

ORGAN *alternatives*

#31 – June, July and August, 2000

The quarterly Internet publication of Organ Alternatives

The Fédération québécoise des amis de l'orgue and
the Royal Canadian College of Organists jointly present



La rencontre du siècle

The Encounter of the Century

July 25 through 27, Québec City, Québec (pages 2 and 3)

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- *Pipings... on the record:* Dr. Joyce Jones presents a compact disc of music on the Létourneau organ in her teaching studio at Baylor University in Texas; and a review of the second REM volume on the ongoing Poirier / Crozier series of recordings featuring music for duo organists page 4
- *The King in Concert:* Concert listings from across Canada, with our annual listings for multi-week summer concert series, including Buffalo (NY), Burlington, Chatham, London, Oshawa, Ottawa, Stratford, Toronto (ON), Calgary (AB), Charlottetown / Tignish (PEI), Cap-de-la-Madelaine, Chicoutimi, Montréal, Québec, Sainte Anne-de-Beaupré (QC), Edmundston (NB) and Vancouver (BC) page 6
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La rencontre du siècle The Encounter of the Century



– Andrew Forrest

In an unprecedented display of co-operation and mutual respect, this year's joint convention between the Fédération québécoise des amis de l'orgue and the Royal Canadian College of Organists looks to be a fascinating event. To be held July 25-27 in historic Québec City, its strong line-up of soloists and workshops presents visitors with a glimpse into the organ "culture" of *la Belle province*. Following in the footsteps of last summer's successful Organ Historical Society convention in Montréal, this first-ever joint FQAO-RCCO event stands poised again to share with the world the unique organ scene they share in Québec. Indeed, the degree of enthusiasm and creativity evident within the upcoming convention's events only emphasises the feeling that the pipe organ is alive and thriving in Québec.

To begin, how often does one find a four hour recital with the performing duties shared by ten organists? This all-Bach concert on July 24th is unusual; the fact that so many organists have agreed to participate speaks of a collegial atmosphere and seems far removed from the "turf wars" that can so often hurt the cause. That the concert is expected to end around midnight is also a surprise; not since OA's acclaimed late-night 'Phantasmata' series of the mid-1990s have Canadian organ recitals wrapped up after midnight.

The Organ Bar on July 26th is a similarly unusual idea that stretches the mind. William O'Meara is highly regarded as an accompanist for silent films, and also forms half of the critically acclaimed Laughton-O'Meara trumpet-organ duo. By combining the talents of Mr. O'Meara and a former chapel (with a working pipe organ), the Organ Bar promises to contrast strongly against the traditional solemn-recital-in-hushed-church atmosphere in which one usually encounters the King of Instruments.

Another facet worthy of mention is the number of commissioned works appearing at this convention: Jean LeBuis and Kola Owolabi – both respected and relatively young organists and composers – will have works premiered at this convention by Dany Wiseman and Jonathan Oldengarm, respectively. Denis Bédard is also a well-known name to anyone following modern Canadian organ music, and one of the highlights of the convention will be the world première of a new concerto for organ and string orchestra. The internationally recognised chamber orchestra, Les Violons du Roy, will be presenting the new work with Richard Paré performing the organ part on the 1960 Casavant Frères instrument at the Église Saints-Martyrs-Canadiens, where M. Paré is also the *titulaire*. These three new works (all by composers associated with the province of Québec) deline-

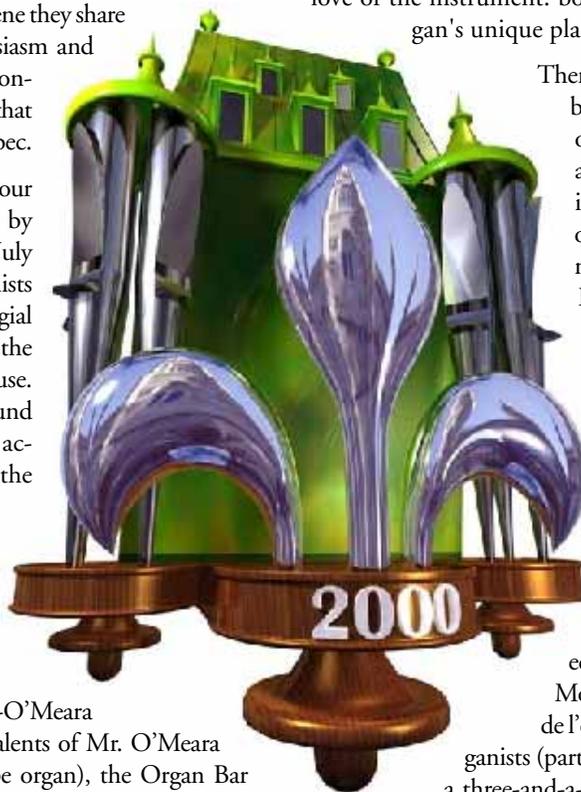
ate this impression of a modern Québec organ culture that is embracing the future and is pushing the King beyond the "tried and true".

There are also two workshops being offered during the convention that continue this theme: Michelle Quintal's presentation on "Québec Composers and Their Works for the Last Thirty Years" and Irène Brisson's lecture on "The History of the Organ and Organists in Québec". While opposite in topic, these workshops are alike in celebrating Québec's love of the instrument: both examine, clarify and emphasise the organ's unique place in this confident and dynamic society.

There is some evidence that Québec's pipe organ builders play an important role in this vibrant organ scene. Several of the instruments heard at this convention will be recently refurbished, including the restoration by Guilbault-Thérien of the organ at the Église Saint-Sacrement; the newly-restored Casavant Frères organ at the Église Saint-Roch; and the just-completed restoration by Casavant Frères of the 1870 Louis Mitchell organ at the Église Notre-Dame-de-Lévis. This is proof in the most basic of measures that the pipe organ is considered a musical treasure worthy of the hundreds of thousands of dollars necessary for a major restoration.

In conclusion, it appears that there will be much to see and hear at this "encounter of the century". Following the precedent set by last summer's OHS convention in Montréal, the Fédération québécoise des amis de l'orgue and the Royal Canadian College of Organists (particularly the Montréal Centre) have prepared a three-and-a-half days of activities that rightly celebrates the esteemed position that the organ occupies in Québec. This respect, creativity and, above all, enthusiasm afforded to the King of Instruments stands as a fine example to all.

