



THE ROYAL CANADIAN
COLLEGE OF ORGANISTS

LE COLLÈGE ROYAL CANADIEN
DES ORGANISTES

SECTION DE WINDSOR-ESSEX CENTRE

QUARTER NOTES

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

CHATHAM CORNER

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



Summer, 2023

President's Message

By: Paul Wharram, President Windsor-Essex Centre

President's Message

This is the season of Advent and Christmas - expectation, hope, and joy. In the times that we now live, the narrative takes on poignant meaning, and permeates ordinary life along with everything else that needs to be accomplished. We all inevitably find ourselves squeezed by extra duties and events that come with the season, but I truly enjoy this journey of anticipation, full of wonder. Mindful that your season may be similarly packed, I still hope that you can make room for our upcoming events,

We have a couple of exciting programs planned for the next couple of months.

On Saturday, November 18th from 4:00 pm we are gathering for a members' potluck 'chez nous' at 136 Main Street West, Kingsville. Besides having fun conversation and sharing food, we want to hear everyone's Christmas Wish List of activities, programs, and events you would enjoy participating in during 2024. Our Executive Committee is determined to plan a year of rewarding, fun, interesting and maybe even educational programs for you, our members and Centre Friends.

On December 16th, from 7:00 pm we are planning a Kingsville Posada. We are hoping to involve parishioners and congregations from all the churches

in Kingsville and the support of all RCCO members and friends would be greatly appreciated. (See Kingsville Posada article in this newsletter for more details.)

Despite all of our 'busyness' leading up to Advent and Christmas, it is my hope that you let the music this season inspire and guide you through the deeper and more profound aspects of Advent and Christmas. The music of Christmas, remains alive, reminding us of the messages that shape our culture and the manner in which we live out our lives. We have an important job to do as organists and lovers of organ music. We are important because we help keep the angels' song resounding from year to year.

On behalf of the entire Executive Committee, I wish to extend best wishes for a happy and blessed Christmas and New Year!



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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Member-at-large: IAN MASON

Land acknowledgement

We of the Windsor Essex RCCO Centre acknowledge that we are on land and surrounded by water, originally inhabited by Indigenous Peoples who have travelled this area since time immemorial. This territory is within the lands honoured by the Wampum Treaties; agreements between the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lenni, Lenape and allied Nations to peacefully share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. Specifically, we would like to acknowledge the presence of the Three Fires Confederacy (Ojibwe, Odawa, Potawatomi and Huron/Wendat) Peoples. We are dedicated to honouring Indigenous history and culture while remaining committed to moving forward respectfully with all First Nations, Inuit and Métis.

The following Overriding Principle approved by the RCCO Board of Directors in its Strategic Plan 2021 – 2024:

We are firmly committed to inclusion, diversity, and equity at all levels of the organization. We believe our work is enhanced by engaging a diverse community of individuals with different backgrounds, skills, opinions, and perspectives, thereby cultivating a welcoming environment of open communication, inclusion, and respect and we will strive to seek representation from Black, Indigenous, People of Colour and other underrepresented and equity-seeking communities in leadership roles and throughout our organization.



Kingsville Posada December 16 at 7:00 pm



The celebration of the Posadas is an important Mexican Christmas tradition and features prominently in holiday festivities. These community celebrations usually take place on each of the nine nights leading up to Christmas, from December 16 to 24th.

The word *posada* means "inn" or "shelter" in Spanish. In this tradition, the Bible story of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and their search for a place to stay is re-enacted. The tradition involves special songs, as well as a variety of Mexican Christmas carols, breaking piñatas, and celebration.

The celebration features a procession in which the participants hold candles and sing Christmas carols.

We are planning a 'posada-like' celebration of Advent and Christmas music highlighting the pipe organ, handbells, choirs, and carols for everyone to sing. It will take place on December 16th starting at 7:00 pm.

Participants will gather first at **Epworth United Church** (56 Division St. S.) to learn about the Posada tradition, to listen to **Advent Music** performed by the choir, RCCO Organists and the handbell choir and sing **Advent Carols**. Then, everyone will be given a candle, and a procession will 'travel' (i.e., walk) to **The Church of the Epiphany** (96 Main St. W.) (10 minutes or 0.6 km)

At The Church of the Epiphany, we will continue to listen to organ and choral music, as well as sing carols, this time in the celebration of **Christmas Music**.

