



THE ROYAL CANADIAN
COLLEGE OF ORGANISTS

**Vancouver Centre
Newsletter**



*Spring Edition
March, 2022*



Table of Contents

- 2 President's Message
- 3 Upcoming RCCO events
- 4 Education Officer update
- 8 The organ at St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church
- 15 The Old Order Changeth
- 22 Useful Information

★ President's Message

Dear organ enthusiasts,

With health mandates being lifted in BC, all I can say is, "It's about time!" Finally, we can start planning in-person concerts, and masterclasses, and get-togethers again. Hopefully, I'm not celebrating prematurely, and infection numbers don't start rising again before the summer. But after two years (two years!) of restrictions and partial openings, and re-restrictions...Christmas Eve of 2021 being particularly memorable for being the day my church decided that services needed to be held online-only again...I'm so glad that we are finally, probably, hopefully seeing the end of this pandemic.

RCCO Vancouver Centre is ready to start holding in-person events, too. We have an organ crawl planned for International Organ Day, April 23. Our long-postponed masterclass with Alexander Weimann is finally happening on May 7 at West Vancouver United Church. And our Spring Members' Recital will be returning to St. Mary's Kerrisdale on May 28. But online events will also continue, to accommodate our members who live far from Vancouver, or are not comfortable yet with in-person events. Our online meet-ups with Victoria Centre will continue on the 3rd Monday of each month until we have no more participants. And groups across the city are still putting out online versions of their in-person concerts. If there's one thing that the pandemic taught us, it's how to do things online!

I'm grateful for the society we live in. It may not be completely perfect, but the fact that these past two years have been relatively peaceful here, despite the stress, despite everyone--

scientists and governments included--having to learn about the pandemic and make life-and-death decisions as quickly as we can with the little information that we have, we're doing okay. For us, things are getting better. Even two years ago, at the start of all this, we could trust that they would. That hasn't been true for everyone: Russia's invasion of Ukraine continues, and our thoughts are with the people of Ukraine, and all who are suffering from the fallout of such a senseless war.

Thanks to all of you organ enthusiasts for supporting us through the past couple of years. I hope you'll stay with us, and continue to play and listen to organ music. May music continue to be a source of comfort and joy in your lives.

With thanks,
Angelique Po
President, RCCO Vancouver Centre

Upcoming RCCO events

Saturday, April 23, 10:30am – 4pm East and Downtown Vancouver

RCCO Organ Crawl, celebrating International Organ Day

Free admission for all

10:30am – 12:30pm, Holy Family Catholic Church, 4851 Beatrice St.

1:00pm – 4:00pm, St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church, Nelson at Burrard

Saturday, May 7, 11:00am, West Vancouver United Church

Masterclass with Pacific Baroque Orchestra's Alexander Weimann

Auditors \$10 (RCCO members free of charge)

If you would like to play in the masterclass, please contact Angelique Po at angelique_po@hotmail.com now for more details

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

RCCO Members' Recital

Free admission, donations accepted.

If you are an RCCO member and would like to perform in this concert, please contact Susan Ohannesian at s.ohannesian@icloud.com or 604 839 2766 now for more details.

Saturday, June 18, 9:30 am, St. John's Shaughnessy Anglican Church

RCCO Vancouver Centre Archives Display and Music Sale

Saturday, June 18, 10:30 am, St. John's Shaughnessy Anglican Church

RCCO Vancouver Centre Annual General Meeting (also via Zoom)

★ Education officer update

by Michael Dirk

University of British Columbia

I have one organ student, Isaac Howie, who is now an RCCO student member. He performed with me Duruflé's Requiem in December on the Cantorum Organ in Chan.

I am aware of an international graduate student, presently pursuing an MA in ethnomusicology at UBC - he graduated in composition from Sydney, Australia and is also a fine organist. He produced the only video recording of the UBC Roy Barnett Recital Hall Casavant: https://youtu.be/9mZMqxW_jVg

The Roy Barnett Recital Hall Casavant has had three significant visits from Marianne and is coming back to better function/reliability with frequent/regular use. To that end:

- I will offer a workshop for pianists this month.
- I am in dialogue to potentially create a 'class organ' course since organ secondary is not an option as it once was.
- I am hoping to create regular organ recitals, one per term: October/Halloween, March/Bach's birthday. I would like to explore getting other organ proficient faculty involved, and/or past UBC organ alumni, and/or local RCCO members.
- In addition to UBC, I have recently been appointed to offer organ for the VSO School of Music.

OrgelKidsCAN

- Frank Ezinga's Orgelkit was used at a UBC workshop March 24.
- I'm hoping to have the OrgelKidsCAN for our organ crawl on April 23.
- I'm in dialogue with BCMEA to have the OrgelKidsCAN featured, along with the Cantorum's potentially at the fall 2022 conference <http://www.bcmeaconference.com/>
- I hosted a secondary chamber choir retreat at SJS where all students were introduced to the organ, the chamber and had chance to play/explore. Pictures below.

