



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



Fall, 2025

President's Message

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In July, I had the pleasure of participating in Organ Festival Canada 2025, which took place in Kitchener, Waterloo and Guelph. In the Fall issue of Organ Canada, you will have a chance to read all about the festival in four featured articles: In Pursuit of Excellence, In Recital, Supporting Centres and Widening Public Engagement. Hopefully, when you read the articles you will have an appreciation for the quality of the workshops, the astonishing recitals, the excellence demonstrated in the National Organ Competition and ways in which the festival engaged with the wider public.

These articles closely align with the strategic directions of the RCCO and when you read them, you will see correlations to some of the work and activities of the Windsor Essex Centre.

On September 28, 2025 at 2:30 pm, we are hosting with St. Alphonsus Parish an exciting organ concert. This event is a fine example of how we can reach out to the public and engage them in experiencing the pipe organ's diversity of sound and music making.

The concert will be titled: Organ 360: Past, Present and Beyond. The concert will be like no other you have heard. The program will include traditional organ masterpieces (à la Bach and Mendelssohn), the oldest piece of organ music ever written (from

the 1300's), the organ as an accompanying instrument (for flute, flugelhorn and voices), some contemporary pieces (including organ transcriptions of pieces intended for the piano), two pieces played by our youngest scholarship student (age 11), themes from Star Wars, and a futuristic organ piece (using lead weights). What a wide range of music, all of which will demonstrate how an 'old' instrument can be used in unique and imaginative ways.

For the first time, we will be using equipment we have purchased to project live images of the organists on a screen in front of the audience. Ron Dossenbach and Jim Fast did hours of research and guided our purchase of this equipment, which we are hoping will help us broaden our outreach into the community. It also provides us with an opportunity to recruit some young people (who are 'tech savvy' to join us members.

When we send you promotional material for the concert, please forward it to your friends, family and other community groups. Entrance is by donation, which will assist in supporting music at St. Alphonsus.

I would also like to seek your assistance in recruiting at least two new members to our executive group. Since Ben has retired, we need a treasurer and Dale has requested a person to whom he can transition his role in communications. To this end, job descriptions have been written and can be found in this newsletter.

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Executive Committee

Windsor Essex Centre

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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.



(Continued from page 1)

Remember, new members do not need to be organists or musicians; anyone who enjoys the organ and its music is welcomed to join.



On June 6, 2025, members of the Windsor Essex Centre of the Royal Canadian College of Organists (RCCO) discussed the future of the Centre going forward. The following enunciates the guidelines toward rebranding the centre by fostering inclusivity, attracting new audiences, and enhancing the organ's profile in the community.

Key Highlights:

- ♪ **Valued Aspects:** Members appreciate the passionate 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:** New programs and initiatives, such as organ concerts with other instruments, community sings, open streets/churches events, and engaging community talent will be developed. High-priority ideas focus on collaborations, community engagement, and funding.

Being guided by these highlights, the Windsor Essex Centre aims to become a more dynamic and inclusive organization, inspiring connections with organ music. A three-year masterplan identifying priority events and activities is in the early stages of development.

Organ 360: Past, Present and Beyond

Windsor, ON – St. Alphonsus Church, in collaboration with the Windsor Essex Centre of the Royal Canadian College of Organists, is proud to present "Organ 360: Past, Present and Beyond," a captivating organ concert that promises to take the audience on a musical journey through time. The concert will be held on Sunday, September 28 at 2:30 pm at St. Alphonsus Church, located at 85 Park Street East, Windsor.



This unique event will feature performances by talented local organists, showcasing the rich history and versatility of the organ. Attendees will experience a diverse repertoire that spans from classical masterpieces to contemporary compositions, highlighting the organ's enduring significance in the world of music.

"In this concert, we journey through centuries and soundscapes—where Bach's timeless architecture meets the shimmering pulse of the future," said Paul Wharram, President of the RCCO Windsor Essex Centre. "Played by hands (and feet) young and old, the console becomes a vessel of emotion, invention, and wonder. Each stop pulled is a door opened—to reverence, to revelation. This is not just a recital. It is a celebration of the organ's infinite soul."