The Posada is not limited to just people from Kingsville, in fact, everyone is invited - the more the merrier. Promotion is being done through the local Ministerial Association, in the local newspaper (Kingsville Reporter) and through the social media sites for both the RCCO and participating Churches.

Bulletin announcements and media materials will be developed and provided to all RCCO members and friends.





Advent/Christmas, 2023

Cantet nunc io, chorus angelorum;
Cantet nunc aula caelestium,
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo,
Venite adoremus
Dominum.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!
Glory to God, glory in the highest:
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

My dear siblings in Christ,

As we wait in joyful hope for the incarnation of our Lord, Jesus Christ, I pray that you have a blessed Advent and Christmastide.

The coming of Christmas brings with it busy preparations for the many sacred and secular celebrations of this season. This season I encourage you to recognise and give thanks for the presence of God in every situation in which you find yourself. We are promised, by Christ Jesus himself, that “where two or three are gathered together in [His] name, there [He is] in the midst of [us]” (Matthew 18:20).

Take a moment in each setting in which you find yourself this season to give thanks to God for being there in the midst of you. At something as simple as the joyous squeal of a child upon opening a present, in the presence of joy – there God is found. At the heartbroken and loving recollection of those whom we have loved in this world and have entrusted to the next, in the presence of love – there too God is found.

This year there will be many special services throughout Windsor/Essex in all of the churches you serve to help us recall that blessed miracle of God’s coming among us in the person of Jesus.

Your ministry of music will recall the choirs of Angels and saints we are promised are standing in awe before God in perpetual worship. I pray your preparations are smooth; that your fingers are nimble; and that your voices, and those you lead, ring out clearly in the worship of God this holy season.

We are nearing the time when the days will start to lengthen. The celebration of “The Birth-day of Christ” is a hinge point in our annual seasonal experience, and even more it is an annual celebration of the emergence among us of God’s light and the Word made flesh. Christ was there at our creation and has dwelt among us and knows intimately the human condition. His teaching and example speaks to us of relationship with God and with those around us. We were created to live in love and solidarity with our neighbours and to come together to show our love and thanksgiving to God in word and song.

It has been said that “we are not human beings on a spiritual journey... we are spiritual beings on a human journey.” In the season of Advent, we are called to a time of self-examination and reflection leading to a renewed sense of our dependence on God for spiritual nourishment and fulfillment.

(Continued on page 5)

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I wish you the very best of the Advent and Christmas seasons.

God's blessing be upon you and your family this day, this season and forevermore.

Sincerely,

The Rev'd Robert Clifford, Chaplain
Windsor-Essex RCCO

A New Initiative - Organist Launchpad

Organist Launchpad is an exciting new project of the RCCO funded with thanks by a grant from Heritage Canada and is produced by the Royal Canadian College of Organists in association with the Canadian International Organ Competition.



Its purpose is to educate, inform and inspire. Both seasons of episodes can be viewed at Organist Launchpad (rcco.ca) Members of the Executive Committee have undertaken to write 'movie reviews' of their favourite episodes with a view to encouraging you to tune in and listen.

See these reviews in this newsletter in the 'Movie Reviews' Section. We welcome your reviews in future editions of Quarter Notes.

[Click here to watch Season One of the Organist Launchpad](https://rcco.ca/launchpad-season-01/) <https://rcco.ca/launchpad-season-01/>





EPISODE NINE - Trevor Grahl on Augmenting and Extending Your Organ

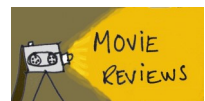


The title alone of this 3-part series attracted my attention. I was puzzled by the title and even more curious about how does on extend and augment an organ. To my surprise, I was challenged in ways I've never experienced.

