

THE BULLETIN

September, 2012

RCCO Toronto Centre Newsletter

Volume 15 Issue 1

Toronto Centre Events 2012-2013

[ORGAN CRAWL](#)

Saturday October 13, 2012 Locations TBA

[PHANTOMS OF THE ORGAN: Halloween concert](#)

Metropolitan United Church, October 26, 2012, 10:00pm

[HANS-OLA ERICSSON in recital](#)

Church of the Holy Trinity, November 23, 2012, 7:30pm

[HANS-OLA ERICSSON, Master Class](#)

Church of the Holy Trinity, November 24, 2012, 10:00am

[ORGAN SKILLS WORKSHOP Day 2](#)

Date and location TBA, February 2013, 10:00am

[PIPES, PEDALS AND PIZZA: An introduction to the organ for children](#)

Locations TBA, March 13, 2013, 10:00am

[CHORAL EXTRAVAGANZA: Workshop and performance for children's choirs with organ](#)

Christ Church Deer Park, April 13, 2013, 1:00pm

[ORGANIX 13 - Ryan Jackson in recital](#)

Metropolitan United Church, May 31, 2013, 7:30pm

For details on all events, visit rccotoronto.ca

I am honoured to be writing my first column as President of the Toronto Centre. My goals for our Centre over the next two years could be summed up in three words: COMMITMENT, INNOVATION, and OUTREACH. Our program for this year reflects a desire to move ahead on all of these fronts, and I also invite you to consider how these concepts already shape your life with the organ.



All of you reading this presumably share with me a COMMITMENT to advancing the organ and organ music. Whether we accomplish this by playing the organ, by directing choirs or singing in them, by building, installing, or maintaining organs, by attending organ recitals, or simply by sharing our appreciation for the organ and its music with others, each of us has committed some measure of our time and talent to supporting the organ. An extraordinary level of commitment is represented by an outstanding musician such as Hans-Ola Ericsson, our November recitalist, who will perform at the Church of the Holy Trinity on November 23 and coach young players in a master class the next day.

As for my second point, we are doubtless the inheritors of a venerable musical tradition: our instrument has been around in some form for two millennia, and much of the music we play on it goes back several centuries. At each step in a tradition, however, INNOVATION is always occurring. Indeed, the most cherished aspects of our tradition were all new once, and no doubt some of them were shocking or unwelcome in their day. In our rapidly changing 21st century, innovation is more necessary than ever if we are to make the case that the organ is more than a fossilized remnant of a past world. A relatively recent innovation that splendidly accomplishes this is the Phantoms of the Organ concert at Halloween, which draws an audience that would rarely attend an organ recital under normal circumstances. It seems as though at Halloween, when norms of dress and behaviour are suspended, many people are inclined to try something new, as long as it's spooky!

This brings us to the idea of OUTREACH, which is necessary for the health of our Centre in a society where the organ is relatively little known. Our program this year is bursting with other events that will bring the organ to a new audience. Pipes, Pedals and Pizza during March break and the Choral Extravaganza in April both focus on children, many of whom will likely be experiencing organ music for the first time. In addition, we are following up on last year's successful Organ Skills Workshops, which have attracted a sizeable audience, mostly from outside our Centre. Whether we view these events as a way to increase our membership in the future or as our contribution to upholding the quality of music in churches around the GTA, I am grateful that your Executive has made this form of outreach a priority.

As you embark on your own round of commitments this fall, why not consider finding an organ-related activity that is an innovation for you? Perhaps you could reach out to a coworker with an invitation to join you at a noon-hour recital? Or consider volunteering to help out at one of our Centre events — a new pair of hands is always welcome. I look forward to getting to know many of you in the months to come



The Chaplain's Chime

The Chaplain's Caveat

It was Socrates who cautioned, "Beware the barrenness of a busy life." And as we move from summer mode into our "busy season," it is probably sage and timely advice. How easy it is to find ourselves spread too thin, without even trying. The one-time dean of my seminary once mentioned in a sermon this observation by a Southern Baptist preacher: sheep don't set out to get lost, "they just nibble themselves lost."

One antidote to skittering across the surface of many things is to drill down on one or two. When a friend of mine retired from the fire department, he decided he was going to learn to play bridge--duplicate bridge, to be precise. So he played every chance he could find, and he studied how the best players bid and strategized. He learned to keep track of every card that had been played, and reached the level of expertise that he could figure out which opponent had to be holding an elusive 10 of clubs. It helped keep his mind sharp and he enjoyed the competitive nature of the game.

