



Quarter Notes



THE ROYAL CANADIAN COLLEGE OF ORGANISTS
LE COLLÈGE ROYAL CANADIEN DES ORGANISTES

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

Chatham Corner

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



Summer 2020

President's Report

I am happy to be able to submit this report after a leave of absence from the RCCO. My first priority is to thank all of the members of the Windsor Essex Centre for their kind words of encouragement and get well wishes. I am feeling great these days and am looking forward to working once again with the Executive Committee and you in the months and years ahead.

I want to also thank the members of the Executive Committee who covered for me during my absence. It speaks to the commitment of each member to a standard of excellence and leadership in our programming.

Particular thanks are extended to David Palmer for being the Acting President. Since starting the Windsor RCCO Centre as a Student Centre in the 1980's, David has never waived in providing sound advice, wise counsel, and a personal interest in all of our members, students and centre friends. He has been immensely generous with this time and resources.

Although David is stepping down from an official role on the Executive Committee, he has accepted to be an ex-officio member going forward, for which we are all deeply appreciative.

We are very excited to welcome Karen Price to our executive. Karen is originally from Windsor and most recently was in Toronto where she was the Membership Convener for the Toronto RCCO Centre. Karen has accepted the role of Membership Chair in our Centre and we are looking forward to learning from her and working with her. Karen would like to connect with each of our members and friends, to say hello and get acquainted. You can look forward to hearing from her in the near future.

On June 5, we held our Annual General Meeting online via Zoom. Although it was a new experience for us, the meeting ran efficiently (after a couple of technical glitches getting started). If you have not read the 2019-2020 Annual Report, I recommend you do so as soon as you can. It is both a thorough review of the last year and filled with interesting information.

These are indeed unprecedented times that we are living through. We do not know how the restrictions related to this pandemic will impact us. It is uncertain when/if and under what circumstances we will be able to gather together in workshops, have anthem readings or for that matter, sponsor public concerts.

We do know that nationally, the RCCO is looking at how we can rebrand the organization and reposition us more appropriately with organists, young musicians, lovers of organ music and the public at large. This will

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Quarter Notes and Chatham Corner

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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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& HARRY ROFFEL

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be exciting, and I hope that all of you will work closely with our executive as we move into the future.

One of the things that the pandemic and self-isolation has taught me is the importance of connectivity and communication. We take this for granted at the best of times; but it is in times of uncertainty that we must work harder staying connected and actively talking and listening to one another.

I am committing myself to keep communication and connectivity at the forefront of our planning and programming recognizing that I can't do this alone, nor can the executive be the sole owners of this priority. More than ever, we need your ideas and suggestions, your volunteer spirit to lend a hand, and your active engagement in all of our activities.

Lastly, I wish to acknowledge that David and Lonnie will be relocating sometime soon to Canada's west coast. All of us have been touched in some way by David's leadership, kindness, and encouragement. We are planning to recognize him and say farewell at an event or activity in the near future. Obviously the type and timing of this will depend on the lifting of gathering restrictions; but we will keep you informed.

Have a safe and enjoyable
summer.

Paul Wharram



Organ Festival Canada Goes Digital

We are delighted to announce the launch of Organ Festival Canada Online! The Online Festival will feature 4 concerts originally scheduled to take place at Organ Festival Canada 2020 in Victoria, B.C. Concerts will be posted on the RCCO's Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/RCCO.ca>) page at 7:30 pm EDT from Monday, July 6 to Thursday, July 9, 2020.

Each live-streamed concert will be professionally recorded and beautifully filmed to show this great instrument in its best light, from multiple angles. Presentations range from a short premiere by beloved west-coast composer, Denis Bédard (10 minutes), to an hour-long transcription of Holst's "The Planets."

The concerts are centered around four universal themes – Earth, Heavens, Creation, and Navigation – and feature acclaimed organists Denis Bédard, Donald Hunt, Mark McDonald and David Stratkauskas. The festival also features new music by Canadian composer, sculptor and keyboardist, Kim Farris-Manning and Canadian composer and organist, Denis Bédard, who celebrates his 70th birthday this year.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Christ Church Cathedral in Victoria, BC, Holy Rosary Cathedral in Vancouver, BC and St. John the Divine Anglican Church in Victoria, BC for their assistance in the production of these performances.

