

### **THOMAS LESLIE – President**

Originally from Halifax, Nova Scotia, Thomas Leslie has been the Executive Director of the CIOC since 2012. Founded in 2008, the CIOC is the largest organ competition in the world. Under his leadership the CIOC operating budget has more than doubled, audience participation has increased by 60% and earned revenue has tripled. He joined the CIOC from the Faculty of Medicine of McGill University, Montreal, where he earned awards as an administrator who worked on behalf of students and faculty to enhance and modernize administrative policies and procedures.

Thomas Leslie is a classical singer who has performed regularly throughout Canada and the United States. He was recently featured in a 10-day concert tour in Mainland China. He has music degrees from McGill and WLU, and an MBA from UQAM. In 2014 he graduated with distinction from the Executive MBA program at l'Université Paris IX Dauphine. From 2016-2019 he served on the board of directors of Casavant Frères SEC, on behalf of the Fonds de Solidarité FTQ. Thomas has been a member of the Canadian Forces Reserves since 2001, was promoted to the rank of Major in 2017, and is currently the Area Elemental Advisor for the Greater Montreal Training Area. He was recently selected to serve as the editor on a national writing board developing the curriculum and training materials for the Advanced Officer Training Course and adapting several officer training courses for virtual delivery during the pandemic. Thomas volunteers with several charities and non-profit organizations and is currently president of the Maison du Parc AIDS hospice in Montréal, and Vice-President the University Club of Montréal.

### **CHELLAN HOFFMAN – President Elect**

Chellan Hoffman earned a Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Saskatchewan, and Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees in organ performance from the University of Calgary.

In Calgary, she has held the posts of Assistant Organist at Christ Church Anglican Elbow Park, Assistant Music Director at Grace Presbyterian Church, and since 2013, Music Director at Knox United Church, where she plays a 4- manual 1912 Casavant Frères organ, directs a small, adaptable choir, and leads a renegade handbell ensemble. She regularly collaborates with guest community artists by writing arrangements that incorporate the organ and/or choir into their original or cover songs. Since the pandemic, she – like many other church musicians – has worked creatively with others (namely her husband and tech/music genius Steve) to come up with ideas that allow us to make music in meaningful, audible and Covid-safe ways for the weekly Zoom worship services that have evolved from pre-recorded music videos to live streaming from the sanctuary.

Chellan freelances as an accompanist, ensemble musician, organ instructor, and pipe organ technician assistant. Since 2016, she has served as an RCCO Vice-President, and the Chair of the Editorial Committee which produces the national magazine, Organ Canada. In 2017, she was a Travelling Clinician and presented workshops and recitals to centres in Manitoba and Ontario. On a local level, she currently serves as vice-president, and was president from 2008 to 2014. An enthusiastic advocate for the instrument, Chellan works with her husband Steve and with local organists to introduce the instrument to the public through organ crawls, demonstrations, education programs, zany Halloween shows, and social media platforms.

### **LARY GROSSMAN - Treasurer**

E Lary Grossman has been a parish organist and music director in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield, Massachusetts for nearly thirty years.

His elected and appointed offices to the American Guild of Organists include National Council, Treasurer, Joint RCCO/AGO Montreal Organ Festival (2017), and Chapter offices including Dean, Investment Advisory Committee Chair, and Pipe Organ Encounter co-chair. He was initially appointed Treasurer of the RCCO in 2021.

In addition to his church work, Dr. Grossman owns Parish Bookkeeping, LLC.

He has degrees from Northwestern University (PhD, Theory); University of Massachusetts (MM, Theory); American Conservatory of Music (Chicago, B.Mus, Theory & Piano); and, National University (MBA).

Born in Chicago, he lives in Hatfield, a small town in Western Massachusetts with his daughter Lucy (presently a MSc (Math) student at McGill) and various livestock included Juniper and Cedar, two mustang horses adopted from the US Government.

### **PATRICK CARTER - Secretary**

A native of Newmarket, Ontario, Patrick trained as an academic historian (PhD, Cambridge University), and has taught history and political science (as well as German) at Appleby College, Oakville Ontario since 2001, where he also assists with duties as a choir director and an organist in the John Bell Chapel. Since 1999 he has served as organist of St Paul's Anglican Church, Glanford (Hamilton). Previously, he held positions at several churches, including four years as choirmaster of St Mark's parish church, Cambridge (UK). A Colleague of the Royal Canadian College of Organists (C.R.C.C.O.), he also received the Associate diploma (A.Mus.) from the Western Ontario Conservatory of Music (London, Ontario).

