

THE BULLETIN

Newsletter for the Toronto Centre of the Royal Canadian College of Organists

May 2015

Tom Fitches: A Celebration of Ministry

The church was packed to the doors on Sunday morning April 26, as St. Clement's celebrated the ministry of Thomas Fitches, organist and choirmaster, retiring after 42 years of extraordinarily fine service.

The service of Holy Eucharist was preceded by the ringing of the old church bell now named 'Faithful Thomas', and the processional hymn was immediate proof of the comment written for the April issue of *The Anglican* by John Fraser and Elizabeth MacCallum that Fitches 'was by wide agreement the best hymn accompanist the anyone knew.' and also that 'His improvisations are something to anticipate eagerly.'

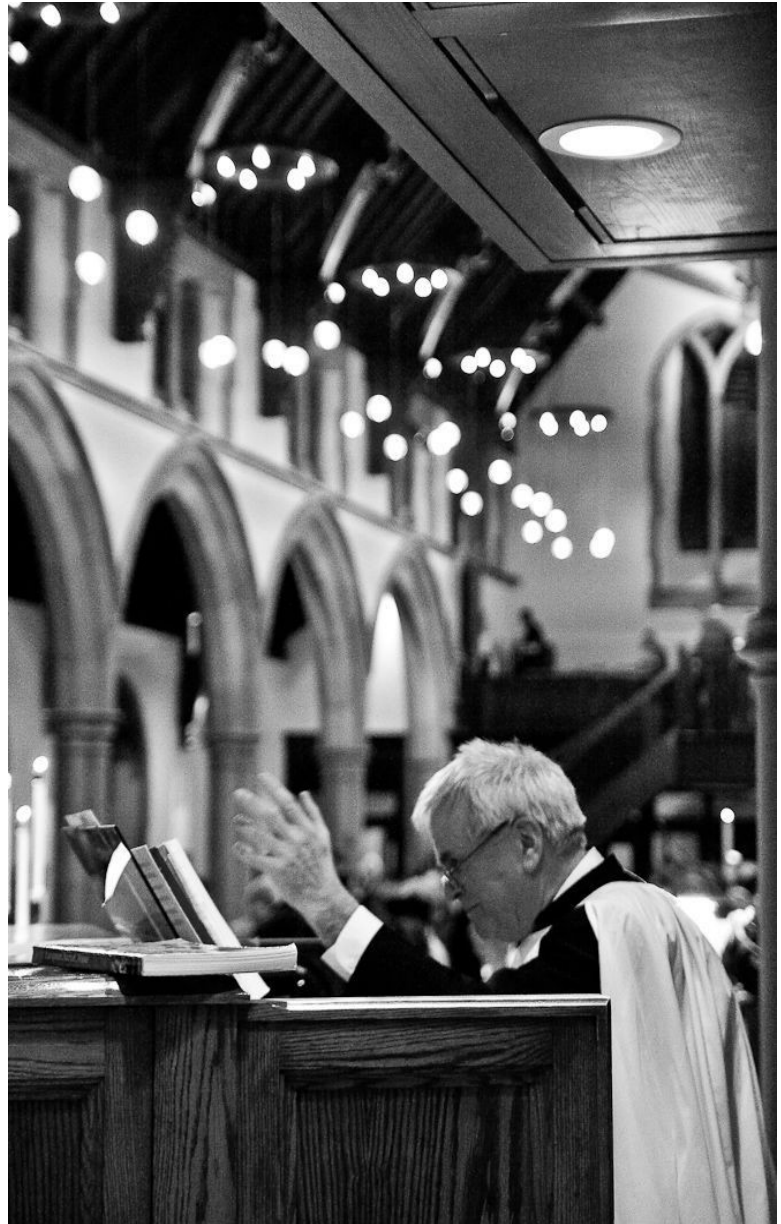
The fine quality of the choirs was evident in the singing of the *Missa Brevis in F* of Josef Haydn. That the congregation must have included many former choir members was evident by the sound which burst forth when the congregation was invited to join in singing the Hallelujah Chorus, music provided.

The most vigorous standing ovation of the day occurred with the announcement that Trinity College will confer a Doctor of Sacred Letters (honoris causa) upon Tom On May 10, 2016. The award is 'in recognition of Tom's lifetime devotion to the Anglican Church, his enriching of the church community through the beauty of Anglican Church music, his gifts of caring and building relationships and his strong commitment to the Anglican faith.'

Many tributes were read and spoken along with an encouraging report of the 'Tom Fitches Music and Ministry Fund' established 'to fund organ scholars and build the music ministry at St. Clement's.'