Admission is free or by donation.

Please click here to access the streams. (<https://www.facebook.com/RCCO.ca>)

Please click here if you would like to make a donation. (<https://rcco.ca/page-18408>)



Membership Renewals are now due



RCCO memberships were to have been renewed by June 1st. However, this year, because of the impact that the pandemic has had on our lives, the National Council has decided to extend the renewal date for the foreseeable future. Although no deadlines have been established, everyone is encouraged to go to the RCCO National Website and follow the online instructions for payment of dues. Let's maintain our Centre's Membership numbers or better yet, increase them by encouraging new members.

Report from National Council

June 27, 2020

A number of note-worthy items were discussed in the Zoom National Council Meeting that are being brought to your attention at this time.

Hamilton RCCO Conference

The Hamilton Centre has been named as the host of the 2021 Organ Festival, scheduled for July 11 – 19, 2021. It is uncertain at this time what format the festival will take and whether restrictions re size of gatherings will be still in place. In the near future, the organizing committee will be reaching out to members to ask for ideas and various scenarios for offering the event.

Statement on Systemic Racism and the RCCO

Officials at the national level have been developing a response to the systemic racism issue that has been front and centre in recent weeks. The statement will be included in the next issue of Organ Canada and it will address concrete ways in which the RCCO can respond affirmatively in our actions and in our publications.

FutureStops – the 21st Century Organ Experience (formerly known as Digital Strategies)

The RCCO has been granted close to \$500,000 to design and build a leading digital platform for contemporary organ music to support composers, organists, and organ builders with a variety of impactful tools, as well as outreach and citizen engagement strategies to strengthen and diversify the Canadian contemporary organ community, particularly among youth and culturally diverse communities and audiences. Although, because of the pandemic, plans to launch the various components have been delayed, it is anticipated that an RCCO Podcast will go into production this summer for roll-out in September. The Podcasts will address topics of wide interest related to the organ and be available on Facebook and YouTube. More information to follow.

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Revision to Governance Structure

The National Board of Directors has undertaken to review its governance structure to make it more streamlined and more reflective of the organization's needs and priorities.

The Hymn Society

For information, members of National Council were invited to be part of and to extend invitations to all RCCO members to participate in this year's Annual Conference of the Hymn Society to take place digitally from July 12 – 16, 2020.

Those interested are invited to register for all or part of the conference, which by virtue of having paid a registration fee will allow participants to attend up to 60 workshop and 4 Hymn Festivals all included in the registration fee. Focus this year will be on hymn texts, hymn tunes and songwriting. For more information, go to www.thehymnsociety.org Workshops etc will be available online (post registration) until December 2020.

Archives?

Our archivists are looking for historical and interesting anecdotal information about the RCCO to revitalize the records of Canada's oldest professional musicians' organization. If you have any pictures, articles, booklets, or memorabilia about the RCCO in Windsor Essex, kindly contact Paul Wharram at paul.wharram@gmail.com.



Father Ed's Presidents' Letter



RCCO REGION 5
January, 2020
fatherwagner@aol.com
519-373-9708

To Paul Wharram, David Palmer, Ron Dossenbach, Dale Burkholder, and Ben Schinkel of the Windsor-Essex Centre

To Nancy Tapley of the Chatham Centre

To Earl Clark of the Stratford Centre

To Lorraine Clark and Paul Merritt of the London Centre

To Marilyn Dickson of the Grey Bruce Centre

Dear David—and Paul, Ron, Dale, and Ben--, Nancy, Earl, Lorraine, Paul, and Marilyn—

Although I'm a Holy Week/Easter guy myself, and more-or-less a grin-and-bear-it Christmas presider, I sincerely hope you all had a life-giving Nativity feast. At St Mark's Chesley, we offer a 7.30 Christmas Eve Communion, a really lovely service that starts with the Quempas ceremony, then goes on to Christmas carols interspersed among verses of the Lukan Gospel, and fully-sung Communion with the kids gathered around the nave altar to help me preside. Next morning, it's again communion with carols at 11am; and after that, Ted Filsinger, our organist, and I can finally get home to our families.

