

THE BULLETIN

October 2011

RCCO Toronto Centre Newsletter

Volume 14 Issue 2



PHANTOMS of the ORGAN!!



Metropolitan United Church
56 Queen Street East

Friday October 28, 2011
At 10:00 pm

Dress:

Red, Green, Orange or Black

Free Admission

Inexplicable supernatural experiences are commonplace within the Large gothic structure of the Metropolitan Church —especially after nightfall.

Come see for yourself in this spine-chilling opportunity to hear some of the spookiest and most famous works for organ performed on the largest pipe organ in the country.

Co-sponsored by *Music and Metropolitan* and *Toronto Centre of the RCCO*

Historically, the Toronto Centre has found September events difficult ones to plan, and more challenging to "populate". The reality is that many of our members are preoccupied with the upcoming musical season in their church jobs. This year we seem to have found the perfect "ticket" in the two events which were organized on successive Saturdays, September 18th and 25th.

As will be reported elsewhere in this month's Bulletin, our first event at Richmond Hill United Church was attended by over three dozen non-member, budding, organists who were there to take away as much direction and instruction as our generous clinicians and other supporting College members were able to offer. And the offerings will continue on November 18th at St. Clement's, so please keep that day free.



One week later at St. Andrew's United Church, not far from what was amusingly being billed by condominium marketers as "the most beautiful corner in the world" (better known to us as the intersection of Bloor and Yonge) we mounted what I found to be a "bitter sweet" kind of event. This was the Music and Book Sale. While we saw enthusiastic music buyers building up their music libraries by the pound, the printed materials which were laid out on tables by David Weind and his able volunteers represented two, and perhaps even three, generations of organists who have either "hung up their organ shoes", or passed on to the far superior and better maintained organs that heaven will surely offer. (And hopefully they will have new pristine scores to play from, replacing the dog-eared copies we were selling on September 25th.)

We recognize the generosity of such forbearers as Charles Peaker, John Weatherseed and Douglas Elliott, and that of current members Catherine Palmer, Tom Fitches, Ron Jordan, George Fung, Elisa Mangina, Patricia Wright and Mark Toews in the contributions made to the sale. Also to Susan Sanmiya, not a current member.

While it is very reassuring that Toronto has produced a number of very talented young organists over recent years, we need to be concerned about maintaining the critical mass which is required to support an organization such as the RCCO. As a member of National Council, let me assure you that our administrative costs are being kept extremely tight and we continue to look for ways of providing maximum service for a minimal annual fee.

The costs of printed materials have been a significant part of the burden and so, in recent years, we have made subscriptions to all professional journals other than *Organ Canada* as optional to our members. Most recently there has been financial pressure to make our annual Yearbook an electronic document, rather than a printed one (except for those members who have not moved into the digital world). On this matter it is interesting to see the "age divide". Young organists find that paper encumbers their lives; it encumbers the likes of myself as well (older generation), but I still cherish the printed word.

As I write this column, we note that the Government of Canada has returned debate to the passage of a revised copyright law, the "Copyright Modernization Act". This new legislation, which died back when the spring election was called, spells out specific ways in which Canadians can make legal use of electronic material they obtain from various sources. It also drops the legal damages that individuals can sustain -- from \$20,000 down to \$5,000 -- for infringing on a copyright-protected work. We will watch with interest as the bill is refined over the coming weeks. Critics have argued both that it is too strong, and too weak—I suppose depending on the impact on whether they are customers or sellers of this material.

Continued on pg. 3

President's Voice cont.....

Also tied in closely to copyright is the work of SOCAN (The Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada) which has been featured in the September issue of *Organ Canada*. This provides a mechanism for our valued composers to receive remuneration of the use of their compositions when performed in revenue generating presentations (i.e. ticketed concerts).

In closing let me also underline that the RCCO has joined *Twitter.com*. Details are included just inside the cover of same issue of *Organ Canada*. And because, both as your President and Second Vice-President nationally, it is important for me to stay connected, I have logged onto Twitter as well. Now to see how useful it is!

James Bailey President, Toronto Centre RCCO

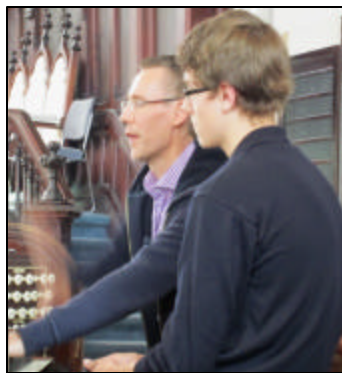
(p.s. Please support our younger organists as they present our annual "Phantoms of the Organ" at Metropolitan United the evening of October 28th!)

