



RCCO Kingston Centre Executive, following a meeting at St. George's Cathedral  
Back row: Murray Rielly, Charles Walker, David Cameron, Michael Capon  
Front row: Joan Egnatoff, Fran Harkness, Cathy Secker, Jennifer Roche-Brown  
Absent: Brad Mills, Damien Macedo, Kathryn Jonker, Jeff Moellman, Francine Nguyen-Savaria

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Brad Mills



Michael Capon

## Co-Presidents' Message March 2019

**Brad Mills**

I've just finished reading a book that, as I recall, was reviewed in a recent edition of "The American Organist". It's called "Beyond Bach", written by Andrew Talle. Our local library didn't have it, but they were good enough to bring it in for me on interlibrary loan from the Toronto Reference Library. It's subtitled "Music and Everyday Life in the Eighteenth Century". The book flap introduction states that: "Talle takes us on a journey that looks at how ordinary people made music in Bach's Germany. [The author] focuses in particular on the culture of keyboard playing as lived in public and private. As he ranges through a wealth of documents, instruments, diaries, account ledgers, and works of art, Talle brings a fascinating cast of characters to life". Some of the chapter headings include "Two Teenage Countesses", "May God Protect This Beautiful Organ", "How Professional Musicians Were Compensated" and "The Daily Life of an Organist". Diaries, manuscripts and income and expenditure ledgers of some of the featured musicians have survived and have provided interesting insights into their lives. Carl August Hartung, a music instructor employed at an orphanage in Cöthen left a very detailed account that shows 43% of his income as "Music-related" (private teaching, composing, music sales, instrument sales and repairs) and 57% from other sources (salary at the orphanage, non-musical instruction, non-musical scribal services, and "gifts"). Many a self-employed musician in the 21<sup>st</sup> century can relate to the need to diversify to support oneself as an artist. In the waning days of winter, take a break from the keyboard, pull up a chair by the fire and treat yourself to an interesting read about people in the 18<sup>th</sup> century who were not much different than us – a perfect companion to our upcoming Bach Marathon taking place on Saturday March 30 at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. I hope to see you all there!



**Don't forget The Great Bach *Marathon!***

**Saturday, 30 March 12:30 to 6:00 pm**

*See poster, Page 8 below*

## From the Editors

### *Needed: a functional alliance*

David Cameron

***Stand together: If a group of people stand together on a particular matter, they agree strongly about it and take action together about it.*** (The Cambridge English Dictionary)

This editorial is prompted in part by the Tuesday-evening concert given in St. George's Cathedral by RCCO Travelling Clinician Sarah Svendsen. Running with it in an uneasy counterpoint are two articles from the Internet:

"Where are pipe organs going?", from the Classic Organ Works *Classic vox* page at <https://www.organworks.com/index.php/articles/295-where-are-pipe-organs-going> and "The Status and Future of the Organ", by Colin Pykett, from his site at <http://www.pykett.org.uk/statusoforgan.htm>

The factor unifying these disparate sources is this: at Sarah Svendsen's recital there were only about thirty-five in the audience, and of those about a third were both (a) RCCO members and (b) members of the Kingston Centre Executive. With expenses of almost \$2000.00, and a generated income of only about \$335.00, the event lost money on a fairly massive scale; but worse still was the fact that almost nobody cared enough to come and listen to the music. Granted, of course there were some members with unavoidable conflicts. No date selected can ever be right for everybody.

But the event brings us starkly face to face with this: if we value the organ, if its literature moves and delights us, and if we want to pass these values on to our children and grandchildren, in terms of concerts for adult audiences *we are losing the battle*. As churches close, as trained organists become fewer, as the funds to maintain and renew the instruments dry up, the organ and its music are becoming an endangered species. And like climate change, it's happening faster and on a broader scale than we could have foreseen even fifteen years ago.



Your Executive has worked hard to maintain a significant presence for the organ in our part of Ontario. But we are few; if there aren't more organ-lovers willing to support programs, and – or – to help plan programs organ-lovers will support, things will become unsustainable. That's not a dire imagining: it's the sure outcome if we continue on our present course. This isn't to gainsay all the successful programs this Centre is maintaining: you have only to read through this Newsletter to see that our engagement with our community is still broad and productive. But there's no substitute for hearing the instrument and its repertoire, played well!

