



THE ROYAL CANADIAN  
COLLEGE OF ORGANISTS

**Vancouver Centre  
Newsletter**



*Autumn Edition  
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## ★ Roy Hepworth of Carillon Music

Interviewed by Madelene Klassen  
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### **What are some early experiences that have shaped your career?**

(Roy) At the age of five I took six months of piano lessons from my grandmother. I stopped because of farm work and schoolwork overload. However, she painted this wonderful picture that I could be a great pianist if I studied and had a good teacher. We lived on a farm, and there was no extra money for maintaining a piano. Our farm truck had a bed on it for harvesting hay in the summer. It was changed to a wooden people box and functioned as a school bus for my two room, 7 grade school in the Winter. My poor grandmother kept telling me through my teenage years what a great pianist I could be.

### **How did Carillon Music come to be?**

We started in 1970 selling pianos, home organs, and teaching the Yamaha Music School program for children 4 to 8 years of age. It was based on children developing most of their ear's tonal definition in that age. Most piano teachers did not want to teach children who could not read. In a few years we had around 400 children in that age group, coming to us from Bellingham, Blaine, Abbotsford, plus locals. We added private piano lessons, pop organ lessons and in 1980 also classical organ. After several years we separated from Yamaha and "North Americanized" our children's programs.

### **Tell me about the Carillon Music Summer Institute. How did it emerge?**

In 1987 we became concerned about pianists playing organ with little, or no training. Many did not use the pedalboard, didn't understand registration, and couldn't improvise. We brought in wonderful international organists as teachers for the four day CMSI workshop. Its simple goal was to motivate these pianists to expand their organ knowledge. In the 1980's-90's we had between 30-40 students. The Summer Institute is held for four days in August each year. Of recent years we have added scholarships to cover the tuition costs for piano students to experience organ. The students are encouraged to pick a song of their choosing and ability, and prepare it for the final concert from what they learn. The piano students are introduced to the organ as an exciting instrument to add to their talents when they finish piano. This has been a very successful program as there are now a number of CMSI program students who are either taking organ lessons as they finish piano and/or are now playing at churches.

### **Building such a program takes commitment and long range vision.**

Yes indeed. And organs have also changed so much in the last few years. Sampled sound has been used and was very good. Sampled sound is like taking a photograph of the sound.

Physical modeling of sound has been introduced now, and it mathematically, more accurately captures the breathing, impulses, and tones that create the breath of life found in a fine pipe organ. I listen very carefully to every pipe organ I come in contact with to better understand how to incorporate its sounds and how it works with acoustics. I have learned a fine digital organ installation is more of a process than an event.

**You have a passion for good hymn playing.**

Yes, and hymn culture is quite different now than it was 20 years ago. Some music is musically marginal and some very good. So much new music comes out every week that groups hardly have time to learn it before they move on to another new song. The well-known hymn writer Fanny Crosby wrote over 8000 hymns, but only a small percentage survived the test of time. The same is true for contemporary hymns. Singing is when corporate worship can take place, and the more inspirational it is the more meaningful it is. A hymn sing once a month is a great way to sing the old and new together and enjoy what works best with which instruments or midi sounds or worship band.

**Are there favourite hymns that have shaped your life?**

The standard favorites of “How Great Thou Art” and “It Is Well” are there. At this point in time “My Soul Has Found a Resting Place” currently meets my needs. Hymnary has been a huge influence for me as I move from one favorite to another, depending on my spiritual or emotional need at any point in time!

**You have non-musical interests as well. You’re a helicopter pilot.**

Oh yes. My dad bought me an airplane ride when I was seven. It was terrifyingly exciting! It also set my eyes on my future occupation. I purchased my first airplane when I was 16 for \$600, an Aeronca Champion, 65hp with a wooden propeller. My father and I both got our flying licences in it. I flew that plane around until I turned it upside down in a cow pasture, then, at 19 years of age I traded it in for the helicopter course. Helicopter pilots were in high demand in Canada, so I first flew in 1958-59-61 summers for Highland Helicopter in Canada and permanently moved to Canada in 1963. I flew the helicopter for close to 20 years for mainly Falconbridge Nickel Mines looking for mines. It started out on Vancouver Island and worked north up the coast mountain ranges to Alaska and through Alaska to the root of the Aleutian Islands. Being a helicopter pilot was great because we spent a lot of time in wilderness areas with wildlife, which I enjoyed very much. My wife Frieda and the children came north in summer and she became the Camp Cook . She’s been a wonderful partner in life and the business. Like myself, she was raised on a farm. It was rare to be in a village or camp that had a piano, but when we did find one - no matter how far out of tune, it was music to my ears!