In this video, you are invited to explore the organ in a new way, beyond its conventional associations and expectations. You will be challenged to listen to the organ as if it were a strange and unfamiliar instrument, with its own unique sonic possibilities and surprises. To guide us in this journey, Trevor Grahl, a composer and organist, offers us some listening exercises that draw on the principles of deep listening and mindfulness. He helps us to tune in to the subtle and complex sounds of the organ, and to experience them as extensions of our own ears and bodies. He also shares with us an original piece that he composed for organ and 5 small weights, inspired by the ancient chant Veni, Creator Spiritus. The piece creates a rich and immersive sound environment that invites us to listen deeply and attentively. You can download the score from the link below and try it out for yourself. (**** out of 5 star review)

[Click here to hear the LunchPad https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tPGpA-Eljws](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tPGpA-Eljws)

EPISODE THIRTEEN - Johnathon Oldergarm



Overview of Hymn Playing in the Protestant Tradition Part 1

This episode explores the history and practice of hymn singing in the church. In the past, there have been different views on what kind of hymns are appropriate for worship. In one school of thought, hymns were use only the words of the scriptures, such as the Psalms, the Creeds, or the Lord's Prayer. Another school used the scriptures as a source of inspiration for devotional poems that could be set to music. Regardless of the preference, hymn singing was and continues to be a vital part of the faith formation of believers.

Hymns should be played with clarity and consistency, paying attention to the natural flow and pauses of the lyrics. The tempo of the hymns depends on various factors, such as the local tradition, the size and location of the organ, and the acoustics of the space. The organist should not be influenced by the delay or feedback from the congregation but should lead and maintain the tempo throughout. The congregation may not follow the punctuation marks in the hymn book, but the choir should respect them as much as possible.

Jonathan uses the hymn tune Crimond as an example of proper observation of punctuation.

Number one tip – practice playing and singing the hymns yourself. (** out of 5 star review)

[Click here to hear the LaunchPad https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XNGS_LXVcFk&t=9s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XNGS_LXVcFk&t=9s)

Obituary of Bryan Wallace MacDonald

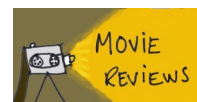
January 20 1945 - January 16 2023

On January 16, 2023, Bryan entered into the presence of his Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ after a long, courageous, hard-fought battle with multiple myeloma. He was the best husband who will be sadly missed by his loving wife, best friend and soulmate of 47 years, Brenda. His children Brendan (Courtney), Bryanne (Rob), Brynn and Bryttny. Devoted grandfather of Alysha, Mikayla, Nate, Avalee, Kaylie, Madysen and Jet. Brother to Roxann, the late Joanne, Marna and Tracey. Bryan will be missed by many friends and people whose lives he touched in one way or another. Many thanks to the nurses in the chemo suite at the cancer centre for their compassionate care during the many years of his fight. A special thanks to Dr. Kanjeekal, Dr. Freeman and Joanne from LHIN. Bryan was one of a kind and all who had the privilege of meeting him were truly blessed. As expressions of sympathy and in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Myeloma Canada.



Bryan was a recent member of the RCCO and in a message from his wife, Brenda, she writes: He had a great passion for playing the organ and played many years for God's glory. Please pass this information along to the others that meet for your shared passion of music.

EPISODE FOURTEEN - Margaret Burk Conducting from the Console Part 2



This episode is a valuable resource for organists who conduct choirs from their consoles at the organ. It is a masterclass complete with choir and an organist, and it covers the theme of how to minimize physical movements and maximize effectiveness movements. You will learn tips such as:

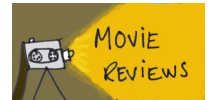
- Give beats with your hands and not your body. Body movement can distract singers and confuse them in particular where to breath and where is the beat.
- How to use releases to set a tempo. Releases are the moments when stop singing, and they can indicate the speed and character of the music.
- How to use clear downbeats. Downbeats are the first beats of a measure, and they can show the singers where to start and how to align their voices. You will learn how to give a cutoff tap rather than a circle motion, which can be ambiguous and unclear.
- Other topics include conducting fermatas, transitions, and breathing.

This episode will help you improve your skills as an organist and a choir conductor, and make your music more expressive and enjoyable. (***) out of 5 star review)

[Click to watch the Organist LaunchPad https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tgNvRIH4eSo&t=2s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tgNvRIH4eSo&t=2s)



Improvisation



By Henry Boon

Jeffrey Brillhart is the presenter in the Improvisation lecture on Organist Launchpad, sponsored by the RCCO. He is lecturer in improvisation at Yale as well as at McGill University.

Brillhart is music director at the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian church in suburban Pennsylvania.