For more information about this summer's FQAO-RCCO convention, call Rachel Alflatt at (418) 627-5684 or e-mail «cheldar@sympatico.ca». You can also visit the convention's website at «www3.sympatico.ca/cheldar/fqao-rcco-2000.html».



All submissions for the next edition of
ORGAN ALTERNATIVES
are due on
AUGUST 15th, 2000

La rencontre du siècle The Encounter of the Century

- Monday, July 24**
(pre-convention)
- 1:00 pm Organ Crawl to three historic Québec City churches (Chalmers Wesley United Church, Basilique Notre-Dame-de-Québec and Holy Trinity Anglican Cathedral) with hosts Marc D'Anjou (*titulaire* at Notre-Dame) and Pierre Chartrand (*titulaire* at Holy Trinity).
- 3:00 pm Peal ringing from Holy Trinity Anglican Cathedral.
- 3:30 pm Cocktail hour in the Parish Hall of Holy Trinity Anglican Cathedral
- 6:45 pm A 45 minute recital by Francis Gagnon at Église Saint-Sacrement on the newly-restored organ by Guilbault-Thérien. Admission is free.
- 8:00 pm Festi-Bach! Presented by Québec organists Régis Rousseau, Mathieu Blain, Nicole Lemieux, Claude Girard, Marc D'Anjou, Rémi Martin, Danny Bélisle, Hélène Dugal, Benjamin Waterhouse and Dominique Gagnon, this marathon 4 hour concert of Bach's greatest organ works takes place at Église Saint-Thomas d'Aquin in Sainte-Foy.
- or—
- 8:00 pm A sound and light show at the Basilique Notre-Dame-de-Québec (tickets are included with the registration package, but can also be used on another day).
- Tuesday, July 25**
- 9:00 am Convention registration begins at the Holiday Inn Québec centre-ville.
- 11:15 am Gilles Rioux, *titulaire* at the Basilique Notre-Dame-du-Cap in Cap-de-la-Madeleine, presents a 45 minute recital on the 70-rank Casavant / Guilbault-Thérien organ at the Basilique Notre-Dame-de-Québec.
- 2:00 pm "Québec composers and their works for the last 30 years." Michelle Quintal, professor at the Conservatoire de Trois-Rivières, presents this workshop at Chalmers Wesley United Church. The workshop will be illustrated at the organ by Dominique Gagnon. (1 hour)
- or —
- 2:00 pm "Marcel Dupré: A Reassessment" Thomas Chase, organist at Holy Rosary Cathedral in Regina, hosts this presentation at Holy Trinity Anglican Cathedral. Dr. Chase has written extensively on the subject in several organ-related journals. (1 hour)
- 5:15 pm Vespers Service at Église Saint-Roch, with two organs (Marc D'Anjou and Sylvain Doyon, organists) and the men's choir from the Basilique Notre-Dame-de-Québec. Église Saint-Roch features two organs, a newly restored 85-rank Casavant instrument and a historic 15-rank Compagnie des orgues canadiennes. (1 hour)
- 8:00 pm Daniel Roth, world-renowned *titulaire* at Saint-Sulpice in Paris, France, gives this recital on the Casavant organ at Église Saint-Roch.
- Wednesday, July 26**
- 9:00 am Rachel Laurin, assistant organist at Montréal's Oratoire Saint-Joseph, presents an hour long concert at Église Saint-Roch.
- 11:00 am "A History of the Organs and Organists of Québec" Irène Brisson, musicologist and professor at the Conservatoire de Québec, and organist Robert Girard present this discussion at the Église Saint-Isidore, with appropriate repertoire on the church's 1889 Napoléon Déry organ. (1 hour)
- 2:00 pm Dany Wiseman, *titulaire*, performs a 45 minute concert on the recently-restored 1870 Mitchell organ at the Église Notre-Dame-de-Lévis in Lévis. Includes the première of a commissioned work by Jean LeBuis.
- 3:30 pm Nathalie Gagnon, winner of the 1998 *Concours d'orgue de Québec*, and Jonathan Oldengarm, winner of the 1999 RCCO National Organ Competition, present this 90 minute recital at Église Saints-Martyrs-Canadiens, featuring the première of a commissioned work by Kola Owolabi.
- 8:00 pm *Les Violons du Roy* with organist and harpsichordist Richard Paré at the Église Saints-Martyrs-Canadiens. Concert to include the première of a commissioned concerto by Denis Bédard.
- 10:30 pm Organ Bar at the (deconsecrated) Outer Chapel of the Petit Séminaire, Musée de l'Amérique française, with William O'Meara presiding at the console.
- Thursday, July 27**
- 10:45 am Organist David Palmer presents a concert of Bach on the Wilhelm organ of Église Saint-Ambroise-de-Loretteville.
- 1:10 pm Optional luncheon cruise on the Saint Lawrence river.
- 4:30 pm Pre-convocation recital: Jeffrey Campbell, organist and choirmaster at Victoria's Church of St. John the Divine, presents works for positif organ at Holy Trinity Anglican Cathedral.
- 5:00 pm RCCO Convocation, FQAO Nomination Ceremony for Honorary Members, and launching party for new recordings and scores at Holy Trinity Anglican Cathedral.
- 8:00 pm Concluding banquet at the famous Château Frontenac hotel, with music by the *Ensemble Nouvelle-France*.

ORGAN
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Organ Alternatives is a production and communications company dedicated to the future of the organ as a performing instrument, and to its ongoing development in artistic and interdisciplinary creation. OA works to enhance communication in the organ world and promote organ performance of the highest standard.

OA is published quarterly on March 1st, June 1st, September 1st and December 1st on the Internet at «www.OrgAlt.com» where it may be downloaded free of charge. Its readers are musicians and other artists, concert-goers and music lovers — anyone interested in the organ, in Canada and abroad. Display advertising, and advertising on the Organ Alternatives website are available. An annual e-mail subscription is \$10; an annual paper subscription is \$20; either is payable by cheque or over the phone by Visa and Mastercard. Donations in excess of the subscription rate are gratefully received, but as OA lacks charitable status, they cannot be claimed as charitable contribution for income tax purposes.

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Pipings ... on the record

From Baylor University in Waco, Texas...

