



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



Summer, 2025

### President's Message

#### President's Report

A huge thank you to everyone who participated in the Annual Service of Worship, General Meeting and dinner at Tecumseh United Church on June 6. Twenty-six members and friends attended and there were several highlights I'd like to share.

The Service of Worship was officiated by our Chaplain, Rev. Dr. Cathy Collins-Barker. She led us in song and prayer and offered a homily, which is included in this newsletter. Scholarship student Steven Hanoosh played a prelude, an organ interlude and postlude as well as accompanied a couple of hymn. Congratulations to Steven and indeed to Margita Lange who has been his teacher. Having only had 6 lessons at the organ, Steven is well on his way to becoming an excellent organist.

Henry invited Lisa Siimes as guest flautist and her duets with Henry at the piano were beautiful and very much appreciated.

The Annual Meeting received the 2024-2025 Annual Report and approved the financial statements. The election of officers took place and I am happy to welcome back to the Executive Committee for another year all members in their personal capacity.

There is one position vacant and that is the Treasurer. Ben Schinkle has decided to step down. We honoured Ben's 25 plus years of service as Treasur-

er and as President for a couple of years with a gift plant and a motion to appoint Ben as an Honorary Vice President was unanimously approved. We most sincerely thank Ben for everything he has done for our centre and congratulate him on this appointment.

The most substantive part of the AGM was the discussion period that followed. Feedback from the discussion groups and questions. A full summary of the feedback was provided to the Executive Committee at its first meeting of the new term on June 13. This report, which is quite detailed in its commentary, is summarized below. Anyone wishing to see the complete report is welcomed to ask for it.

The following summary provides the foundation for a plan going forward.

#### Windsor Essex RCCO Discussions Summary

On June 6, 2025, the Windsor Essex Centre of the Royal Canadian College of Organists (RCCO) held its Annual General Meeting, where members, friends, and guests participated in discussion groups. The goal was to generate innovative ideas for branding the centre, fostering inclusivity, attracting new audiences, and enhancing the organ's profile in the community.

#### Key Highlights:

\* Valued Aspects: Members appreciate the passionate

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Executive Committee

Windsor Essex Centre

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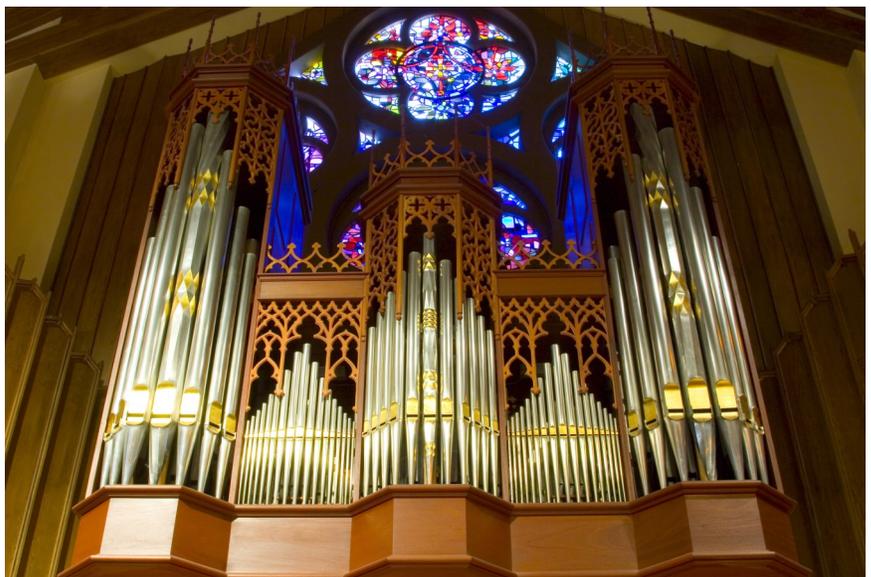
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## Land acknowledgement

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.



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community, effective communication, and self-supporting nature of the centre. Popular programs include organ concerts, Pedals, Pipes and Pizza, organ crawls, clergy dinners, and social activities.

\* **Challenges and Opportunities:** The centre faces challenges such as reaching out to other organizations, enhancing social media presence, increasing membership, and addressing the aging membership issue. Opportunities include establishing connections with other music organizations, improving online engagement, and attracting younger audiences.

\* **Future Vision:** The centre aims to build stronger connections with public school music teachers, engage younger organists, diversify its musical repertoire, and reach out to immigrant communities. Priorities include collaborations, community engagement, and securing funding.

\* **New Ideas:** Participants brainstormed new programs and initiatives, such as organ concerts with other instruments, community sings, open streets/churches events, and engaging community talent. High-priority ideas focus on collaborations, community engagement, and funding.

