



THE ROYAL CANADIAN
COLLEGE OF ORGANISTS

**Vancouver Centre
Newsletter**



Winter Edition
February, 2016



★ Redevelopment Rush

By Michael Molnar

St. Paul's Anglican Church in the West End has long had their Pendrellis apartment low-rise, and St. Andrews-Wesley built a high-rise next to their church building several years ago, but these were uncommon pairings for many years. Not anymore. Real estate prices in Vancouver are now so high that churches all over the city are making the decision to build, rebuild, renovate, or redevelop.

These changes will impact not only Vancouver skylines, but also the organs in our city. To give a sense of just how much is happening in Vancouver right now, we have compiled a brief overview of many of the projects planned or underway.

First Baptist Church at the corner of Burrard and Nelson owns five lots in the heart of downtown Vancouver and plans to carry out one of the most substantial undertakings: a 56-storey skyscraper (for 300 condominiums) next to its church building, along with another smaller building for affordable rental. It hopes to build an atrium in between the edifices for a community gathering space. Architect Bing Thom has designed the larger building to resemble a set of organ pipes (albeit, more of an impression than an imitation).



First Baptist design plan



Central Presbyterian design plan

Only a few blocks away, Central Presbyterian Church has recently demolished their old building on Thurlow Street (and are currently having their services at the Best Western on Davie Street). They intend the church to be part of the multi-storey complex soon to be built. Their beloved pipe organ was carefully removed and stored safely before the demolition.

Further south, Holy Trinity Anglican Church has long been hoping to find ~\$600,000 to restore their pipe organ (with a plan already approved and assessed by Casavant), with the possibility of expanding and completing the echo organ, which is already in place at the east end of the sanctuary but is not functional (except for the Tuba pipes).

Redevelopment talks and assessments on the large lot at 12th and Hemlock (which has already seen a great deal of construction and renovation) have begun, although they are still in the early phases.

Bethlehem Lutheran, called "The Singing Church" (just east of 15th and Main Street) has long sought a real pipe organ, although they are very happy with their high-end electronic instrument. Demolishing the current building and building a complex that will offer sacred, community, and housing space is well underway. Blueprints and designs are being finalized, with much care being put into acoustical considerations for the new sanctuary.

RYERSON UNITED CHURCH SITE MAP



In Kerrisdale, Ryerson United Church is planning to redevelop their lot at 45th and Yew. This primarily involves updating the sanctuary, restoring the heritage building, adding more parking, and demolishing the Ryerson Memorial Centre to build a community activity centre, and non-market rental housing.

On the North Shore, Lynn Valley United Church has already leveled their old building, and construction is progressing smoothly, with the Church/Condo design already finalized and structures slowly and surely being completed.



Construction at Lynn Valley United

In 2016 and 2017, the Vancouver RCCO Centre looks forward to hopefully being able to advertise many organ dedication concerts (or organ crawls to new instruments) as a result of these big changes happening all over the city.

Upcoming Concerts

Sunday, February 14 3:00pm, Ryerson United Church

Sundays at 3, concert by organist Michael Dirk.

Works by Rathgeber, Sweelinck, Bach, Schumann, Brahms, Guilman, Rimsky-Korsakov, and Chaplin: *Those Love Pangs* (1914 film).

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

Friday, February 26, 8:00pm, Holy Rosary Cathedral

Sacred Music for Lent

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, the Spanish Mass Choir with director Alejandro Frias, and guest organist Rachel Alflatt.

Free admission, donations accepted.

Friday, April 22, 8:00pm, Holy Rosary Cathedral

Glorious Music for Trumpet and Organ, with Katherine Evans and Denis Bédard.

Works by Bach, Purcell, Telemann and Denis Bédard, including new works by Bédard.

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

Sunday, April 24 3:00pm, Ryerson United Church

Sundays at 3, concert by organist Michael Molnar.

Works by Bach, Ravel, Kittel, Mulet, Guilman, Mushel, Balbastre, Dvorak and Bédard.

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

Saturday, May 28, 7:00pm, St. Mary's Kerrisdale

RCCO Members' Recital

Free admission, donations accepted.

Members' Recital - Saturday, May 28 at 7pm

St. Mary's Kerrisdale Anglican Church 37th Ave and Larch Street in Vancouver.

Now is the time, after Christmas, just before Lent and well before Easter, to start thinking about what you would like to play for the Members' Recital at the end of May.

Last year's Student Recital, also at the end of May and also at St. Mary's Kerrisdale, was a tremendous success, so let's put on another great show.

Students who played last year and are also members of the RCCO are eligible to perform again. If you want to perform and you are not a member, all you have to do is join the RCCO at www.rcco.ca.

St. Mary's has a 3 manual Casavant organ with 37 stops, 8 general pistons, 4 or 5 manual and pedal pistons and 100 levels of memory, which makes it very flexible for multiple performers.