Joyce Jones plays the Létourneau organ at Baylor University

(Rosenhaus Records RRCD 014)

Bach: Toccata & Fugue, F (BWV 540); **Schumann:** Canon, B;
Walther: Three Chorale Preludes: *Ein feste Burg is unser Gott*;
Schmucke dich, o liebe Seele; *Lobe den Herren* **Mozart:** Fantasy, f (K 608)
Kucher: Pastorale; **Rathgeber:** Aria Pastorella; **Dornel:** Versets on the Third
Tone (from *Organ Book*); **Widor:** Adagio and Toccata (fr. *Symphonie No. 5*)
Total playing time: 55'67"

– Brian Sweetman

Baylor University boasts, by my last count, about nine pipe organs of varying ages and styles! The Létourneau firm's Markham Organ, in the Glennis McCray Music Building is the teaching studio of Dr. Joyce Jones, organist in residence and the Joyce Oliver Bowden Professor of Organ at Baylor.

Dr. Jones needs little introduction to organ fans for she is well known for her active concert career. Her love for the organ and mastery of its literatures make her programs a real joy to attend. Many always remark about her rendition of the *Flight of the Bumble Bee* for pedals which is featured at many of her recitals.

Installed in 1993, the stoplist of this three-manual 39-rank instrument was planned by Dr. Jones. Although the Markham Studio barely seats fifty people, it is in this reverberant acoustical setting that this compact disc demonstrates the versatility of the organ in handling music from the baroque to the great symphonic French masterworks. The principal choruses sing with great clarity in the Bach and Mozart, while the lush, warm strings are so inviting in Schumann and the Widor.

This disc, released in 1996, is recorded by Rosenhaus Records – Dr. Jones' private label (managed by her husband). Although overall a very fine recording, it does represent a "real life" experience and I do not feel it represents Dr. Jones' best playing. Perhaps the intention was simply to, rather hastily, prepare something to feature this addition to the Baylor organ scene. The Bach tends to sound a bit confused and even muddy at times but happily, the following tracks do draw the listener right in.

The three chorale preludes by Walther are full of the character that these great chorales represent, and the two "dance-like" pastorales by Kuchar and Rathgeber show off the sweet flute choruses of the instrument. The Versets by Dornel are not familiar to this listener but are worth the price of the disc just to hear. The order of these versets were re-arranged

to provide contrasts between the movements. I think these selections best show off the instrument.

So often recitalists push Widor's *Toccata* as a stand-alone work. It was real joy to relax and be mesmerised by the penultimate fourth movement, the *Adagio*. The listener is lulled into a state of absolute peace by this movement before being led into the dazzling finale.

• Brian Sweetman is Music Director at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Windsor, Ontario.

Sylvie Poirier and Philip Crozier perform music for two from the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montréal, Québec ...

Duos pour orgue / Organ Duets (Volume 2)

(REM 311291 XCD)

Bédard: Sinfonietta (Intrada, Scherzo, Hymne, Carillon); **Langlais:** Double Fantaisie (Allegro, Final); **Jackson:** Suite Montréalaise, op. 93 (Rigaudon, Habanera, Forlane, Mazurka, Polonaise); **Labor:** Orgel-Fantasie für zwei Speiler, op. 12; **Börling:** Toccata über "Happy Birthday"

Total playing time: 60'00"

– Bill Scoffield

What a great way to hear one of Canada's finest pipe organs! At the hands of not just one of the best organists, but two, who hold back not a bit of their flawless expertise! Is it reasonable to suppose that two plus two is more than the four expected? By the accomplishments on this compact disc, the answer must be a resounding "Yes!"

Happily, the technical production is worthy of the performances. There is hardly anything more difficult to record than a pipe organ: where to place the microphones, how to handle the huge range of volume, and so on. Also, while speakers can imitate what microphones hear, the result remains just that – an imitation. This recording, however, comes as close as could be expected to reproducing the true sound with judicious capture (somehow) of the acoustics of the building. The only surprise is the lack of what might be called "screech" in the higher pipework. This reviewer found himself always reaching to turn up the treble, in spite of an aversion to small pipes being voiced too loud and bright for their surroundings. Those who know this organ better can judge for themselves the accuracy of the reproduction, but it certainly sounds pleasing and exciting on this disc.

The small repertory available for organ duet is not unexpected, considering how few organists ever manage to be in the same place at the

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Pipings ... on the record

same time as other organists. The day-to-day activities of most do not include much interaction with peers, and the struggle to make a living often rules out the fun and musical possibilities of playing together. Perhaps a larger body of works for two organists would allow for a kind of “natural selection” to take place, as the works here generally give this reviewer the feeling that one novel effect after another (as with much contemporary music) is being tested by the composers. Of course, the performers do their job handsomely in leaving us astonished at the special effects which would clothe the most humble music in the undeserved garments of royalty.

For instance, Langlais, in the “Final” movement of his *Double Fantaisie*, presents an “angular fugato for four feet” according to the satisfying, bilingual notes included (by Philip Crozier). But without this unique facet, any normal listener would wonder what had happened to the sanity of the performers or the composer, or all three. This is not to say the work isn’t difficult, well-executed or novel, but surely it belongs more in a technical study book for organ duet performers or perhaps an album called “Fun for Organ Couples”.

On the other hand, the *oeuvre* must begin somewhere – and the ability of these performers convinces anyone within earshot that organists should be casting about in this genre of organ music. The first movement of this same *Double Fantaisie*, marked “Allegro” is certainly Langlais at his haunting, ethereal best. It contains just the right amount of traditional harmony and tunes for the conservative among us to feel comfortable, while being gently eased into the new and strange. Did Langlais understand, perhaps, how many centuries it will take us to be at ease with dissonance?

Denis Bédard’s *Sinfonietta*, the first selection on the disk, is characteristically a mixture of old and new harmonies, based on a foundation of joy with the same obvious energy and fun which permeates “popular” music from Québec. Any of the four movements would be useful as service music, for those lucky enough to have an associate or apprentice. This selection is the first of two on the disc commissioned and premiered by the couple.

The other, the *Suite Montréalaise* by British organist Francis Jackson, seemed to have none of the rhythms claimed or requested in the titles of the movements at first hearing. However, as the piece became more familiar, the dance-like foundations emerged somewhat. Equipped with alternate titles by a programmatic imagination, the movements could become contemporary liturgical music of the highest calibre! Church congregations looking to introduce liturgical dance would do well to consider this suite.