MIDI Project

- I've been invited to collaborate with Gilles Parenteau and the help of a Canada Council Grant to explore midi capability at an international level. Once SJS is MIDI-enabled in April, we will interface with another midi-capable pipe organ in Australia. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw7oPL0ZwBSi-uU2OMeH1nw>

Cantorum activity (Pictures below)

- November 21 VBC/VO Mozart Requiem at the Orpheum
- November 30 VBC/VSO School of Music Britten St Nicholas at the Orpheum
<https://youtu.be/uni1A-CQ4lQ>
- December 4 Demo-mode at the Chan <https://youtu.be/UZwqmdykn6E>
- December 4 UBC Duruflé Kyrie at the Chan <https://youtu.be/eV5Pa6kIDs4>
- February 12/13 VO Cavalleria Rusticana at the Queen Elisabeth Theatre, March 17/18/19 Chiliwack Symphony Orchestra Lent Cantata at Holy Rosary Cathedral, Our Lady of Assumption and St. James
- April 2 Bach St Matthew Passion, New Westminster Christian Reformed Church
- Carillon is interested in supporting the Vancouver Centre in acquiring the Cantorum by donating a stand, a bench, and possibly more speakers.
- The executive has received insurance details from Elizabeth at RCCO Headquarters and the Cantorum sub-committee is looking at other options.
- The Cantorum sub-committee will prepare a member survey to gauge receptivity and support for the RCCO Vancouver Centre to purchase the Cantorum organ and rent it out as I have been doing.





Secondary school chamber choir retreat at St. John's Shaughnessy



Cantorum Duo full setup



Cantorum Duo set up at St. John's Shaughnessy



Cantorum Duo in action

★ The Organ at St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church

Written and researched by **Christopher Dalton**

Photo credits: **Michael Dirk**

Article idea proposed and curated by **Sam Balden**

One of the largest and most prominent pipe organs in British Columbia stands within the elegant gothic revival structure of St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church in downtown Vancouver. The history of this organ's beginnings and how it has evolved to the present day specifications requires some explanation.

Following United Church union, where in 1927 St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church amalgamated with Wesley Methodist Church, a decision was made to move to a new location and build a new church home. The pipe organ from the former St. Andrew's, a 4 manual 50 stop Casavant Frères Ltée. instrument of English Romantic voicing (built in 1910 as opus 390) was saved for repurposing. In 1932, at a cost of \$9,500, Casavant commenced its Opus 1475 rebuild, enlarging it to 56 stops. Relocated and installed in the new St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church building, opened on Friday, May 26, 1933, the organ was dedicated one week later.

Over the years, changes in prevailing organ construction and pipe speech ideas influenced an undertaking to rebuild and update the organ to something suitable for a greater organ repertoire. Enlargement and versatility was the order of the day and in 1966 local technician G. Herald Keefer & Associates were contracted to build their magnum opus 15, involving an action change, pipe alteration, and enlargement, which included a new 4 manual console. Balcom and Vaughan (a Seattle, Washington organ builder), and Stinkens (a Netherlands pipe maker), were among the shops providing components. This writer recalls the excitement of Donald Forbes, the then organist and music director, about the reinvigorated and enlarged instrument.

Unfortunately, the rebuild turned out to be not particularly successful and the eclectically voiced organ was eventually beset with problems of pipe speech, as well as mechanical and electrical problems. In 1983, Darryl Nixon was appointed organist and music director. He bravely endured a time with the organ's shortcomings, but eventually it reached a point where the organ's operation became unreliable. Discussions with those involved in deciding the future of the organ in the church ensued. Mary (Bowden) Wattum, a long time member and supporter of the work in the church, funded a program for the rebuilding of the organ.

In 1994, Huestis Pipe Organ Associates of Ladner, B.C. were hired to construct their magnum opus, a restoration of the instrument to put it back to a fundamentally English

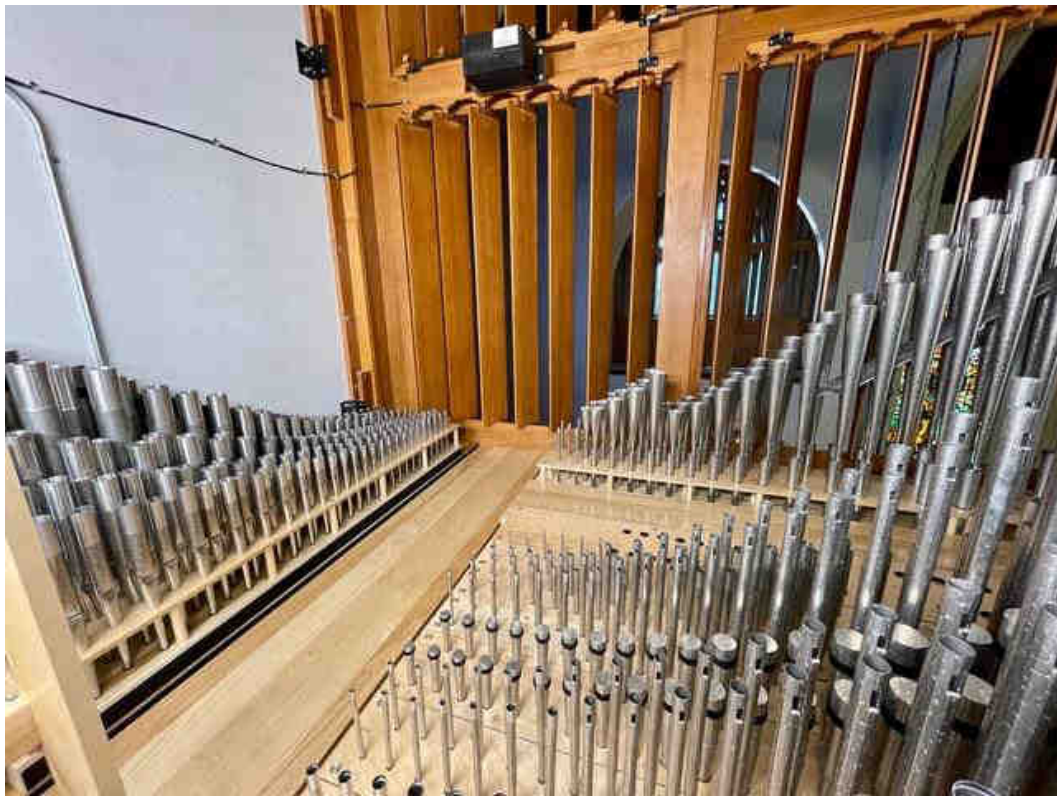
Romantic style. They found that the front chambers had too many pipes buried deep inside, which hindered their speech, and that the existing mechanical action and console were unusable. They retained 17 ranks of pipes and bellows of the original Opus 390 organ, plus some of the pipes from the 1966 work. Pipework was optimized, rearranged, and relocated to pipe chests at an ideally elevated placement close to the chancel facades to focus and enhance sound projection into the nave. A suitable console and action, from the former 1955 Casavant Opus 2477 organ of First Methodist Church, Phoenix, Arizona, were acquired from Texas organ builder Robert Sipe, along with components from the Organ Clearing House. New expression boxes built by Helmuth Wolff Associates (a Laval, Quebec organ builder), and new pipework by Martin Pasi (an organ builder from Kent, Washington), were also among providers.

