

RCCO Resources



POW!

Pipe Organ Workshop (Pipe Organ Week)

A guide for the organizing and presenting of a
1 to 5 day workshop about the pipe organ
for young musicians aged 12-18.

RCCO Education & Resources Committee
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Introduction

A “Pipe Organ Workshop” (*POW!*) is designed to introduce the pipe organ to young musicians (usually pianists) aged approximately 12 to 18 years. Longer and more comprehensive than the introductory “Pedals, Pipes and Pizza” (PPP), a POW is aimed at players who have some keyboard skills plus an interest in (and possibly some experience of) the organ. Depending on the enthusiasm of the local Centre, it may be as short as one day, or as long as a full week. While the POE program offered in the USA is residential, experience is that a daytime course works well too. It may be thought of as “summer camp” for young organists. A weekend or 3-day weekend is also possible.

Whatever length is chosen, essential elements are :-

- one-on-one instruction time
- individual practice time
- exposure to several different instruments
- class instruction and demonstrations
- demonstrations of how organs work, produce sounds combine these sounds
- opportunities for fun and games.

Other nice-to-have elements include a field trip to a suitable locale (e.g. carillon, organ builder) plus the end-of-course concert, when each student gets to play, and receives their certificate of attendance.

Because of the need for hands-on time for instruction and practice, multiple instruments will be needed. Any Canadian city will have a number of instruments that could be accessed – whether they are good, bad or indifferent, the exposure to different kinds of instruments is invaluable experience. Thus transport arrangements (probably RCCO volunteers) to and from the home venue are needed.

The optimal venue would have a large tracker organ, impressive in size and in sound, and which could be easily accessed for a good look at the mechanism inside. Most students will be struck by the number of pipes and the contrasts in volume and timbre, so smaller, more modest instruments will simply be less successful in achieving this. Tracker mechanisms are simple to grasp, but other actions are acceptable also. However whatever might be lacking in the local instrument can to some extent be made up for in the videos shown during the program.

If you can make or obtain a small portative organ or demonstration machine (bellows, trackers mounted on a board, a few pipes of different types) this will help in your introduction at the beginning of the session when you will want to talk briefly about the mechanics and the history of the pipe organ. The more visual aids and hands-on gadgets, the better. At the very least, get a few smaller pipes that the participants can hand around and blow into.



Photo: demonstration organ built by Grant Smalley of Victoria, BC.

Suggested schedules

A. Single Day format

- 9:00 registration and introductions
- 9:15 introductory talk: the physics of sound and how the organ works
- 10:00 group class at the console, assignment of individual pieces to learn
- 11:00 organ crawl: a look inside the organ
- 12:00 lunch with possible film “Pulling out all the Stops” or equivalent

- 1:00 individual practice and private lessons – possible travel time required to other venues
- 3:00 break / snack
- 4:00 informal recital and closing
- 5:00 end

B. Weekend format

Saturday

- 9:30 registration and introductions
- 9:45 introductory talk: the physics of sound and how the organ works
- 10:30 group class at the console, assignment of individual pieces to learn
- 11:30 organ crawl: a look inside the organ
- 12:30 lunch with possible film “Pulling out all the Stops” or equivalent
- 1:30 individual practice and private lessons (#1) – possible travel time required to other venues
- 3:00 break / snack
- 3:30 individual practice and private lessons (#2) – possible travel time required to other venues
- 5:00 break for dinner
- 7:30 organ recital by instructors

Sunday

- 10:00 attend church services as appropriate or available
(students may assist organists by pulling stops, turning pages, etc.)
- 12:00 gather at main venue for lunch
- 12:30 talk on topic of choice (organ repertoire, job opportunities, introduction to the RCCO...)
- 1:00 individual practice and private lessons (#3) – possible travel time required to other venues
- 3:00 final student recital
- 4:00 end

