

THE BULLETIN

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

October 2016

NEXT RCCO TORONTO EVENT:

October 28th, 9:00 PM

"Phantoms of the Organ"
Our popular Halloween concert!



A Hallowe'en howl of unearthly delights: the phantoms will be called out by creepy organ music as some of Toronto's finest organists lend themselves to the spirits.

Join us for our annual foray into the underworld of spectacular organ music! Halloween costumes welcomed, but not essential.

On Friday, October 28 at 9 pm, students and teachers from the University of Toronto Faculty of Music as well as guest artists will perform in the darkened, decorated, gothic Metropolitan United Church.

Wear costumes! Admission is free, but donations support student organists. This concert is co-sponsored by MetUnited Music and Royal Canadian College of Organists Toronto Centre



THE ROYAL CANADIAN
COLLEGE OF ORGANISTS

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The President's Voice

I would like to extend a huge thanks to those of you who attended and volunteered at our two September events, the Organ Crawl and the Humongous Sheet Music Sale! Sadly, I was not able to attend the organ crawl myself, though I heard that 15 people made the trek to Ancaster and were thoroughly impressed with both instruments and enjoyed a nice day today together.

The sheet music sale was wonderful, and I personally am very excited about my new pile of music to learn. I imagine quite a few others are feeling the same way now. I would like to strongly encourage more members to come out and shop next time we do one! We had a lot of really good music to sell thanks to some exquisite donations this year, and the only sad thing is that we did not sell more of it. We did keep many boxes of the best music to be sold next time, but we also did a major purge of other pieces which are unlikely to sell in the future or which have been in the sale for multiple years now and have not sold yet.

Putting on a sale like this takes countless volunteers and many hours. We all owe a large debt of thanks to David Weind and his church, St. Angar Lutheran, for storing the music all year before the sale. And many the many volunteers who helped transport the music to St. Andrews and then set it up for the sale, including: Matthew Whitfield, Mary Legge, Tom Bell, Karen Price, Patricia and William Wright, Sherman Hesselgrave, Mark Towes, and Bill Weldon.

I would also like to thank our Facebook guru Eugene Chan for securing 4 tickets to the dedication concert at the newly exquisite St. Michael's Cathedral, and then offering them up to local RCCO members. I was one of the lucky chosen ones to go to that concert. The church looks all shiny and new, full of light, and the newly painted ceiling is a wonderful sight!

William O'Meara played a most impressive toccata on the new Casavant, and the boys of St. Michael's choir school, especially the youngest ones, sang a very nice concert for us. I highly recommend for you all to find an occasion to pop in and see the new cathedral!

I look forward to seeing many of you at our next event, Phantoms of the Organ, at Metropolitan United Church on Friday October 28th, 9:00 pm. See you there!

- Stephen Frketic

The new internet stream www.orgelradio.eu was launched only a few months ago. This organ radio delivers 24/7 organ music. Every day of the week has its own theme, e.g. on Wednesday you can hear Dutch recordings, on Thursday it is only J.S.Bach, on Friday we broadcast worldwide recordings, etc. Every two weeks the content changes.



Before the end of the year orgelradio.eu would like to have reached 100.000 listeners with 1.000 listening hours a day. We strive to become a worldwide player in promoting organ music and organists.

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



Alan T. Jackson & Company Ltd.

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Fax. 416-481-2260

Toll Free 1-877-311-0103

Email: ahiller@rogers.com

www.atjl.com



Bulletin Information

The Editor of the *Bulletin* is Matthew Whitfield,
Organist & Director of Music at
St. John the Baptist, Norway Anglican Church.

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

Monday, November 7th.