In lieu of tickets, donations would be appreciated. All proceeds will support the ongoing preservation and maintenance of the historic St. Alphonsus Church and its cherished organ.

Join us for an afternoon of extraordinary music and community spirit. For more information, please contact St. Alphonsus Church at (519) 256-1849 or Paul Wharram at paul.wharram@gmail.com

Carols & more

A time to celebrate the Christmas season with organ, handbells, piano, and congregation is being planned for a Sunday afternoon at Epworth United Church, Kingsville.

You are most welcome to play and/or sing at this holiday event.

We will provide more details as we have them.

Contact Dale Burkholder for more information

From the Organ Advisor

By Ron Dossenbach

Another unexpected summer is coming to a close. Don Pole and I rescued a 1935 Lye tracker organ from Dorchester. We moved it to Don's Chatham shop to make minor necessary repairs, then to install it in the newly set up Presbyterian Church Historical Centre in Carlisle ON. This hamlet is located halfway between London and Grand Bend.

Everything was supposed to be finished and installed by the end of June. We unfortunately encountered numerous problems of various types. The windchests suffered from severe cracks causing runs, the reservoir was leaky, and there were electrical issues. As a result we soldiered through the summer tackling these issues. It required a complete disassembly of the windchests to spline and dowel the table to repair those cracks. Several other issues were also dealt with, including a tremulant which became a home for a mouse. After 70 trips to Chatham, we are still at it. We hope to be completed later this month for installation next month.

Our Centre now has the ability to project video images of the organist at our concerts. The new equipment includes two good cameras and tripods, a video mixer, a powerful laser projector, and an eight foot wide screen. We also have the ability to record and livestream on YouTube. The video screen should add interest to our concerts. Images from a laptop can show text, pictures, or hymn words.

The Assumption organ has moved a step closer to its original stoplist with the addition of a vintage Vox Humana that was made in 1918. Perfect for a 1918 instrument of similar size. An organ near Ottawa was the donor. The organ can now provide better historic demonstrations of how it sounded in 1919.





Position: Treasurer, Windsor Essex Centre RCCO

Responsibilities:

- Oversees all financial transactions and fundraising efforts of the Centre. The financial ‘watch dog’ ensuring the protection of the Centre’s funds
- Oversees the general financial management, planning and tacking of all funds
- Collects and deposits cash funds (such as donations and costs of events, fees, tickets etc.)
- Write cheques as required.
- Provide financial reports regularly to executive committee and the Annual General Meeting.
- Reconciles bank statements and managing cash flow,
- Excel is the accounting tool used to generate reports to keep the records
- On-the-job training provided.



Position: Communications Officer, Windsor Essex Centre RCCO

Responsibilities:

♪ Maintain Website

- ✓ Uses WordPress (easy if you know Microsoft Word)
- ✓ Update the Calendar of events
- ✓ Make sure the next event is on the home page
- ✓ Other updates as needed

♪ Maintain Mailing list

- ✓ Currently using Microsoft Access and Website
- ✓ Can be changed to some other software package
- ✓ Keep track of member addresses
- ✓ Keep track of Church email addresses
- ✓ Keep track of Media contacts

♪ Press Releases

- ✓ Drafts to be written
- ✓ Email to Media and (possible) churches
- ✓ Post to website

♪ Quarter Notes (newsletter)

- ✓ Currently using Microsoft Publisher
- ✓ Establish deadlines (currently exec meetings in September, November, March, June)
- ✓ Create quarterly email
- ✓ Email newsletters
- ✓ Post to website and update the newsletter page

♪ 32nd Notes (announcements)

- ✓ Using WordPress
- ✓ As needed (usually “just” before an event)
- ✓ Put on the Facebook page and other social media