News

The Book Sale held on Saturday Sept. 24 at St. Andrews United Church in down town Toronto was a success, and was as successful financially as we had hoped. Much of the sheet music sold, but less of the printed reference books. Unofficial net profits reached approx. \$525. It also brought in a number of individuals who are strangers to the College. It is believed that two new members with a possibility of a third have signed up for membership in the Toronto Centre. A big salute to David Weind for his organization and leadership, tenacity and grunt work. The assistance of a half dozen volunteers was also appreciated.

Correction

In the September issue of THE BULLETIN, the article covering the Andreas Sieling workshop, Johann Licht's name appeared with student members of the Faculty of Music, UofT. He in fact is a 16 year old student at St. Michael's Cathedral Choir School. He studies organ with William O'Meara.



The RCCO Toronto Centre encourages all underemployed members to contact Gerald Martindale at 416-551-5183

Email: bellman@rogers.com

He will put your name on the Toronto Centre Supply Organist List.

A list of organists is available to all churches who need supply organists. Emergency requests are also handled.

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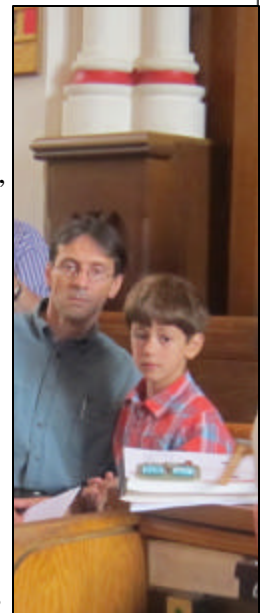
ORGAN SKILLS WORKSHOP I A HUGE SUCCESS! Sept. 17, 2011

Thirty-five enthusiastic people engaged in a wonderfully planned and executed organ skills workshop held at Richmond Hill United Church. Lydia Pederson, Elisa Mangina, and Barry Peters (host of the event) conducted a session on repertoire available to beginners of organ studies. They all had terrific suggestions. One could only be bowled over by the amount of useful keyboard music. *Music Plus* from Kitchener Ont. were on hand with scores for sale and their own recommendations for the topics at hand.



Alan Jackson and William Wright provided informative material on the pipe organ and its use for the second session. Alan spoke of the mechanics of the pipe organ and gave examples of the various sounds as well as the different scaling and materials used for pipework. William continued on with how to use these stops in building up choruses and generally putting it altogether. He also talked of the important elements in successful hymn playing, including hints on “Spicing up” your hymn playing. Lots of questions were put to the clinicians, and it gave the impression that people were eager to learn and find out about particular aspects of the organ or hymn accompaniment. One of the questions that William fielded was “Where can I find an organ teacher?”

One of the recommendations for beginners of organ that *Music Plus* put forth based on their strong best-seller was the Flor Peeters method, as well as the two-volume set by Sanders, which is for absolute beginners. Lydia and Elisa provided an Evaluation Form for the participants to fill out. Twenty-five people responded, and on the question of “Did this workshop meet your expectations?” everyone responded with an enthusiastic YES. The participants offered ideas for improvements in similar events as well as other comments: Great workshop! Thank you! Supported us in our expectations; helped me know more about RCCO. One of William Wright’s students Dumitru



Popescu, the dad with the 8 year old boy in tow, wrote this: “Thankyou! It was a good experience for Otto. He really enjoyed the mechanics part. We hope to come to other workshops.”

A big thanks to the clinicians. Also to Mary Legge for her delicious homemade muffins and to Barry Peters for hosting the event and for providing his delicious oat cakes and coffee! It was also good to see the Executive members who came out and spoke personally to the individual attendees who were strangers to all of us.



