



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



Winter, 2025

President's Message

President's Christmas Message – RCCO Windsor Essex Centre

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As Advent and Christmas approach, we enter what is often the busiest and most rewarding season for organists and choir directors. Our calendars fill with carol services, carolling, and cantatas, and the music we prepare helps create the anticipation and joy of Christmas for our congregations. There is a special satisfaction in seeing the smiles and delight in the eyes of those singing their favourite carols—reminding us of the important role we play in the musical life of our churches.

Yet, amid the hustle and bustle, it's easy to become preoccupied with perfecting our playing or feeling the pressure to prepare our choirs to sing their very best. This year let's remember to pause and allow ourselves to anticipate and experience the joy of Christmas, not just as musicians, but as members of our faith communities.

How can we do this? Here are a few thoughts for all of us as we prepare and participate in this special season:

- ♪ Find moments of reflection: Take time to enjoy the beauty of the music you are creating, both in rehearsal and performance.
- ♪ Share the joy: Encourage your choir members

and congregation to express what their favourite carols mean to them, fostering a deeper connection to the music.

- ♪ Celebrate progress, not perfection: Remember that the spirit of Christmas is found in the shared experience, not just flawless execution.
- ♪ Support one another: Reach out to fellow musicians for camaraderie and inspiration—sometimes a simple conversation can renew your sense of purpose and joy.

May this season bring you peace, fulfillment, and the true joy of Christmas, both in your music and in your hearts.

With warm wishes,

Paul Wharram, President, RCCO Windsor Essex Centre



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.



Christmas Carol-a-thon

Can you help out? We need organists and pianists to accompany congregational singing of Advent and Christmas Carols on Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 2:30 pm.

The carols will be all familiar and favourites of the congregation gathered. We will also introduce and teach one of Henry Boon's original Christmas carol compositions.

If you can help out, call me (Paul) at 519-980-2034



Save the Date

Friday, January 23, 2026

Clergy / Organists Dinner

Discussion and Dialogue

How to motivate and inspire young people to become more engaged with music in liturgical settings.

Guest Speaker: Mr. Ronald Fox



Ronald Fox is organist at St. Peter's Cathedral in London and pianist for Catholic Central High School vocal extension program. He has a Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Michigan. His hometown is Windsor. Ronald performs recitals/concerts on organ and recital with Western choirs and Amabile chamber choir.

Members and friends are requested to invite their clergy counterparts to this dinner as guests of the Windsor Essex RCCO. Details about registration, location and cost will follow. Save the date now!

Pipes, Passion and Perseverance: Leslie Ye's Story

Note: This story will appear in Organ Canada Winter 2026

When Leslie Ye first heard the majestic sound of a pipe organ at a Pipe Organ Encounter for young people, something sparked within her. The thunderous resonance, the intricate mechanics, and the sheer expressive power of the instrument captivated her imagination. For Leslie, this was not just an introduction—it was the beginning of a passionate journey.

At just 12 years old, Leslie, who is a first-year scholarship student, has demonstrated remarkable discipline and drive, impressing her teacher, Henry Boon, with her rapid technical progress and her proactive approach to mastering registration and pedal technique. Leslie's dedication is evident in every aspect of her practice; she approaches each piece with curiosity and a commitment to excellence.



Her poise and confidence as a soloist shone brightly in her first public performance at St. Alphonsus Church in Windsor, where she played works by Denis Bedard and Gordon Young. Leslie's ability to command the stage, even at a young age, is both noteworthy and inspiring.

Leslie's achievements speak volumes about her work ethic. She has participated in the Kiwanis Music Festival Windsor-Essex County from 2021 to 2025, earning five First Place, three Second Place, and six Third Place awards. Her talent has also earned her invitations to the OMFA Provincial Finals nearly every year, and she has completed the RCM Level 8 Certificate Program with First Class Honours.

But Leslie's story is not just about accolades. It's about a young musician discovering her voice through the pipe organ—a journey marked by discipline, passion, and a love for learning. She is an active member of her school band (playing flute) and choir, contributing to the vibrant musical community at Legacy Oak Trail Public School. Beyond music, Leslie balances her artistic pursuits with competitive swimming, figure skating, dance, and gymnastics, blending grace and athleticism in everything she does.

Leslie draws inspiration from both classical and contemporary music, citing Olivia Rodrigo and Black Pink as influences that fuel her creativity and energy. Her approach to life is grounded in curiosity and kindness, always seeking new experiences and ways to express herself through art.

As Leslie continues to explore the world of organ music, she embodies the spirit of the next generation—driven, passionate, and ready to shape the future of this timeless instrument.