Labor’s *Organ Fantasy for Two Players* starts quietly and builds to an

impressive climax about the sixth minute of its total of eight. Responsibility for the wonderful effect belongs as much to the performers as the composer. The notes quote Martin Haselböck as writing “...it has served as a guideline for numerous organ duets composed since [its composition]”. However, the suspicion remains, in spite of the capable management of the couple at the console, that this is music for organists.

According to the notes, John Rutter’s *Variations on “O filii et filiae”* (O Sons and Daughters, let us sing) “was chosen by the composer because it is melodically strong and striking enough to remain recognizable even when considerably transformed.” O that more composers of variations would be as considerate as Rutter in trying to keep us connected to the theme! And a theme that has ancient roots and wide acceptance is heard here in the glow of true genius all around: composer, performers, organ builder and sound technician. How often do composers choose a theme of brutal ugliness (BACH, etc.), and try to dress it in the ingenious but incongruous clothing of their inventiveness, with inane results?

Such is the truth of Bölling’s *Toccata on “Happy Birthday”*. Those who don’t read the program notes (explaining how the middle section is based on the name of an organ builder) will have no conception of the genius of this music! They might end up feeling they have heard the primary theme once too often, though. Granted, the selection is hilarious and imaginative, and presented with craftsmanship, but is there a place for music which needs such explanation? Can words give meaning to the puzzling dissonance of the middle section?

While the listener will certainly wear a smile after listening to this recording, this collection of music for two gives the feeling of one musical experiment after another. Perhaps this second volume of organ duets should not be considered without attention to the first, which included many more pre-twentieth century composers such as Wesley, Albrechtsberger, Merkel, Schubert and Lachner. The combination of the two volumes would surely provide the balance of old and new for which the general listener usually hopes.

• Bill Scoffield, who lives near Campbellcroft in Northumberland County, is Organist at St. Phillip’s Lutheran Church in Etobicoke.

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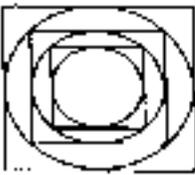


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The King in Concert ...

Les amis de l'orgue de Québec present

**TRENT SANHEIM, trumpet and
DOMINIQUE GAGNON, organ**

Sat 3 June, 8:00 pm

Église des Saints-Martyrs Canadiens, Québec, QC

Programme to include works by Stanley, Walther, Bach, Telemann, Dupré, Daveluy and Persichetti.

Admission: \$10 (\$6 stu)

Info: e-mail «ibrisson@megaquebec.net»

La société de musique contemporaine du Québec presents

SYMPHONIE DU MILLÉNAIRE

Sat 3 June, 8:30 pm

Oratoire Saint-Joseph, Queen Mary Road, Montréal, QC

This event marks world-première (and only) performance of the ambitious *Symphonie du Millénaire*, a new 90 minute symphony written by nineteen Québec composers. The work will be played outside Saint Joseph's Oratory by 350 musicians, including the Montréal Symphony Orchestra, 2000 bell ringers, the bells of 15 Montreal churches, two fire trucks, the *Studio de musique ancienne de Montréal*, and many more. The work also features a part for solo organ, to be performed by Danielle Dubé. While the event takes place outdoors on 15 different stages across the oratory grounds, the music will be broadcast on a massive sound system in anticipation of an audience approaching 30,000!

Admission: FREE!

Info: (514) 843-9305

or visit «www.smcq.qc.ca»

St. Paul's Cathedral (Buffalo) presents

The Rev. EARLE KING, organ

Sun 11 June, 4:00 pm

St. Paul's Cathedral

128 Pearl Street, Buffalo, NY

Rev. King is organist at the Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Grand Island, NY. The half-hour recital will be followed by Choral Evensong with the Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys and the Cathedral Girl's Choir.

Admission: FREE!

Info: (716) 855-0900

or visit «www.stpaulscathedral.org»

Bach 2000 (Calgary) presents

BACH AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES

Thu 15 June, 8:00 pm

Echhardt-Gramatté Hall, Rozsa Centre,

University of Calgary, Calgary, AB

Conductor / violinist Simon Standage; organist Aaron David Miller; the Calgary Bach Festival Choir (directed by Mel Kirby); the Calgary Bach Festival Orchestra and others present music by Handel, Zelenka, Telemann and Bach.

Admission: \$26-\$30

Info: (800) 213-9750 or (403) 543-5115

or visit «www.ciof.com»

Bach 2000 (Calgary) presents

AARON MILLER'S BACH

Fri 16 June, 8:00 pm

Hope Lutheran Church,

3527 Boulton Road NW, Calgary, AB

Winner of the Bach and Improvisation prizes during the 1998 Royal Bank Calgary International Organ Festival and Competition, Aaron David Miller returns to Calgary to perform some Bach's great organ works. Concert also to include an improvisation on a Bach theme (chosen by the audience), which will undoubtedly pay homage to Bach's own proficiency at improvisation on the King of Instruments.

Admission: \$15-\$18

Info: (800) 213-9750, (403) 543-5115

or visit «www.ciof.com»

ORGAN MUSIC FOR CANADA DAY

Sat 1 July, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

Kent and Wellington Streets, Ottawa, ON

Ottawa organists perform Canadian repertoire for the fête nationale.

Admission: FREE!

Info: (613) 235-9930

The Summer Institute of Church Music presents

**THE FLORENCE AND STANLEY OSBORNE
ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION**

Tue 4 July, 7:30 pm

St. George's Anglican Church, Oshawa, ON

See page 12 for more information on the SICM.

Admission: call

Info: (705) 435-5786 or

e-mail «inksterk@bconnex.net»

The National Arts Centre presents

THOMAS ANNAND, organ

Thu 6 July, 6:45 pm

National Arts Centre, Ottawa, ON

An All-Bach prelude recital to the NAC Orchestra's performance (under the baton of Pinchas Zukerman) of Bach's *Triple Concerto* at 8:00pm

The Summer Institute of Church Music presents

**PATRICIA PHILLIPS WRIGHT and
WILLIAM WRIGHT, organ**

Thu 6 July, 7:30 pm

St. George's Anglican Church, Oshawa, ON

William Wright is Director of Music at Toronto's Deer Park United Church and Patricia Wright is Director of Music at Metropolitan United Church (Toronto). See page 12 for more information on the SICM.