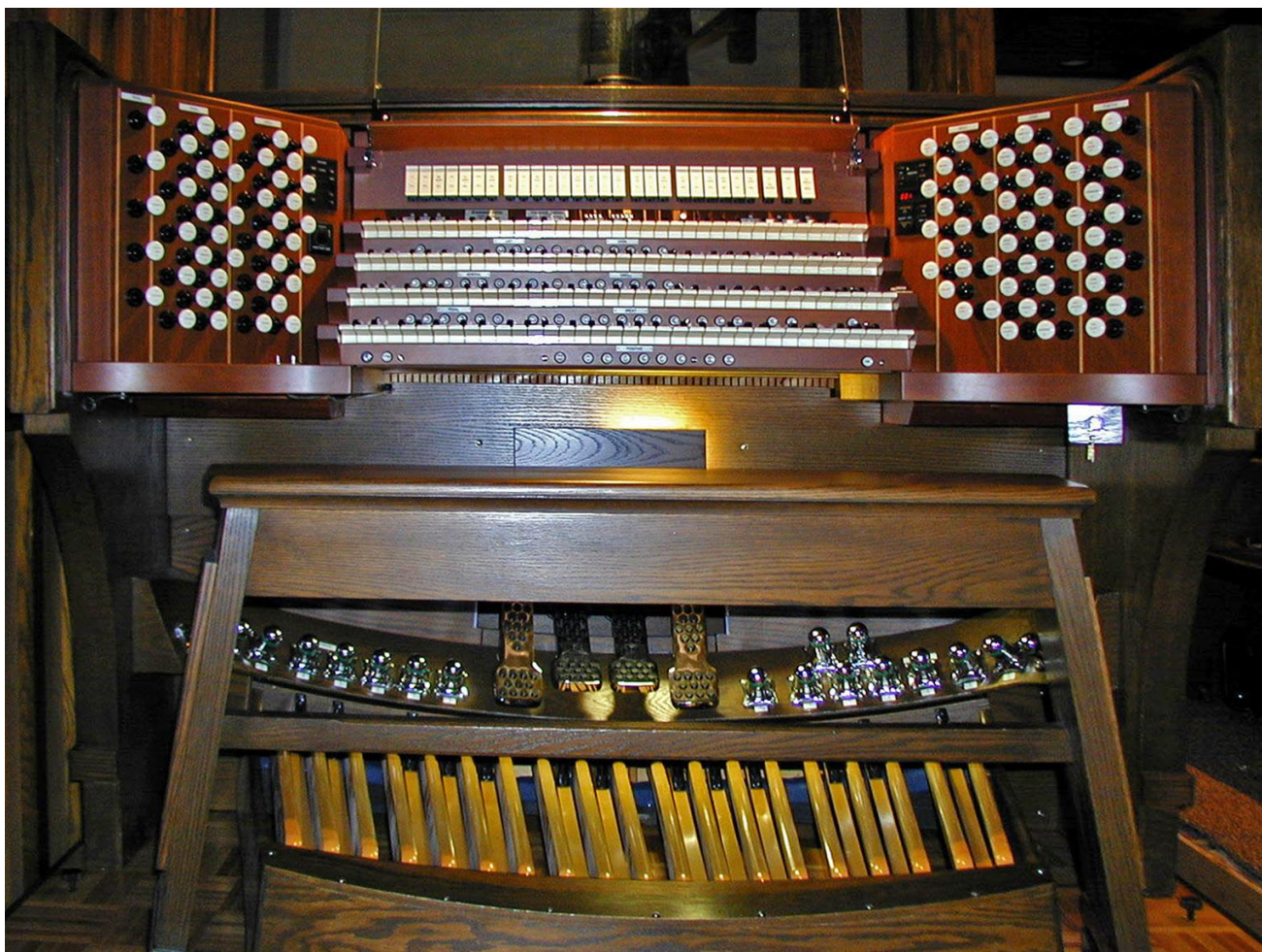
If you are interested, please email Susan Ohannesian at susan@ohannesian.ca. Practice times can be arranged with Susan in the month before the recital.

New CD by Denis Bédard – Progress update

As was announced in the Autumn newsletter, this CD is financed by Sam Balden and the Vancouver Centre RCCO. One recording session took place before Christmas (organ duets, recorded by Denis and Rachel Alflatt at Queens Avenue United Church), and a second session is scheduled for February 8 at Holy Rosary Cathedral, with saxophonist Julia Nolan and Denis. Further sessions will be held later this spring at Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church and Langley Canadian Reformed Church and will include trumpeter Katherine Evans.

★ Pipe Organ Spotlight

Every newsletter, we will showcase an instrument (and often a local organist to go with it!), to help you become better acquainted with the fascinating organs, people, and churches in this beautiful city of Vancouver. Being one of the churches involved in redevelopment, and with two recitals coming up there in the next few months, this newsletter's Pipe Organ Spotlight is featuring **Ryerson United**.



The four-manual console in Ryerson United Church's sanctuary

Ryerson United Church is home to the largest pipe organ in Vancouver, with 76 stops. Casavant Frères has built almost 4000 organs, and Ryerson was number 2795, at a vibrant time for the company (1964). The instrument was refurbished in 2005, updating the electronics, adding a sequencer, and adding over a hundred memory banks. Despite the substantial size of the four-manual console, it is kept on a platform that can be rolled out to the centre of the church for recitals.

The organ specifications can be found at:

<https://ryersonunited.files.wordpress.com/2012/09/organ-specifications.pdf>

Useful Information

Vancouver Centre Teachers List:

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