By focusing on these priorities, the Windsor Essex Centre aims to become a more dynamic and inclusive organization, inspiring connections with organ music.

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If you would care to be part of our planning process going forward, please let me know. Similarly, if you know of a person who might be interested in joining our group with some accounting and book-keeping experience, we would be most appreciative to receive her or his name and coordinates.



It is clear to me that from the feedback, that we need to recruit some expertise that will help us with community cooperation, public engagement and social media interaction. I encourage you all to give some thought to whom we might approach to 'lend us a hand'.

I



Wishing everyone a happy and safe summer and look forward to our first event of the new term in September.





# Expanding Harmonies

## Organ Festival Canada 2025

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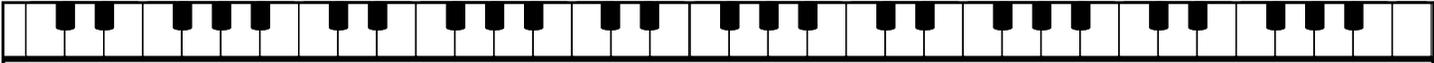
**Jonathan Oldengarm**

**Sarah Svendsen**

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## From the Organ Advisor

*By Ron Dossenbach*

This is an annual roundup of items that involved the Organ Advisor.

One of our members, currently struggling with a failing old Allen instrument, asked if there was room for a small used pipe organ and an approximate cost. Sadly the answer was negative on both counts.

Another member had questions about an increasing amount of time to develop wind after powering on. That led to a faulty capacitor in the blower which was readily repaired. It also led to the discovery of a reservoir with very very worn leather hinges and gussets. That resulted in a new reservoir top and good reliability for decades to come.

Assumption Church was experiencing some issues after a cleaning by an out of town firm. A releathering of the chest pouches in 1990 was performed during a time when time honoured valve pallets were replaced with neoprene valves during releathering jobs. Unfortunately some of these neoprene valves developed a sticking problem after a few years resulting in numerous dead or intermittently working notes. Casavant has long since returned to leather-faced valve pallets. A simple fix was explained to the church involving the application of a thin disc of leather over the offending neoprene. They will be repaired on a per note basis as they fail. Only a few of the hundreds of valves exhibit these problems and those should be addressed over the next two tuning visits.

St Anne's Church in Tecumseh experienced several dead notes. Action blocks with original leather pouches from 1930 were the culprit. They opted to releather all 192 blocks and now will enjoy reliability for decades.

Our historical treasure at Morris Sutton Funeral Home - Aeolian 1535 from 1924 - was in danger of being lost due to the building being sold and slated for demolition. The current issue of Organ Canada has a good report. As of now, the former Morris Sutton funeral home is a clean empty lot awaiting construction of a new Fire Hall #1 for the City of Windsor. The player pipe organ, possibly the only fully functional Aeolian organ that is completely unaltered from original condition in the world, is being set up at the Pianola Museum in Amsterdam.

Currently Don Pole and I are in the midst of restoring a 1930 II/9 tracker organ from a Presbyterian church in Dorchester. It is now in Chatham, completely dismantled, and is having extensive repairs performed. Numerous serious cracks in the windchest were discovered and repaired, and its electrical action for the offset chests will be replaced with a new system. The organ will be installed in the soon to open Presbyterian Church Historical Centre in Carlisle ON, which is halfway between London and Grand Bend.

The Organ Advisor is always available as a first responder for those with pipe organ questions of any kind.

## Grace notes!

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

Thank you to Henry, Margita, Liisa, and Stephen for your music during our worship time together!

After serving this past year as your Chaplain I must say thank you! Thank you for teaching me more about the instrument which calls you together by what it may do. The key thing however is that the instruments on their own can do nothing. It is only if/when the hands or fingers hit the keys and the feet hit the pedals is there music.

But this is also the case for many people with other special skills and talents not just playing an organ. In this past year I have met many of the RCCO Membership. Many are active or retired organists who have or do serve in church settings which tie them to the work, life and mission of a church. Yet have learned, the sound of the organ is also recognizable at arenas and schools where its sound is regarded as somewhat of a mystery!



It is this mystery that needs to be opened up to people of different generations which I see the Windsor-Essex Chapter doing what it can when asked. Now it is time to do the asking! At the executive gathering held last week, we focused on what the group would like to do in the future. We also discussed why it is important to keep organ music in the ears of people and how this might be achieved.

I look forward to learning more about Organ Canada in the months to come and how our Essex County group may be heard and seen in new ways.

May God grant you a time to rest this summer! Blessings to all.



## RCCO Windsor-Essex Centre Annual Meeting Worship Service

Tecumseh United Church Friday, June 6 6:15 p.m

*Submitted by Rev. Dr. Catherine Collins-Barker*

### Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth!

Serve the LORD with gladness; come before His presence with singing.