Admission: call

Info: (705) 435-5786 or

e-mail «inksterk@bconnex.net»

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church presents

MARK THALLANDER, organ

Sun 16 July, 7:00 pm

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church

Woodroffe at the Queensway, Ottawa, ON

Mr. Thallander is former Assistant Organist of the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California.

Info: (613) 727-8989

The Canadian Symposium on Music in Liturgy presents

MODERN ORGAN MASTERWORKS

ON GREGORIAN THEMES

Sun 16 July, 8:00 pm

Notre-Dame Basilica, Sussex Drive, Ottawa, ON

Featuring organist Alison Luedecke of San Diego, California, Chorus Ecclesiae and the Symposium Choir conducted by Lawrence Harris and the Northwinds Brass Quintet.

Admission: \$15 (\$8 stu / child)

Info: (613) 567-7729

The Canadian Symposium on Music in Liturgy presents

HYMNS OF EPIC PROPORTION

Thu 20 July, 8:00 pm

Christ Church Cathedral, Sparks Street at Bay, Ottawa, ON

Featuring Chorus Ecclesiae, the Symposium Choir (conducted by Lawrence Harris), organist Alison Luedecke and the Northwinds Brass Quintet.

Admission: \$15 (\$8 stu / child)

Info: (613) 567-7729

The Historic Old Toronto Summer Music Festival presents

A CANADIAN CHORAL EVENSONG

sung by the ELMER ISELER SINGERS under

LYDIA ADAMS, with CHRISTOPHER DAWES, organ

Sun 30 July, 7:30pm

St. James' Cathedral

Church and Queen Streets, Toronto, Ontario

This annual service offering by EIS celebrating the sacred music of Canada commences at 7:30pm with a half-hour recital from Bach's final work, *The Art of the Fugue*, BWV 1080 in tribute to Canadian pianist Glenn Gould, and in observance of the 250th anniversary of Bach's death (28 July, 1750). Choral Evensong follows at 8:00pm, employing sacred music by Canadian composers.

Admission: FREE (suggested donation \$10)

Info: (416) 364-7865

St. Paul's Congregational Church (Chatham)

Choral Camp presents

20th ANNIVERSARY CHORAL CONCERT

Sat 19 August, 7:00 pm

St. Paul's Congregational Church, Chatham, ON

Concert to include music for handbells, choirs, instrumental ensembles, orchestra, and organ under the direction of Dr. Nixon McMillan. Works by Bach, S.S. Wesley, Grotenhuis, Schrader, Rutter and Hayes.

Admission: Offering

Info: (519) 354-5448 or e-mail «pepperjg@mnsi.net»

DENIS BÉDARD, organ

Wed 2 August, 7:30

Cathédrale Immaculée-Conception, Edmundston, NB

RACHEL LAURIN, organ

Thu 3 August, 7:30

Cathédrale Immaculée-Conception, Edmundston, NB

RAYMOND DAVELUY, organ

Fri 4 August, 7:30

Cathédrale Immaculée-Conception, Edmundston, NB

GILLES LECLERC, organ

Sun 20 August, 3:00

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All submissions for the September, October and November 2000 issue of *Organ Alternatives* are due on

AUGUST 15th, 2000

Concert listings are provided free of charge.

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Sundays, June 25 – August 27; 2:00 pm
Basilique Notre-Dame-du-Cap
Cap-de-la-Madeleine, Québec

- 25 June Gilles Rioux (titulaire)
- 2 July Pierre Gadbois
- 9 July Michelle Quintal
- 16 July Lucie Beauchemin
- 23 July Philippe Bournival
- 30 July Mario Duella (Italy)
- 6 August Josée April
- 20 August Sylvie Poirier et Philip Crozier
- 27 August Jean-Michel Allepaerts (Belgium)

Admission: FREE!

BASILIQUE SAINTE-ANNE-DE-BEAUPRÉ

Sundays, June 25 – September 3; 3:00 pm
Basilique Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré
Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré, Québec

- 25 June Jacques Boucher
- 9 July Marie-Hélène Couture (contralto);
Danny Bélisle (organ)
- 16 July * Richard Fiset (trumpet);
Marie-Josée Morissette (violin); Johanne Savard
(mezzo-soprano); Mathieu Blain (organ)
- 23 July Carole Cyr (soprano);
Édith Beaulieu (organ)
- 30 July * *Le Quintette de cuivres de Québec*;
Mathieu Blain (organ)
- 6 Aug Louis Larouche (trumpet);
Sylvain Doyon (organ)
- 13 Aug * Michel Mathieu (trumpet);
Caroline Dery (soprano); Anne-Marie Leduc (organ)
- 27 Aug André Villeneuve (french horn);
Mathieu Blain (organ)
- 3 Sept * Hélène Légaré Paradis (soprano);
France Jobin (soprano); Jean-Eudes Beaulieu (organ)

Admission: FREE

* – indicates concert takes place in the Basilica's
Chapelle de l'Immaculée

ATELIER-PRESENTATION DE L'ORGUE CASAVANT

Sundays, July 23 and August 20; 2:00 pm
Église Très-Saint-Nom-de-Jésus
4215, rue Adam, Montréal, Québec

- 23 July & 20 Aug Régis Rousseau (titulaire)

Admission: \$5

Info: (514) 253-7563

SAISON ESTIVALE

Sundays, July 9, 23, August 6 and 20; 3:30 pm
Église Très-Saint-Nom-de-Jésus
4215, rue Adam, Montréal, Québec

- 9 July Lucienne L'Heureux and Gaston Arel
- 23 July Anne-Marie Blondel (France)
- 6 August Michèle Boucher (soprano);
Hélène Panneton (organ)
- 20 August Josée Aidans (violin);
Régis Rousseau (organ)

Admission: \$5

Info: (514) 253-7563

CATHÉDRALE MARIE-REINE-DU-MONDE

Sundays, June 4 – June 18; 3:30 pm
Cathédrale Marie-Reine-du-Monde
corner of René-Lévesque and Mansfield, Montréal, Québec

- 4 June Gilles Leclerc
- 11 June Karen Holmes
- 18 June Jean-Guy Proulx

Admission: FREE

Info: (514) 866-1661 ext 428

SUMMER SUNDAYS AT ST. JAMES' CATHEDRAL

Sundays, July 2 – August 27; 4:00 pm
St. James' Cathedral

Church and Queen Streets, Toronto, Ontario

- 2 July Tim Pyper
- 9 July Christopher Dawes
- 16 July Andrew Henderson
- 23 July Michael Bloss
- 30 July The Southend Girls Choir
(Southend-on-Sea, Essex)
- 6 Aug Kola Owlabi
- 13 Aug Thomas Fitches
- 20 Aug William Maddox
- 27 Aug Ian Sadler

Admission: FREE

Info: (416) 364-7865

or visit www.stjamescathedral.on.ca

Concert followed by Evensong at 4:30 pm

ÉGLISE UNIE CHALMERS WESLEY

Sundays, June 25 – August 27; 6:00 pm
Église Unie Chalmers Wesley, 78 rue Ste-Ursule

Vieux Québec, Québec

Admission: FREE!