Patrick and his family currently reside in Ancaster, Ontario. As an active member of the RCCO for over two decades, Patrick served for a number of years as treasurer of the Hamilton Centre, was engaged in organizing successful summer organ camps for young people (POW!s), and also served as treasurer of the successful 2011 and 2021 RCCO Organ Festivals in Hamilton. In 2009 he joined the RCCO Board of Directors as Regional Director for Region 4 (Southern Ontario), and since 2012 has served as Secretary of the RCCO. In addition to governance experience with the RCCO, he served for more than a decade as the Treasurer of the Canadian Association of Teachers of German.

### **JOHN PAUL FARAHAT – Chair of Advocacy**

John Paul Farahat is Chair of the Scholarships and Bursaries Committee and sits on the National Council of the Royal Canadian College of Organists. He has served as a member of the Executive of the same organization's Toronto Centre, and on the Board of Directors of the Victoria Scholars Men's Choral Ensemble.

He is Director of Music and Principal Organist of Saint Basil's Church, the collegiate church of the University of Saint Michael's College in the University of Toronto. He further serves as one of five organists for Saint Michael's Cathedral Basilica and is on faculty at Saint Michael's Choir School.

John Paul holds the Doctor of Musical Arts in Performance degree from the University of Toronto, where he studied organ with Kevin Komisaruk. He received additional instruction from Olivier Latry, Peter Williams, and Martin Haselböck. Visit [www.farahat.ca](http://www.farahat.ca) for more information.

### **SEAN SIMPSON – Chair of Communications**

I am pleased to submit my candidacy for the position of Director, Chair of Communications, for the Royal Canadian College of Organists. I have been a church organist in Kitchener for 21 years, serving as Director of Music at St. Anne's Roman Catholic Church. A student of Dr. Peter Nikiforuk, I earned my CRCCO designation while pursuing my BA and MA in Political Science from Wilfrid Laurier University.

As a brief introduction, my passion for the organ, church music, and the arts more broadly is strong. I am a Director and former Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the Grand Philharmonic Choir (GPC) in Kitchener (in which I sing bass), am a subscriber to the Canadian Opera Company and the KW Symphony, and am a member and frequent patron of the Stratford Festival of Canada. My wife, Amie Debrone, is a voice teacher and performer in both the classical and musical-theatre styles.

Following my studies at Laurier, in 2007 I began working at Ipsos, the second largest market research and public-opinion polling firm in the world and largest in Canada, where my work was primarily focused on research for earned media. Through progressively more senior roles, my responsibilities expanded, and I now lead Ipsos' relationship with Global News. I am a primary spokesperson for the company and am regularly featured on Global News TV, [globalnews.ca](http://globalnews.ca), and Corus radio stations across the country among other media outlets (CP24, CTV, BNN, etc.). In addition to my media responsibilities (including election polling), I lead our public-opinion specialization, which includes crisis communications, issues management, stakeholder relations (GR/PR), and reputation management.

I am confident that I can bring these skills to bear for the RCCO as a more active member. Having assisted the GPC through a governance review following financial hardship during the Great Recession, the RCCO's reorganization interests me greatly. The chance to be a part of its new structure and to help define the terms of reference, roles and responsibilities of its leadership positions is an exciting prospect. My experience as an organist, researcher, communicator, arts enthusiast and private sector executive would be an asset for the RCCO.

### **ROBERT DIXON – Chair of Development**

Robert Dixon is an experienced fundraiser, organist, and choir director. As Executive Director of Advancement and Marketing at Ryerson University, Robert leads fundraising for health-related teaching and research, including Canada's largest nursing program. He previously secured support for medical research at the University of Oxford and led the principal gifts program at Doctors Without Borders / Médecins Sans Frontières Canada.

As a musician, Robert has held positions at Gloucester Cathedral, Jesus College Cambridge, the City Church of Oxford, and Christ Church Deer Park in Toronto. He has performed widely in Europe and North America, including live appearances on BBC Radio 4 and Switzerland's Radio SRF 2 Kultur, and recorded three CDs with the choirs of Jesus College on the Signum label.