Freebie Recital Series

St. James Cathedral Music at Midday
King and Church Sts. Tues. at 1:00 PM

October

- 11 Richard Spotts, organ
- 18 Eric Osborne, organ
- 25 Simon Walker

November

- 1 Andrew Adair, organ *Bach Series*

Christ Church, Deer Park, Lunchtime Chamber Music
1570 Yonge St. 12:10 pm

October

- 13 Toronto Flute Quartet
- 20 Sarah Moorehouse, flute; Bryan Holt, cello
- 27 Ang Li, piano

Metropolitan United Church Noon at Met
56 Queen St. E Thurs. 12:15-12:45PM

October

- 6 Elisa Mangina, organ
- 13 Senan Whelan, organ
- 20 Ulrike Nothoff, organ
- 27 NO RECITAL

November

- 3 Ron Jordan, piano
- 10 Patricia Wright - music for Remembrance Day
- 17 Mark Toews, organ

Upcoming Toronto Centre Events

Friday, October 28, 10:00 pm Phantoms of the Organ Metropolitan United Church - *see front page*

Saturday, November 19 10am-3pm Organ Skills Day 2 for non-organists at St. Clement's Anglican Church Clinicians Thomas Fitches, Sherman Hesselgrave, Patricia Wright.

Friday, January 6 6:30pm for 7pm Twelfth Night Dinner & Celebration at Church of the Holy Trinity

Friday, February 24 Recital by Marnie Giesbrecht and Joachim Segger. Lawrence Park Community Church.

Saturday, February 25, Workshop on improvisation by Joachim Segger. Lawrence Park Community Church

Friday, March 23 High Park Girls' Choir with organists Shawn Grenke and Sarah Svendsen. All Saints Anglican Church.

Friday, May 11 Organix including Rachmaninoff recital by Potts and Filsell.

Saturday, May 12 Lecture by recitalists on English Organ repertoire.

Saturday, May 26 Student organ competition.

2011
The BULLETIN

November Issue
To be mailed
November 5

Submissions are due
Wednesday Nov. 2
tfitches@stclements- church.org

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Concerts and Events

October- November

Sunday, October 9, 7:30 pm. Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church, 10066 Yonge St., Richmond Hill Anke Carrington, oboe, David Rosevear accompanist. Program includes music by Bach, Schumann, Nielsen and Poulenc Admission by donation.

Sunday, October 23, 2011 - 3:00 pm Grace Church on-the-Hill 300 Lonsdale Rd. Salieri—*Mass in D major*. Pre-concert chat by Ian Kyer at 2:15 pm
Pax Christi Chorale and Youth Choir, with orchestra and soloists: Melanie Conly, soprano Nina Scott-Stoddart, mezzo-soprano; Graham Thomson, tenor; Benjamin Covey, baritone. A rare performance of the Salieri Mass paired with Mozart's *Regina Coeli, Ave verum corpus*, and soprano Melanie Conly's fresh interpretation of *Exultate Jubilate*. Tickets: Adult - \$30 / Senior - \$25 / Student - \$22 / Children under 12 - \$5

Pax Christi Chorale and Youth Choir will also perform this concert on Saturday, October 22, 2011, 7:30 pm at the Hi-Way Pentecostal Church in Barrie as part of the Barrie Music Festival.

Friday, November 11, 8:00 pm Lawrence Park Community Church, 2180 Bayview Ave. The Choir of Lawrence Park Community Church, Mark Toews conductor, will present Bob Chilcott's REQUIEM in a concert of music for Remembrance Day. Chamber ensemble with soloists Kimberley Briggs, soprano and Glyn Evans, tenor. Music of Alexander Tilley, Brian Tate and Oscar Peterson will also be performed. Tickets \$25/20. info. 416-489-1551.

Friday, November 18, 8:00 pm Victoria College Choir Fall Concert Taylor Sullivan, director. Music includes Schubert's Mass in G and a collection of English madrigals and folk songs. Victoria College Chapel, 2nd floor Old Vic Building, UofT.

Friday, November 25, 7:30 pm BachFest I Christmas Oratorio, Parts 1-3 Metropolitan Bach Choir, Orchestra and soloists \$30 Metropolitan United Church 56 Queen St. E. www.metunited.org

Music at Metropolitan presents

METROPOLITAN BACHFEST

FOUR CONCERTS FEATURING THE MUSIC OF JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

Friday, Nov.25 7:30 pm BachFest I: *Christmas Oratorio, Parts 1-3*
 Metropolitan Bach Choir, Orchestra and Soloists
 Admission: \$30

Saturday, February 4 7:30 pm BachFest II: Jam Sessions with Bach
 Benjamin Stein, theorbo; Sara-Anne Churchill, keyboard;
 Daniel Rubinoff, saxophone, and guests
 Admission: \$20

Friday, March 16 7:30 pm BachFest III: Bach and the King of Instruments Patricia Wright, organ
 Admission: \$20