**What are your tips for success?**

Perseverance is the powerful secret of success, and being excited about what you do, whether it’s about each day’s opportunities, or a new piece music.



## ★ Owed To Sharon

(On the retirement of Sharon Adamson as General Manager of the Royal Canadian College of Organists) by Sam Balden, Regional Director for British Columbia.

For women of distinction - we know there's quite a few;  
There is Eleanor, and Hildegard, and of course there's you.  
We want to pay you homage, through this our simple verse,  
To say how much we love you, if that's not too perverse.

To us humble organists, you've been a dream come true,  
For our College needs, 'tis said, you've never missed a cue.  
You've kept us really organized, (please excuse the pun),  
Tinged our boring meetings with an element of fun.

Scholarships, registrations, Board and Council matters,  
With the wrong employee, we'd all have been in tatters.  
You've handled us with fabulous equanimity -  
A boon to all those working in your proximity.

We wouldn't be where we are, without much help from you,  
And every word that's written here, it is the gospel true.  
Pacific to Atlantic, we're all of one accord,  
Throughout the land of Canada, you are just adored.

The times they are a'changing, we're in a different age,  
Communication platforms? Now Facebook is the rage.  
There are a lot who'd even like to set us all a-twitter  
Even though, for older folks, that's an unknown critter.

So now you deign to leave us, in point of fact retire,  
And in honour of your service, we should cue the choir  
To sing the praise of Sharon, a gentle rose so sweet.  
As for our younger cohorts, perhaps they'll send a tweet.

Even though we're organists, we'd like to make a fuss,  
By sending you this thank-you, which comes from all of us.  
We wait for your replacement, someone completely new -  
And pray that she turns out to be just as nice as you!

To mark this grand occasion we're giving you a purse  
[Metaphorically speaking, so there's no need to curse!]  
We hope retirement brings to you a joy that is unmatched  
Even though in College terms, you still are unattached!

## ★ Upcoming Concerts

**Saturday, October 1,** 7:30pm, Queens Avenue United Church

**Music for Two Organs**, with Nicholas Fairbank, Michael Murray, Suzanne Gibson Coulthard, and PJ Janson.

A Viscount digital organ and the Casavant Freres pipe organ in concert. Works by Handel, Andriessen, Lucchinetti, Dupré, Jongen, Albright, Lefébure-Wely, Bossi, Gigout, Kerll, Bull, and PDQ Bach.

Tickets \$20 general, \$10 students K-7.

**Friday, October 14,** 8:00pm, Holy Rosary Cathedral

**Music for Two**, with Denis Bédard and Rachel Alflatt.

Organ duets, solos, and transcriptions, by Callahan, Haydn, Lachner, Schubert, Franck, Dicks, Pierne, Bedard, Merkel and others.

Tickets \$20 adult, \$15 student/senior.

**Friday, October 28** 7:30 pm, St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church

**RCCO Halloween Organ Recital**

Costumes and dark music, with seasonal treats at the reception afterwards.

Free admission, donations accepted.

**Friday, November 18,** 7:30pm, Queens Avenue United Church

**Two on the Bench**, with Rachel Alflatt and Denis Bédard.

Organ duets, solos, and transcriptions, by Callahan, Haydn, Lachner, Schubert, Franck, Dicks, Pierne, Bedard, Merkel and others (not exactly the same repertoire as the October 14 Holy Rosary Cathedral concert).

Tickets \$20 general, \$10 students K-7.

