



THE ROYAL CANADIAN
COLLEGE OF ORGANISTS

**Vancouver Centre
Newsletter**



*Winter Edition
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★ Transylvanian Organ Tour

By Michael Molnar

Near Pentecost in 2017 I had been invited to accompany a choir doing a few concerts in Hungary and Romania. It began and ended in Budapest, looping through the Transylvania region (travelling by bus).

Hungary is amazingly safe, classy, and united. Although some evidence of the ravages of communism were still noticeable, it remains refreshingly immune to many of the modern woes afflicting so many other European nations (being mercifully void of any “no-go zones”, etc.). Upon arrival, a taxi driver in sharp shirt and tie took me



through town to witness the splendour of Austro-Hungarian architecture that was everywhere. The Hotels were sleek, and food exquisite. Anyone who has been to Europe knows that the grand basilicas and cathedrals defy attempts at description.

Fortunately, my performances happened in smaller churches that can be more easily described! One endearing curiosity was the amount of little single-manual pump organs, which were fairly common. You certainly don't see many on the West Coast of Canada.

Upon heading East through the wine region, and noticing in a small town (Eger, population ~50,000) that it alone had more incredible churches than all of Vancouver combined, and perhaps more organ concerts happening in a single month than we have in an entire year, I began to grasp just how far apart these two worlds were from each other. Upon reaching the border, it also became apparent just how small these countries are compared to Canada. A few hours in any direction and you're in another country. The Carpathian mountain range in Romania is grand, lush, and beautiful, although not quite a match for British Columbian vastness and splendour. The major Western city in Romania goes by a few names: Napoca, Cluj, or Koloszvar. One is Roman, the other Romanian, the third Hungarian. The land has been owned by various powers over the years, and those three names have stuck. Video of this venue directly below:

https://youtu.be/oDr_qVaZW3E



The organ in Cluj

Further into Romania, Torocko was the next performance location, and was reminiscent of a fairy-tale village. Very small, I'm fairly sure the population of Horseshoe Bay is larger. The lovely French-made organ façade can be seen below, along with another video of the console and organ:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V9m7_TSzXsY

I was in Europe for two Sundays, so in the morning had a chance to sneak away and visit first a major church (the ancient St. Matthias in Budapest) and then a smaller one (in a serenely beautiful town called Hodmezovasarhely),



Organ in Torocko

not as a geographic tourist, but as a liturgical and spiritual one! I am pleased to be able to say that organ music and church singing certainly seemed to me to be alive and well in Hungary.

The language barrier is significant, but not insurmountable or prohibitive to having a successful and enjoyable trip. I was very glad to have had the opportunity to go on the trip.

New CD: "Bedard, works for organ and other instruments" Produced under the auspices of the RCCO Vancouver Centre and thanks to a very generous donation by our Regional Director, Sam Balden, this CD features the organs in four Vancouver area churches, and four local musicians:

Langley Canadian Reformed Church, Holy Rosary Cathedral, Queens Avenue United Church, and Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church.

Denis Bedard (organ), Katherine Evans (trumpet), Julia Nolan (saxophone), Rachel Alflatt (organ duet).

Available (at a cost of \$20) either by contacting Editions Cheldar «cheldar@cheldar.com» or from the gift shop at Holy Rosary Cathedral (open after the Masses). Also available for download on iTunes and at CD Baby: <https://store.cdbaby.com/cd/denisbedard2>

More info at: <http://www.rcco.bc.ca/wp/blog/category/rcco-vancouver-updates/>

OrgelkidsCAN - RCCO Fundraiser

The National RCCO has launched a fundraiser to acquire eight travelling "Orgelkids" miniature pipe organ kits for use across the country. These kits, which arrive in a box with all the required parts ready for assembly, along with a complete set of educational materials, can be used in schools, music festivals, science fairs, and museums. During the building phase, which takes about an hour, children learn about the technical aspects of the mechanics of a pipe organ and discover how the sound is created. And, of course, when the organ is built, they play it! When they are done, the kit is disassembled and put back in the box for the next group of children. If you missed the video, it can be seen [here](#).

Donations may still be made:

- online by clicking [here](#)
- by calling the national office at [416-929-6400](tel:416-929-6400) (toll free [1-800-259-3621](tel:1-800-259-3621)) with your Visa or MasterCard
- by mailing a cheque to Royal Canadian College of Organists, [202-204 St. George St., Toronto, ON M5R 2N5](#)

Charitable tax receipts will be issued for all donations.

BC Sacred Music Symposium

Hailed in the Liturgical Arts Journal as the “...first of its kind celebration of, broadly speaking, the liturgical arts in Western Canada.” Registration for the BC Sacred Music Symposium is now open. It will be held at Sts Joachim & Ann Parish (Aldergrove) on July 20-22, 2018. From Gregorian Chant in the Divine Office to the Extraordinary form of the Mass, with a keynote speaker from Chicago, the focus will be on experiencing and exploring the musical tradition of sacred liturgy, with lectures, workshops, and more. RCCO members may also be interested in the reed organ housed in the sanctuary. The event is Catholic in subject matter and in its services, but is open to all. More details at: <https://www.stsjoachimandann.org/symposium>

Upcoming Concerts

Friday, January 26, 8:00pm, Holy Rosary Cathedral
Cathedral Organist Denis Bédard in Concert.