Maybe this is the year to pick a new challenge to tackle. The August issue of *The American Organist* has a column with a bunch of theological titles that church musicians might find resourceful. Or what about a repertoire challenge, or honing your conducting skills? Maybe you've shied away from composing. Who knows, maybe the next Pachelbel Canon is lurking in the back of your brain (though, let's hope NOT). Maybe it is time to explore the literature for organ plus other instruments. The Oberwerk's the limit, to modify a cliché.

A challenge for me was triggered by our RCCO Medieval-themed Epiphany dinner last January. I realized, as I looked across the wonderful space that is the Church of the Holy Trinity, that it really does lend itself to a kind of Great Hall experience, so we are planning to hold a Medieval-themed dinner as a parish fund-raiser in early November. It will be a stretching experience for all of us, but also, one expects, a whole lot of fun.

A blessed autumn to each of you.

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

Membership Matters

Change of Address: Melva Graham
1008—1 Aberfoyle Cresc. Toronto, ON., M8X 2X8
Land: 416-588-9996; cel: 647-236-6779.

Elisa Mangina's e-mail:
elisa.mangina@gmail.com

2012

The BULLETIN

October Issue

To be mailed

October 1

**Submissions are due
Wednesday, Sept. 26**

tfitches@stclements-church.org

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



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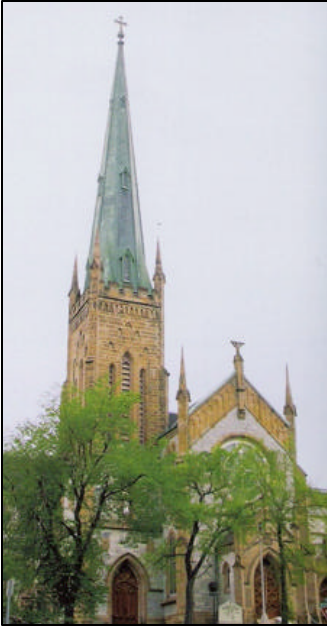
Alan T. Jackson, President
Tel: 416-481-8910 fax: 416-481-6247
Email: atj1@rogers.com

Service department:
Robert Hiller, Manager
Alice Hiller, Secretary
Tel. 416-481-9080, fax 416-481-2260
Toll Free 1-877-311-0103
Email: rhiller@rogers.com
Web: www.atj1.com

CASAVANT
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Mini—Convention In Saint John, New Brunswick

Hazel Ogilvie



St John New Brunswick hosted its first Convention, a mini-Convention, from July 15-17, 2012. It seems that the main difference between a mini-Convention and a regular Convention, is that all the regular activities are packed into two days instead of four. This calls for early starts and short breaks.

The Convention in St. John was located in St. Peter's Catholic Church, rather than in a hotel.. This created some commuting problems for the people who stayed at the Hilton. However, these problems proved to be not insurmountable.

Recitals and workshops focused on the expertise of local talent, as opposed to out-of-town performers. Organists who performed included:

Dr. Sharon Pond, associate organist at Christ Church Cathedral in Fredericton; Richard Kidd, organist & director of music at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in St John; Dr. Gayle h. Martin, university organist and associate professor of music at Mount Allison University; John Hudson, organist & choirmaster at the Cathedral Church of All Saints in Halifax; Trumpeter,



Edward Phillips accompanied organist Richard Kidd for his concert at Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Workshops and choral concerts also provided us with enjoyable learning experiences. The workshops ranged in topics and included:

Big Clean Sound Choral Workshop; Accessible Music for the Reluctant Organist; Preparing Amateurs to sing the Music of the Renaissance: Vocal and Stylistic Direction; Encouraging Congregational Singing; The Ups and Downs of developing the Award Winning Fredericton School Girl Choir. (Dianne Wilkins, who conducted this choir, was very proud to tell us that one of the former members of her choir, was the now famous Measha Bruggers-Gossman). A Choral Concert Polyphon was conducted by David Mitchell.