The focus in Part 1 of two segments on improvisation began with a focus on the improvisation technique used by Charles Tournemier, the brilliant French organ virtuoso.

An improvisation that has no structure can go on forever without any specific direction and Brillhart refers to this as “noodling.” Without a sense of direction such improvising simply meanders and has little meaning and purpose.

However, even the shortest improvisation can be interesting if it contains structure. Brillhart suggests a short improv in Binary form, lasting only a minute, can be effective. This can be followed by an improv in Ternary form and finally in Rondo form with each form slightly longer than the previous one.

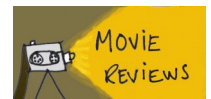
Brillhart refers to the Chant: “Jesu Dulcis Memoria.” (Many organists, past and present, use Gregorian Chant as themes for their improvisations).

A simple organ point is established in the pedal, then a fifth in the left hand is used as accompaniment while the right hand, as solo, plays the Gregorian Chant melody. Variant combinations are used as accompaniment including Fifths, Fourths, Seconds and Tritones.

Brillhart deals with: Structure; Pedal Point; Gregorian Paraphrase; Ternary Improvisation and Tritones in this video.

A knowledge of basic forms as mentioned above, including Binary, Ternary and Rondo forms are recommended in order to effectively follow the Organist Launchpad video on Improvisation.


Being a Good Steward for Your Organ



By: Ron Dossenbach, Organ Specialist

The RCCO has released a series of four short videos on most aspects of playing the organ and being an organist. There is a series of four short videos presented by Alexander Ross, organist and organbuilder with Juliet Sinclair of Montreal.

(Continued on page 9)



(Continued from page 8)

This is a short review of those videos. The longest is 16 minutes long and the shortest is under 4 minutes. The four parts are titled:

Inform yourself

Plan

Act

React

Alexander clearly presents the broad subject of organ stewardship in an organized and concise way. Our instruments are unique in that they carry much mystique. Most of us do not know how they produce music. That is okay. But we should know how to care for it and to steward them to provide years of good reliable service. Please take the time to watch these videos. They are not overly technical and will teach you all you need to know.

[Click here to watch the Organist LaunchPad](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eThiuUi9I8Y) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eThiuUi9I8Y>

Erben Pipe Organ

By: Ron Dossenbach, Organ Specialist

The Casavant organ at Assumption Church will soon be playing again after having been cleaned and repaired in January. The 1919 instrument has had an interesting history and has been modified and expanded yet still retains most of its essential 1919 sounds.

I was requested to write a report on the organ covering its history, state of health, and to suggest what may be done with it going forward. In doing so, an interesting bit of history emerged. In 1847, the first pipe organ was installed by the Henry Erben Organ Co of New York City. This was before Casavant existed. This was one of the first if not the first pipe organs in Windsor. The organ predates the founding of Canada, Windsor, and even the American Civil War. This noble 2 manual 20 stop instrument served until the 1919 Casavant replaced it. At this time, it was refurbished and installed into Holy Trinity RC Church on Ellis Ave, where it served for many more decades.

In 1973, there was a major reconstruction of the church during which time the organ was removed. One can presume that it had become inoperative for some time before this date. The contractor had the foresight to salvage the facade and donated it to the Francois Baby House Museum on Pitt St, where it has been stored in the basement for 50 years. 17 facade pipes, a 20 note pedalboard, the two manual keydesk, and some or all of the casework survives. Everything else has been lost. I obtained one of those 17 facade pipes on loan from Museum Windsor, its new name, with the intention of restoring it to its original 1847 appearance and performance. A second coat of paint covered the original gold leaf paint, and suffered numerous dents and dings. The dents and dings were removed as was all of the paint. After much sanding, an acid etch primer, gold base coats, gold leaf paint matching the original colour and matte texture, and a glaze, the pipe now is on display back where it started in the historical corner of Assumption Church. It is still playable and produces a beautiful tenor C tone one octave below Middle C as a Montre. Fundraising continues. Hopefully the tenor C pipe will help.



Christmas Bells are Ringing

SATURDAY DECEMBER 2 - 4:00 PM



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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.



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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Windsor-Essex Centre, RCCO
103 Kimball Drive
Essex, ON
N8M 0B7

Email: organ@start.ca