Robert holds an MA in Theology from the University of Cambridge and the Fellowship Diploma of the Royal College of Organists. He lives in Toronto.

### **KATY SWEET ALLEN – Chair of Governance**

Katy Sweet was born and raised in Toronto, Ontario. She earned a B.A. (Specialist in Classics) from the University of Toronto in 1990 and an M.A. (Classics) in 1991 also from the University of Toronto. While working towards a Ph.D. in Classics she taught in the Classics Department of the University of Manitoba from 2002-2004. After leaving academia Katy taught and performed Middle Eastern dance full time. In 2009 she received a Juris Doctor degree in law from Dalhousie University. She articulated with the Crown in Thompson, Manitoba and was called to the bar in August 2010. She worked as a Crown Prosecutor in Manitoba from that time until her retirement in 2022. She has sung in Anglican church choirs most of her life and currently sings in the choir of St. George's Anglican Church in Winnipeg. She studied piano up to Level 8 (Royal Conservatory of Music). Her passions are gardening and cats and now that she has retired is hoping to have the time to dance more Argentine tango with her husband.

### **PETER WEST – Chair of Marketing**

Peter West (ARCCO) has been a longtime member of the Waterloo-Wellington centre of the RCCO where he is currently secretary and on the marketing committee. He has been a regional director since 2020 and has contributed to the recent national membership recruitment campaign.

After a career in education as a music teacher and elementary school principal he pursued an MBA in arts and media management at the Schulich School of Business (York University) and has been volunteering in communications and marketing for the Grand River Film Festival and the Waterloo chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators. He has also supplemented his marketing training with the Canadian Marketing Association's Digital Marketing course.

He began his music director career at St. Paul's Lutheran Church (Guelph) in 1984 and was part of the transition when St. Paul's Lutheran merged with St. David's and St. Patrick's Anglican church to become All Saints Lutheran-Anglican church. He directed the Cambridge Girls' Choir for 12 years, directed many school choirs and was on the Kodaly Music Festival committee for the Waterloo Region District School Board.

Peter is committed to the vision and mission of the RCCO and is looking forward to working with the board, staff, and volunteers to support the RCCO's operational capacity, outreach, and member value goals.

### **ANGELIQUE PO – Chair of Programming**

Angelique Po is an organist, pianist and harpsichordist living and working in Vancouver, BC, and current President of the Royal Canadian College of Organists (RCCO) Vancouver Centre, an organization which supports the community of organists across BC and their continuing education. Her versatility and interest in a broad range of music styles have led her to collaborate with a variety of ensembles and soloists, as well as perform world premieres of many new works. As the featured artist with trombonist Jeremy Berkman for Vancouver Pro Musica's Sonic Boom 2021, she premiered ten new works written for trombone and organ by BC composers in an online concert in March 2021. She was featured again in Vancouver Pro Musica's A Little Further Series in October 2021, playing eight world-premiere solo organ pieces. She previously played Vierne's Symphonie No. 1 with seven Western Canadian organists in RCCO Victoria's 2020 online Halloween organ concert. Her performance of Beethoven's Pieces for Musical Clock was one of six performances presented in St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church's BTHVN 2020 concert: part of a global event sponsored by the Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH (Beethoven Anniversary Society) celebrating the 250th birthday of Ludwig van Beethoven.

Angelique has performed with numerous ensembles, including the Vancouver Bach Choir, Postmodern Camerata, Vancouver Oratorio Singers, Abendmusik, Sakura Singers, and the Church Music Ministry of Canada, and has served in organ appointments at St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Central Presbyterian Church and First Baptist Church in Vancouver. She is currently Assistant Organist at St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church in Vancouver. As a composer, she has written for various small ensembles, including pianist Michael Park, PEP (Piano and Erhu Project) with Corey Hamm and Nicole Ge Li, and has written a number of art songs. At the University of British Columbia, she studied piano with Sara Buechner and harpsichord with Doreen Oke. On the organ, her mentors include Kevin Bowyer, Michael Murray, and Edward Norman. In addition, she has received valuable coaching from Ton Koopman, Marnie Giesbrecht, Wendy Markosky, Christa Rakich and David P. Dahl.