter's Pieces (Brian Sweetman), Grand Jeu from Michael Corrette's Suite du 2e ton (Dale Burkholder); the Teddy Bear's Picnic (Carmen Danner and Paul Wharram); Terrifying TV Tunes (Ron Dossenbach); The Phantom Meets the Great Pumpkin (Jean Lowden); Dinosauria by Robin Dinda (David Palmer and Carmen Danner); Spooky Boogy Woogy (Henry Boon) and Toccata from Boellmann's Suite Gothique (David Palmer). Interspersed throughout the program were several Cat Paws (read by Susan Sweetman) and A Halloween Bedtime Story (Maureen Chandler).

"It's something different because people think of organ music as either dull or funeral-like, but none of the pieces tonight will be that," Susan Tuck-Sweetman with the church said. "It's just fun, happy stuff and scary

(Continued on page 7)



(Continued from page 6)

stuff and spooky stuff. It's a different look at music in the church. The congregation audience can also say church music isn't boring or the organists aren't just boring. They can play other things."

The event was a free-will offering event, making it so anyone could attend. In fact, representatives from the Downtown Mission were present, making it one of their many stops during a field trip they were on that day. All funds from the event went to two specific causes: the RCCO education fund and the Essex United Church roof campaign.



The RCCO fund in particular goes towards scholarships the RCCO gives out for young pianists learning how to play the organ. These scholarships give ten free lessons to these pianists.

Susan and Brian Sweetman did a marvellous job of planning and organizing the evening, which was very well attended by church members, community groups and RCCO folks. A huge thank you to all the organizers, contributors, ushers and attendees.



Windsor-Essex goes on a field trip!

Meadowbrook Hall-November 12

By Ron Dossenbach



On Saturday, November 12, a group of 19 RCCO Windsor-Essex members and guests traveled in two minivans and three cars to Rochester, MI to tour Meadow Brook Hall, one of America's largest private homes. John and Horace Dodge were master machinists in the pioneering days of the automobile. John planned a huge mansion in Gosse Pointe, and ordered a massive Aeolian player pipe organ for it. But he died in 1920 from the Spanish Flu pandemic. Matilda Dodge halted construction, but Aeolian insisted on delivering the organ regardless, and it was put into storage in Michigan in late 1920. Matilda remarried in 1925 and later built Meadow Brook Hall in Rochester.



The organ was refitted to it in 1929. The 76 rank instrument is the third largest residence organ in America. All of the over 4,000 pipes are hidden from view, located in the basement under the living room floor and in the third and fourth floor recesses. The console is located in a small alcove, so the organist's activities would not detract from the conversations in the living room. At MBH, the organ, either played by roll or hand, often served as an incidental music jukebox, in an age before either stereo systems or jukeboxes. It is not as thunderingly powerful as one might suspect. Matilda wanted, and received, background music.



But the 88,000 square foot house is in the "Downton Abbey" category. With ornate wood and plaster carving everywhere, the organ can be easily missed. But several of us had a chance at the open console. This historic instrument is unaltered and mostly functional.

We also enjoyed a sumptuous roast chicken breast luncheon at the house on tablecloths with first class wait staff. The house, organ, and meal impressed all of us. As they say, a good time was had by all.



Hymn Sing Festival A Success

By Nancy Tapley RCCO Chatham-Kent Center president

The Chatham-Kent Center held a Hymn Sing festival event at Living Hope Free Reform Church in October. The program gave our center an opportunity to tell people the purpose of the RCCO and our scholarship program in order to raise the RCCO profile in our area. Seven local members of the RCCO played one or two favourite hymns each for the congregation to sing along. There were also some variations and improvisations on hymn tunes as well.

There were over 150 people in attendance and \$750 was raised for the local food bank. The evening was a great success and many attendees asked if we would make it an annual event.



Jan S. Van Der Stad

and Associates

Professional Pipe Organ Services

new and rebuilt pipe organs

tuning and maintenance

additions and augmentations

www.vanderstad.ca

Post Office Box 527
Norwich, ON N0J 1P0

519-608-2377
info@vanderstad.ca



Quality Homes
Renovations &
Additions

(519) 776-7200

Should it be Saved or

Junked?

By: Ron Dossenbach, Organ Advisor

Often a church is faced with a daunting task - should an old, possibly failing pipe organ be brought back to good working condition, or should it be replaced?

The answer: it depends!

On a lot of factors. First, is the instrument a good one? There are examples of wonderful organs with great historical and musical worth, and there are some that are not good instruments, never were, and never will be. These perhaps do not merit the effort of saving them. In most cases it takes a level of expertise that is only found in the organ building industry to make such a determination. A church board cannot be expected to make the best decision without help from a professional.