To make a submission, please email the editor at:
mwhitf3@gmail.com

Or contact him through his website:
www.orguenouveau.com

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

Recitals & Concerts

Tuesday, October 11 1:00 pm
Imre Olah, organist *St. James Cathedral*

Thursday, October 13 12:15 pm
Matthew Li, pianist
Metropolitan United Church

Sunday, October 16 4:00 pm
Ian Sadler, organist *St. James Cathedral*

Tuesday, October 18 1:00 pm
Ian Sadler, organist *St. James Cathedral*

Thursday, October 20 12:15 pm
Emily Chiang, pianist
Metropolitan United Church

Sunday, October 23 4:00 pm
Trinity Boys and Men's Choir, Esbjerg Denmark
St. James Cathedral

Tuesday, October 25 1:00 pm
Thomas Fitches, organist *St. James Cathedral*

Thursday, October 27 12:15 pm
Wilbert Ward, baritone
Metropolitan United Church

Sunday, October 30 4:00 pm
Ian Sadler, organist *St. James Cathedral*

Tuesday, November 1 1:00 pm
David Briggs, organist *St. James Cathedral*

Thursday, November 3 12:15 pm
Matthew Whitfield, organist
Metropolitan United Church

How They So Softly Rest: A Remembrance Day Concert

Sunday, November 6th, 2016. 4:00 pm
Christ Church Deer Park

Featuring the exquisite Vaughan Williams Mass in G Minor, as well as works by Stanford, Willan, and Daley. Sung by the choirs of Christ Church Deer Park, Grace Church on-the-Hill, and Timothy Eaton Memorial Church. Elaine Choi, Stephen Frketic, and Matthew Otto, conductors, and Stephen Boda, Organ.

Luminous Night Festival: Music of Ola Gjeilo

Saturday, October 15th, 2016. 7:30 pm
Yorkminster Park Baptist Church

Sponsored by Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, as part of their artistic outreach, along with the assistance of the Faculty of Music, University of Toronto, the Orpheus Choir of Toronto, the Exultate Chamber Singers and the Resonance Choir, *Luminous Night Festival* will be a unique encounter with the evocative music of Ola Gjeilo and the composer himself.

PREPARING FOR RCCO EXAMINATIONS (CONTINUED FROM SEPTEMBER)

Transposition. This is best done using hymns. Use one new hymn a day. Do not keep transposing each note up or down a tone. (I recall one candidate using this method who wound up with one hand up a tone and the other hand down a tone. I nearly wound up on the floor!)

1. Try to analyse the chords as you go. Let us say the hymn is written in F major. As you begin, think of the first chord in G major (for up a tone) and proceed slowly from there. Of course, there are many times when you will have to say to yourself "a tone above this accidental is simply This seems slow at first, but provides you with a good system of grasping the harmonic underpinnings.
1. Another way is to re-write the staff in your mind. Simply say to yourself: "let the bottom line of the Treble Clef be F (as in the Alto Clef)". Then notes will fall into place. (This is a good reason for learning the C clefs!)
2. Harmonization of a Melody. This test has improved dramatically over the last few years, I am happy to say. However, I shall put down a few tips.
3. Basic drill using a good text (and here I recommend my text, *Improving Harmonic Skills at the Keyboard*, whose copyright belongs to the RCCO and does not bring me any money) to get harmonic progressions under the fingers.
4. When looking at a melody, identify the key, the time signature. (See above!)
5. Then identify the cadences.
6. Identify the harmonic pulse. Does each quarter note need a new harmony? Does every other quarter pulse need a new harmony? The basic speed of the piece will determine this. The faster the melody, the less likely you will need harmonic changes each beat. Most of the test pieces are straightforward and a perusal of the last few tests can give you a guideline of the level of difficulty.
7. Do move away from the tonic and dominant chords so that the harmonization has some harmonic interest. However, move not too far so that you find yourself in a far distant key with no way of getting back!

In conclusion, I can only add that daily practise is the secret. My teacher used to spend 50% of each lesson on tests. I was grateful to him for that when I faced the examination. My wish is that these hints may be of use and that the examiners in the coming season will be absolutely delighted with your success!!

- William Wright