The *Cambridge Dictionary* gives a list of synonyms and related words, to accompany its "stand together" definition. Among them are these:

accompanying, allied, alongside, cooperatively, jointly, partnership, united

Do these words – can these words? – describe us, people in eastern Ontario who care about the organ? Somehow, if we are not to preside over the dissolution of a great tradition which has been central to many of our lives, we must find answers. Please, don't leave this up to some nebulous "them". Please write to me with your thoughts about how we should deal with the uncomfortable time we live in.

And if you care about the outcome, thank you!

David Cameron  
[charles.david.cameron@gmail.com](mailto:charles.david.cameron@gmail.com)

# A New Domain Name and Website for the Centre, Powered by WordPress

## Jennifer Roche-Brown

Last year, after consulting with the Executive and Charlie Walker, our website designer, I began investigating the possibility of publishing a WordPress site for the Centre. Charlie had been the web designer for fifteen years and had worked on both the Centre website and the website for the 2016 national convention which was held in Kingston. What a contribution! He was ready to retire. We all send him our profound thanks for his years of dedication, technical expertise, and publishing professionalism.

I have a background as a freelance editor and had worked with WordPress for a previous organization as a volunteer about eight years ago and found it quite intuitive. One advantage is that you don't require knowledge of html or web design to operate a site. I thought a WordPress site would be good for the Centre to have, as using the Classic Editor in the WordPress dashboard is much like using the desktop publishing functions of Microsoft Word, and so is quite easy: it would increase the likelihood of finding RCCO volunteers to maintain the site in the future, when I eventually step down.

Setting up a WordPress site does, however, require some legwork and I was able to have my friend Hung Lam join me in investigating this possibility. Hung is a Kingstonian who is not a musician, but who had experience with blogging and online web publishing coursework. I thought we would make a good team.

Many readymade web designs are available through WordPress. These are known as themes. Hung reviewed a few dozen themes that might be suitable for the Centre based on content and guidelines that I provided and together we closely considered about ten. The one we chose is called Foundation Lite; it was the fourth or fifth that we experimented with and I liked it right away. All the other candidates were just not as elegant.

Another consideration that was discussed by the Centre Executive was a change in our domain name from [rcco-kingston.org](http://rcco-kingston.org) to [rcco-kingston.ca](http://rcco-kingston.ca). The Executive felt that the latter was simply nicer. I registered it with our hosting company and we created new email addresses based on the new domain.

The WordPress site was published in October of last year. You can visit it at <http://rcco-kingston.ca>. Some of you may have already seen it. (There is a redirect from the old domain name to the new, which will remain active for a while longer.) Screenshots of the Scholarships and Events pages are provided below. The website also has a page describing the *Newsletter*, where links to previous issues may be found, and a page with Notices by supply organists.



## Scholarships Program

### Overview

The Kingston Centre is very proud of its program of scholarships, which is one of the most extensive of all Centres of the RCCO. We are very grateful to our annual donors who make many of the scholarships possible.

The scholarships offer beginner organists of all ages a series of lessons with a qualified professional. The purpose of these scholarships is two-fold: to encourage pianists to take up the organ, and to assist those who are already playing the organ in a church, but without formal training, by offering them a series of free organ lessons.

Each scholarship has a value of \$500 (10 one-hour lessons). Each award will be paid on the recipient's behalf to an



## Events

Below is a list of upcoming events for the 2018-19 season; past events are listed following. Events organized by our Centre are designated as RCCO Kingston Centre Events, while other events are listed as Events of Interest. To submit a listing, contact the [website editor](#).