I remember Giles Bryant declaring that for church music and musicians, Christmastide is make-or-break; and all of us put our best foot forward for Advent-Christmas. But we and our families are still part of the world around us, and for the world around, Christmas is jingle bells. It can be a hard slog for church leaders like us, can't it!

Nonetheless, the secularized world we inhabit desperately needs Christmas, and I salute everybody like you and your Centre members who incarnate peace, good-will from God to everybody.

Region 5 Family Business

I received a lovely hand-written letter from Earl Clark, who at 85 is still tending the fire in the Stratford area. In part of his letter, Earl writes, "The Stratford Centre of the RCCO has been struggling for some years now. We lost a very active person, Jack Hillier, who always encouraged us to go. Our Centre extends to Mitchell, Seaforth, Clinton and Goderich. Distance and weather became deterrents (especially in winter). But most organists are piano players who try their best on the organ. I try to reach out to them, but with little success. I really want to keep the Centre going if at all possible. I myself have promoted Hymn Sings, recitals by students (mostly mine) and some general house meetings."

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Thank you, Earl! Congratulations on your RCCO Honorary Life Membership—and I very much look forward to joining you for lunch in Stratford when there's no more snow on the ground!

In November, I also received an email from David Palmer, noting that during Paul Wharram's recovery, he, Ron Dossenbach, Dale Burkholder, and Ben Shinkel are taking turns chairing meetings. Windsor-Essex has always been a strong Centre, and Paul Wharram has been an energetic, effective president—Paul, God bless your complete healing, and return to all the things you love, including the RCCO!

And last October, Grey Bruce was confronted with a thorny problem—what to do about a new local member who turned out to have recently been convicted of an historic sexual offense with a minor and subsequently been placed on Canada's sexual offenders list as well as losing his Ontario teacher's license. Grey Bruce members are all compassionate church folk; some are minors; all believe in second (and more) chances. The Centre executive, led by Marilyn Dickson, herself a doctoral-level teacher, pondered the issue very carefully and caringly, and this month has strongly recommended to the RCCO Board that it rescind the membership.

Future RCCO Direction and Governance

To be an Episcopal/Anglican priest like me, customarily you go to seminary (which includes some kind of apprenticeship), receive a call and ordination—then spend another year or two in “baby priest school.” This is usually a roll-up your sleeves, reality check type of training.

One of my year's instructors in the Diocese of Connecticut kept reminding us “Never assume!” in pastoral ministry.

So with that in mind—I can't assume that you are all clear about how the RCCO is governed, and about the

relationship between the local Centre and the national organization. I've been an RCCO member since I returned to Canada, and functioned as ordinary member, local Vice- and President and Chaplain of GBRCCO, even ran for second vice president of the national RCCO in 2012—that's over 17 years of RCCO involvement; and until the past year, I really had no idea—or even truly cared—about RCCO beyond the local level.

Perhaps, though, you already know that RCCO local Centres are entirely creatures of the national RCCO? That the local Centre isn't a legal entity whatsoever—a “branch office” if you will? That the National Council as it's presently constituted, including as it does Centre presidents, is an advisory body to the Board, which—except for decisions regarding examinations—is the RCCO governing body that holds the power?

The Board is just now beginning to discuss a proposed revamping of the RCCO governance structure that will eliminate Regional Directors from the Board and eliminate many members of the National Council, and will include Board members who are not members of the RCCO.

The argument for such changes is the same that has been offered for RCCO investing in the “Immersive Realities” initiative I outlined for you in my September communication: RCCO's survival demands it must retool to meet the dramatic cultural changes that now face us.

A Fundamental Question That Must be Answered If I Am to Be an Effective Regional Representative for You

What, presently, do you understand and feel about a) your, and b) your Centre's, relationship with the national RCCO?

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I ask this as a result of the proposed governance changes, the Interactive Auralities initiative—and mostly, because of the energy generated by a wondering I offered at the November National Council meeting: “How connected do local Centres actually feel to the national RCCO and its issues and decisions? Is there a serious disconnect?”

