



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

Quarter Notes

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*



Spring, 2021

President's Report

It is hard to believe that after a year of precautions and restrictions related to the COVID-19 Pandemic, we are still being cautious with our social interactions and church service gatherings for the most part are still not being permitted.

While we have all been impacted by this new reality, maintaining an active and vibrant membership in organizations like the RCCO, which rely almost entirely on events, activities, and programs to keep its membership engaged, are finding it very difficult to sustain interest and involve members virtually.

In addition to being the President of our Centre, I sit on the RCCO's National Council, which gives me access to current information and discussions. Over the last several months, our National President has hosted several 'Presidents' Meetings', which I have found to be personally invigorating.

All Centre Presidents, coast to coast, are facing similar challenges, specifically using technology to re-invent traditional in-person formats. In response, the national office is bringing forward new resources for Centres in the form of 'How To' guidelines and suggestions for virtual programming. At the same time, ideas are being exchanged between Centre Presidents through our face-to-face meetings. For example: Coffee and

Zoom Conversations; Future Stops Listening Parties; wine or chocolate pairings with organ music; virtual organ crawls and Bach Walks; Members' Online Concerts; Organist's Posture Seminar; Trivia Contest and many more. If any of these ideas appeal to you or if you have ideas to share with us, let us know. Kindly call one of our executive committee members and have a chat. Our telephone numbers and email addresses are on the front page of this and every newsletter. We are determined to enrich your relationship with the RCCO and your RCCO friends by being responsive to your needs.

Please help us help you.

Kind Regards

Paul Wharram



Quarter Notes and Chatham Corner

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Windsor Essex Centre

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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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Windsor Essex Centre

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Executive Committee

Chatham Centre

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A Prelude to Easter

RCCO Members, who are organists, are invited to contribute to a post-Easter Watch and Listen Party on Friday, April 9 at 7:00 pm. Here's how:

- * Select one of your favourite organ pieces for Easter or Spring (2 – 4 minutes in length)
- * Record it (audio only) on your cell phone or other recording device
- * Take a couple selfies or have pics taken while you are playing/recording your selection
- * When done recording, save it and email it along with your pictures (feel free to add other pictures you would like in the video) to Dale Burkholder at gangalf@live.com
- * Also email the name and composer of your selection and send it to Dale
- * You can try sending a video of you playing (due to email restrictions on size this may be an issue)

I will need them before April 1

Ahead of April 9

- * If you have not done so already, create a Facebook Account
- * Join the “RCCO Windsor Essex Group” (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/RCCOWindsorEssexGroup>)

At 7:00 pm on April 9

- * Go to the RCCO Windsor Essex Group
- * When the Watch/Listen Party Starts there will be a notification in the lower left hand of your screen.
- * There will be a video playing with the message “Stay tuned for the RCCO Watch Party”.
- * To join in the discussion and be part of the chat between participants, just add your comments in the “write a comment” box below the video.

Name that Tune Night!



On Friday, May 9th, 2021, we are hosting a *Name That Tune Night!* Demonstrate your knowledge of hymnology, your recall of hymn texts and your knowledge of the story behind famous tunes, composers, and lyricists. Fun and Prizes! Stay tuned for details.

Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting is scheduled for June 4. We are hoping to meet in person. Keep an eye on your 32nd notes for more information as we get closer to the date.



If you have not done so yet, visit Future Stops, developed by the RCCO to further enhance awareness of the pipe organ. A series of podcasts can be accessed at <https://www.futurestops.org>. They include the following topics. Be one of the 3,500 listeners from Canada and around the world to enjoy this resource.

- Ep. 3 — Pipe Dreams: The Making of a Documentary
- Ep. 4 — Cameron Carpenter: Sharing Organ Music from a Flatbed Truck
- Ep. 5 — In the Meantone with Sarah Davachi 34:
- Ep. 6 — The Hammond Organ with Alcée Chriss III45
- Ep. 7 — Alexandra Bartfeld: #OrganTalk - A Worldwide Online Organ02
- Ep. 8 — Organ+ with Kim Farris-Manning, Giles Perring & Afraaz Mulji
- Ep. 9 — Tim Hecker: 'Ravedeath, 1972' and the Pipe Organ's Potential
- Ep. 10 — Kara-Lis Coverdale: Beyond the Traditional Organ
- Ep. 11 — Xaver Varnus: Creating Canada's New Centre for 21st Century Organ Music



How to keep your pipe organ happy

From: Ron Dossenbach, Organ Advisor

How to Keep Your Pipe Organ Happy

One could anthropomorphize the organ and rhapsodize about how the organ loves to be heard as played with skill and imagination. That might be one definition of a "happy pipe organ". But for today, let's assume a happy pipe organ is one that simply works well and with reliability. Can the organist have an effect on reliability?

The answer is a resounding yes. An organ is a complex mechanical machine as well as a musical instrument. In fact, until the late 1800s, it was the most complex creation ever devised by man. In case you are interested, the London Telephone Exchange was the first entity to be more complex than a pipe organ. (Did they ever say, "It's not organ science!")

A story: a mechanic was interested in buying a car and had narrowed it down to three choices. All were the same make, model, and year. Car A was a taxi. Car B was used only once a week and was kept in a garage. Car C was only used once a year. The mechanic chose Car B. Car A, the taxi, was old and worn out. It would require much service and expensive parts. Car C would also need a lot of attention due to corrosion due to inactivity. Car B was deemed the best choice.