The project was ended in 2001 at a cost of about $\frac{3}{4}$ million dollars, with a new rear gallery division yet to be completed and facade pipes cleaned and restored. At that time the organ had 65 stops and 60 ranks of pipes in the chancel's 2 chambers, controlled by a 3 manual console. The organ was dedicated to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mrs. Thomas Bingham, a member of the church, who pioneered Scottish Country Dancing in Vancouver. The dedication was by her pupil and friend Mary (Bowden) Wattum. The general reaction towards this rebuild was positive as St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church again had a reliable instrument of cohesive tone that faithfully supported music and singing in services. In addition, the instrument was popular for community concerts and organ recitals.

In February 2019 the church building was shut down for 2 years in order to accommodate a major renovation, seismic upgrade, and restoration. Included with these changes was the opportunity to engage Casavant Frères, who had various involvements through the years with the church's organ, to complete some planned for but uncompleted work. In 2021 they enlarged the organ to 72 stops with 4185 pipes. They added 13 new ranks of pipes to the Solo division, which were mounted in the north side chamber of the rear gallery, a place which once had a gallery division but which had been abandoned for some time.

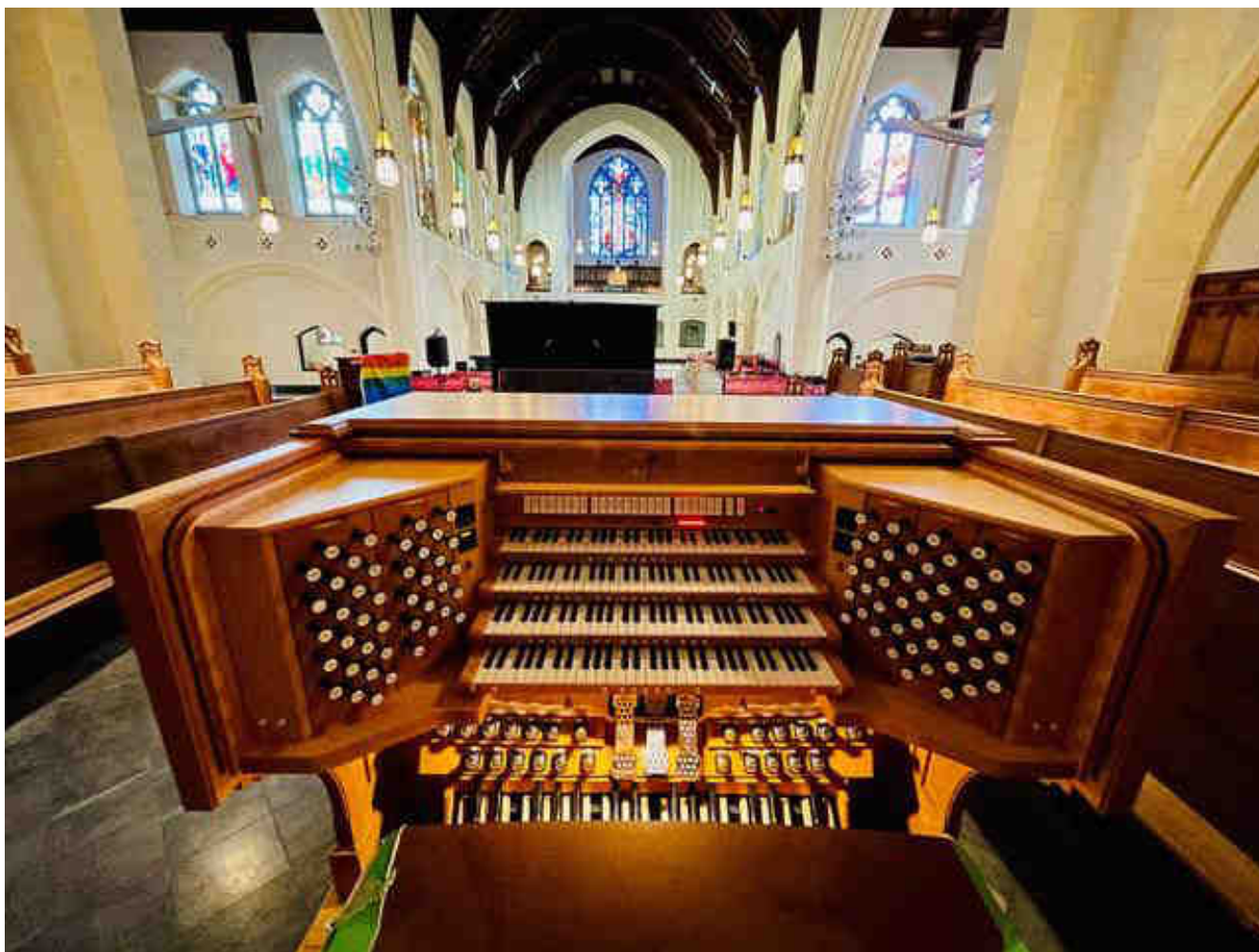


Rear gallery



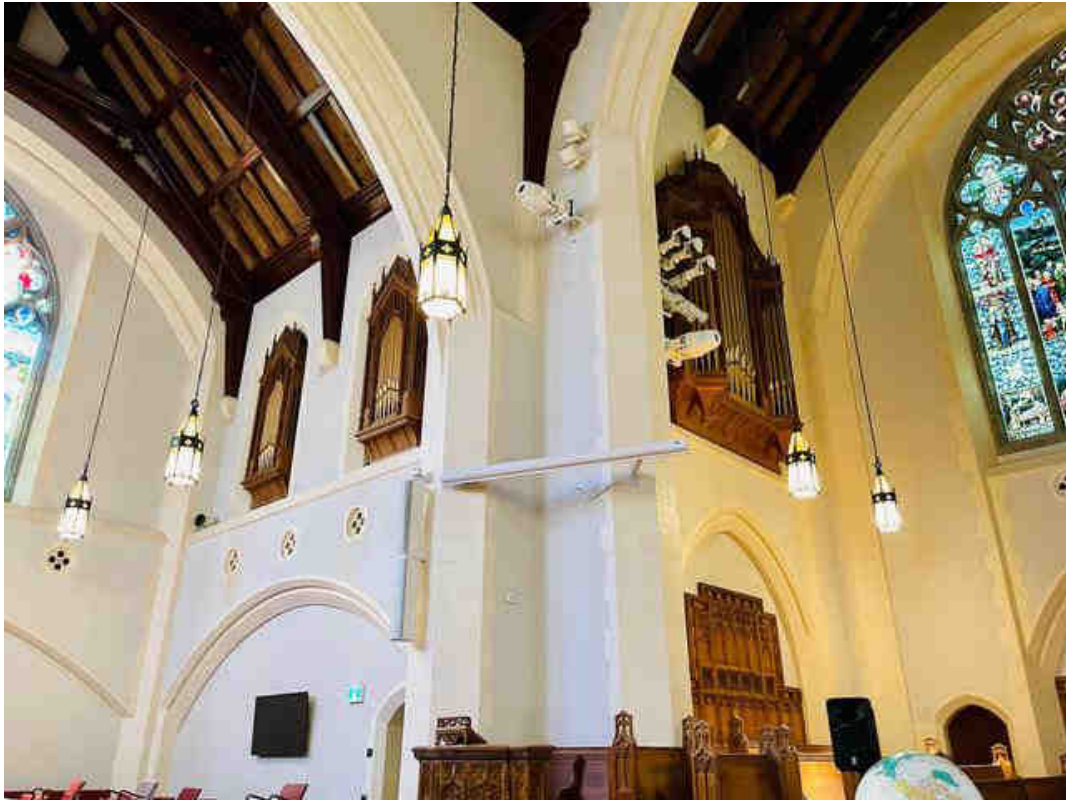
Rear gallery enclosed Solo division

They also provided a new 4 manual console, and cleaned and restored the pipe facades.