The Board next meets electronically on Tuesday, January 28, beginning at 7pm.

I’d like to be able to pass on your thoughts and concerns during what will be the start of a very significant discussion. Please call or write as the spirit moves!

Epiphany blessings—

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Introducing our members

Karen Price is a native of Windsor. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Organ Performance from the University of Windsor, a Master of Music in Choral Conducting Performance from SMU, Dallas, Texas and a Bachelor of Education from York University, Toronto.

Having served as Director of Music in various churches in Toronto, Waterloo, Ontario and Edmonton, Alberta, Ms. Price is a clinician and adjudicator. She is also the recipient of the Leslie Bell Award for Choral Conducting.

\She has served on the RCCO Executive in Toronto for the past several years and is now looking forward to her new role as Membership Secretary for the RCCO Windsor Essex Centre.

Best regards,
Karen





A Journey in the Wilderness – Self-Care for Church Musicians in Difficult Times

by Chris Titko On April 8, 2020

Words seem inadequate to describe the current situation that all of us are facing. Many of you have been let go from your church positions, wondering if and when you might get a church job again. Others are busy dealing with live streaming or recording your work to share with others. The grief, financial distress, and fears are all real.

So, how do we take care of ourselves? I asked some composers to chime in on this question, here's what they said:

“My dad told me once to ‘pour my pain into my pen.’ His advice helped me to redeem the valley I was walking through at that moment. So, as I compose during this season of shadows, I want to concentrate on the music of healing, restoration, and hope.” – Joseph Martin

“Like so many others, I lost much in the last two weeks; but when I look back at how carefully God has provided for me in the past, how can I not feel loved? And when I remember how deeply God loves me, I have nothing to fear.” – Heather Sorenson

“My entire travel schedule for this spring and most of the summer was completely wiped out – it went up in smoke in a matter of days, despite all my carefully laid plans. But it's a great reminder that our plans are in the Lord's hands, not our own, no matter how much we think or feel that we're in control – so I take joy and rest in letting go. And I've tried to make the most of the unusual and unexpected opportunities that have arisen as a result of all this extra time at home: more time with my family, more time connecting virtually with all kinds of choirs, doing some really rewarding video recording for my church's service broadcasts, doing Facebook Live concerts, getting lots of editing done, and doing lots of work outside in my gardens!” – Dan Forrest

“At first, I was focused on canceling things and discerning and grieving all the things I can no longer do. Now, I've come to a place of imagining what I can do now that I might not have been able to do (or that might not have been needed!) before this happened.” – Tom Trenney

All of us are dealing with loss, grief, fear, anxiety, and concerns about the future. Tom Trenney made the point with us, all of this is a wilderness journey. The good news – even Jesus needed the help of the angels in the wilderness. Asking for help from God and your community is not a fault, but merely a step on the journey – a part of walking in the wilderness. It's OK to have rough days, just know that you are not walking alone.

Take time for you; allow yourself to be creative. Grieve what you have lost, and dream about a time when we journey out of the wilderness into new uncharted territory. Your work still matters – always know, never doubt.

COVID-19: Cleaning the keyboard or organ bench

Posted on 30th April 2020 (source: iRCO.uk)

For anyone still able to practise in a building other than their own home, or under any circumstances where a keyboard (organ or piano) is shared, the following information may be helpful.

Important: never spray anything directly onto a keyboard! Even plain water will trickle where it should not go. Never use products containing bleach.

Wash your hands. It's best to avoid cleaning the keyboard, and clean your hands. Use hand sanitiser before and after your practice, and avoid touching your face in between. If hand sanitiser proves illusive, wash your hands before and afterwards, taking your own soap and towel with you if needed.

For historic keyboards, where the keys are made of (e.g.) bone, ebony or ivory, make up a solution of plain water with a little added soap, dampen a cloth with the solution and use with care.

For more modern instruments, Dettol spray (or other household disinfectant – see below – suitably diluted) can also be used on a cloth.

Allow five minutes for the treatment to work.

