



THE ROYAL CANADIAN  
COLLEGE OF ORGANISTS  
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CANADIEN DES ORGANISTES

# KINGSTON CENTRE NEWSLETTER

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## SPECIAL ISSUE MAY AND JUNE MUSICAL EVENTS IN KINGSTON'S CATHEDRALS



The West End of the Roman Catholic Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, with the 1905 organ—now due for a new restoration—in the west gallery. *An article about the concert in aid of that restoration, is on page 2, and a poster on page 7.*



St. George's Anglican Cathedral, with the organ case behind Cantoris choir stalls, and the console beyond the pillars at the right. *See page 8 for information about the Cathedral's June Choral Festival.*

## *Something Old, Something New*

### A Fundraising Concert in support of the RESTORATION OF THE CATHEDRAL ORGAN

In 1905, St. Mary's Cathedral had stood on the commanding height at Johnson and Clergy Sts. for fifty-seven years, since its dedication on 4 October, 1848. Construction on the site had begun six years earlier. That first form of the Cathedral, to designs by James Bowes (1852-1892) and including the tower, spire, and six of the present fourteen turrets, had to be completed by Joseph Connolly after Bowes' death, aged forty, in a fire in California. Connolly's completion in 1889 enlarged the Cathedral to its present city-block-long structure.

Bowes' spire is still the most prominent object on the Kingston skyline, visible from kilometres north of downtown, and well out on the St. Lawrence and Lake Ontario. It rises to a height of 242 feet.

Extensive structural renovations were performed between 1987 and 1995, including rebuilding much of the north wall and replacing the 50-year-old asbestos roof (itself a replacement of the original tin roof) with slate tiles. The renovations cost approximately \$7,000,000 (1990 dollars), much of it raised by then Music Director, and national President of the RCCO, Prof. Norman Brown.



To support the music of this splendid cathedral church, the Karn-Warren firm of Woodstock, Ontario was engaged in 1905. This company had been formed in 1896 by the merger of D. W. Karn Co. and S. R. Warren & Sons, and still exists as the Keates-Geissler Company, having passed through several restructurings, as the Woodstock Organ Co. (which originally built the organ in St. George's Anglican Cathedral), then in 1945 as the Keates Organ Co., which became Keates-Geissler in 1971. So when the Cathedral organ was planned, it was through a nine-year old corporation which however incorporated decades of distinguished experience with the Karn and Warren companies. Another fine example of their work is in Vancouver's Holy Rosary Cathedral, where it is played by the distinguished Canadian composer Denis Bédard.

The external appearance of the St. Mary's instrument remains unchanged from 1905 (see front page). However when Norman Brown came in the 1970's, initially as Organist and subsequently as Music Director, the organ's mechanism was aging and unreliable. So as part of the Cathedral renovations, the organ too was renovated and enlarged in 1976-77.

The work, carried out by the Kingston firm of Frederick Knapp and Sons, incorporated 28 new ranks of pipes: the Great Trumpet and 4' Schalmey, six of the seven ranks in the Positiv, reeds at 16', 8' and 4' in the Swell, and at 16' and 8' in the pedal, and three IV-rank Mixtures.

In addition, the console was replaced by a new one from the British firm Hill, Norman and Beard, shown at the right.



Somewhat later – probably in 1986 – the blower was replaced.

Now once again in 2019, the Cathedral organ needs renewal. It was heard in Mark McDonald's recital at the 2016 national Organ Festival presented by the Kingston Centre, but the circumstances of that recital highlighted the need for a major overhaul; Mark played a program including a large-scale transcription, without any registration aids – except for Adrian Foster, one of his doctoral classmates from McGill, who ran back and forth around the console taking the place of general pistons, divisionals, or a registration sequencer. It has also become increasingly difficult to maintain stable tuning.

Despite the problems, Mark produced a memorable recital, and Jeff Moelmann has maintained and enriched the Cathedral's fine music program. But the organ's condition is far from ideal

The concert on **May 26, at 2:30 pm**, will help to preserve, for future generations, this important monument to the Canadian organ industry of more than a century ago. Cathedral Organist and Music Director Jeff Moelmann will play the organ and conduct the new Cathedral Youth Singers; also participating will be the Cantors of the Cathedral, Other artists performing will include pianist Clare Miller, clarinetist Sammy Johnston, and some of the violin-playing members of Jeff's family. The restoration of the organ will enrich the lives of the Cathedral, and of the community, and as such deserves our support. But it also brings us a rich and varied concert, with a free-will donation the only cost of admission – and tax receipts are available for donations of more than \$25.00.