**Sunday, November 20** 3:00pm, Ryerson United Church

**Sundays at 3**, with organist Christina Hutten and soprano Jane Long.

Johann Sebastian Bach: Cantatas and Chorales

Tickets \$15 general, \$10 students, available at the door.

**Friday, November 25,** 8:00pm, Holy Rosary Cathedral

**Awaiting Christmas: Sacred Music for Advent**

Performed by the Cathedral's own musicians: organist Denis Bédard and the Cathedral Choir, assistant organist Catherine Walsh and the Holy Rosary Women's Choir, the Contemporary Choir with director Chito Lacsina, and the Spanish Mass Choir.

Free admission, donations accepted.

### **Vancouver Annual AGM**

Our Annual General Meeting took place at St. Mary's Kerrisdale, with a much appreciated pre-meeting sail and post-meeting sale. Membership remains fairly steady in number, though it shifts slightly as a few organists move to or from Vancouver, new students join, and other members pass away. The executive for 2016-2017 will remain the same as last year.

Special thanks to Michael Dirk for providing the sailboat, to Susan Ohannesian and St. Mary's Kerrisdale for hosting the meeting, and to everyone who attended the meeting to help us plan our year ahead.

### **New CD by Denis Bédard – progress update**

Recordings for the new CD of works for organ and other instruments by Denis Bédard project were completed on schedule in July, and post-production is underway.

### **CMSI - Church Musicians Summer Institute**

The 2016 installment of the local Church Musicians Summer Institute was another success. The August session this year had thirteen students. Nine of the thirteen were adolescents, between the ages of 11 and 17. This inspiring staple of organ education in the Greater Vancouver Regional District continues to help us foster good organ playing for the upcoming decades, and next year should mark the thirty year anniversary of this excellent annual four-day workshop.

## ★ Pipe Organ Spotlight

The feature for this newsletter is the organ at **Queens Avenue United Church in New Westminster**, which will be heard in two concerts this autumn.

Built in 1959 by Casavant Frères, it is an early example of the new neoclassical style, which Artistic and Tonal Director Lawrence Phelps introduced to Casavant in the late 1950s.



Queens Avenue United Church organ console.

## Organ Specifications

37 stops, 45 ranks, electropneumatic action

Great	Choir (enclosed)	Swell (enclosed)	Pedal
Quintaton 16'	Cor de nuit 8'	Geigen Principal 8'	Resultant 32'
Principal 8'	Erzähler 8'	Lieulich Gedeckt 8'	Contrebasse 16'
Bourdon 8'	Unda maris 8'	Salicional 8'	Bourdon 16'
Gemshorn 8'	Prestant 4'	Voix Celeste 8'	Quintaton (Gt) 16'
Octave 4'	Koppelflöte 4'	Geigen Octave 4'	Erzähler (Ch) 16'
Spitzflöte 4'	Nazard 2 2/3'	Rohrflöte 4'	Principal 8'
Super Octave 2'	Blockflöte 2'	Octavin 2'	Stopped Diapason (Bdon 16) 8'
Fourniture IV 1 1/3'	Tierce 1 3/5'	Cymbal IV 1'	Erzähler (Ch) 8'
Trompette harmonique 8'	Trompette harmonique (Gt) 8'	Contra Fagot 16'	Nachthorn 4'
	Krummhorn 8'	Fagot (Contra Fagot 16) 8'	Blockflöte 2'
	Rohr Schälmei 4'	Trompette 8'	Mixture III 4'
	Tremulant	Clairon 4'	Bombarde 16'
		Tremulant	Contra Fagot (Sw) 16'
			Fagot (Sw) 8'
			Rohr Schälmei (Ch) 4'



## Useful Information

### Vancouver Centre Teachers List:

**Rachel ALFLATT** (Queens Avenue United Church, New Westminster)

Phone number: 604 322 5995

Email: [cheldar@cheldar.com](mailto:cheldar@cheldar.com)

**Frank EZINGA** (Canadian Reformed Church, Langley)

Phone number: 604 807 5246

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**Michael DIRK** (St. John's Shaughnessy)

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### Vancouver Centre Executive 2015-2016

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