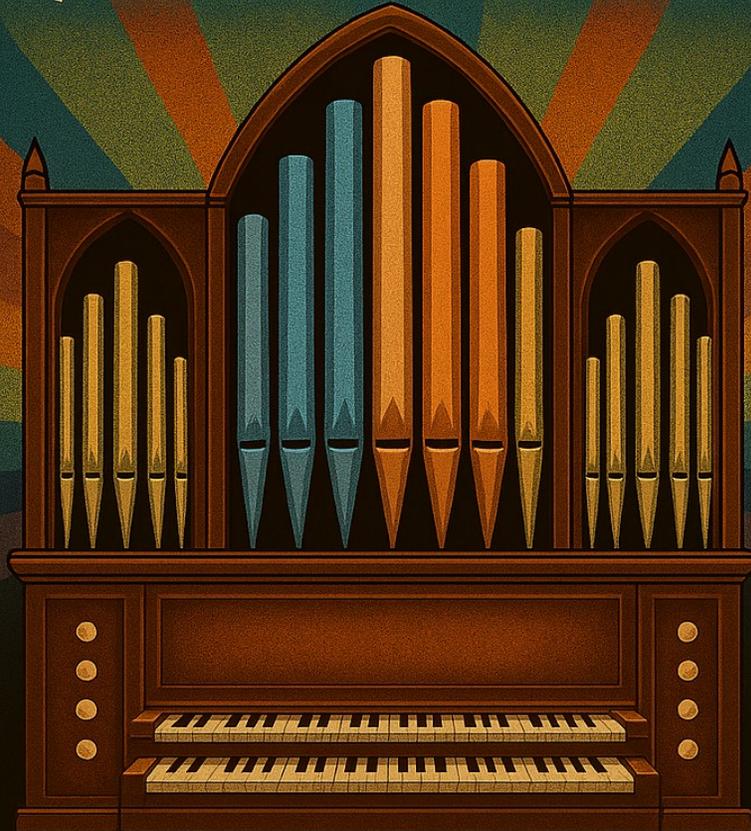
♪ Other

- ✓ Create and submit articles to Organ Canada

Training is available

ORGAN 360

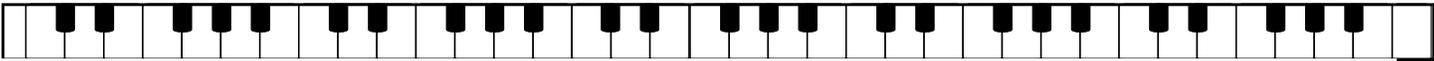
PAST, PRESENT AND BEYOND



Sunday, September 28, 2025

at 2:30 pm

St. Alphonsus Church
85 Park St. E. Windsor
Donations in lieu of tickets



Pasta Dinner and Christmas Concert

Come and enjoy a delicious pasta dinner followed by a joyful Christmas concert filled with festive music, community spirit, and holiday cheer!

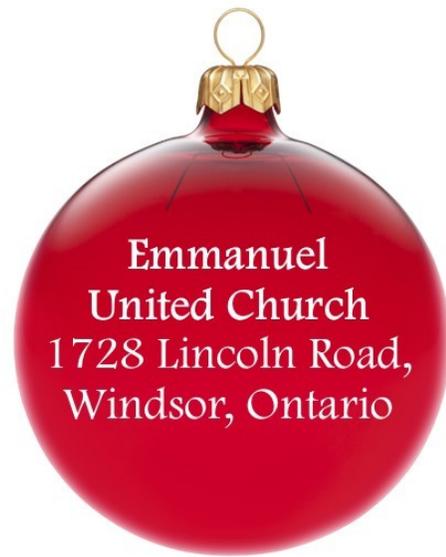
Featuring the piano and handbell stylings of Dale Burkholder



Saturday,
November 29, 2025
5:00 PM



Tickets: \$20.00
RSVP before Nov. 10
Email transfer to
gangalf@live.com



Emmanuel
United Church
1728 Lincoln Road,
Windsor, Ontario



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Choral Music

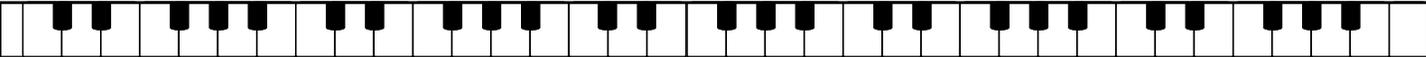
Henry Boon has now published two SATB Christmas compositions with Cypress Choral Press in Vancouver.

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



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 the current year: \$30

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

Please contact Karen Price karenbevprice@gmail.com for mailing instructions