Info: (418) 683-9194

ORGAN À LA CARTE

Tuesdays, July 4 – August 29; 12:10 pm
Jack Singer Concert Hall, Calgary, Alberta

- 4 July Jennifer McAllister (flute);
Valerie Hall (organ)
- 11 July Cantabile Youth Singers (dir. Mark Sirett);
William Maddox (organ)
- 18 July Amadeus Choir (dir. Lydia Adams);
Eleanor Daley (organ)
- 25 July Fidel Marchena (violin);
Mark Thevenot (organ)
- 1 Aug Neil Cockburn (organ)
- 8 Aug 2000 Calgary Organ Academy students
- 15 Aug Christopher Dawes (featuring the Carthy
Organ and the Chinook Theatre Organ)
- 22 Aug Duo Majoya: Marnie Giesbrecht (organ);
Joachim Segger (piano)
- 29 Aug Ron Casat (featuring the Hammond B-3)

Admission: FREE!

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Tuesdays, June 6 – August 31; 12:30 pm
St. James' United Church

463, rue Ste-Catherine Ouest, Montréal, Québec

- 6 June Hélène Dugal
- 13 June Sylvie Poirier and Philip Crozier
- 20 June Kurt-Ludwig Forg (Germany)
- 27 June James Freeman (trumpet);
Scott Bradford (organ)
- 4 July Gilles Rioux
- 18 July T. Woolard Harris (U.S.A.)
- 25 July Philippe Bélanger
- 1 Aug Jonathan Oldengarm
- 8 Aug Michel Tizon (oboe)
- 15 Aug Gaston Arel
- 22 Aug Philip Crozier
- 29 Aug Peggy Jon Steckler (flute)
- 5 Sept Ken Corneille (piano and organ)

Admission: FREE!

CATHÉDRALE SAINT-FRANÇOIS-XAVIER

Tuesdays, June 27 – July 25; 8:00 pm

Cathédrale Saint-François-Xavier, Chicoutimi, Québec

- 27 June Cathedral Choir;
Céline Fortin (organ)
- 4 July Sébastien Ouellet (baritone);
Claude Girard (organ)
- 11 July Sébastien Gingras (cello);
Michel Gingras (horn);
Gilles Rioux (organ)
- 18 July Pierre Grandmaison
- 25 July Julie Boulianne (mezzo soprano);
Danny Bélisle (organ)

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Wednesdays, July 5 – August 30; 12:00 pm
Knox Presbyterian Church

142 Ontario Street, Stratford, Ontario

- 5 July Jan Overduin
- 12 July Elizabeth Sander
- 19 July Alexander Damyanovich
- 26 July Angus Sinclair
- 2 Aug Gerry Page (trumpet); Anne Page (organ)
- 9 Aug Douglas Haas
- 16 Aug Desmond Gaspar
- 23 Aug John Tuttle
- 30 Aug Christopher Dawes

Admission: freewill offering

Info: (519) 271-0373

ST. LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Wednesdays, August 2 – August 30; 12:00 pm

St. Luke's Anglican Church

1382 Ontario Street, Burlington, Ontario

- 2 Aug Thomas Shilcock
- 9 Aug Danielle Lennon (violin)
- 16 Aug Bruce Cross
- 23 Aug Lianne Tan
- 30 Aug Ardra Shephard (mezzo-soprano)

Admission: freewill donation

ORGAN CONCERTS ON PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Wednesdays, July 5 – August 2; 7:30 pm

Church of St. Simon & St. Jude, Tignish, PEI

Thursdays, July 6 – August 3; 12:10 pm

St. Peter's Cathedral, Charlottetown, PEI

- 5 / 6 July Krista Shiner (Holland, MI)
- 12 / 13 July Gloria Jay & Susan Stensch
- 19 / 20 July Ian Sadler (Stratford, ON)
- 26 July Ruth Ann McDonald
- 27 July Donald Fraser
- 2 / 3 Aug Christopher Dawes (Toronto, ON)

Admission: freewill offering.

LES CONCERTS SPIRITUELS

Wednesdays, June 28 – September 6; 8:00 pm

Oratoire Saint-Joseph, Queen Mary Road, Montréal, Québec

- 28 June Jean Guillou (France)
- 5, 12, 19 July Rachel Laurin
- 26 July Daniel Roth (France)
- 2 Aug Jacques Boucher
- 9 Aug break
- 16, 23, 30 Aug, 6 Sept Raymond Daveluy (titulaire)

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Thursdays, June 7 – August 30; 12:30 pm
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14 June	Patrick Wedd
21 June	Régis Rousseau
28 June	Réjean Poirier
5 July	Kola Owolabi
12 July	Jean Ladouceur
19 July	François Zeitouni
26 July	Scott Bradford
2 Aug	Peter Butler
9 Aug	Bridget Chatterley
16 Aug	Philip Crozier
23 Aug	Kevin Komisaruk
30 Aug	Patrick Wedd

Admission: FREE!
Info: (514) 843-6577

BASILIQUE NOTRE-DAME

Fridays, August 4 – 25; 7:30 pm
Basilique Notre-Dame, rue Notre-Dame
Montréal, Québec

4, 11, 18, 25 Aug Pierre Grandmaison (titulaire)

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COURTING THE KING PRESENTS



PIANO CARE



by Gary R. Schmidt

While it is clear that the King himself is not being courted in this article – consider it a summer vacation – the following article has been written by an organ technician who is aware that where there are organs, there are usually pianos that also need care. – Ed.