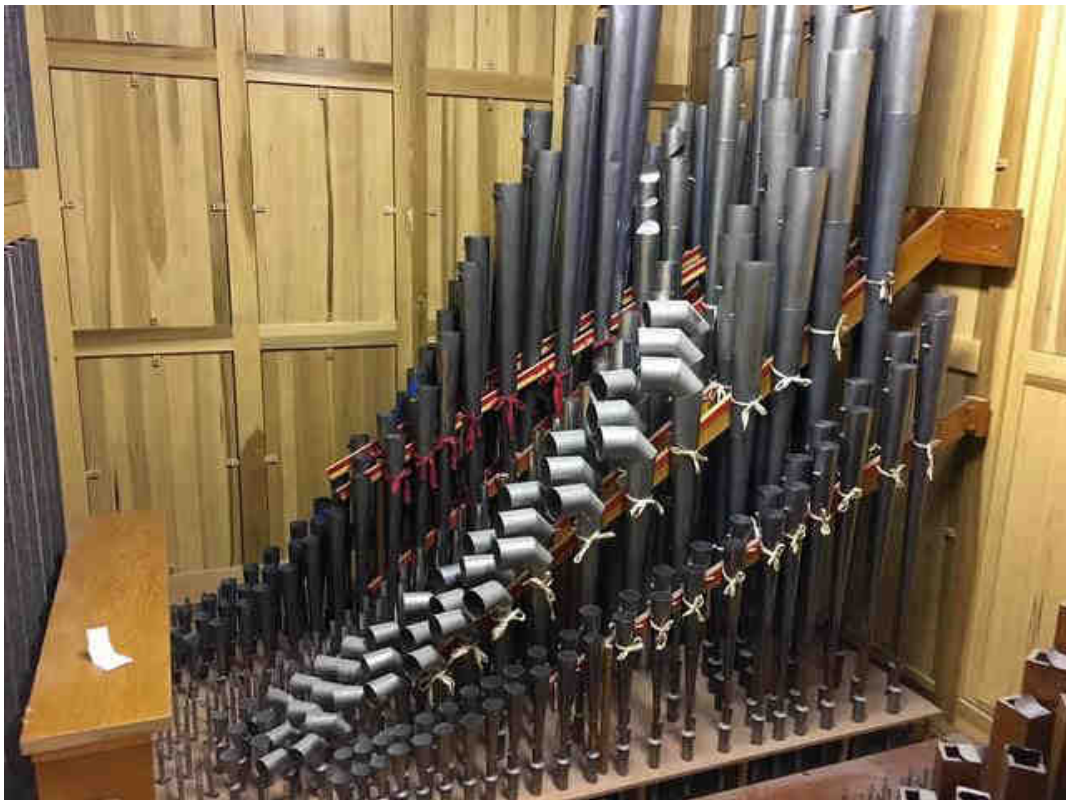


Organ console

Installing an organ within chambered walls in multiple locations can often result in less than favourable sound balance, projection, and other problems. Thankfully, the work done in both 1994 and 2021 has resulted in an instrument that does not exhibit these types of problems. In this writer's assessment, as a result the church sanctuary now contains a happy marriage of superb acoustics and a grand organ with the resources to produce an exceptionally pleasing sound!



Chancel south



Swell division

New console for Casavant pipe organ opus 1475

Present Specification: (72 stops, 73 ranks)

SWELL		GREAT		CHOIR	
Bourdon < (ext.)	16	Flute	16	Violin Diapason	8
Open Diapason*	8	Violone* (ext.)	16	Stopped Flute*	8
Stopped Diapason*	8	Open Diapason*	8	Viole*	8
Salicional*	8	Doppel Flute*	8	Vox Angelica (tc)	8
Voix Celeste* (tc)	8	Viola*	8	Fugara+	4
Principal+	4	Octave	4	Spire Flute	4
Open Flute	4	Flute*	4	Nazard+	2 2/3
Quint (tc)	2 2/3	Quinte+	2 2/3	Piccolo*	2
Fifteenth	2	Super Octave*	2	Tierce+	1 3/5
Mixture	(1) III rks	Mixture	(1 1/3) IV rks	Mixture+	(1) III rks
Contra Trumpet^	16	Cornet ^	(2 2/3) III rks	Clarinet #	8
Trumpet+	8	Trumpet> (ext)	16	Musette+	8
Oboe*	8	Trumpet>	8	Tremolo	
Clarion+	4	Great Unison Off		Choir Sub	
Chimes<	(21 tubes)			Choir Unison Off	
Tremolo				Choir Super	
Swell Sub					
Swell Unison Off					
Swell Super					

SOLO		PEDAL		COUPLERS	
Diapason**	8	Subbass	32	Great to Pedal	
Flute^	8	Double Diapason*	16	Great Super to Pedal	
Bourdon**	8	Contrabass*	16	Swell to Pedal	
Viole**	8	Subbass*	16	Swell Super to Pedal	
Viole Celeste** (tc)	8	Bourdon (Sw.)	16	Choir to Pedal	
Principal**	4	Violone (Gr.)	16	Choir Super to Pedal	
Principal**	2	Octave (ext.)	8	Solo to Pedal	
Cornet^	(4) IV rks	Open Wood (ext.)	8	Solo Super to Pedal	
Cornet** (tc)	(8) V rks	Flute (ext.)	8	Swell Sub to Great	
Trumpet^	8	Bourdon (Sw.)	8	Swell to Great	
Tuba**	8	Viola (Gr.)	8	Swell Super to Great	
English Horn**	8	Octave	4	Choir Sub to Great	
Chimes		Flute	2	Choir to Great	
Solo Sub		Mixture	(2) III rks	Choir Super to Great	
Solo Unison Off		Trombone++	16	Solo Sub to Great	
Solo Super		Trumpet (Gr.)	16	Solo to Great	
		Contra Trumpet (Sw.)	16	Solo Super to Great	
		Cornoepen (ext.)	8	Pedal to Great	
		Trumpet (Gr.)	8	Swell Sub to Choir	
		Trumpet (Gr.)	4	Swell to Choir	

	PEDAL (Cont)	COUPLERS (Cont)
	Clarion (ext.) 4	Swell Super to Choir
		Solo Sub to Choir
		Solo to Choir
		Solo Super to Choir

