



THE ROYAL CANADIAN
COLLEGE OF ORGANISTS

LE COLLÈGE ROYAL CANADIEN
DES ORGANISTES

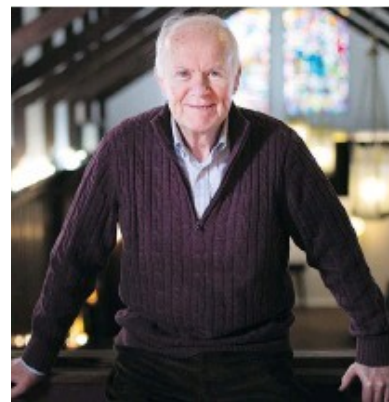
SECTION DE WINDSOR-ESSEX CENTRE

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*



Fall, 2024

In Memoriam: David Palmer (1944-2024)

This tribute was compiled by Susanne Reul-Zastre & Sandra Fletcher (Victoria RCCO Centre), Paul Wharram (Windsor RCCO Centre), and Lonnie Palmer in memory of David.

David Palmer was born on April 7, 1944 and grew up in Victoria, BC where he studied organ with Graham Steed and Richard Proudman as a teenager. A Past-President of the Royal Canadian College of Organists (1988-1990), he was awarded the RCCO Fellowship (honoris causa) in 1991 and received the RCCO Distinguished Service Award in 2015. He exemplified the aims and objectives of the organization and upheld its ethical code in all he did. Over his distinguished career, he attained a level of prominence that is truly exceptional, and within the RCCO, has demonstrated extraordinary leadership, passion and commitment. David led - he taught - he motivated, and he inspired!

David became organist at All Saints' Anglican Church in July 1968, commuting to Windsor from Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he was entering the final year of his M.Mus. degree at the University of Michigan, studying with Robert Glasgow who himself was a student of Harold Gleason and Catherine Crozier. After graduation, David moved to Windsor in the summer of 1969 and, shortly thereafter, took it upon himself to revitalize an interest in the organ, build a core of young people in organ studies and promote awareness of quality organ and choral music through public events and recitals.

The group informally structured itself as an RCCO 'Student Centre', which stayed together from 1976

to 1980. Other activities involving members of the student centre included: participating annually in organ conferences at the University of Michigan; social 'get togethers' and dinners to listen to organ music and discuss organ playing; an organ crawl to London, Ontario; a Children's Choir workshop; several Christmas Carol Services with choirs from local churches; anthem-reading sessions; panel discussions on such topics as wedding and funeral music and Church Music Today- Entertainment or Worship?; lectures on rehearsal techniques; and a unique organ recital with students on other instruments, namely flute, violin, oboe and trumpet. Participation and attendance in these numerous activities ranged from a handful of interested persons to enthusiastic audiences of well over 300.

David cultivated a very fertile and rich foundation and on February 15, 1980, chaired a grassroots meeting to "discuss the future of the RCCO in Windsor and the possibility of establishing an Adult Centre the following year". Although the Windsor Centre of the RCCO was only officially recognized in 1982 with David as its first President until 1984, it already hosted an RCCO Convention in 1988. Another one of David's dreams was to launch a Student Scholarship program. The first auditions were in 1989, and two students were successful in meeting the requirements to be awarded a scholarship for organ studies. Since that time, over 75 beginning organ students received scholarships. David was indeed a mentor to the Centre's various organ teachers and instructed just over half of all of the students.

(Continued on page 3)

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Chatham Centre

President: NANCY TAPLEY

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Membership : DON POLE

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.



(Continued from page 1)

Not only did David serve as National President of the RCCO from 1988 - 1990, but from 2005 - 2012 he again was at the helm of the Windsor Centre, and until his passing, its Honorary President. For several years, he was also the Centre's Membership Convener and maintained an interest in all members' activities. In 2012-13, he served as Travelling Clinician for the RCCO, giving recitals and workshops in Victoria, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Thunder Bay, Hamilton and the Grey-Bruce Centre. In June 2014, David was appointed the RCCO's Regional Director for Western Ontario providing support and council to the London, Grey-Bruce, Chatham, Stratford and Windsor Centres.



Left to right: Robert Jones, Richard Hansen, Mike Ricketts, David Palmer, Ronald Fox, Joel Hastings (deceased)

It is impossible to separate David's influence in the history of the RCCO Windsor Centre from his equally significant role in the music and worship community at large and the University of Windsor specifically. Upon his retirement after 40 years on the Faculty of the University's School of Music (6 years of which he was its Director), five of David's former students (Ronald Fox, Richard Hansen, Joel Hastings, Robert Jones, and Michael Ricketts) paid the "Professor" the ultimate tribute by performing an Organ Recital in his honour at All Saint's Anglican Church.