On Tuesday evening, the Richard Kidd Jazz Trio entertained us at the Banquet at The Saint John Trade and Convention Centre. Several of our regular American visitors made the trip to St. John, among them was an organist from Albuquerque, New Mexico, who knew Maxine Thevenot. Those of us who stayed until Wednesday enjoyed the Post-Convention Historic Organ and River Tour which took us to Grand Bay Westfield and Kingston, New Brunswick. Kudos to the members of the St. John Centre who planned the Convention.

Noon-hour Recital Series

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

September

18 David Briggs, organ

25 Andrew Adair, organ

October

2 Gedymin Grubba, organ

9 Andrew Adair, organ

16 David Briggs, organ

23 Simon Walker, organ

30 Peter Barley, organ

Yorkminster Park Baptist Church - 1585 Yonge St. Wednesdays at 12:30 PM

September

19 Imre Olah, organ

26 Michael Bloss, organ

October

3 Peter Nikiforuk, organ

Our Lady of Sorrows Church - Wednesdays 12:15pm 3055 Bloor St. W.—W. of Royal York Rd.

September

12 Peter Bishop, organ

19 Michael Bloss, organ

26 Peter Barley, organ

October

3 Gordon Mansell

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

September

20 Julian Bewig, organ

27 Ashley Tidey, organ

October

4 Sarah Svendsen, organ

11 Kathleen Long, cello

R.C.C.O. TORONTO EXECUTIVE 2012-2013

| | Name/Position | Telephone | Email | Address |
|----|--|-----------------------|--|--|
| 1 | James Bailey PAST PRESIDENT | (416) 537-4140 | jbarch@sympatico.ca | 49 Melbourne Avenue Toronto, M6K 1K6 |
| 2 | Thomas Fitches BULLETIN EDITOR | (416) 483-6664 x26 | tfitches@stclements-church.org | 59 Briar Hill Avenue Toronto, M4R 1H8 |
| 3 | Stephen Frketic | | sfrketic@yahoo.com | 502-55 Isabella St. Toronto, M4Y 1M7 |
| 4 | Joanne Hart REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE | (416) 260-9687 | joannehart4@sympatico.ca | #301E 460 Queen's Quay W. Toronto, M5V 2Y4 |
| 5 | Rev. Sherman Hesselgrave CHAPLAIN (Ex. Officio) | (416) 598-4521 | shesselgrave@holyltrinitytoronto.org | 235 Niagara Street Toronto, M6J 2L5 |
| 6 | Alan Jackson | (416) 481-8910 | atjl@rogers.com | 1351 Mt. Pleasant Rd. Toronto, M4N 2T4 |
| 7 | Ron Jordan TREASURER | (905) 683-0562 | keyboardperformance@rogers.com | 86 Humphrey Drive Ajax, L1S 4Z1 |
| 8 | Mary Legge | (416) 229-0522 | diapason444@gmail.com | #505 153 Beecroft Road Toronto, M2N 7C5 |
| 9 | Elisa Mangina PRESIDENT | (416) 766-0320 | elisa.mangina@gmail.com | 282 High Park Ave. Toronto, M6P 2S7 |
| 10 | Gordon Mansell | (416) 769-5224 | gmansell@glionnamansell.com | 464 Armadale Ave. Toronto, M6S 3X9 |
| 11 | Hazel Ogilvie MEMBERSHIP | (905) 881-7266 | pieo@rogers.com | 46 Delair Crescent Thornhill, L3T 2M4 |
| 12 | Donald Pelletier | (416) 964-1793 | dhp@yorku.ca | #7-21 Admiral Road Toronto, M5R 2L5 |
| 13 | Barry Peters | (416) 921-9032 | barrypeters.music@gmail.com | 807—50 Rosehill Ave. Toronto, M4T 1G6 |
| 14 | Dennis Punter PUBLICITY | (416) 588-7722 | dennis.punter@sympatico.ca | 8 Ridley Gardens Toronto, M6R 2T8 |
| 15 | Mark Ruhnke | (416) 822-5327 | mark.ruhnke@me.com | 32 Victoria Street Aurora, L4G 1P9 |
| 16 | Sarah Svendsen | (647) 274-4434 | organscholar@metunited.org | 95 Queen's Park E. Box 20 Toronto, M5 2C7 |
| 17 | David Weind | (416) 789-1175 | dweind@hotmail.com | 455 Deloraine Ave. Toronto, M5M 2C1 |
| 18 | Patricia Wright | (416) 923-2764 | wpwright@sympatico.ca | 608-21 Dale Ave. Toronto, M4W 1K3 |
| 19 | William Wright | (416) 923-2764 | wpwright@sympatico.ca | 608-21 Dale Ave. Toronto, M4W 1K3 |