ACCESSORIES	
Thumb Pistons:	Toe Pistons:
Manual I	Swell to Pedal
Swell to Choir	Choir to Pedal
Choir to Pedal	Great to Pedal
5 Choir Pre-select	Solo to Pedal
General Previous (page turner)	5 Pedal Pre-select
Manual II	10 General Pre-select
Swell to Great	General Previous (page turner)
Choir to Great	General Next (page turner)
Great to Pedal	Full Organ
5 Great Pre-select	Soubasse 32 hitch-down
5 General Pre-select	Choir Shutter Pedal
2 General Next (page turner)	Swell Shutter Pedal
Full Organ	Crescendo / Solo Shutter Pedal (gallery part)
Manual III	
Swell to Pedal	
5 Swell Pre-select	
5 General Pre-select	Legend:
2 General Next (page turner)	# 1890's S.R. Warren
Memory Up	* 1910 Casavant opus 390
Memory Down	++ 1925 Midmer Organ. Co.
Manual IV	< Moller Organ Co.
Solo to Pedal	> Austin Organ Co.
5 Solo Pre-select	+ 1966 Stinkens
2 General Previous (page turner)	^ Martin Pasi 1997-2001
	** Casavant 2021
100 levels of memory for each of 50 users	

★ The Old Order Changeth

Vancouver RCCO Members and church musicians, Susan Ohannesian and Denis Bédard, retire

by **Rachel Alflatt and Sam Balden**

The retirement of two long-time RCCO members from their church positions is certainly worthy of note. Various tributes were offered by their respective co-workers and church authorities at the time and we would like to share some of them with you in this article.

Susan Ohannesian retired at the end of May 2021, having been organist at St. Mary's Kerrisdale for nearly 20 years, but some choir members' memories of her go much further back than that!

Margaret Briscall wrote: "It was the summer of 1969. Susan Driver had just graduated from high school and would be going to UBC in September to study music. The Royal Canadian College of Organists was holding its convention in Vancouver, a very rare occurrence. This convention happened to bring together some people who would play an important part in Susan's future as an organist. The chair of the convention organizing committee was Hugh McLean, then organist at Ryerson United Church. Hugh would be Susan's organ professor at UBC. I was secretary-treasurer for the convention.

"As part of the convention there was an organ playing competition. The final part of the competition was held in Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church. All the competitors were excellent. I was sitting in the balcony and Susan happened to be sitting in front of me. I heard her say "I guess they'll always need someone to play the hymns." We all know how much more Susan can do than that and what a wonderful inspiration she is.

"The winner of the competition was Patrick Wedd. He too went to UBC that fall for his master's degree. In 1971, he became organist and choirmaster at St. Mary's and later became Susan's organ teacher and mentor.

"I saw Susan from time to time while she was organist at St. Philip's and was pleased when she joined us at St. Mary's. I've loved singing with her and listening to her play and have supported her in any way I could. I'll miss her very much."

And this, from Dawn Ross: "Most of the current choir's memories will go back quite a number of years, for Susan has been a prominent part of St. Mary's for so long. Mine, however, go back exactly 50 years to 1971, to that dingy (but sound-proofed) organ practice room in the basement of the brand-new Music Building at UBC, where we both were gearing up for our lessons with Hugh McLean. We were a little band of aspiring organists

then, with Patrick Wedd leaps and bounds ahead of us. How hard we all worked, and what fun we had together! Unlike some of us, Susan carried on and became an accomplished organist. What a tremendous asset she has been to whatever church community she has served.

“I’m reminded of an entry I found in one of my father’s notebooks. At the time he was the Presbyterian chaplain at UBC and the minister of University Hill Presbyterian Church, which Susan must have attended. The entry read, simply: *Susan Driver: "Yay God!"* I think this sums her up pretty well!”

Brigid Coult, St. Mary’s Kerrisdale’s choir director, writes: “I met Susan in my first days in Vancouver in the early ‘80s – I was involved in music at the Cathedral and we encountered each other there, during the World Council of Churches events in 1983, and at parties at Patrick & Rob’s home. Susan would probably point to Patrick Wedd as a major influence in her life as an organist; he was much the same for me as a choral musician.

“We didn’t see much of each other initially – she was working at St. Philips, and I went from the Cathedral to St. Alban’s (Richmond), and then St. Mark’s (Kitsilano) – but we sang together in Elektra Women’s Choir, and were part of choir tours to New York and New Zealand/Australia as well as closer to home. When I came to St. Mary’s and we were in need of an organist, I was delighted to find that Susan was available to join us.

“It’s been a joy to work with her here over nearly twenty years. I think we have matched well as a team – I like the big picture and working with the choir; Susan does detail, puts hours into her organ practice, and has created several “waves” of children’s choirs at various stages. Finding a set of handbells here, she set about learning to play and write for them, and we have had handbell teams from time to time, as well as involving bells in psalmody. A gifted soprano, she doesn’t sit back when we sing a cappella, but loves the chance to join with the other voices. She shares a passion for good liturgy, she loves to read and to be intercessor, and she has involved herself in the life of the parish.

“I wish her joy in her retirement, much more music and time for all the things she is passionate about.”

In addition to directing children’s choirs, Susan also had many students, both young and old, while at St. Mary’s.