Moreover, David was known nationally and internationally as an outstanding organist, not only performing from coast to coast in Canada, but also giving recitals in such American centres as San Francisco, Washington and New York. In Europe, he played in England, France and Germany, including concerts in the Cathedrals of Chartres and Notre Dame in Paris. CBC Radio broadcast nationally many of his performances, both solos and appearances with the Windsor Symphony Orchestra. He was a judge for several organ playing competitions, among them the RCCO Nationals, and the semi-final round of the Second Calgary International Organ Festival.

David developed a specialty in the keyboard music of Olivier Messiaen. In the spring of 1981, he studied with the composer's wife, Yvonne Loriod, concentrating on excerpts from Messiaen's *Vingt regards sur l'Enfant-Jésus* and *Catalogue d'Oiseaux*. He presented many workshops and lectures and wrote several articles on aspects of Messiaen's music, including for the journal *The Diapason*. In October 1990, he gave the first Canadian performance of *Livre du Saint Sacrement* at St. James' Cathedral in Toronto, broadcast on CBC-FM, and was invited to perform excerpts of the work at the Fifth International Congress of Organists in Montreal in July 1993. His CD of *Méditations sur le mystère de la Sainte Trinité*, recorded in the Cathedral-Basilica Mary Queen of the World in Montreal, was released in 1999. In 2006, Canadian Music Centre released his CD, *Canadian Organ Showcase*, recorded in the Jack Singer Concert Hall in Calgary, Alberta. *Double Exposure*, a CD of music for organ and piano with colleague Gregory Butler, recorded in Yorkminster Park Baptist Church in Toronto, appeared in 2008. He retired from All Saint's Anglican Church in Windsor after 52 years (1968-2020) and was a member of Trio Abelia (French horn, oboe and piano) which performed in Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, as well as in Western and Eastern Canada.

David and his wife Lonnie moved back to Victoria, BC in 2021. David happily served in various functions on the executive of the RCCO Victoria Centre until his resignation as Centre President in July 2024. He

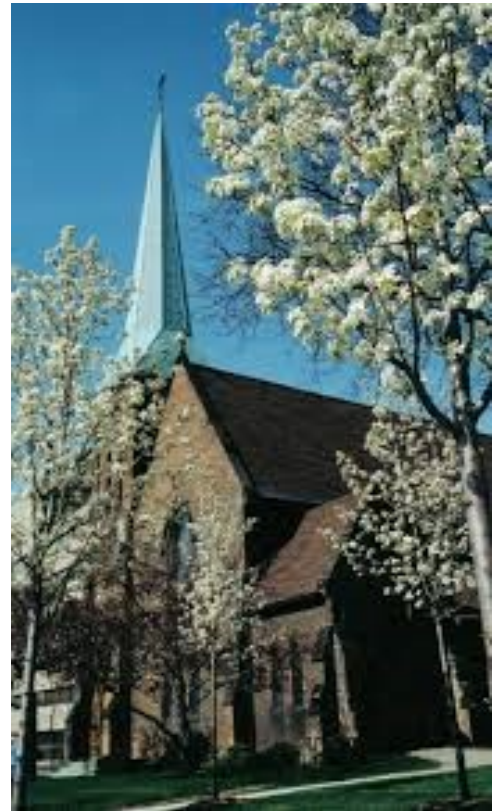
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enjoyed teaching organ privately and, along with Dr. Mark McDonald, worked effortlessly with students of the Victoria Centre Organ Studio and at masterclasses held at Victoria's Christ Church Cathedral. After subbing at various churches around the Capital Regional District, David assumed the post of organist and choirmaster at St. Michael and All Angels Church, where he remained until his death on August 18, 2024. He is predeceased by his first wife, Betty, a brother and his parents. David is survived by his wife, Alonna (Lonnie) of 35 years, 3 siblings, 6 children, 10 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, donations to the RCCO Victoria Centre www.rcco.ca/Centre-Donations would be appreciated.



David Palmer with Amiel Elfert, Neala St. Hilaire (photo credit, Mark McDonald)



A call to the bench

This poem was written in memory and honour of David Palmer and read by Bishop Logan McMenamie as part of his sermon at David's memorial on 29 August, 2024.