Event of Interest

**Te Deum Laudamus** Saturday, February 16, 2019, 7:30 p.m.

St. George's Cathedral, 270 King Street East (at Johnson), Kingston. The Cathedral Chamber Orchestra and Concert Choir, directed by David Cameron, will perform music from England, including Handel's "Queen Caroline" Te Deum

One feature that I am currently experimenting with is a Gallery page. A few good photos of area organs were provided to me and I thought I would present them together. The Gallery page currently displays the organs of St. Mary's Cathedral, Kingston; St. Thomas' Anglican Church, Belleville; Bridge Street United, Belleville; and St. George's Cathedral, Kingston. The Cathedral organs were photographed by Kingston photographers Robert Taylor and Alan Wilkinson. The St. Thomas' organ was beautifully photographed by organist and RCCO member Matthieu Latreille. If I can get some

more good images of organs in our Centre area in the next while, I will add them to the Gallery page. If I am unsuccessful, I will simply sift them onto the other pages of the site and delete the Gallery page. It is all a question of volunteer power, as we all know! If you have good pictures of your organ, send them to me for consideration at [website@rcco-kingston.ca](mailto:website@rcco-kingston.ca).

## Gallery

The above photo is of the organ and choir stalls of St. George's Cathedral in Kingston, Ontario, taken by Alan Wilkinson. The following are other pictures of organs and consoles in the Kingston Centre area. To submit a photo, contact the [website editor](#).

To view a photo of our Centre Executive, visit the [Executive](#) page. For photos of past Centre events, browse our quarterly newsletters, links to which may be found on our [Newsletter](#) page.



St. Mary's Cathedral, Kingston, Ontario, by Taylor Photographics



Here is a screenshot of the WordPress dashboard with a list of the pages on our site. All you have to do is click on the page name, edit the text and images on the page, and then press the Update button. It's easy!

The screenshot shows the WordPress dashboard for 'Kingston Centre'. The 'Pages' section is active, displaying a list of 16 items. The list includes the following pages:

Title	Author	Date
<input type="checkbox"/> About Us — Front Page	rccoadmin	Published 2018/07/20
<input type="checkbox"/> Contact	rccoadmin	Published 2018/07/20
<input type="checkbox"/> Events	rccoadmin	Published 2018/07/20
<input type="checkbox"/> Executive	rccoadmin	Published 2018/07/20
<input type="checkbox"/> Gallery	rccoadmin	Published 2018/07/29

## SARAH SVENDSEN in Kingston: another plus for the Travelling Clinicians program, and for OrgelKidsCan!

**Damien Macedo**

**On a dark and stormy Sunday evening in late February**, RCCO National Clinician Sarah Svendsen arrived at the Kingston train station. Over the following four days, Sarah was slated to perform an evening recital and a mid-day children's concert, both at St. George's Cathedral, in addition to social events with members of the executive. Kingston would be the fifth of six RCCO Centres that Sarah visited as part of the 2018-19 clinician program, which brings skilled and talented organists to various locations across Canada to perform recitals, run workshops, and promote organ music locally.

Sarah Svendsen grew up in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, and studied organ at my own *alma mater*, the University of Toronto, with Dr. Patricia Wright, while serving as the Assistant Organist at Metropolitan United Church, home to the largest pipe organ in Canada. Sarah then completed her Masters at Yale



Sarah with console

University, and has now returned to Toronto to pursue her DMA. This coming summer, Sarah and her Organized Crime Duo partner, Rachel Mahon, will teach in the young organist and worship organist streams of the Summer Organ Academy, and perform at the RCCO National Convention in Halifax.

On Tuesday, Feb. 26, Sarah gave a recital in St. George's Cathedral with the theme of organ transcriptions (full programme below). The concept behind the concert was bringing out the various colours of the organ and treating it as a symphonic instrument in order to replicate the original orchestrations as closely as possible.

The main event, however, was a children's concert on Wednesday, Feb. 27, when over 300 students from Sir John A MacDonald Elementary School filled the pews of St. George's to be instructed, entertained, and commanded by Sarah (see David Rankine's letter following the recital program). She led listening games to the sounds of Bach's *Tocatta and Fugue in d minor*, helped the students sing four-part rounds (with the capable assistance of RCCO Kingston Centre Co-Presidents Michael Capon and Brad Mills), and led a game of freeze dance to tunes from the Harry Potter and Star Wars movie series. The event ended the way it began, with a standing ovation; and students headed for the busses as the last echoes of the *Final* from Langlais's 'Première Symphonie' died out.