### Some Pictures of the Karn-Warren/Knapton Organ



Schwimmer under the positiv chest



## The Stolist, 1976

Saint Mary's CathedralThe Organ

Built by Karn Warren 1905

Rebuilt by F.W.Knapton &amp; Sons, 1976-7.

Great Organ

Double Open diapason	16	
Open diapason	8	
Geigen diapason	8	ch
Dulciana	8	ch
Stopped diapason	8	sw
Doppel Flute	8	
Octave	4	
Chimney Flute	4	new
Twelfth	2	
Fifteenth	2	
Mixture	III	new
Trumpet	8	new
Schalmei	4	new

Octave  
Sub-octave  
Unison off

Swell to Great	**‡
Swell Octave to Great	*
Swell Sub-octave to Great	*
Positiv to Great	**

Swell Organ

Geigen principal	8	
Hohl Flute	8	ch
Salicional	8	
Voix celeste (T.C.)	8	
Principal	4	
Stopped Flute	4	sw 8
Super Octave	2	sw mix
Piccolo	2	ch
Mixture	IV	new
Contra Fagotto	16	new
Trumpet	8	new
Oboe	8	
Clarion	4	new

Octave  
Sub-octave  
Unison off  
Tremulant

Great & Pedal piston Coupler \*  
Adjuster piston  
General cancel piston  
Kick pedal for full organ  
General crescendo pedal

Positiv

Rohr Flote	8	new
Gemshorn	4	new
Koppel Flote	4	new
Nazard	2	new
Block Flote	2	new
Tierce	1	new
Krummhorn	8	
Trumpet (Great)	8	
Octave Trumpet (ext.)	4	
Swell to Positiv		**
Swell Octave to Positiv		*
Swell Sub-octave to Positiv		*

Pedal Organ

Open Wood	16	
Open metal	16	
Violone	16	
Bourdon	16	
Gedeckt	16	new
Principal	8	new
Bass Flute	8	
Cello	8	
Fifteenth	4	new
Mixture	IV	new
Double Trumpet	16	new
Trumpet	8	new
Great to Pedal		**‡
Swell to Pedal		**
Swell Octave to Pedal		*
Positiv to Pedal		**

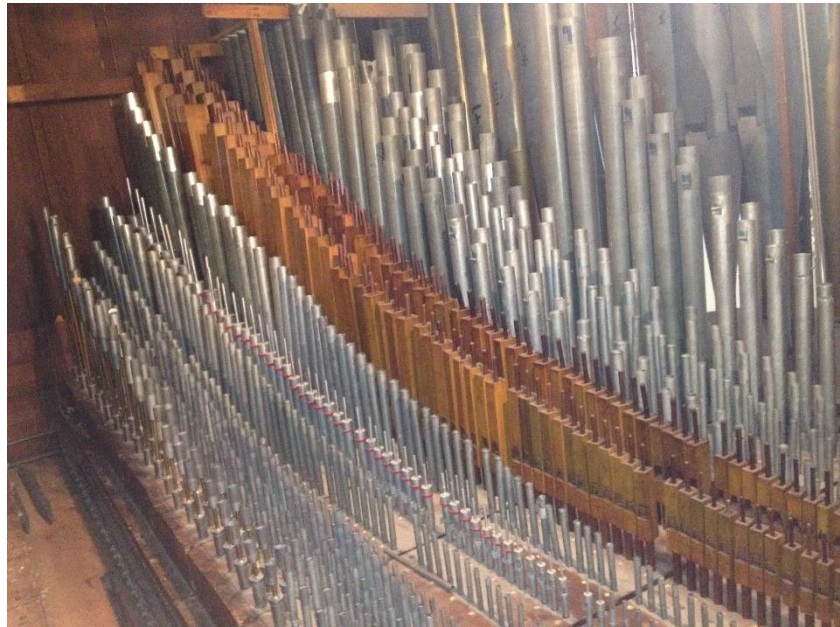
Thumb pistons

5 each to Great, Swell, Positiv,  
Pedal, Generals.

Toe pistons

5 each to Pedal, Swell, Generals.