A stand-up luncheon and reception followed in the parish hall.

~ Alan Jackson



In this issue:

- *The President's Voice*
Page 2
- *Recitals & Concerts*
Page 4
- *The Chaplain's Column*
Page 3
- *Report of the Nominating Committee*
Page 5



THE ROYAL CANADIAN
COLLEGE OF ORGANISTS

86 Orchard Park Blvd.
Toronto, Ontario
Canada
M4L 3E2



Alan T. Jackson & Company Ltd.
Pipe Organ Sales & Service
Regional Representative for
Casavant Frères

Robert Hiller, President
Tel. 416-481-9080 Cell.416-428-3555
Email: rhiller@rogers.com

Service department
Alice Hiller, Manager
Tel. 416-481-9080
Fax. 416-481-2260
Toll Free 1-877-311-0103
Email: ahiller@rogers.com
www.atjl.com



One-Day Conference for Worship and Music Leaders:
Pastors, Directors, Organists, Choirs and Praise Teams

Finding Our Voice

Music Ministry in Today's Church

Keynote Speakers



Glen Soderholm



Christopher Dawes



Chris Fischer

Friday June 5th 2015

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Crieff Hills Conference
and Retreat Centre**

- Hear new ways of being a worshipping church in a rapidly changing culture
- Learn tools and skills to enliven your community's song

Cost: \$50.00 (includes lunch)

To Register: Please call Crieff Hills at 519-824-7898
(1 800-884-1525) or email registrar@crieffhills.com

Crieff Hills Retreat & Conference Centre is 15 minutes from Guelph
7098 Concession 1 Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0 www.crieffhills.com

The President's Voice

"Why do they call it an organ?" asked a precocious kid at our recent *Pedal, Pipes and Pizza* event.

"Why indeed?" responded our moderator. And after several vain attempts he admitted, "I don't really know." Neither it seems did any of the other adults present. Trust a ten-year-old to catch us all up.

Coming home, I tried looking it up using the Internet. 'Organum' appears as an entry; many of us are aware of organum from our early music classes, as a form of polyphonic improvisation on a plainsong melody with parts moving in parallel motion at a fifth, fourth, or octave.

But that's not a reason to call it a pipe organ.

In Latin the word is derived from ancient Greek and defined as:

- an instrument or tool
- **any** musical instrument

Again, not really a specific definition of a pipe organ. At that point I was interrupted and abandoned my search.

Several days later I had a meeting with some Humber College media students who wanted to make a documentary on the organs of Toronto. I said the RCCO would be pleased to cooperate and gave them the names of several of our members who agreed to participate with interviews and the recording of the organ in their churches. When it came time for my interview I casually asked about the title. They thought about calling it *The Beating Heart*.

They discovered in the filming and recording of various instruments in our churches, and in the interviews with the organists themselves, that the organ was really the 'beating heart' of the church. It had lungs, and relied on many of the same mechanisms that human organs use. And they found that the instrument was at the heart of all worship aspects of the church, sustaining the life of the church just as our physical organs sustain us.

Perhaps that is a bit of a stretch, but to me it's a good enough reason for why we call it an 'organ'.

Tom Fitches, David Simon and I previewed *The Beating Heart* last week. It's great, and it will soon be released and likely entered into the Toronto International Film Festival. We will have it available on our website in the coming months.

- David Weind

The Chaplain's Column

Clergy and Musicians: Rivalry or Teamwork?

I spent the day at a workshop on clergy and musician relationships sponsored by the York-Scarborough Area of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto. Fred Graham, our keynote speaker, referred to Eileen Gunther's book, *Rivals or a Team?: Clergy-Musician Relationships in the Twenty-First Century*, which includes a number of stories from both sides of the fence.

The presenters and participants engaged in dialogue throughout the day, with a good deal of wisdom emerging. For instance, while church musicians may have had excellent musical training, they have to acquire their knowledge of theology or liturgy another way. And nobody teaches church politics; everyone learns that the hard way. There seemed to be some energy in finding a way to offer some continuing education opportunities for church musicians.

When I was the chair of a diocesan liturgy and music commission in the States, we introduced the Leadership Program for Musicians, which offered a series of courses over two years for church musicians: <http://www.lpm-online.org/courses/index.php> Because smaller congregations sometimes recruited people who were trained as pianists, but not organists, this program was found to be enormously helpful. But people who had degrees in organ also benefited because they likely had no training in the Philosophy of Church Music, for instance.