Know that the LORD, He is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise; be thankful to Him, and bless His name.

### I Corinthians 12: 27-31

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? Now eagerly desire the greater gifts.

### Reflection “Worship and Work Must be One”

Pentecost is just a couple of days away and this celebration of the birthday of the church is marked by the rush of wind, fire and the movement of God’s Spirit. It is a day of joy wonder and an opportunity to truly give thanks and praise to God- Creator Son and Spirit. It is a day when we pray that the Spirit will move amongst those who believe. It is a day of celebration because Jesus’ promise was fulfilled when the Advocate came and people believed. Pentecost is a celebration of the community we call the church coming together as one. It is day full of joy and wonder about who we each profess to be as children of faith. It is a day when what we share in working for the church combines with worshipping God.

Are you excited about Pentecost and worshipping God with hope that the Spirit comes? Or maybe you, like many ministers, priests and worship leaders are tired because of the busyness of church life has caught up to you and this church- academic year is soon ending.

You’ve made it through the church year- with Advent/Christmas; Lent and Easter celebrations with all the

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rehearsals practice times and teaching sharing and learning music. And now you might be looking forward to a slower summer schedule with holidays and less demands of time. Yet in your role as organist/ music-choir director you are called to ‘make a joyful noise’ to the Lord in all that you do.

This noise we make is interpreted by people in different way- for some are searching for the quiet tones for soft reflection- like the wind through leaves on trees. Others are yearning for the clash of symbols and trumpets blaring and still others, seek the peace of a single bird in song, or the almost unheard sound of little birds shouting for food. But in all this noise- we are called to be joyful because the Spirit comes to us and lifts us up to be and become what God intends for each of us.

As music directors/ organists/ choir directors, your role is to help those gathered make this joyful noise- whatever this noise means to them and to you. Often you might set the tone for the service--either when you are low on energy, or have had more than two cups of coffee. The energy that comes from music seems to drive God’s Spirit to move amongst others. And sometimes you need to be reminded that the gifts, skills and talents you share do make a difference in other people’s lives. You are a part of the body of Christ at worship. Yes you are working as part of the church, but you also need to get excited about the Spirit that moves in and around us. Your message in music is heard and seen through your expressions and in the ways that cannot always be articulated in words.

Each of us have gifts to share as a part of the body of Christ. Some gifts as described in I Cor.12 and these are seen, heard and recognized each week. But others are often tied to the whole experience because the Spirit moves us to see and hear and receive God in a variety of ways. But you need to be reminded that there is a time to get excited as the Spirit leads. Often times, when the fingers don’t seem to want to work right, or a vocalist goes a little flat, one might be discouraged, just remember that this joyful noise serves a purpose. Why? Because God made us, we are his and we are called in faith to follow as sheep the Good Shepherd.

Pentecost reminds us that God’s Spirit is alive and with us now. Sometimes we forget that indeed Christ is risen because there is no excitement, no joy no desire to make noise for God. Yet as we prepare for Pentecost and the longest season of the church year-- known as Ordinary time or the season of Pentecost we need to get excited again. The Spirit is with each of us and how we share in ministry together enables us to tell the person in the pews that there is joy, everlasting joy because God blesses us. So the challenge we now receive anew is this:

Do you feel the Spirit of God? Are you excited again? We should be getting excited with God’s Spirit coming to us in new ways, moving amongst us even now. Are you ready to feel the Spirit in new ways? Let’s get excited as we prepare for Pentecost and make a joyful noise as the Spirit comes and renews our hearts. One of my favourite choruses I learned at a young age reminds me of what being in ministry is about:

I’m excited I’m excited I’m excited in the lord.

I’m excited I’m excited I’m excited in the lord.

I’m excited I’m excited I’m excited in the lord.

When you walk with the Lord you don’t get bored. Sing Hallelujah! Amen.



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## Choral Music

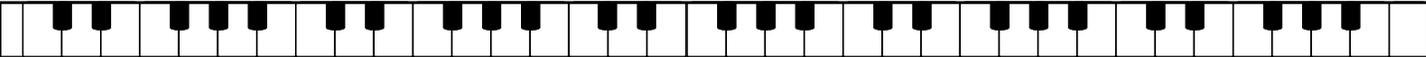
*Henry Boon has now published two SATB Christmas compositions with Cypress Choral Press in Vancouver.*

*To see the scores and listen to the recording by the Amadeus choir of Toronto, please go to [cypresschoral.com](http://cypresschoral.com)*



## 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**  
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*Address:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Phone number:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Email address:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Church affiliation and position*  
*(if applicable):* \_\_\_\_\_

Membership fee for the current year: \$30

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

Please contact Karen Price [karenbevprice@gmail.com](mailto:karenbevprice@gmail.com) for mailing instructions