Yes, an organ can be overused. But this is a rarity and is normally experienced only by school practice instruments. But an organ can be underused. This is especially true during pandemic shutdowns when churches are closed for months on end. This allows leather to dry out and become stiff. There are hundreds if not thousands of moving parts that are subject to dust and corrosion. Most of these are electrical contacts. What can be done?


Most electrical contacts in an organ are sweeping contacts. This means that there is a slight brushing action that takes place every time a switch, designed to burnish the electrical contact surfaces. As well, there are many leather pouches, as well as leather membranes in reservoirs that flex in their use. Leather needs to be exercised in order to remain supple.

So what can the organist do? First, try to ensure that the organ never experiences very high or low humidity levels. A hydrometer in the organ chamber is helpful. Try to keep the organ between 40-50% humidity, the same range that is best for people. 30-60% is acceptable. Temperature, surprisingly, is not a factor, except to the extent it may affect humidity. The organ does not like to be blasted with gusts of hot very dry air.

What about long periods of inactivity, such as during our shutdowns? A lot of good can be obtained by simply turning the wind on every month or two for a few minutes.

For extra credit, the very best thing an organist can do is to activate every switch and magnet in the organ .

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This is not as big a job as it sounds, and can be done in a few seconds. Here is how

- ♪ On the great, turn on every stop and coupler, then chromatically play every note from bottom to top.
- ♪ Do the same for the Swell.
- ♪ Same for the Pedal division.
- ♪ Open and close each swell shoe and the crescendo pedal.
- ♪ Activate every thumb and toe piston. Each one simply needs to be turned on for a moment.
- ♪ Finally, turn on the tremulants and chimes, zimmersterns, or any other cool devices your organ may be blessed with.

That's it! Yes, it can be noisy for a few moments, but every single electrical contact will have been used, all in under a minute. Every leather component will have been used. This will not eliminate all ciphers, dead notes, and other ailments, but it does reduce them considerably. Once a month, every element of the organ should be engaged.

Use it or lose it!

Ron Dossenbach

Organ Festival Canada 2021

It has been decided that Organ Festival Canada this year will be a virtual event. The dates have been set as August 9 – 13, 2021 and the Hamilton RCCO Centre will plan and host this event.

The online festival will include a number of activities including a live performance and interview with Angela Hewitt, Patron of the RCCO. There will be recitals, workshops, live chats, a virtual convocation, a national organ playing competition, a hymn tune competition (in which all registrants can vote) and a cross-Canada Round-Up.

Registration fees before June 30th are \$198 after which, they become \$248. Registrants will have until September 30 to review all of the online events. There is also a \$60 fee per day option available.

Other Upcoming Events

This summer, there will be an organ academy for young organists, a virtual 5-day camp. In addition, there will be online instruction available for RCCO exam preparations and a workshop for the church organists.

More information will be forthcoming.

Thoughts from our Chaplain

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Lent is a season where the people of the church are called to draw close to God so that they can be raised up and transformed into the likeness of Jesus Christ. It is a season for self examination, penitence, prayer, and reading and meditating on the word of God. Those faithful disciplines are meant to open our lives up to God in the hope that God's goodness and grace will rub off on us and make our lives look more and more like the life of Jesus and enable us through that to transform our world.

Beyond those faithful disciplines, normally we would have the advantage of time spent with the community of faith to encourage us along and help us connect with God. Pandemic restrictions are limiting that time substantially. Many of us are dealing with bare services, without singing and limited congregational time and interaction. Under those circumstances it can be very difficult to encounter God in the way that we normally would.

It is not that the words and actions of worship can't help us encounter God, but it is a real challenge to meet God when we can't do church normally. That is why, I would suggest, the organist is such a vital part of the life of our communities all the time and especially now. We can't sing together right now, which still feels weird, but we can still listen to glorious music and that has the power to transport us into the presence of God like nothing else.

In God's presence we encounter the goodness, grace, and glory of God. When we encounter that we cannot help but be changed by it. The whole point of this season is to move us from sin to forgiveness, from brokenness to healing, from death to life. We cannot do that by our own power, we need God. We need God's goodness, grace, and glory to work on us, to shape us, and to form us for new life. We need to be in the presence of God for that to happen. Whether recorded on Youtube or live in the church, music in our church services is helping that to happen every week. It is revealing the beauty of God's present love in a bleak time. It is telling the story of God's strength and power at a time we need that deeply. It is reminding us that God is with us. We need that reminder so that we can be open to God's transformative work even during the pandemic. That work will equip us not only to get through all this, but also to come out of the pandemic ready to continue sharing God's love and helping to transform the world so that more and more it reflects the kingdom that Jesus came to establish.

I wish you a very blessed and transformative Lent, and a glorious and joyful Easter.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev'd Canon Robert Lemon,
Chaplain, Windsor-Essex RCCO Centre





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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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Supply Organists

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

ROYAL CANADIAN COLLEGE OF ORGANISTS
WINDSOR-ESSEX CENTRE
APPLICATION FOR CENTRE FRIEND MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

Church affiliation and position
(if applicable): _____

Membership fee for 2015-16: \$30

Make cheque or money order payable to: Windsor-Essex Centre, RCCO

Please mail to:

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