Sarah with 300+ students

The children's concert was also captured by the Community Watch division of Global News, which aired segments on both the 6.00 pm and 11.00 pm news that evening. Sarah's brief interview about the programme highlighted the importance and benefits of music education, and the doors that music opens for children.

Sarah joined members of the RCCO executive for dinner on Wednesday night at San Tur Brewing, and after an evening filled with only the best organists' tales, we all bid her a fond farewell. Sarah has aspirations to work in academia as a professor of music, so perhaps sometime in the not-so-distant future we will see her in Kingston again, this time in the halls of the Queen's University.

Sarah Svendsen's Recital Programme

Tuesday, February 26 St. George's Cathedral

*Peer Gynt Suite No. 1, Op. 46*

**Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)**

**I. Morgenstimmung** (Transcribed by Edwin H. Lemare with modifications by performer)

**IV. I Dovregubbens Hall** (Transcribed by Sigerlan with modifications by performer)

*Messe de la Pentecôte*

**Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)**

**IV. Communion (Les oiseaux et les sources)**

*Andante in F-Dur, KV 616*

**W.A. Mozart (1756-1791)**

(Transcribed by Martin Haselböck)

*Concerto in A-minor, BWV 593*

**A. Vivaldi (1678-1741)**

Transcribed by J.S. Bach

**I. Allegro**

**II. Adagio**

**III. Allegro**

*Nimrod, from "Enigma Variations," Op. 36*

**Edward Elgar (1857-1934)**

(Transcribed by W.H. Harris)

— Intermission —

*Première Symphonie*

**Jean Langlais (1907-1991)**

**I. Allegro**

**II. Eglogue**

**III. Choral**

**IV. Final**

— Intermission —

*Première Symphonie*

**Jean Langlais (1907-1991)**

**V. Allegro**

**VI. Eglogue**

**VII. Choral**

**VIII. Final**



Michael Capon, Sarah Svendsen, and students



## Letter from David Rankine to Damien Macedo:

Hi Damien,

Our 300+ students, staff, and parents had a wonderful experience with Sarah last week. Here is a brief overview of our week leading up to the concert.

From February 21-27, 28 K-6 classes had the opportunity to put on their Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math hats to assemble a fully functioning pipe organ. The OrgelkidsCAN program, sponsored by the Royal Canadian College of Organists and manufactured by the Létourneau Organ Company (Orgues Létourneau) from Saint-Hyacinthe, Québec, reached almost 700 students. Classes loved the hands-on and inquiry based learning, making the pipes "sing", figuring out how to construct the organ and were very intrigued by the lack of electricity or electronics, and how every part was mechanically connected. Most of all, they loved playing, selecting the stops to use, and pumping the bellows.



Making the pipes 'sing'!

This event culminated with almost 300 students going to St. George's Cathedral in Kingston to hear Sarah Svendsen bring to life the largest musical instrument in the region - the Pipe Organ. She was such a natural and engaging teacher and performer who adapted her program to the needs and interests of a younger generation. Students took part in singing, playing freeze dance, movement for form and expression, hearing contemporary music transcribed for the organ, and ended with a crescendo of excitement as the Star Wars theme filled the enormous space for the finale.

For a future concert, if you could set up a screen projecting a live feed of the console that would be great. It was done a couple of years ago and was a great way for all students to 'see' what they were hearing.

Also, the microphone was a little quiet. Other than that, Sarah is so in tune with working with children that it would be great to have her back.

Attached are some photos from several classes, and video we made with a green screen (link below), there was also a video posted to GlobalTV - Kingston on February 27.

Sincerely,

David



David Rankine with class



The finished product!