\*tilting tablet  
+reversible thumb piston  
‡reversible toe piston



Pipework, ranged as it was in 1905



The Gt./Pos. 8' / 4' Trumpet



Pedal Trumpet

“The primary valve for the pesky (!) 4-valve Sw. stop action” – Jeff Moelmann



# Something Old, Something New

A fundraising concert for  
the Music Ministry of  
St. Mary's Cathedral

in support of

**RESTORATION OF THE  
CATHEDRAL ORGAN**  
*(114 years old!)*

**Sunday, May 26, 2:30pm**

**St. Mary's Cathedral**

279 Johnson Street, Kingston

Featuring works for voice, choir, violin,  
organ and more, performed by:

Cantors of the Cathedral

The Cathedral Youth Singers

*(new this year – in their concert debut!)*

Members of the Moellman Family on violin

Jeffrey Moellman, organist and conductor

Sammy Johnston, clarinet

Clare Miller, piano

with refreshments following this exciting performance!

**SUPPORT A CENTERPIECE OF KINGSTON'S MUSICAL HERITAGE!**

Admission: Free-will offering

Tax receipt for any donation over \$25

[www.StMarysCathedral.ca](http://www.StMarysCathedral.ca) | [facebook.com/StMarysCathedral](https://facebook.com/StMarysCathedral) | 613.546.5521



## A JUNE CHORAL FESTIVAL AT ST. GEORGE'S

### *Kingston's Anglican Cathedral hosts choirs from the Netherlands, The Republic of Georgia, Germany, and Stratford, Ontario*

St. George's Cathedral will host a Choral Festival in the month of June. From **June 7 to June 22 four choirs will perform five concerts in the cathedral.** Two of the choirs are from Ontario: the **Libertas Male Choir**, which performed here two years ago, and the **Stratford Concert Choir**. The others are the **Didgori Ensemble** from the Republic of Georgia, and **The St. Martin's Boys' Choir of Biberach, Germany**. The St. Martin's choir will present two concerts.

Tickets for the Libertas Male Choir are available only at the door: \$20 for adults, \$14 for youths 10-14, and free for children under 10. The mid-day concert by Didgori is free, with a freewill offering collected. Tickets for the evening concerts by the St. Martin's choir and the Stratford Concert Choir are available at the Cathedral Office at 129 Wellington St., The Church Bookroom (165 Ontario St.), the Seniors' Centre (56 Francis St.), and at Novel Idea (156 Princess St.). The cost is \$20 if bought in advance or \$25 at the door.

### **Libertas Male Choir    Friday, 7 June at 8:00**

The Libertas Male Choir, "the voice of Liberty," was founded by a group of men in Southwestern Ontario and the Dutch conductor and concert organist Martin Mans; its debut performance in 2015 was designed to commemorate the 70th year of the liberation of Holland in the Second World War. The choir comprises about 65 members from across a number of communities. Mr. Mans, who is based in the Netherlands, travels to Canada several times a year for rehearsals and concert series with the choir. But the choristers learn most of their music through a computer program (Noteworthy) before meeting with the conductor for one or two rehearsals preceding a concert. Last year the choir travelled to Holland to sing several concerts there.



In June the Libertas choir will be joined by the "Groot Mannenkoor Nederland" (Large Dutch Male Choir) to form a choir 120 voices strong for a concert tour in Ontario. Organist and pianist Mark Brandwijk, who is also based in the Netherlands, will accompany the choir. The concert program for St. George's is entitled "Hands Across the Ocean," and will include songs in Dutch and English. This concert takes place on 7 June at 8:00 p.m.

### **Didgori Ensemble    Monday, 10 June, noon-hour concert at 12:15**

The Didgori choir, formed in 2003, is dedicated to the recovery, preservation and performance of traditional Georgian polyphonic singing. Georgian polyphony existed as a secular form before the introduction of Christianity in that country (4<sup>th</sup> century), and it is thought to be the oldest polyphony in the Christian tradition. This music, which occurs in several different forms of polyphony, has earned the designation of UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Its harmonies are often strikingly different from those of traditional Western polyphony.





The choir takes its name from the historical battle of Didgori in 1121, which liberated the Kingdom of Georgia from subjection to the Empire of the Seljuq Turks and ushered in the Georgian golden age of art and culture. The group enlarges its repertoire by discovering early-20<sup>th</sup> century wax recordings, sometimes by village singers, preserved in the country's archives and museums.