Brothers Alex and Max Schmidt wrote separately:

“I am so thankful for everything you taught me in my growing years, not only in music, but also in patience, gratitude and forgiveness. I will always be thankful for what you brought to St. Mary’s and my life. One of my fondest memories was when, after junior choir, you would play on the organ. You were always so happy to play for us and I was always so excited to hear you play. Me and the members of junior choir would dance and have fun, it

was always a good ending to the evening of singing.”

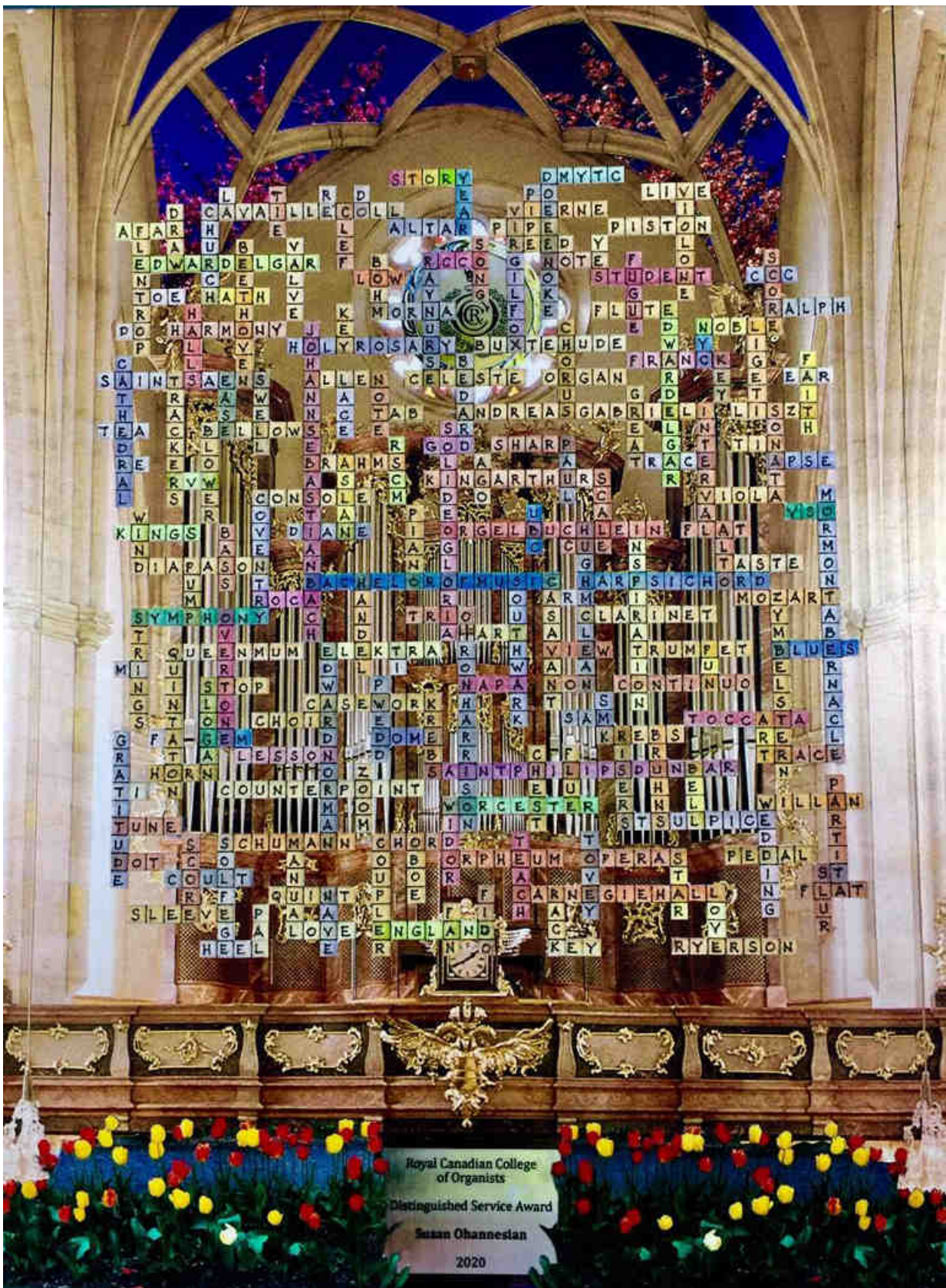
“Susan has been many things to me. She has been a mentor, a teacher and most importantly a friend. I have known her from before I can remember and she has granted me with many long-lasting memories. From the fun weekly junior choir sessions, the hectic after-school piano/organ lessons, and the long nights in choir practice, everything has been a joy. But more than just the memories, she has been a beacon of kindness, grace and love that I try to model myself after, as I know that if I give an ounce of what Susan showed me, the world will blossom with joy.”

This tribute from Lea Starr sums it up well: “Susan – you have so many gifts! I will especially miss your signing the Lord's Prayer, your Junior Choir and your enthusiasm for action songs like “*Worship the Lord*”, as well as your amazing organ playing and your chanting.”

Fortunately, Susan has not retired from the RCCO, even after being a member for more than 50 years! A worthy recipient of the RCCO's Distinguished Service Award in 2020, she has been part of the heart and soul of the Centre in times both thick and thin. She continues to this day to assist in the running of the Centre and organizing of Centre activities, especially the Members' Recital, which she hosted (with a reception following) at St. Mary's Kerrisdale for several years.