# THE NEIGHBOURS: A VIOLIN, ORGAN & DANCE CONCERT

AT ST. THOMAS' ANGLICAN CHURCH  
201 CHURCH STREET, BELLEVILLE, ON K8N 5P2

Belleville, ON – On Easter Sunday, April 21st, violinist Sofia-Marie Bergeron, classical dancer Paola Bergeron and organist Francine Nguyen-Savaria will present “the Neighbours,” a collaboration between the three childhood friends... and neighbours. Siblings Sofia-Marie and Paola Bergeron, and their neighbour Francine were the best of friends all through their childhood! Sofia-Marie and Francine regularly played violin and piano duets, they took ballet classes together, went trick-or-treating together, went on excursions at Montreal's Botanical Garden, and spent countless summers playing together. Later on, albeit not in the same classes, Sofia-Marie and Francine also attended the Montreal Conservatory of Music together. Paola pursued her professional dance training at l'École Supérieure de Ballet du Québec... a few blocks away from the Music Conservatory.



Sofia-Marie Bergeron completed her undergraduate studies at the Montreal Conservatory of Music before pursuing studies at the “Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst” in Graz, Austria, the Accademia Walter Stauffer, Cremona, Italy, and the International Menuhin Academy in Switzerland. She is currently a teaching assistant and a student student of Yehonatan Berick in the Master of Music program in performance at the University of Ottawa.

Paola Bergeron completed her studies at l'École Supérieure de Ballet du Québec, danced in Le Jeune Ballet du Québec, and took courses in Dubrovnik, Croatia, and Toronto. She currently dances for Les Ballets Eddy Toussaint, and teaches ballet to children at Toussaint's dance academy.



Francine Nguyen-Savaria is co-director of music for St. Thomas' Anglican Church with her husband Matthieu Latreille. She completed her undergraduate studies at the Montreal Conservatory of Music, and her graduate studies at the University of Southern California. She is an active performer on the North American scene and has played in venues including the St. Joseph Oratory in Montreal, the Cathedral Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles, the Basilica in Quebec City, and the Jack Singer Concert Hall in Calgary.

Upon Sofia-Marie's return from Europe, and as Paola recently joined Eddy Toussaint's ballet company, the old friends to join again in this special project. The majority of the programme will be dedicated to violin and organ music, and Paola will choreograph a few pieces. “I am very excited about this project,” says Francine. “As far as I can remember, Sofia-Marie wanted to become a violinist when she picked up the violin, and Paola wanted to be a dancer since she was three! It is wonderful to meet again after we have gone on separate journeys. But all friendship considerations set aside, both of them are amazing artists in their own right and I am honoured to work with them. Their accomplishments speak for themselves.” The programme will feature works by Bach, Corelli, Veracini, and Vitali.

The concert will start at 4:30 PM. A reception will follow. Admission is by donation.



The Kingston Centre of the Royal Canadian College of Organists presents



***Pianists, singers, instrumentalists and organists, students and adults, learners and the experienced, all performing the music of J. S. Bach***

***RCCO Members & Scholarship Winners, John Hall & members of St. Andrew's Choir, Orchestra Kingston, and the Kingston Community Strings; Jeff Moellman & family, Juliet Milsome and Marian Holobow, Michael Capon, William Egnatoff and the Chalmers/Sydenham UC Flute Choir, Holly Gwynne-Timothy and members of Melos, Alexander Colpa, Susan Yee, Inka Brockhausen, students of Douglas Price and ORMTA members, and many more!***

**Saturday, March 30, 2019, 12:30pm till 6pm**

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church,  
Princess and Clergy Sts.**

**Freewill donations will be divided between the Kingston Street Mission, located at St. Andrew's Church, and the RCCO Scholarship Fund for beginning organists. Come when you can, leave when you must!**

*Messiah*  
*an Oratorio*

(Handel's handwriting, from the title page of his original score)

**Messiah Performance  
St. Paul's United  
Church, Perth,  
April 28**



**Brad Mills**

The Combined Choirs of St. Paul's United Church and St. James' Anglican Church and Friends will present Handel's *Messiah* with orchestra and soloists at St. Paul's on Sunday April 28, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

The eighty five-voice choir began weekly Tuesday evening rehearsals in early January, under the direction of Kingston Centre Co-President Brad Mills.