From an early age,
a call to the bench,
not with robe and wig;
but with peddles, stops and keys.
Still called master,
You began to master,
The peddles, stops and keys.
Faith expressed,
in the hymns,
preludes and postludes,
Soaring anthems,
Olivier Messiaen
Bird song.
Meeting eternity,
In creation,
Depth of profound silence,
Praising the glory of God,
In the language of music.
God becoming present,
Through peddles, stops and keys.
Excellence in your craft,
a foundation of humility,
inviting us into wonder,
giving permission to weep
bringing us the joys of heaven,

allowing time and space to believe,
making the transcendent present,
the present transcendent.
“ceci est mon corps,
ceci est mon sang”
Charm of impossibility,
expanding and fulfilling,
musical language,
limits of theology.
Heaven and earth ,
becoming one.
Singing the praises
to God’s Glory.
An Invitation,
into the mystery.
As artist leave their mark
In wood, stone and glass.
In psalm, anthem and hymn
We discern you presence
Hanging in the air.
In this time and space,
With peddle, stops and keys.
Heaven and earth became one.

David, thank you.



Echoes of Angels: A Pipe Organ Concert

Sunday, September 29 @ 3:00PM
Our Lady of Assumption Parish, Windsor



A Fundraising Concert

Featured Organists:

Margita Lange, Karen Price, Henry Boon, David Carle, Ron
Dossenbach, Jim Fast, and Mike Ricketts

With

Jim Crichton,
As Master of Ceremonies and Narrator

RCCO Members and Friends are invited to a Spaghetti Dinner
hosted by Assumption Parish.

Freewill Donation

Mark You Calendars

Organist / Clergy Dinner

Venue and date to be confirmed (November 15 or 22)

Invite your clergy now to enjoy an evening of conversation and exchange

Hosted by Rev. Cathy and Karen

Kingsville 2nd Annual Posada

Saturday, December 14 at 7:00 pm

Epworth United Church and the Church of Epiphany, Kingsville

All are invited to participate

RCCO Pub Night

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

February 28, 2025

Stay tuned for details

On the horizon in 2025

An organ crawl

Pops and Pipes



Improvisation and Modulation Workshop



Due to our failure to secure a relief organist, the next hymn will be sung to the tune of

Chopsticks

Marcel Dupre, a well-known French composer and improviser, refers to improvisation and composing as “essentially, a mental exercise.”

He adds: “Independently from inspiration and imagination, there is in improvisation a distinct profession to be learned, involving theoretical correctness and correctness in rhythm and technique.”

Gerre Hancock, was an American composer and improviser who taught at Texas University in Austin, Texas. He has a somewhat different outlook on the art and says the following:

“Not surprisingly, many musicians are discouraged from attempting to improvise because of a mythical aura of mystery surrounding the art; they perceive it as a special endowment bestowed at only a chosen few and unattainable by the rest. The plain truth is that all musicians are capable of splendid improvisation, be it modest or grand. As in any other art, improvising must be analyzed, planned and practised both in private and in public, the more carefully, systematically, and conscientiously, the better.”

These two different views and approaches to improvisation are both valid!

Why not join our improvisation worship and see what might work for you.

THE DATE IS OCTOBER 26TH AT 10:30.

TECUMSEH UNITED IS THE VENUE; 333 LACASSE BLVD, TECUMSEH ON

THE FACILITATOR IS HENRY BOON

~ SONGS OF JOY ~

Celebrating Life Together

A FESTIVAL OF HYMNS & SINGING

Featuring

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

With Collaborative Pianist

Michael Oddy



Hosted By:

WESTMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

1680 Dougall Ave, Windsor ON

(519) 258-1471 (519) 324-2741

Saturday September 28; 10-4pm

\$50 Admission - Lunch Incl.

To Register call or visit www.westminsterunited.org

Financial Assistance Available. Contact registrar426@gmail.com



Meet Rev. Cathy!

We are delighted that The Rev. Dr. Catherine Collins-Barker as Chaplain has been appointed Chaplain of the Windsor Essex RCCO. Rev. Cathy was ordained in 1991 and has served congregations in Saskatchewan and Ontario for over 30 years. She was called to Windsor Glenwood United Church in July 2009. Pastoral Care is a key focus for Rev Cathy as her doctoral studies included the various aspects of sharing with others both individually and group settings through the lens of a pastoral minister. She has extensive training in death education and assists many people through grief and bereavement situations. Other training includes mediation and conflict management; and is recognized as a Conflict Resolution Facilitator for the United Church of Canada and is an Intentional Interim Minister. Rev Cathy currently serves on the Board of Directors of the United Church Windsor Downtown Mission, the Windsor Essex United Church Development Fund, as Chaplain to the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 594, and supports the clients of the Melo Clinic (Pregnancy) Resource Centre infant loss. We are looking forward to working with Rev. Cathy and hope that through her and with her assistance, we will strengthen relationships with clergy in Windsor and across Essex County.

