

THE BULLETIN

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

Spring 2021



Spring 2021: Upcoming Events

Music and Mental Health in Lockdown: Friday, May 7th, at 7:30 pm on Zoom.

How should musicians react to the challenges of life in lockdown as we pass the 1-year anniversary of COVID-19? With the loss of our normal opportunities for community music-making, difficulty in accessing practice instruments, and the ongoing anxiety of watching the pandemic unfold, the events of the past year have taken a significant psychological toll for performing artists. We'll be joined by Marilyn Lerner, an internationally-acclaimed jazz pianist and composer based here in Toronto who is also a practicing psychoanalyst. Marilyn will offer her perspective on the challenges of life in lockdown based on her clinical practice as well as her own experience as a performer, and will reflect on her unique career at the intersection of music and psychotherapy.

Occupational Safety and Healthy Practicing for Organists: Friday, May 14th, at 7:30 pm on Zoom.

With many organists taking the time to practice more intensively and learn new solo repertoire, this year is a perfect opportunity to focus on healthy practice habits and pay close attention to the basics of our playing technique. Sarah Svendsen will offer an informal session drawn from her doctoral research at the University of Toronto on occupational health and safety issues for organists, where you'll have a chance to hear about her research, ask questions, and get a preview of her research findings.

Rashaan Allwood In Recital: Friday, May 28th on YouTube.

A versatile musician active as a pianist, harpsichordist, and organist, Rashaan is the winner of numerous awards including first prizes in the Concours d'orgue de Québec in 2017 and the organ category of the Canadian National OSM Manulife competition in 2016; he was recently recognized as one of CBC top 30 classical musicians under 30. Recently returned to Toronto after graduate studies in the States, he is currently Director of Music at St Ansgar Lutheran Church. His online recital program for us will include performances recorded at different churches in Toronto, and will include a variety of repertoire including his own transcription of Franz Liszt's orchestral tone poem Orpheus. The video will premiere on the RCCO YouTube channel: [RCCO Toronto - YouTube](#)

Annual General Meeting: Monday, June 14th, 6:30 pm social with meeting beginning at 7:00 pm, on Zoom

Please note: All Zoom links will be sent within 24 hours of the event.



Upcoming Recitals

Aaron James performs for RCCO Ottawa: Friday, April 30th, at 7:15 pm, online via the [RCCO Ottawa](#) website. This concert, presented as part of RCCO Ottawa Centre's *Pro Organo* series, includes music by Marcel Dupré, J. S. Bach, Carl Rütli, and Francisco Correa de Arauxo, concluding with Jehan Alain's *Trois danses*. (Matthew Whitfield was featured in the same concert series earlier this year; the video from that concert, featuring Bach's *Sei gegrüßet, Jesu gütig* and Liszt's *Ad nos, ad salutarem undam* can be viewed on YouTube [here](#).)

Toronto Bach Festival presents Matthew Larkin: Tuesday, May 4th, at 7:00 pm, online via the [Toronto Bach Festival](#) website. Matthew's program, recorded on the Kney/Gober organ at Holy Family Church in Toronto, features excerpts from the *Art of the Fugue* as well as Bach's recently rediscovered chorale fantasia *Wo Gott der Herr nicht bei uns hält*.

Lunchtime Organ Recitals at St. James Cathedral:

Tuesday, May 4th, at 1:00 pm: Hanné Becker (Doctoral candidate, University of Toronto)

Tuesday, June 1st at 1:00 pm: Rashaan Allwood (Director of Music, St. Ansgar Lutheran Church, Toronto)

These recitals are available through the Cathedral's [Facebook page](#). No account is required to view these concerts.

Encountering Bach: March 20, 2021

The RCCO Toronto has celebrated Bach's late-March birthday in the past by organizing a Bach walk -- a pub-crawl of organ concerts of Bach's music in churches around Toronto. Due to the pandemic, we were instead treated to a film screening of Dr. David Chin's *Encountering Bach*, an informative documentary where Dr. Chin interviews scholars and visits important Bach landmarks in Germany. This documentary is full of light-hearted moments, replete with performances of Bach's music, and is a wonderful pilgrimage for any Bach devotee to witness.

Connecting via Zoom from Malaysia, Dr. Chin held a brief Q&A session with the virtual attendees before the screening. He is the director of Bachfest Malaysia, and it was a treat to join him on his journey through Germany. The documentary is available for viewing any time on Bachfest Malaysia's [YouTube channel](#).

-David Simon





THE HYMN SOCIETY

S.O.C.H.S. Press Release!

HYMN COMPETITION 2021



RCCO
Toronto Centre
Co-Sponsor

DATES TO REMEMBER

Launch: Sunday, April 18th, 2021

Closing: Friday, September 17th, 2021 (11:59 p.m.)

Winners Announced: Thursday, November 4th, 2021

WHO MAY CONTRIBUTE?

Open to all! There is NO FEE per submission!

HYMN REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Participants may submit one original hymn per category that has not been published previously (3 in total);
- 2) Supports congregational singing and uses language that promotes inclusivity;
- 3) Speaks to the theme “strength and courage during adversity” and uses Isaiah 41:10 for inspiration:

Do not fear, for I am with you,
do not be afraid, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

**ORIGINAL HYMN TEXT
AND TUNE**

**With Organ
Accompaniment**

PRIZE: \$300

**ORIGINAL HYMN TEXT
AND TUNE**

**Piano Accompaniment
or instrument(s) other
than Organ**

PRIZE: \$300

**ORIGINAL HYMN
TEXT**

to a familiar Tune

PRIZE: \$300

- 1) **COPYRIGHT:** Those submitting original hymn texts to a familiar tune are responsible for obtaining approval from the copyright holder, if applicable.
- 2) **FORMATTING:** Whether you use FINALE, SIBELIUS or another composing platform, ALL submissions must be sent by email as a PDF attachment.
- 3) **ADJUDICATION:** All entries will be judged anonymously by a panel of colleagues selected from the membership of S.O.C.H.S. and R.C.C.O. – Toronto Centre.
- 4) **SUBMISSIONS:** Email to hymnsocietyso@gmail.com A confirmation that we have received your entry will be sent to you.