Tuning – Why?

The question comes up from time to time, why does the piano go out of tune so frequently? A piano is constructed mostly of wood and metal parts. A piano is like a harp. Strings, which are highly elastic and have a tension of 13 to 20 tons are strung over bridges which transfer this sound to the sounding board. In the majority of pianos, this board is three-eighths on an inch thick spruce, making it elastic also. When the climatic conditions change (which in Canada happens from one day to the next), this board moves. When it is very damp, the board swells and in dry weather, the board shrinks. The strings will become slack from this constant shifting and the pitch will drop.

No piano will stay completely in tune for more than 24 hours unless it is in the most perfect climatic environment. The tuning pins, the wooden frame and the iron plate that supports this construction will only suffer if the piano is not serviced regularly. The long-term effects of neglect may cause cracking and other major difficulties, and eventually cause the piano to become totally beyond repair.

Out of Tune versus Out of Pitch

Because the soundboard, bridge work, pin block and other related wooden parts swell in humid hot weather and shrink in dry cold weather, the pitch and tuning stability is very easily affected. In the high humidity, the pitch tends to sharpen and in the dryer weather, the pitch tends to flatten. This change can be as much as a quarter, half or semi-tone in either

direction. This is quite a strain on the instrument, considering that at normal pitch the average piano has about 13 tons of tension on it to start with. Such climatic changes can cause the pitch to drop drastically from one year to the next. If the instrument is left untuned, it can develop loose tuning pins because of the continued slacking of the strings. Other repair problems can occur in the sound producing parts as well as the action. The piano may sound relatively in tune with itself to some degree; however, it could be drastically out of pitch. To avoid this condition, the instrument must be tuned whether it is played or not.

To protect the investment you have in your piano, you should tune it regularly at the same time reducing the cost of major repairs.

The National Association of Piano Manufacturers recommends tuning your piano once every season change or at least every six months and not less than once a year. They also recommend action regulation, cleaning and tightening every few years as required. New pianos should be tuned four times in the first year to stabilize tuning because new wire is very elastic and tuning pin torques very tight.

You can check your humidity with a digital hygrometer which is available at most department stores. Pianos operate best with between 40 to 60 percent humidity at roughly 70°F. Your tuner will inform you if there are any serious humidity problems with your instrument. However, if you find your piano doesn't stay in tune even shortly after it has been tuned, perhaps there has been a change and some precautions should be taken, such as installing a piano dehumidifier or humidifier.

Humidity can cause numerous other problems besides tuning. It causes rusty springs (which

continued on page 9...



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- **Pipe Dreams**, hosted by Michael Barone
WNED-FM 94.5 & WNJA-FM 89.7 Buffalo, Sundays, 10-11:30 pm
WXXI-FM 91.5 Rochester, varying times and days at present.
(produced by Minnesota Public Radio).
- **"J'ai un bon tuyau"**, hosted by Martin Laroche
CISM-FM 89.3 Montréal, Mondays, 2 - 4 pm.
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SUMMER SUNDAYS AT ST. JAMES' CATHEDRAL

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78 rue Ste-Ursule, Vieux Québec, Québec
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Jack Singer Concert Hall, Calgary, Alberta
Tuesdays (from July 4
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to August 31), 12:30 pm

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*"In the hope of reaching the moon
men fail to see the flowers that
blossom at their feet."*

- Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965)
see OrgaNews on page 12

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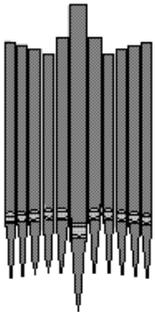
OrgaNews

In this, the 250th anniversary of J.S. Bach's death, the University of Alberta has planned a whole term of Bach celebrations, and as a part of these celebrations, the organ department has planned a weekend celebration. Entitled Bach 2000, the celebration will be taking place from September 21st to 24th and includes a national organ playing competition, concerts, workshops, and masterclasses. Hear Kimberly Marshall's *The Life and Times of Bach*, Jeffrey Campbell playing *The Leipzig Chorales* and "Bach to Bashaw" - an evening of Bach's gamba sonatas and contemporary Canadian music for organ and piano with Marnie Giesbrecht (organ), Tanya Prochazka (cello), and Joachim Segger (piano). Professor Jacobus Kloppers joins the featured recitalists as workshop leader and member of the competition jury. For the national competition, the tape round deadline is *June 15th, 2000* and in the final round, young Canadian organists will play pre-Bach, Bach and contemporary Canadian organ works. **THE BACH 2000 CANADIAN ORGAN COMPETITION** notes their appreciation of the donation of the first prize (\$1,500.00) by the Calgary International Organ Foundation. The second prize is \$1,000.00 and a special prize of \$300.00 for the best performance of a Canadian organ work composed between 1985 and 2000 has been sponsored by the Royal Canadian College of Organists. For competition rules and information, please

visit the University of Alberta's website at «www.arts.ualberta.ca/musorg» or e-mail «organ@mail.arts.ualberta.ca». You can also write to the Bach 2000 Canadian Organ Competition, 3-82 Fine Arts Building, Department of Music, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2C9.

THE OTTAWA VALLEY THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY held its first public concert in mid-April on the part-Warren, part-Robert Morton instrument which it is installing in The O'Brien Theatre in Renfrew, Ontario. A full house meant that some of the public had to be turned away on Sunday, April 16th. The Warren / Morton pipe organ with two chambers behind the film screen has only seven of the intended twenty ranks winded at present. A variety of music was played by Sharon Adams, John S. Batts, Gilles Bruyere and Tommy Smith; two silent films were accompanied by the organ and the afternoon closed with an audience sing-along. For more information about the Ottawa Valley Theatre Organ Society, write to John Batts at P.O. Box 450 Station A, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 6N5, calling (613)-562-5800 extension 1219, or e-mail «jsbatts@aix1.uottawa.ca».