Check the label of your cleaning product. Viruses are not the same as bacteria, so 'antibacterial' products may not be effective. Choose a product saying 'kills 99.9% bacteria and viruses'.





The AAA

Submitted by Ron Dossenbach, Organ Advisor

Earlier this year I was contacted by a gentleman in Orangeville who for many years has been amassing a collection of varied musical instruments and cultural artifacts from around the world. Included in this collections are several pipe organs. His vision is to institute a new Musical Cultures Museum.

In 1910 John C Eaton, son of Timothy Eaton, installed an Aeolian three manual 39 rank player organ in his grand mansion in Toronto. The mansion and organ were a part of Toronto upper society for many years. In the 1930s, some time after John's death, the organ was donated to a French speaking Catholic church in Toronto. It is believed that not all of the organ went there, but enough to lead services for decades.

In the 1960s, the church decided to "step up" and installed an electronic instrument. The Aeolian, #1095, was removed and stored by Keates Geissler, who put it into storage.

Around 1970, Lawrence Lindsay, a school music teacher at the nearby military base and local organist and choir director, purchased the organ for installation in his home in Alliston. This ambitious task was undertaken by Lawrence with no training in organbuilding. It is quite a story how he and his wife hand dug a large hole for a basement installation of the organ chambers, then later moved it to the second floor.

Mr. Lindsay passed away a few months ago. The home was to be sold and the organ became available. I was asked to come to Alliston to consult as to whether the project was feasible. Two trips to Alliston were needed to map the chests and take inventory. It was concluded that the organ was worth saving and could be restored to its 1910 state.

A third trip to Alliston started Phase One of the removal: safe placement of all pipework into special pipe trays and transporting the trays to a storage location. This involved a lot of work in order to securely pack the pipes, most of which can be easily bent with even gentle hand pressure.

As of this writing, about half of the pipes have been removed from the chamber. When the remaining pipes have been taken out, then Phase Two will begin, which, simply put, covers the removal of everything else. This includes two 14 stop windchests, (those are big!) a long 5 stop pedal windchest, (also huge)

The large console, unwiring lots of electrical cabling, removing all wind conductors, removing the swell shutters and frames, removing the enclosure itself, and removing a heavy blower from the basement.

The next installment will discuss how the project has proceeded.

The Alliston Aeolian Adventure continues!

How I spent the Quarentine

From Paul: The Church of the Epiphany in Kingsville has been posting every week an online service of worship. The organ in our church has the unique ability to record and playback music that is incorporated into the recording process. For example, I play and record 3 different pieces of music or hymns, which can be played back during the taping. Every second week, a member of the choir will sing and record a solo, which follows the sermon. . If you are interested in checking us out, here's a link. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hnQnojIOU6g&feature=youtu.be>

From Margita: I have been making weekly piano/organ videos over the last 3 months, learning new music, keeping up connections with choir members, etc. Need to become more proficient in computer music writing - would love a tutorial!

From Dale: I have been creating videos of me playing either the piano, organ or handbells which I have been posting to youtube on a regular basis. I am now up to 70 videos. You can view them from my webpage www.gangalf.com .





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Choral Music

Henry Boon has now published two SATB Christmas compositions with Cypress Choral Press in Vancouver.

To see the scores and listen to the recording by the Amadeus choir of Toronto, please go to cypresschoral.com



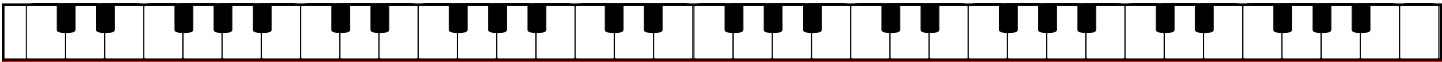
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The Windsor Essex Centre RCCO provides a list of supply organists available to cover vacations and emergencies including Sunday services. If you are a member or know of a member who would be willing to provide this service, please let us know and we will include their information on our supply list.

Michael Sewell mikesmail7@bell.net
Rozalia Lukas rozalija.1@hotmail.com



ROYAL CANADIAN COLLEGE OF ORGANISTS
WINDSOR-ESSEX CENTRE
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