Henry Boon, Scholarship Chair, Windsor Essex Centre

boonh60@gmail.com

Photo 1 Leslie Ye during a practice session

It's a Christmas 'Carol-a-thon'

*Presented by The Royal
Canadian College of
Organists and the
Church of the
Epiphany, Kingsville.*

Sunday, December 14
at 2:30 pm

Church of the Epiphany

90 Main St. W.,
Kingsville



RCCO · CRCO

SECTION DE WINDSOR-ESSEX CENTRE

From the Organ Advisor

By Ron Dossenbach

Organ Advisor Article

As you read this, I am now in the small village of Carlisle ON hard at work on the installation of a 1935 Lye II/8 tracker pipe organ. Because of its 95 year stay at Dorchester Presbyterian Church, it was saved from destruction and renovated to be installed in the new Presbyterian Church Historical Centre. The Dorchester building was purchased by by a Malakaran Catholic congregation after the Dorchester church was closed and the new owners do not have an organ culture. However they did their utmost to attempt to preserve the instrument and were helpful during its removal in February of this year. The Malakarans are made up of Indian people from a distinct region in India with allegiance to the pope.

The organ is a bit of an anomaly. The organs of the major organbuilders had by 1935 evolved from tracker action to tubular pneumatic action and on to electropneumatic actions. Most of the organs we play today have EP actions in which the key acts to close an electrical switch in a 12 volt DC circuit to energize magnets which in turn trigger leather pouches to move, acting as air switches to each pipe. Not Lye! The key physically opens a pallet valve via a sytem of trackers and stickers and rollerboards. This was long before the neo-baroque movement which featured tracker actions. It was done because the creative forces of the company were at their peak in the 19th century. It seems as if Lye, which built price point organs, stuck with what they knew, or had little R&D budget or staff. They did use tubular pneumatic action for the 11 speaking facade pipes, the pedal Bourdon, and two small offset chests. Even that was outdated by 1935. Don Pole and I moved a one manual Lye from Highgate to Morpeth last year which was built c.1890. (Interestingly it was first installed in a Windsor church. Ian Mason and I would love to learn of its identity.) The action, windchests, and pipework were virtually identical to the Dorchester instrument: 45 years with no significant change in technology.

We had planned on two to four weeks of adjustments and minor repairs at Don's shop in Chatham. Only after we opened up the chests did we discover major problems. Cracks abounded everywhere that leaked wind from one note to the other. The result was horrid "chords" sounded from a single key. We applied many splines and dowels to repair this. Many other repairs were also needed. A small tremulant was a nest for mice who chewed through its operating valve rendering it inoperative. It was repaired and an anti-mouse screen was made to prevent this from recurring. Our short restoration stretched through the spring, then the summer, and well into the fall. Only now is it being installed in Carlisle.

The original contract specified a 27 note Pedal keyboard with a 27 note Bourdon rank, but only 20 Bourdon pipes were ever installed. Don suggested we might be able to add the 7 missing notes to return the organ to its original contract state. We added 7 pipes on an extra little 7 note offset chest. The organ now has a full 27 note pedal compass. Don also completely replaced the electrical system with a new one.

The organ is being assembled now after having been completely disassembled for the move and should take 7-14 days. Ian is scheduling an inaugural organ concert on October 31. There will be notification of details.

Lye took a lot of shortcuts in order to produce an instrument considerably cheaper than Casavant or Karn and we discovered several examples of less than stellar workmanship, to say the least. But one area that

was not compromised was the sound. This organ has nicely scaled and voiced pipes. This little organ sounds good! We did not make any tonal changes. It now sounds as it did 95 years ago.

Don and I feel that not only the very best Casavants deserve to be saved, but the occasional runt also deserves attention. This gives a better representation of how things were.