Concerts and Events

September-October

Saturday, September 22 7:30 pm Metropolitan United Church 56 Queen St. E. Monteverdi Vespers of 1610—a one-to-a-part performance with the Elixir Baroque Ensemble and the Accenti Vocali Admission: \$20

Sunday, September 23rd, 2:30—4:30 pm Social at Kingsway Lambton United Church, 85 The Kingsway, The Hymn Society ~ Southern Ontario Chapter Mel Hurst on planning hymn festivals

Friday, September 28, at 7.30 p.m. St. Thomas's Church, 383 Huron Street, Toronto, Ontario. John Tuttle, Organist and Choirmaster, will play three major organ works in recital. Admission at the door: \$20.00 (Students and seniors, \$15.00)



The music:
Hallelujah! Gott zu Loben, Op. 52, no. 3 (1900) by Max Reger
Sonata I (1937), by Paul Hindemith; Symphonie II, Op. 20 by Louis Vierne

Saturday, Sept. 29th, 8pm St. Vincent de Paul Church 263 Roncesvalles, at Westminster **Michaelmas Concert** A program of vocal and instrumental music from the 12th to the 18th centuries: Perotin, St. Hildegard, Palestrina, Marais, Charpentier, Cavalli, Rigatti, Legrenzi, Corelli, J.S. Bach.

The St. Vincent's Baroque Soloists: Natalie & Teresa Mahon, Soprano; Richard Whittall, Alto; Jamie Tuttle and Paul Ziade, Tenor; David Roth, Bass. Chris Verrette & Elyssa Lefurgey, Violin; Justin Haynes, Gamba; Philip Fournier, Organ/Harpsichord Admission by donation.

Saturday, October 6, 9am-4:30 pm First Baptist Church 554 Main Street Niagara Falls, New York. **Octoberfest** A day long event with coffee, tea and pastries to begin, morning and afternoon workshops, and catered hot lunch at noon time. Full details and registration form on Pg. 8 of this issue.

Organs of Toronto CD

Meant to compliment Alan Jackson & James Bailey's 2001 book *Organs of Toronto*, the CD is a compilation of fourteen instruments contained in the book

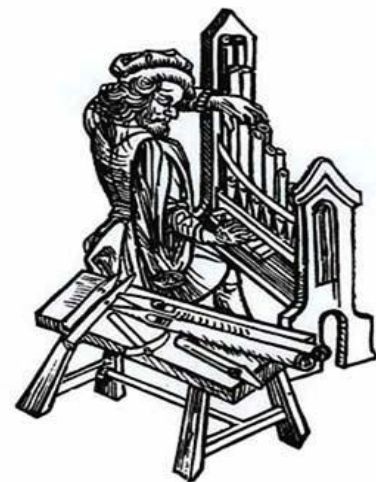
Both book and CD are available at OPUS II

Price: \$50 for book and CD;
\$40 for book only; \$20 for CD

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NEWS

Now in his second season as Interim Music Director, Fred Graham returned to worship leadership at Eglinton-St. Georges United Church in late August, and is preparing a full season with our choir and lead singers. In April and May, there were many farewell celebrations on the campus of Victoria College and Emmanuel College where Fred was a full-time professor of church music for 11 years. During that time, he designed and implemented Canada's only Master of Sacred Music program for training musicians in advanced music and theology. The accolades from peers and students were heart-felt, and summed up in a framed citation naming Fred as "Professor and Musician, Scholar and Artist, Colleague and Mentor, Faithful Follower of Jesus Christ, Cherished Servant of the Church." From July 1 – 6, Fred was Chaplain in residence for the 43rd Session of the Summer Institute of Church Music in Whitby, where he led daily worship and preached. The Institute Board had decided earlier to create an Honorary Fellowship to recognize outstanding leadership in the field, proceeding to confer the first-ever honour on him. The citation they designed reads: "Honorary Fellow in recognition of a career dedicated to the songs and souls of the Church in Canada, and for a legacy in performing, ministry, research and teaching from which God's work and song in this country have benefited richly." Last May, Fred concluded his research and writing on the history and practice of Lectionary use, and he took delivery of the commentary (Fortress Press, Minneapolis) on September 10. The assignment was overseen by the Consultation on Common Texts, an international ecumenical grouping of which he has been a member since 1988.