C. Three-day format

Day 1

- 9:30 registration and introductions
- 9:45 introductory talk: the physics of sound and how the organ works
- 10:30 group class at the console, assignment of individual pieces to learn
- 11:30 organ crawl: a look inside the organ
- 12:30 lunch with possible film “Pulling out all the Stops” or equivalent
- 1:30 individual practice and private lessons (#1) – possible travel time required to other venues
- 3:00 break / snack
- 3:30 individual practice and private lessons (#2) – possible travel time required to other venues
- 5:00 break for dinner (or end of day if non-residential)
- 7:30 organ recital by instructors

Day 2

- 9:30 individual practice and private lessons (#3)
- 10:30 break
- 10:45 organ visit(s), other venues
- 12:30 lunch (and film?)
- 1:30 individual practice and private lessons (#4)
- 3:00 break
- 3:45 talk (#1) on topic of choice (organ repertoire, job opportunities, introduction to the RCCO...)
- 5:00 home
- 7:30 concert or other activity (optional)

Day 3

- 9:30 talk (#2) on topic of choice (different from the topic of Day 2)
- 10:30 break
- 10:45 individual practice and private lessons (#5)
- 12:00 lunch
- 1:00 rehearsals for final concert
- 3:00 break
- 4:00 final recital by students and instructors



sample media release

The Royal Canadian College of Organists and Kelowna Cathedral
are pleased to announce

POW!

A PIPE ORGAN WORKSHOP FOR YOUNG ORGANISTS

When: Saturday & Sunday, October 13-14 , 9:30 am – 5pm each day

Where: St. Michael's Cathedral, 1234 Main Street, Kelowna

Cost: \$50. All participants must pre-register.

This Pipe Organ Workshop (POW!) is an educational programme of the RCCO aimed at piano students aged 12-18, designed to cultivate interest in the pipe organ and to encourage young pianists to learn to play this instrument.

The Workshop will include an introduction to the “King of Instruments”, with demonstrations and a visit “behind the scenes” to see the actual pipes. Students will receive group tuition on several of the city’s larger organs, including 1 hour of individual instruction.



Clinicians Albert Schweitzer and Helmut Walcha are on the faculty of the Vienna Academy ...

The RCCO provides bursaries and scholarships for beginning organ students. More information on the scholarship programme can be found on the RCCO website www.rcco.ca .

REGISTRATION

For further information, or to register for the workshop, call _____ at
(250) _____ or email _____.

SAMPLE MEDIA RELEASE (2)

POW! Pipe Organ Week is the Royal Canadian College of Organists, Hamilton Centre's exciting week-long summer day camp for teenagers interested in finding out more about the King of Instruments. This is the second year this program has been offered, following its great success in 2001. The program features individual lessons by professional organists on a range of downtown pipe organs, time for personal exploration and practice, workshops, demonstrations, and a field trip to an organ factory. A big highlight this year will be a daytime workshop and evening recital, open to the public, by the 16 year-old German organ prodigy, Felix Hell, who will be performing in Canada for the first time.

The camp is aimed at students aged 12-17 with at least Grade 6 keyboard skills. No organ experience is necessary. Cost is \$225 for the week, July 8-12 from 9-5, lunches and snacks included. Home base is Church of the Ascension, Hamilton. For a brochure or to register, contact Linda Brownlee, 827 Glenwood Ave., Burlington, ON L7T 2J8. Tel. (905) 634-1470. Email: ----- or look up RCCO on the web: www.rcco.ca, and follow the links to POW!

Performance Suggestions

J. S. Bach: Tocatta & Fugue in d-, BWV

Everyone will recognize this, and it is almost a “must” somewhere on the programme. If time is a constraint the Fugue can be omitted.

C.-M. Widor: Toccata from Symphony #5

Another popular number, particularly if the organ is big enough to handle it properly. Again, judicial cuts can be made if necessary to reduce playing time.

L .J. A. Lefébure-Wély: Sortie in Eb

A great crowd-pleaser – music with a circus-like character. Works best on a large instrument.

Of course there is a wide choice of other repertoire, depending on the suitability of the instruments on hand and on the preferences of the performers or clinicians.