The Didgori travelling ensemble comprises only six singers; their performances are normally sung without instrumental accompaniment, *a capella*. Didgori's current tour is the first visit of a Georgian choir to Canada since 1975; before coming to Kingston they will participate in Edmonton's International Choral Festival. The choir's performance in St. George's is at 12:15 p.m. on Monday 10 June. Admission to the concert is free, with a freewill offering to be taken.

**St. Martin's of Biberach Chorknaben *Two Concerts***  
**Wednesday 12 June at 7:30 pm**  
**Thursday 13 June at 7:30 pm**

A choir of nearly 60 members, ranging in age from 9 to 29 years old, the Boys' Choir of St. Martin's church in Biberach was founded in 1962. From its inception the choir has been a member of Pueri Cantores, an international organization of Roman Catholic choral groups. As well as singing many services in St. Martin's church and other churches in the area, the choir presents an annual concert in Biberach. Most of their repertoire is sung *a capella*. Strikingly, the choir is totally self-governing; all major decisions are made by a vote among the older members, while the only non-member with a vote is the conductor, who has only a single vote. An important feature of the choir's life is an annual tour to another country; at first these tours were to nearby European countries, but they toured in California in 1999 and now make their first tour in Canada. The two-week tours are totally organized by the older choir members, who not only plan and organize the trips, but also take responsibility for looking after the younger members. At the end of each year's singing tour the choristers enjoy a week of camping holiday.

Commitment to the St. Martin's choir is a large undertaking, both musically and socially. When the youngest boys enter, they spend a time learning rudiments of music: sight singing, rhythm, ear training, and so forth. At the end of that training, if they are successful in an examination, the boys are accepted into the choir in a formal ceremony in St. Martin's church. The boys sing the treble and alto lines until their voices break, at which time they have a pause from singing until their voices have settled. Instead of leaving at this point, however, almost 100% of boys remain with the choir, taking on various non-singing responsibilities. When ready, they return to the choir, singing the lower lines of music. Much of the boys' social life revolves around the choir, and they have a social centre where all may gather for recreation. Senior choristers are committed to fostering and mentoring younger choristers. St. Martin's choir will sing two programs of sacred and secular music on Wednesday 12 June and Thursday 13 June. Both concerts start at 7:30 p.m. The sacred program will include works in English, German, French and Latin and will range from Gregorian chant to works by 20C composers. The secular program comprises works by composers from Germany, France, Italy, the U.S. and Canada, sung in the languages in which they are written. (Phillip Rogers)





The Boys' Choir of St. Martin, Biberach

## **Stratford Concert Choir    Saturday, 22 June at 7:30 pm**



The Stratford choir is a mixed choir of about 85 voices conducted by Ian Sadler, concert organist, a former organist of St. James' Cathedral, Toronto, and now organist of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, Ontario. The choir performs four concerts annually in Stratford, singing a broad repertoire of sacred and secular classical works, as well as concerts elsewhere in Ontario. Its membership includes both professional and amateur musicians of all ages. Singers in the Stratford choir also form the core of the Cathedral Singers of Ontario, another choir conducted by Sadler, who travel to the United Kingdom once or twice a year to sing in the cathedrals there. The Stratford choir will perform the final concert of the St. George's series on 22 June at 7:30 p.m.

Proceeds from the three evening concerts that begin at 7:30 are to be generously contributed to the Cathedral Heritage Preservation Trust.



# St. George's Cathedral Choral Festival



*The Libertas Male Choir*  
featuring Groot Mannenkoor Nederland  
Friday June 7, 8:00pm  
Tickets available at the door only  
Adult: \$20 Youth: \$14 (10 to 14) Children: free (under 10)

*The Didgori Ensemble*  
of the Republic of Georgia  
Monday June 10, 12:15pm  
Free will offering (\$10 suggested)



*The St. Martin's Boys' Choir*  
of Biberach, Germany  
Wednesday June 12, 7:30pm *Palestrina to Pops*  
Thursday June 13, 7:30pm *Bach, Brahms & Beyond*  
\$20 each in advance or \$25 at the door

*The Stratford Concert Choir*  
Saturday June 22, 7:30pm  
\$20 in advance \$25 at the door



**Tickets for 7:30pm concerts available at:**

Cathedral Office (129 Wellington St)  
The Church Bookroom (165 Ontario St)

Novel Idea (156 Princess St)  
The Seniors Centre (56 Francis St)



## The Newsletter

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

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**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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