Paul and Susan Ohannesian with their son Ben.



Painting by Paul Ohannesian, offered to Susan on the occasion of her retirement.

August 29, 2021 saw the concluding postlude at the 11 a.m. Mass at Holy Rosary Catholic Cathedral be the same piece that **Denis Bédard** had played twenty years previously at his inaugural service as the Cathedral's Organist. Fittingly it was his own composition, "Sortie" from *Suite Liturgique*. Just prior to this performance, and in the presence of Archbishop Miller, Fr. Galvon asked Fr. Comey to make a few congratulatory retirement words. He firstly began with an acknowledgement to Denis' wife, Rachel, for her lengthy role in the organization of the Cathedral's many organ concerts and providing the welcoming to the concert guests.

Father Comey has kindly provided me with the text of his next remarks, and as they are complete in themselves, I have included them intact, as follows, with two small edits (*).

"Archbishop Miller, Fr. Galvon, brother priests, Denis Bédard and Rachel, and dear friends.

"It was my privilege to be the Rector of Holy Rosary Cathedral during its centennial in the year 2000. The greatest of the centennial projects was the restoration of the 100-year-old Karn Warren organ built in Woodstock, Ontario. Casavant Freres Organ Co. in St. Hyacinthe, Quebec, was awarded the contract. The entire organ of 5,000 pipes was dismantled and shipped to this manufacturer. Almost all of the original pipes were refurbished and a few hundred more were added in the building of a new organ. When it was returned, the Cathedral inaugurated the new organ with four concerts performed by well-known organists.

Patrick Wedd – Holy Trinity Anglican Cathedral, Montreal

Frederick Swann – Robert Schuller's Crystal Cathedral in California

(now the Roman Catholic, Christ Cathedral of the Diocese of Orange)

Rachel Laurin – St. Joseph's Oratory, Montreal

Diane Bish – an American organist who had her own popular series of organ

concerts on the Public Television where she performed on famous organs around the world.

"During this time, our Cathedral organist, Gerald Wilkin, suffered a mild stroke that limited his ability. He retired and so a new organist was needed. The Cathedral advertised on-line through the websites of the Royal Canadian College of Organists and the American Guild of Organists. Within two weeks twelve applications were received. Four from Canada, four from the U.S., two from England, one from Germany and one from Ireland.

"The most notable Canadian was Denis Bédard from the city of Quebec. We were familiar with a few of his brilliant compositions and so were very excited about his interest. I then invited him, his wife Rachel and Francis their cat* to come out to give a concert, familiarize himself with the organ, and enjoy our beautiful city. Obviously, Denis was hired and has

been the organist and choral director for the past twenty years. Today he retires and will hand on his position to another worthy organist. (*The reference to the couple's cat, Francis, is correct, but he didn't actually travel to this audition.)

“In addition to being a great organist and composer, I am always impressed by his knowledge of the liturgy and his sensitivity in selecting the right music and when to play it to complement the parts of the Mass, whether it be liturgical feasts, celebrations of the sacraments or important celebrations of the Archdiocese. I am amazed by the variety of his compositions. They range from classical, liturgical, accompaniments with other instruments and even the whimsical. The Toccata for the Organ and the Cat Suite are my favourites.

“He is a professional and a gentleman in every sense. He is not pretentious but always cooperative, respectful, enthusiastic and above all, patient (especially with choir members and yes, Rectors).

“Denis is respected by his peers in Canada. Last year he was to perform his new composition *Fantasia alla marcia* for the Royal Canadian College of Organists Organ Festival in Victoria, but due to Covid-19 restrictions, its inaugural performance was here and enjoyed by thousands across Canada via Facebook. His respect and reputation among organists around the world, has enabled him to bring international musicians for concerts here in our beautiful cathedral and on our wonderful romantic style pipe organ.

“Denis, thank you for twenty years of inspiring service to Holy Rosary Cathedral and to the Archdiocese of Vancouver. We are happy that you and Rachel will continue to live in Vancouver. You have many fans here and on YouTube and we look forward to hearing new compositions and concerts in the future. God Bless you! *Ad multos annos!” (*For many more years)

And just before concluding the Mass, Archbishop Miller added his own thanks to Denis for helping the congregation “to pray well” by upholding the liturgy with his musical gifts, which were not provided in the nature of a concert but which were, in his words, “the very best in liturgical music”.

Subsequent to his retirement, on October 9, 2021, Denis (in absentia) was awarded an Honorary Fellow of the Royal School of Church Music, at a service held at Durham Cathedral, England.



Denis with Archbishop Miller, and with a commemorative poster, at his farewell lunch in the Cathedral .

Useful Information

Vancouver Centre Teachers List:

Rachel ALFLATT (Queens Avenue United Church, New Westminster)

Phone number: 604 322 5995

Email: cheldar@cheldar.com

Frank EZINGA (Canadian Reformed Church, Langley)

Phone number: 604 807 5246

Email: frank.ezinga@langleycanrc.org

Vancouver Centre Executive 2021-2022

President	Angelique Po
Vice-president	Michael Dirk
Acting Secretary	Michael Molnar
Treasurer	Tamar Genossar
Education Officer	Michael Dirk
Centre Membership Coordinator	Susan Ohannesian
Member	Marianne Huestis
Member	Frank Ezinga
Member	Rachel Alflatt