Rev. Cathy is looking forward to meeting and getting to know all members and friends. She can be contacted at cjcb19@gmail.com and at 519-915-4179

United Church Anniversary

By: Richard Helmer

As you All know by now The United Churches across Canada will be celebrating their 100th Anniversary next year.

As chair of the Windsor Essex County United Churches(WECUC) we are having a joint Church Service to celebrate this anniversary on June 1/25 at Gesstwood Camp.

We are going to have a Mass Choir under the direction of Karen Price who has chosen the two anthems that the mass choir will sing. On Sept 10th(Tues.) those 2 anthems will be made know at the meeting of WECUC at Glenwood United Church Windsor at 7 pm. If you are a part of the United Church and would like your choir to be apart of this mass choir on June 1, kindly note the date and come to the meeting.

Respectively submitted,
Richard Helmer.

Grace notes!

Submitted by Rev. Dr. Cathy Collins-Barker, Chaplain

It is a joy to begin sharing with you as your Chaplain to the local chapter of the RCCO. I enjoy many genres of music and to be able to sit with you as you share your stories of your experiences as music directors/ organists is a joy!

As chaplain, my role is to help you as you require assistance your work environment and to support you as we all face changes and challenges in working in churches.

My hope is that I may offer you prayer support, a listening ear when challenged in your tasks and even an opportunity share music together.

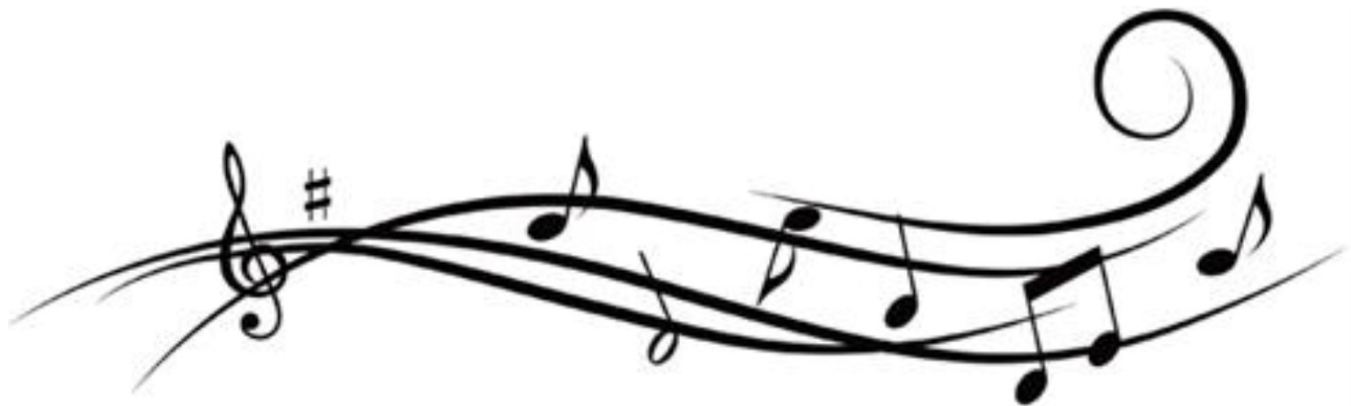


Any discussions or emails are held in the strictest of confidence, and if a problem or situation develops I am also available to assist in advocating for support as requested and needed.

It is my hope that in the months ahead we will come to know each other's strengths and growing areas as people who serve God in the ministry of His church. We will also strive to build relationships with the clergy where we minister together and to share our experiences cooperatively and with care.

I look forward to getting to know you and learning from all of you as we experience the wonder of God's grace.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at cjcb19@gmail.com or 519-915-4179.



From the Organ Advisor

Submitted by: Ron Dossenbach, Organ Advisor

Here are some pictures of the removing of the Morris-Sutton Funeral home organ.



Ring in the season

Silver Bells will be hosting its annual Christmas concert on November 30 starting at 4:30 PM at Emmanuel United Church.

With Special Guests:
Epworth United
Church, Chancel Choir



Donations gladly accepted

New opportunity to create music

Submitted by Dale Burkholder, Silver Bells Director

Have you heard or seen handbell choirs.

Silver Bells has opening for new ringers.

It is a fun way of making music and getting some exercise at the same time. We rehearse on Tuesday afternoons 1:30 to 3:30 in the basement of Emmanuel United Church. There will never be a conflict with Sunday mornings. If you are interested please contact me.





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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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Additions

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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