



*The Royal Canadian College of Organists
Le Collège royal canadien des organistes*

KINGSTON CENTRE NEWSLETTER

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Website: <http://www.rcco-kingston.org>

From the Chair

Advent and Christmas Greetings Fellow Organists. I hope that this note finds you well and happy!

What a great time of year! All the familiar sights and sounds, the violet, pink, white of Advent through Christmas, the familiar, comforting music that can lull us into a warm, fuzzy place.

This season at St. Mary's has been a busy one. We are stretching out in terms of choir repertoire, something that is exciting and necessary for us right now. I am thankful to have a choir excited to learn great music.

The past several weeks and through Advent have been challenging for us as we are in the throws of introducing new music for the Ordinary of the Mass; music that seems to be controversial for many members of our choir and congregation. I was not involved in the decision to choose this setting. At an early rehearsal during which I introduced this new music, one of our dear soprano divas proclaimed that she would not be lending her voice to the new mass setting as it does not meet her standards of excellence. Other comments were that it could be a real game changer, and not in a positive way.

I have managed to mostly calm the choir's discontent by introducing more challenging repertoire in part as a distraction. But after the mass is over, my smiley energy is spent and I lack the jam to face criticisms about the new mass setting from parishioners. Recently I have taken to looking to see if certain people are waiting for me at the bottom of the stairs as it seems to be that a certain number of those who dislike the new music seem to feel the need to vent to me immediately after mass.

But it is Advent and I am concentrating on light and hope, doing my 'darndest' to trust that the fussing and fuming will dissipate so that we can all concentrate on the beauty of the Christmas season.

I wish you a season free from controversy! And best wishes for beautiful Advent and Christmas!

Aurora Dokken

From the Editor

This is always such a busy time of the year both in the church and in our normal lives. So I understand why it is that I don't have much to put into the newsletter this time. There was a Haunted Organ Event at Chalmers Church on Hallowe'en but I don't have any information on that. I hope that some of you were able to be there. Also there was an Organ Recital at St. George's in October.

There is unfortunately no 'Utterly Utterly' column this month. Doubtless one will appear in the next edition. But I do have a wonderful piece which John sent me and I hope he will approve me sending it on to the membership at large.

I do have news that might be of interest to fellow organists, although I announced it at the November Executive meeting. On October 30 I was honoured in a very special way for completing 30 years of service at St. Thomas Church. My bust has been cast in bronze, and I will soon be "installed" at the back of the church! Five years ago, the rector at the time, the Rev. Peter Joyce, asked if he could do a sculpture of me. (He has had professional training.) I said yes, but had no idea that the finished work of art would end up at the church'.

Congratulations John. That is a most touching and heartfelt way to recognize your years of service at St John's.

Michael Goodwin.

Coming Events

Twelfth Night Party

On Friday, January 6th (Epiphany), 2012, the annual Twelfth Night Party is taking place at St Thomas Anglican Church in Reddendale. This is the "usual spot", and once again we have Nora Vincent to thank for making the arrangements for us to use the space. Plan on attending! It all happens at 7:30 p.m. Bring a snack, sweet or savoury to share, and if you wish to imbibe, an alcoholic beverage. Punch, coffee and tea will be provided.

There is NO meeting - just entertainment provided by YOU!! A song, a poem, an entertainment of 10 minutes or less is most welcome. It would be appreciated if you could e-mail or call Carol Ramer with your intention of coming/entertaining.

email: gcramer@sympatico.ca telephone: 613 374 2108

See you there. Merry Christmas and Happy New year! Carol

Pedals, Pipes and Pizza

Jill Mingo has agreed to organize an event possibly for this coming March. This would be geared to teens and Queen's students, but open to adults too. Information on this will be e-mailed to the membership as it becomes available.

Members' Recital

The annual Members' Recital will be at St. George's Cathedral on Sunday afternoon, March 4th. Any and all members are invited to play at this event on the newly refurbished and enlarged organ at the Cathedral. This will be a wonderful opportunity to experience playing on this magnificent instrument. Charles Balme has generously agreed to organize it again so please get in touch with him at cbalme@kos.net or 613-382-8640.

Students' Recital

The Student Recital will be on Sunday April 1st, tentatively at St. Andrew's. If this is not possible, it would be at St. Mary's Cathedral or First Baptist .

Non RCCO Events

On Sunday afternoon, March 25 at 2:30, there will be a concert by the Prince Edward County Ecumenical Choir, under the direction of Michael Goodwin, at St. Mary Magdalene Church, Picton. The main work on the program will be the Requiem by John Rutter plus pieces by Praetorius, Boyce, Buxtehude and Bach. The organ accompanist will be Brian Jackson and soloists Linda Minty, cello, and Heather Schreiner, oboe.

Supply Organists

Mark Sirett is available to play for church services. He can be reached at 542-6506 or 542-9616 ext.24 or msirett@cantabile.kingston.net

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Advertisements

Commercial advertisements will be accepted as follows: the normal size will be business card (one eighth of a page) at \$15 for a single issue and \$50 for a year (four issues). If space allows, we will accept an occasional half-page advertisement at \$30 for one issue. Please send your requests to the Editor, enclosing a cheque for the appropriate amount made payable to *RCCO Kingston Centre*. *Positions Vacant, Jobs Wanted* and *Supply Organists* notices will continue to be published free of charge.

Deadline for all submissions to the *March Newsletter March 1st 2012*