

ROYAL CANADIAN COLLEGE OF ORGANISTS: WALTER MACNUTT SCHOLARSHIP

APPLICATION FORM

Purpose of this Award

Awarded every two years, the Walter MacNutt Scholarship has been instituted to honour and perpetuate the memory and legacy of Walter MacNutt, former Organist and Choirmaster of St. Thomas's Church, Toronto, by nurturing the development of the accomplished and dedicated liturgical musician. The award is granted every two years and amounts to \$5,000 for each successful candidate who, to apply and qualify, must be a member of the Royal Canadian College of Organists.

Skills for Development

This scholarship is designed for a person who has already achieved a high level of proficiency (Associate of the Royal Canadian College of Organists or equivalent) and wishes to develop further skill in the effective integration of sacred music and liturgical celebration. Such skill would facilitate the collaborative creation (with ministers, choristers, and congregations) of an intellectually and emotionally coherent and compelling aesthetic experience, through

- collaborative sensitive accompaniment for hymn, chant, and choral music
- appropriate improvisation to integrate different elements of the liturgy
- judicious transposition for congregational comfort and tonal sequencing
- thoughtful programming to reflect themes and texts of the liturgical calendar
- sensitivity to emotional and conceptual content in both sung and spoken texts
- familiarity with music that supports the liturgy, including that of Walter MacNutt

Name: _____

Date of birth: _____

Address: _____

Postal code: _____

Email: _____

Phone: (home) _____ (cell) _____

Highest academic level achieved to date: _____

RCCO membership (name of Centre): _____

Names and addresses of two referees:

1. _____

2. _____

Applications, to be considered complete, must be submitted by **April 30, 2021**, to the following Royal Canadian College of Organists email: info@rcco.ca.

Programs of Study

Candidates will choose between two programs of study in Canada (not at a university):

1. An apprenticeship at a church with a distinguished liturgical tradition, studying with the organist and choir director there; OR
2. On-the-job training at the applicant's church of employment, studying with a distinguished organist and choirmaster who will supervise the applicant's performance in that church.

Application Process

A specific plan of study, observation, and application will be submitted to the RCCO with a curriculum vitae, and will be written jointly by the applicant (40 years of age or younger) and the organist and/or choir director (1) of the church where the apprenticeship will be fulfilled, OR (2) with whom the applicant will study.

The submitted plan will include paragraphs explaining (1) the candidate's understanding of liturgically oriented music, and (2) his/her reasons for pursuing this particular line of study. Two letters of reference will be supplied (in addition to the study plan). Travel to other churches with similar distinguished liturgical traditions, for purposes of observation, may be part of the plan. The study will be completed within at most two years.

Initial Assessment

In addition to the submitted plan, the candidate will be required to audition for at least two examiners selected by the RCCO, and to demonstrate pertinent skills on the organ, by

- performing a chorale prelude of at least moderate difficulty
- accompanying a hymn as if for a singing congregation
- transposing a hymn either up or down a full tone
- improvising on a hymn tune or in free style (between 2 to 3 minutes)

This initial assessment will be conducted by electronic means (with recordings validated by guarantors). The submission should be in the form of a video recording made in one unedited session. The applicant should be shown at the organ. The judges' decision is final.

Final Assessment

To receive the final portion of the award, the recipient will be required to demonstrate the skills developed during the study period by presenting written examples of his/her liturgical planning and performed examples of his/her liturgical service playing. The candidate will display his/her skill by programming music appropriate to a day in the liturgical calendar (other than Christmas or Easter) and by playing the organ with sensitivity to the texts and actions of the selected liturgy. The demonstration will require the assistance of one or more singers and will feature the candidate **in the context of an actual church service:**

- performing a chorale prelude of at least moderate difficulty
- accompanying a congregational setting (psalm or communion)
- accompanying a hymn and re-harmonizing the final verse
- transposing a hymn or psalm chant up or down a full tone
- improvising on a tune or freely for communion and postlude

This concluding assessment may be conducted in person or, most likely, by electronic means (with recordings validated by guarantors). The judges' decision is final.

Scholarship Funding

The funds will be disbursed by the RCCO national office four times at regular intervals during the course of study, not to exceed two years. Upon receipt of a statement from the instructor testifying that the recipient has fulfilled obligations at each interval, RCCO national office will forward funds to the recipient. The recipient and the instructor will submit an agreement itemizing expenses, including:

1. the amount payable to the instructor for each hour of instruction, at a rate agreed upon between the recipient and the instructor; and
2. other costs incurred toward study: e.g. visit(s) to other churches for further education, honoraria for supply organist(s) during such visit(s); and/or purchase of educational materials such as music, books, etc. relevant to the study.

For further information, please contact the National Office of the RCCO at:

Royal Canadian College of Organists, 414-15 Case Goods Lane, Toronto, ON M5A 3C4
Tel: (416) 929-6400 Email: info@rcco.ca