It was indeed sad news to hear of the death of **Janet Peaker** mid-August. A service of Thanksgiving for her life was held on August 12 at Rosedale United Church. Below is a letter of sympathy received from Faye Grinberg, the College registrar.

Aug. 10, 2012
Elisa Mangina,
President, Toronto Centre,
RCCO

Dear Elisa and Members of the Toronto Centre,

I was sorry to learn of Janet's death. On behalf of her colleagues in the RCCO, I express our deepest sympathy to the members of the Toronto Centre. Her presence will be missed among her many friends and colleagues. I know that Janet had been an active and faithful supporter of the College for many years.

Please accept this letter as our recognition that Janet's death is a loss to the College as well.

Sincerely yours,
Faye Grinberg
Registrar, RCCO

It is hoped to include tributes to Janet in the next issue of THE BULLETIN.

The Hymn Society

In the United States and Canada
Southern Ontario Chapter

Program 2012-13

September 23rd Social at Kingsway Lambton United Church ~ Mel Hurst on planning hymn festivals
85 The Kingsway, Toronto M8X 2T6
2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

October 21st Hymn Festival, with **Music for Brass and Organ**, 2:30 p.m. ~ celebrating the centennial of Humbercrest United Church, 16 Baby Point Road, Toronto M6S 3E9 (near Annette and Jane)

2013

February 15th- 16th "PSALMSFEST"

~ a feature event at Emmanuel College around the recently released *Psalms for All Seasons*.

June 14th - 15th "Fit the Music to the Word" ~ a liturgy and congregational song retreat with The Sisters of Saint John the Divine, 233 Cumber Ave., Toronto M2M 2E8

<http://www.ssjd.ca/retreat2013-0614-hymns.html>

For up-to-date information see: www.sochs.org.

**Music at Metropolitan presents
Baroque and Beyond!**

Four Concerts during the year



Saturday, Sept. 22 7:30 pm Monteverdi *Vespers of 1610*-
A unique one-to-a-part performance with the Elixir Baroque Ensemble and the Accenti Vocali - Admission \$20

Saturday, Nov. 24 Music by Chopin and Rachmaninoff with Arnold Tirzits and Oscar Morsza, piano.

Saturday, March 9 Music from the French Baroque (including Couperin *Lecons*) Admission \$20

Good Friday, March 29 *Requiem aeternam*.....
*Requiem*s by Durufle and Gilles, Pie Jesu by Boulanger and more Admission \$25

Pass for \$75 (save \$10 on all four concerts)

**AN ADVANCED NOTIFICATION
TO TORONTO CENTRE RCCO MEMBERS
FROM THE BUFFALO CHAPTER AGO**

The Buffalo Chapter is planning an OCTOBERFEST — a series of workshops for this coming fall, and we want to invite the members of the Toronto Centre to attend this event. Please put this on your calendar now so you won't forget it, and plan to attend. Here's some preliminary information about what is planned:

OCTOBERFEST— Saturday, October 6 at First Baptist Church, Niagara Falls, NY 554 Main St. at 4th st.— very close to the Rainbow Bridge.

This will be a day long event with morning and afternoon workshops and a catered hot lunch at noon time. Featured clinicians and what they will be presenting are:

Rick Erickson from New York City — improvisation skills and hymn application

Judy Congdon from Houghton College — organ literature for Sunday services, weddings, and funerals

Lorraine Brugh from Valparaiso University — global music for worship

Schedule for the Day: 8:30 am– Coffee, Tea and Pastries in the Friendship Room
9:00 am– 12:30 pm - Morning Workshops 12:30pm Lunch
1:30 pm– 4:30 pm Afternoon workshops

REGISTRATION FOR OCTOBERFEST - OCT. 6, 2012 - Deadline: Wednesday, September 19

Name _____

(If registering for more than one, please make a copy of this form for each one)

Address _____

Phone(s) _____

E-mail address _____

AGO Chapter _____ RCCO Centre _____

Check one: \$20— Regular \$10—Student (with ID)

Amount enclosed \$ _____ (US funds)

Make cheques payable to "Buffalo Chapter AGO" and send to:

James Flood, c/o 1st Presbyterian Church, 554 Main Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14301