Wilfrid Laurier University is marking the 25th anniversary of the Faculty of Music by releasing a compact disc featuring Barrie Cabena, a former faculty member at WLU. With performances by Cabena and Laurier professor Jan Overduin, this is the only compact disc that Cabena is directly involved with as both composer and performer. Originally released as an LP in 1987 to mark the University's 75th anniversary, **ORGAN WORKS BY BARRIE CABENA** includes music recorded at Laurier's Keffer Memorial Chapel and is the only compact disc to feature the WLU Chapel organ. "Between the composer, the performances, the organ and the recording this is a very Laurier-focused CD. Especially with the Faculty of Music's anniversary this year, it seemed appropriate to make this music available now," said Overduin, who is responsible for the project. For more information, call (519) 747-4688. *continued on page 12...*



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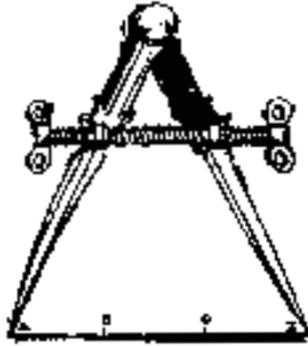
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OrgaNews

...continued from page 11

The Edmonton Centre of the Royal Canadian College of Organist has unveiled the 2000-2001 season of their concert series, **SUNDAYS AT 3**, beginning next September. The first concert is to be performed by Kimberley Marshall on September 24th and is part of the aforementioned Bach 2000 Organ Festival. The concert will take place in Convocation Hall in the Old Arts Building at the University of Alberta. The second recital is scheduled for February 11th, 2001, and features Wendy Markosky playing at St. Joseph's Basilica. The third recitalist is Bjorn Steinar Solbergsson (of Iceland), who will perform on March 25, 2001 at First Baptist Church. The last concert of the season will be performed by Patricia Phillips Wright on May 6th at All Saints' Anglican Cathedral. Tickets for each concert are \$12.00 for adults (\$10 stu / sen; 12 and under are free). For more information, call (780) 454-3882 or e-mail «tj@bridgecanada.com».

The results from **HYMN TASTING 2000** Hymn Tune Composition Contest held on May 7th, 2000 at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Windsor, Ontario have been released. Full details of the program, the hymn survey and the hymn-tune composition contest were posted on May 19th at the Music at St. Andrew's website: «www.netcom.ca/~cymbell». The text "Your Hand, O God Has Guided" formed the basis of the contest, and approximately 35 entries were received from all over Canada, the United States and one from Europe. Three tunes were eventually chosen and submitted to the audience in attendance for the Hymn Tasting event. All tunes in this round were exceptional and in the end the congregation selected Malcolm McGrath's tune as the winner. Congratulations!

WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE, a creation of organist Christopher Dawes, was invited by the Calgary International Organ Foundation in an effort to feature both the Carthy Concert Organ and the Chinook Theatre Organ of Jack Singer Concert Hall in one recital. Featuring selections from Holst's *The Planets* and John Williams' score for the film *Star Wars*, "When Worlds Collide" is an unusual encounter between two normally remote facets of the organ (and for that matter, of the performer). The programme takes place on Tuesday, August 15th at 12:10pm in Jack Singer Concert Hall. As with all recitals in the Foundation's "Organ à la Carte" series, admission is free.

SYMPOSIUM 2000 "WORLD PEACE THROUGH REVERENCE FOR LIFE" is an international conference hosted by Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee celebrating the 125th anniversary of the birth of Albert Schweitzer, and an opportunity to spread the appeal

for world peace in a very positive way. Prominent scholars, educators, and world-peace activists from various fields - medicine, philosophy, music, environment, theology and humanities - will come together to introduce Schweitzer to a new generation and to focus the world's attention on his words:

"The abolition of atomic weapons will become possible only if world opinion demands it. And the spirit needed to achieve this can be created only by Reverence for Life. The course of history demands that not only individuals become ethical personalities, but that nations do so as well."

Dr. Schweitzer's discovery of the ethical premise which gave his life full meaning, Reverence for Life, happened in 1915 while he was undertaking an errand of mercy from his African hospital on a journey up the Ogowé River. From that time on, until his death in 1965, Reverence for Life guided Albert Schweitzer in all that he thought and undertook. Dr. Schweitzer - philosopher, humanitarian, medical missionary, musician, theologian - was awarded the 1952 Nobel Peace Prize.



In observance of the 250th anniversary of the death of Schweitzer's musical idol, J.S. Bach, on Saturday, October 14th at West End Methodist Church (Nashville), the SYMPOSIUM 2000 will present the Tennessee Players' acclaimed multimedia production *The Words of Albert Schweitzer and the Music of Johann Sebastian Bach* by Thurston Moore, featuring actor Hugh O'Brian and Canadian organists Peter Letkemann (Winnipeg) and Christopher Dawes (Toronto).

From playing the organ in the village church when only nine years old, Schweitzer became a renowned concert artist. Why was he drawn to Bach? The simple answer: that Bach is the most deeply religious of the composers. Music and theology are one in Schweitzer's mind. He wrote:

"Music is an act of worship with Bach. His artistic activity and his personality are both based on his piety... for him, art was religion.... Bach includes religion in the definition of art in general. All great art,

THE ENTHUSIAST'S CORNER

SUMMER INSTITUTE OF CHURCH MUSIC

Sun 2 July to Fri 7 July

This year's organ and choral instructors will be Patricia Phillips Wright (of Metropolitan United Church, Toronto) and William Wright (of Deer Park United Church, Toronto); other instructors include Fred Graham and Bert Vander Hoek. The course takes place at the Baptist Leadership Education Centre in Whitby, Ontario. For more information, contact Dr. Kenneth Inkster at Box 688, Alliston, Ontario L9R 1V8; call (705) 435-5786 or e-mail «kinksterk@bconnex.net».

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ACADÉMIE INTERNATIONALE D'ORGUE ET DE CLAVECIN DE RIMOUSKI

Sat 14 August to Tue 18 August

Featuring teachers Kenneth Gilbert and Jean-Guy Proulx, and workshops with Luc Beauséjour and Josée April. For more information, write to: Les Amies de l'orgue de Rimouski, C.P. 84, Rimouski, Québec G5L 7B7.

even secular, is in itself religious in his eyes; for him the tones do not perish, but ascend to God like praise too deep for utterance."

The Symposium runs from September 30th to October 15th in Nashville and will feature local and international speakers, artists and ensembles including the Hiroshima Boys' Choir, the Nashville Symphony, Dr. Marcus Borg, Christoph Wolff, Francis Franck and Dr. Walter Munz. For more information, visit «www.spaceformusic.com/symposium2000».