Good Friday, April 6 7:30 pm BachFest IV: *Mass in B Minor*
 Metropolitan Festival Choir, Orchestra and Soloists
 Admission: \$30

BACHFEST PASS: all four concerts for \$80

METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH
 56 Queen St. East Toronto, ON M5C 2Z3
 416-363-0331 x 51 www.metunited.org

A NEW DIRECTOR OF MUSIC FOR ST JOHN THE BAPTIST NORWAY
 Congratulations to Melva Treffinger Graham who in September began her new duties as Organist & Director of Music at the Anglican Church of St. John the Baptist Norway. The Rector is the Rev'd Geoffrey Sangwine, former Chaplain to the Toronto Centre RCCO.



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Royal Canadian College of Organists presents

Organ Skills Workshops

September 17, 2011 and
November 19, 2011



The Toronto Centre of the RCCO is presenting two full day workshops for organ skills development. These are FREE “boot camp” style sessions for new and not-so-new music people charged by their pastors and church organizations to provide organ hymn accompaniment, service music, preludes, interludes and postludes. Hands-on instruction, playing techniques, registration (the sounds and colours of the organ), finding appropriate music for every occasion, working with soloists and choirs, employment issues, rehearsal tips, and much more will be presented by skilled and experienced professional organists with teaching experience. Participants are encouraged to bring lots of questions, and an optional hymn or short voluntary to play or to use as an example.

The locations for each workshop are:

September 17, 2011:

10:00 – 3:00

Richmond Hill United Church
 10201 Yonge Street
 Richmond Hill, ON L4C 3B2
 (905) 884-1301
 Pipe Organ: Two-manual, 15-stop
 Casavant Frères, Opus 990

November 19, 2011:

10:00 – 3:00

St. Clement's Anglican Church
 59 Briar Hill Ave
 Toronto, ON M4R 1H8
 (416) 483-6664
 Pipe Organ: Three-manual, 46-stop
 Casavant Frères, Opus 1289

The second session will build upon ideas presented at the first, so please plan to attend both sessions if possible.

To register for these FREE workshops, please visit our website www.rccotoronto.ca or contact Lydia Pedersen either by phone 416-236-5085 or email at lydia.pedersen@sympatico.ca.

PREPARATIONS FOR TWELFTH NIGHT

Lydia Pedersen

Out of the cold January 6 night you step into the friendly warmth of Little Trinity Church. Friends greet you; like you, everyone is dressed in something resembling Medieval costume.

Under the church's beautiful dark wooden beams tables are laid and candles glow invitingly.

Stuffed dates are passed around and enjoyed until someone finds the hidden almond and is immediately crowned King or Queen of the Twelfth Night feast! With pomp, ceremony and trumpet flourishes the new royalty is escorted to the head table where other dignitaries join them in presiding over the feast. The jester welcomes all and keeps us entertained all evening; the archbishop intones a solemn grace, and a madrigal group welcomes the Wassail bowl (hot mulled cider) and the Boar's Head, both paraded into the hall to trumpet fanfares as serving wenches ladle out the pottage (soup), salade and brede, and later a hearty beef stew. Between courses – sorry, I mean “removes” – a traveling troupe of players (Poculi Ludisque Societas) performs a Medieval play for our delight, possibly The Adoration of the Magi. We join in singing Christmas carols and tuck into Gingerbrede with Lemon Sosse before bidding each other Wes Hail! Wassail! And making our way home from an RCCO January banquet with a twist...

Sound like fun? We wanted our members to know about this early, to give you a chance to think about a possible costume and get into the spirit. Jacket and tie, pants suits or short skirts would take away from the magic of the evening. Do a little research on the Net or in the library, or head out to a party store selling Halloween costumes. If you're handy with needle and thread, have fun with a special creation (there are patterns for this sort of thing) but it needn't be elaborate – it's the spirit that matters. Ladies, a long skirt and shawl with lots of bling would be a good start – adding a pointy headdress with a wispy veil would be terrific. Men, if you have great legs, show them off with a pair of (Queen size) tights, sandals or boots, and a blousy jacket – and a rakish little hat with a feather maybe. Or come as a monk, a peasant, or a rich man in bathrobe, big belt and some gold chains. Let your imagination soar!

Your executive is excited about this special event to cap the festive season this year; we are sure it will be a delightful evening. Put it on your calendar now and invite family and friends. More detailed information will be yours in the next issue of the newsletter.

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