Music spanning eight centuries, from medieval France to Denis Bédard’s own compositions, and including works by Bach, Gigout, and Dubois.
Tickets \$20 adult, \$15 student/senior

Sunday, February 18, 3:00pm, Ryerson United Church

Sundays at 3, concert by Edward Norman, organ, and Roger Cole, oboe
Works by Handel, Bach, Marcello, Rheinberger, Franck, Britten and Sokola.
Tickets \$15 general, \$10 student, available at the door.

Sunday, April 15, 3:00pm, Ryerson United Church

Sundays at 3, concert by Edward Norman, organ, and Steve Denroche, French horn
Works by Marcello, Bach, Smith, Dupré, Danzi, Cooke, Franck, Bozza, Gardonyl and Vinter.

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

Friday, April 27, 8:00pm, Holy Rosary Cathedral

Soprano Sarah McGrath and Organist Denis Bédard in Concert.

Works by Campra, Pergolesi, Bach, Franck and others.
Tickets \$20 adult, \$15 student/senior.

Saturday, May 26, 7:00pm, St. Mary's Kerrisdale

RCCO Members’ Recital

Free admission, donations accepted.

★ A Memorable Halloween Concert

Michael Molnar and Rachel Alflatt,

Our 12th annual Halloween Concert at St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church was another success, with just over two-hundred and fifty audience members. The church was full of decorations at the front and very well-stocked with goodies in the back, and a small team of RCCO members and volunteers from the St. Andrew's-Wesley Sacred Music Series answered questions, took donations, handed out programs, and helped new arrivals get comfortable.



Our RCCO banner was on display, with piles of magazines available for free (Choir & Organ, Organ Canada, etc.), and at least a dozen of these were taken. Cindy Leung and her team spent several hours preparing and laying out an abundance of food creatively and ornately, including large white chocolate skulls ceremoniously “cracked”, and a special secret recipe for apple cider from Mary Balden.



Our Regional Director, Sam Balden, resumed his perennial role as master of ceremonies for the event, regaling the audience with facts, poems, stories, jokes, and more. Performers Huiyuan Ma, Gail Ovington, John Mitchell, Michael Park, Haruyo Shikano Abramson, Michael Dirk, Tamar Genossar, and Angelique Po populated the recital with classical figures like Bach, Pierne, Grieg, and Boellmann, through to contemporary music from Disney, Lloyd Webber, and others, and Japanese Anime.

At the very end, the new large screen purchased by St. Andrew's-Wesley proved very useful as organist Edward Norman provided live accompaniment with great variety and fluidity to the 1910 film "Frankenstein".



We are grateful to the church, the members, and volunteers who all made it possible, and look forward to next year's event.

★ Pipe Organ Spotlight

The feature for this newsletter is the organ at **Holy Rosary Cathedral**, which will be heard in two concerts this winter and spring.



The organ at Holy Rosary Cathedral

The original organ was built in 1900 by Karn-Warren in the French romantic style. After years of substandard maintenance and alterations, it was thoroughly rebuilt, revoiced and enlarged in 2000 by Casavant Frères as their Opus 3787, in the French symphonic style, well suited to the Cathedral's generous acoustics.

More info (scroll down the page for English) at:
<https://www.musiqueorguequebec.ca/orgues/canada/vancouverhr.html>

Organ Specifications

42 stops, 51 ranks, electropneumatic action

Great		Choir	
Double Open	16'	Geigen Principal	8'
Open Diapason	8'	Dulciana	8'
Principal	8'	Melodia	8'
Dolce	8'	Gamba	8'
Doppel Flute	8'	Harmonic Flute	4'
Wald Flute	4'	Fugara	4'
Principal	4'	Harmonic Piccolo	2'
Twelfth	2 2/3'	Quint Flute	1 1/3'
Fifteenth	2'	Clarinet	8'
Mixture IV-V	1 1/3'	Tremulant	
Trumpet	8'		
Clarion	4'		

Swell (enclosed)		Pedal	
Bourdon	16'	Resultant	32'
Open Diapason	8'	Contrebass	16'
Viola di Gamba	8'	Open Diapason	16'
Salicional	8'	Subbass	16'
Voix Celeste	8'	Bourdon (Sw)	16'
Stopped Diapason	8'	Octave Bass	8'
Flauto Dolce	4'	Bass Flute	8'
Principal	4'	Octave	4'
Flautino	2'	Trombone	16'
Cornet II	2 2/3'	Bassoon (Sw)	16'
Mixture V	2'	Trumpet (Gt)	8'
Bassoon	16'	Oboe (Sw)	4'
Cornoepen	8'		
Oboe	8'		
Vox Humana	8'		
Clarion	4'		
Tremulant			

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

Michael DIRK (St. John's Shaughnessy)

Phone number: 604 562 5052

Email: mjdirk@hotmail.com

Vancouver Centre Executive 2017-2018

President	Michael Molnar	(604) 987 3451
Vice-president	Frank Ezinga	(604) 807 5246
Past-president	Rachel Alflatt	(604) 322 5995
Secretary	Haruyo Shikano Abramson	(604) 921 1820
Treasurer	Tamar Genossar	(604) 982 9212
Member	Michael Dirk	(604) 562 5052
Member	Marianne Huestis	(604) 946 3952
Member	Susan Ohannesian	(604) 732 5162



Artist Paul Gauguin playing a harmonium at the Paris studio of Alphonse Mucha, a Czech Art Nouveau painter, in or around 1895. We have not been able to find an explanation for the lack of pants, shoes and socks!