Fortunately, most pipe organs are built by reputable builders with a life expectancy of 100 years or more. This is why church architects have for decades recommended 15% of the cost of the building to go toward the pipe organ. (Sounds like a lot, doesn't it?) This practice is now all but forgotten. It goes without saying this is a huge outlay of funds. It is no surprise that many churches opt for electronic instruments that typically cost a fraction of the cost of a pipe organ but usually last about one quarter as long, and also with a compromise in sound quality.

Back to the old pipe organ that needs work. The cost of restoration is almost certainly less than a new organ, and definitely less and an electronic replacement. What to do?

An organ consultant can determine the state of the organ and advise the church as to its quality, current state, and provide a ballpark estimate of the work

needed.

Usually, pipe organs are worth saving. These instruments are often part of the heritage of the church. The forefathers worked hard to raise the very expensive funds to acquire it in the first place. Yet many organs today have fallen victim to a lack of maintenance over the years. Many of our churches are having difficulty with expenses, and it is the organ that so often gets left out of the budget. The organ usually purrs along for years without complaint, but then several elements of the instrument will need repair, making the cost exorbitant.

But a sense of perspective can help. If the restoration costs are viewed in a similar way the cost of a new building or annex is viewed (the long view many years down the road, something for future generations) it begins to make more sense. In this area, we lag behind the Europeans. There are many examples of buildings centuries old, and some pipe organs are nearly as old, in good condition. But not by accident. At certain points in their pasts, these churches faced major building and organ expenses to maintain what is enjoyed today.

Sometimes, it only takes one person with a strong belief in the long term mission of the church to make an otherwise prohibitive investment possible.





De-Mystifying MIDI

Part 2

By: Dale Burkholder

There is an old saying in the world of computer programmers, “When a programming language is created that allows programmers to program in simple English, it will be discovered that programmers cannot speak English.”

Anyone who has tried to read a MIDI manual knows what I mean by that quote. This issue I will try to translate terms that MIDI folk use into “organ speak”.

Module or device. This is one of the electronic devices that uses MIDI. It can be the console, a laptop, the record/play/save pistons on your manuals, an external box (like MX200, etc).

Master or Controller. This is the device which directs the other devices. There is one and only one controller. Think choir director, there is only one.

Slave. Any number of devices which react to the Master.

Now before I go on—depending on what is happening the role of Master/Slave can change. For example when I am recording to my laptop—the organ console is the Master. When I am replaying the recording the laptop is the Master.

Channel or track. Each device has the ability to play on 16 channels. Think of an old style choral anthem where the sopranos channel 1, altos channel 2, tenors channel 3, basses channel 4, swell organ channel 5, great organ channel 6, pedals channel 7. Each channel has its own “sound” and purpose. But when you look from top to bottom each channel plays at the same time. There is no “rule” for assigning channels except Channel 10 is usually the rhythm section and Channel 16 is for non-musical instructions.

Tone. The sound produced by that channel—Think the registration of the Great as opposed to the registration of the Swell which is different from the registration of the pedals.

Velocity. The volume of the note. This is a number between 0 and 127. 0 is not heard at all, 127 is as loud as you can play the note. **Expression.** Is the overall volume of the channel.

Tempo. The speed of the piece. I like to record at a very slow speed for accuracy, then set the tempo to the correct speed. The pitch of the notes are not changed.

Next issue I will talk about how this comes together with Classic Organ Controllers.

Do You need a Supply 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.

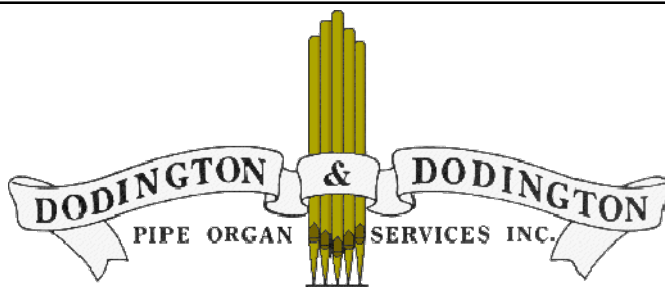
COLDWELL BANKER



J.C. Marsden
Realty

Brokerage
3200 Electricity Drive
Second floor
Office: 519-966-3338 ext 106
Direct: 519-996-1049
mikericketts@coldwellbanker.ca

MICHAEL RICKETTS,
Sales Representative



9321 RICHMOND ROAD, RR1 C#2
AYLMER, ON N5H 2S1
Phone: 519.866.3734 Fax: 519.773.9603
Email: dodington@dodington.com

**Responsible for the regular tuning and maintenance
of over 300 instruments in south-western Ontario**

**Services include—tuning — voicing — cleaning —
releathering—solid state conversions—relocations -
New and used additions—new organs from Casa-
vant Freres**

Visit us on the Web at
www.dodington.com



Joel VanderZee

891 Guelph St., Unit 106
Kitchener, ON Canada
N2Y 5Z2

519-584-0882

joel@vanderzeeorgans.com