I was fortunate when I was a church musician to work with mostly wonderful clergy colleagues. I know that is not everyone's experience, and one of the learnings that was acknowledged today was that most healthy clergy-musician relationships are built on trust, and trust doesn't just drop from the heavens like "the quality of mercy;" it is the result of a process of communication and risk-taking. The things we pay attention to usually work better than the things we don't.

Want a better working relationship? Ask yourself what YOU have the power to do to effect a change for the better. OK, it may mean looking for a new situation, but there are stories of transformation resulting from the right combination of grace, imagination, and fearless creativity.

(The Rev'd) Sherman Hesselgrave, M.A., M.S., M.Div.
Chaplain, RCCO Toronto Centre
shesselgrave@holyltrinitytoronto.org



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF MUSIC

Presents

Choral Conducting Symposium 2015

For secondary school,
church and community
chorus conductors

July 6-10, 2015

at the Faculty of Music
University of Toronto

Guest Clinician

Mark Sirett

Artistic Director of the Cantabile Singers of
Kingston, Organist, Pianist and Composer

with

Hilary Apfelstadt

Lori-Anne Dolloff

University of Toronto

Membership Matters

CIOC - International Organ Competition has added the Toronto Centre as a secondary membership.

Christina Faye has joined the RCCO as a regular member of the Toronto Centre.

Recitals & Concerts

Thursday, May 7 12:15 pm

Peter Merrick, organ *Metropolitan United Church*

Thursday, May 14 12:15 pm

Richard Spotts, organ *Metropolitan United Church*

Thursday, May 21 12:15 pm

Duo Calixa, guitar and flute *Metropolitan United Church*

Thursday, May 28 12:15 pm

David Simon, organ *Metropolitan United Church*

Saturday, May 30 7:30 pm

Music at Metropolitan presents

Charles Davidson sings: 'Mailied' with Ross Inglis, pianist
Schumann, Strauss and Weill: A Journey from the 19th
century to early Weimar Kabarett

The first 'Marg and Jim Norquay Celebration Concert'

Metropolitan United Church

Admission: \$20/\$10 ages 18 and under

Wednesday, June 3 7:30 pm

Gerald Martindale, carillon and organ
Summer carillon concerts on Metropolitan's carillon
Metropolitan United Church

Thursday, June 4 12:15 pm

Sarah Svendsen, organ *Metropolitan United Church*

Saturday, June 6 7:30 pm

A Night at the Proms:

The Northdale Concert Band
and the Choirs of Grace Church on-the-Hill
Giles Bryant, Master of Ceremonies

Grace Church on-the-Hill

Tickets: \$25/\$5 ages 12 and under

**Want to see your next concert or event in the RCCO Toronto *Bulletin*?
Send your information to the Editor at mwhitfi3@gmail.com.**



THE ROYAL CANADIAN
COLLEGE OF ORGANISTS

RCCO Toronto: Report of the Nominating Committee May 5, 2015

The Nominating Committee (Elisa Mangina, David Weind, Donald Pelletier) submits the following slate of Officers and Members-at-Large for 2015-2016:

President: David Weind
Past President: Elisa Mangina
Vice President: Donald Pelletier
Secretary: William Wright
Treasurer: Ron Jordan
Membership: Hazel Ogilvie
Bulletin Editor: Matthew Whitfield
Chaplain: the Rev. Sherman Hesselgrave

Members at Large:

Tom Bell
 David Briggs
 John-Paul Farahat
 Thomas Fitches
 Stephen Frketic
 Joanne Hart
 Alan Jackson
 Mary Legge
 Karen Price
 Ross Stretton
 Mark Toews
 Patricia Wright



THE ROYAL CANADIAN
 COLLEGE OF ORGANISTS

Organs of Toronto

Would you like to know more about any of the organs mentioned in this issue of the *Bulletin*?

If so, consider purchasing *Organs of Toronto*, a comprehensive guide to Toronto's pipe organs. The *Organs of Toronto* CD, an accompaniment to Alan Jackson & James Bailey's book *Organs of Toronto*, is a compilation of fourteen instruments contained within the book.

The book is available for **\$40**, and the CD for **\$10**.

Buy your copy at:
 Opus II music store, Kitchener
 Remenyi House of Music, Toronto
 Roy Thomson Hall, Toronto.

Bulletin Information

The Editor of the *Bulletin* is Matthew Whitfield, Assistant Organist at Metropolitan United Church.

The submission deadline for the June issue of the *Bulletin* is:

Monday, June 1st.

To make a submission, please email the editor at:
mwhitfi3@gmail.com

The June *Bulletin* will be sent on Friday, June 5.

For more information and to see upcoming events, please visit the RCCO Toronto website,
www.rccotoronto.ca