GRACE NOTES

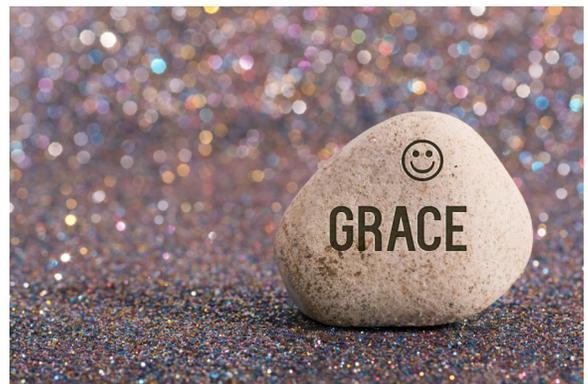
By Rev. Dr. Catherine Collins-Barker

Advent and Christmas Seasons will soon begin in our liturgical Christian churches and with these seasons there is often a struggle as to whether we should be singing about Jesus in the manger before December 24. There is also that struggle for clergy and worship musicians of various kinds to discover the balance between word and music during this higher attendance period (we hope). How do we prioritize what is featured- soloist or sacrament? Choir anthems or children's presentations? Or even contemporary versus classical Christmas hymns or songs? We might even question whether we should share the words of the prophets who called everyone to prepare. This might also mean a change from the ordinary to something extraordinary as we blend the message of the word with the music we hold close in our hearts. This may mean further discussions between clergy and musicians, but in order to see the story of Jesus' birth chronologically progress these dialogues are essential.

On the first Sunday of Advent we begin a new church year and appropriately sing #1 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (Voices United) with wonder and anticipation. But there is also a sense that we need to get to Jesus' birth quicker in order to really celebrate. After all, stores have been witness to tinsel, bows and Santa since mid-October. Yet focusing on Advent music and readings at least for three of the four weeks draws us into the story, so that we may feel, hear and experience it anew.

We have to remember that there are people coming into our churches who have no idea who Isaiah or Herod is, or even what an angel is supposed to do. So it is important to teach the story by word and song and enable God's Spirit to move and touch the hearts of people.

For musician and clergy it means beginning with the prophecies and then going to the house where the Wise men meet Jesus as a toddler. It means keeping the anticipation and wonder of Advent in check with the celebration of putting that Baby Jesus figurine/doll in the crèche on Christmas Eve. Sharing the message of God's gift to us in Jesus is what needs to be priority. And we as musicians and clergy are called to do this special task. Let us pray and dialogue with colleagues; let us lift each other up as we also know this is a time of rehearsals and preparation. But we also have to rest and remember the reason for Christ's birth-- so that he would live, to die and rise again as our Saviour. Thanks be to God.



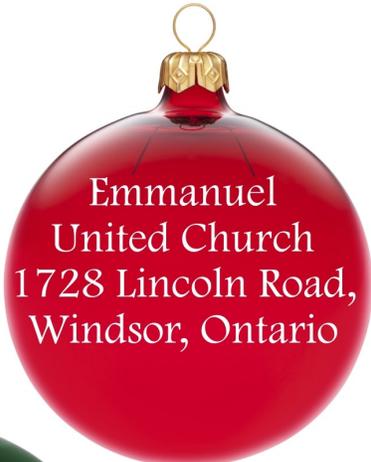
Pasta Dinner  *Christmas Concert*

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



Emmanuel
United Church
1728 Lincoln Road,
Windsor, Ontario



Cost: 20.00
RSVP ASAP to
gangalf@live.com
to insure enough
food



Job Description of Organist/Choir Director

Church of the Ascension Windsor, Ontario Autumn, 2025

Church of the Ascension is a vibrant, traditional Anglican faith community which is inviting applications for the position of Organist/Choir Director. Applications are to be received by Oct. 17th, though interviews with applicants may be scheduled in advance of that date. While the position is available immediately, our desire is to have the successful candidate in place no later than November 30th, the 1st Sunday of Advent. Interested applicants are invited to forward their CV to lance@ascensionwindsor.ca

1. The Organist/Choir director (O/C) shall be responsible for playing at all 10:30 a.m. liturgies as well as special services as required: holy days/week, funerals, weddings, and other special festivals.
2. The O/C will conduct choir practices on a weekly basis except during the summer months (July & August) when the choir does not vest.
3. The O/C will generally be responsible for choosing the music, hymn selections, preludes, introits, anthems and postludes (in conjunction when necessary with the Rector). It is anticipated that the O/C and Rector will dialogue on a regular basis regarding the music for liturgies. The Rector has final authority on all aspects of the liturgy.
3. The O/C shall have official oversight of the organ and grand piano. It shall be this person's responsibility to report to the Rector when repairs, tuning or other maintenance may be needed.
4. Annual paid Holidays shall consist of four weeks. The O/C will arrange for supply while absent. The parish will budget to provide \$150 for each occasion.
5. It shall be the duty of the O/C to organize and maintain the Music Office.
6. The initial annual remuneration package will be open to negotiation with the successful candidate based on experience and other relevant considerations and then be subject to the yearly parish budgeting process. This amount does not include fees procured during weddings, funerals or other special services.
7. The O/C will be expected to facilitate the growth of the parish's choir recognizing the volunteer nature of its members.





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



Quality Homes
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Additions

(519) 776-7200

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