Two of the four soloists are known to members of the Centre: Damien Macedo is the counter-tenor soloist, and John McFarlane, a Queen's Music '79 classmate of Brad's, will sing the tenor solos. Soprano soloist is Maura Macdonald from Ottawa, and bass soloist is Keith Lam from Toronto.

Brad was introduced to *Messiah* while singing with Dave Cameron's Chalmers and Melos choirs in the 1970's. When he moved to Perth in 1979 to start his teaching and organist careers in the public school system and at St. Paul's, he introduced Perth audiences to "Christmas" and "Easter" Messiahs in the 1980's, using Kingston orchestral musicians and soloists. This *Messiah* will be performed in its entirety, again with an orchestra mostly comprised of Kingston musicians. Centre executive member Fran Harkness assisted Brad in making contact with the Kingston players.

The sanctuary of St. Paul's has recently undergone a major renovation. The multi-tiered platform, complete with 1970's era red shag carpeting, has been replaced by a single level engineered hardwood stage, resulting in improved acoustics. The sanctuary is now air-conditioned and barrier free. Moveable choir risers are being constructed for Sunday morning services and special events like *Messiah*. The organ console is on a moveable plinth and can be placed anywhere on the platform.

Front and rear projection systems have been installed. The performance will be enhanced with a series of religious art images reflecting the text of the oratorio.

Tickets (\$30) are available through Tickets Please ([ticketsplease.ca](http://ticketsplease.ca)). The church is located at 25 Gore Street West, in Perth. More information is available through the St. Paul's United Church website:

<http://www.stpaulsperth.ca>

*(See poster, following page)*

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH MUSIC TEAM PRESENTS

*Handel's*  
**MESSIAH**  
*an Oratorio*



Combined Choirs of St. Paul's United & St. James' Anglican Churches & Friends  
with Soloists and Orchestra


Brad Mills, Director

**SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2019**  
**7:00 PM**

**St. Paul's United Church, 25 Gore St. W., Perth**

[www.stpaulsperth.ca](http://www.stpaulsperth.ca)

Tickets: \$30.00 available at St. Paul's United Church Office  
or at "Tickets Please" 613 485 6434 [www.ticketsplease.ca](http://www.ticketsplease.ca)

 design by annie dalton

## RCCO Hymn Festival at St. George's, May 4

The Royal Canadian College of Organists, Kingston Centre, presents a  
**Hymn Festival on Saturday 4 May at 2:30pm at St. George's Cathedral.**

A selection of new and traditional hymns will be introduced by Eric Friesen and the Rev. Dr. Andrew Johnston, and accompanied by members of the RCCO, a massed choir, and a brass quintet. All are welcome to attend – and sing along! A reception follows. For information, including participating in the massed choir, call 613-548-4617x23 or visit [www.rcco-kingston.ca](http://www.rcco-kingston.ca).

### The Newsletter

The *Kingston Centre Newsletter* is edited by Fran Harkness and David Cameron, 34-100 Medley Court, Kingston, Ontario, K7K 6X2. They may be reached by telephone: 613-549-7125, or by e-mail at either address: [charles.david.cameron@gmail.com](mailto:charles.david.cameron@gmail.com) or [harknessfran@gmail.com](mailto:harknessfran@gmail.com). The Newsletter is published four times a year, in September, December, March and June, and the digital version is sent free of charge to all members of the Kingston Centre of the RCCO and to current scholarship holders. Black-and-white hard copy will be sent on request to others on payment of an annual subscription of \$10.00, sent to the Centre Treasurer, Fran Harkness, 34-100 Medley Court, Kingston, ON K7K 6X2. Cheques should be made payable to *RCCO Kingston Centre*.

Deadline for all submissions to the June, 2019 *Newsletter*: May 31, 2019.

### Kingston Centre RCCO Officers 2017-2016

Centre Co-Presidents: Michael Capon e-mail: [organist@stgeorgescathedral.on.ca](mailto:organist@stgeorgescathedral.on.ca)  
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Murray Reilly email [mwrielly@kos.net](mailto:mwrielly@kos.net)

**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.

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