Audiovisual Suggestions

Pulling Out All the Stops: The Pipe Organ in America (1996)

VHS video tape available on loan from the National Office. The first 45 minutes are best for a PPP event. A DVD version can be purchased directly from the AGO at www.agohq.org (code OH-21). "*Pulling Out All The Stops* celebrates the pipe organ in America. It features every kind of organ - the old, the new - the sacred, the secular - mechanical action, electric action. From New York's Fifth Avenue to Harlem, from Hollywood to a major university to a small town in North Carolina, this film shows how the pipe organ plays a role in people's lives today. Most of all, "Pulling Out All The Stops" celebrates the widely differing communities of people who love and cherish the King of Instruments."

Howard Goodall's Organ Works (1996)

This was a 4-part series made for television in the UK and available on cassette or possibly now DVD. A well-chosen selection from 2 or 3 of the programmes can be used. See one viewer's comments at <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0485300/#comment>.

The Organist...a total musician

Produced by the Potomac Organ Institute of Washington, D.C. and directed at junior and senior high school students with career interests in organ and church music. Once available through the AGO and now out of print, but great if you can get your hands on a copy.

Close Encounters

Available through the AGO. A 9-minute video describing a POE (Pipe Organ Encounter) intended for AGO chapters (or RCCO Centres) interested in holding such an event. It could encourage those attending a PPP to want to attend a day-long POE/POW.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR BEGINNING ORGANISTS

GUIDELINES

1. The Centre selects a candidate through either a competition or a nominating process. This procedure could be done in consultation with the piano teachers' association in the area and may include a playing competition and an interview with the applicant to discover more about his/her background and career aspirations.
2. Normally the candidate should not have undertaken organ study before. At the discretion of the Centre, an award may be made to a candidate who, while not trained on the piano, shows ability and promise as an organist and church musician. Any candidate may currently hold a church organist position.
3. Scholarships are approved for up to \$400 and are awarded as applied for until the portion of the College Development Fund given to these scholarships is exhausted. The award will be made payable to the Centre for disbursement to the teacher. A Centre may receive one scholarship grant in a fiscal year.
4. Applicants need not be members of the RCCO at the time of the scholarship applications. The Centre Executive or Scholarship Committee will ascertain to the best of its ability the suitability of the chosen teacher (a list of qualified teachers in the area is advisable). The selected teacher must be a member of the RCCO. The Centre may wish to encourage the student's membership by funding a year's membership or by providing reduced fees for workshops etc.
5. National scholarship awards are available for students who live far enough from a Centre to make an audition and interview impractical. A letter stating qualifications and career aspirations and a cassette tape showing the student's piano ability should be sent to the Chair, College Development Fund, c/o the National Office. Students applying for a national award must not have applied for a Centre award and been rejected. Students who, in the College's judgment, live within reasonable distance of a Centre must work through the Centre.
6. Besides holding competitions for scholarships, Centres are encouraged to sponsor Centre scholarships. Several Centres have been successful in finding denominational donors for these scholarships.
7. Application forms are available from the National Office or can be downloaded from the website www.rcco.ca. Upon completion forms should be mailed or e-mailed to The Chair, College Development Fund, c/o the National Office.

RCCO EDUCATION GRANTS

The RCCO makes available Education Grants (typically \$150 to \$450) to local Centres to enable them to put on educational events such as Pedals, Pipes and Pizza, Pipe Organ Workshops, & Tools and Techniques for Church Musicians. Grant guidelines and an application form can be downloaded from the website at:

<http://www.rcco.ca/documents/EdProjectGrantGuidelines.pdf>

<http://www.rcco.ca/documents/EdProjectGrantApp.pdf>

SAMPLE BUDGET – 5 DAY PROGRAM
RCCO HAMILTON - POW 2003

BUDGET - 6 and 10 STUDENTS

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>SIX</u>	<u>TEN</u>
RCCO Grant	300	300
Enrolment fees N x \$250	1500	2250
Donations	50	50
Sponsors -shirts	100	150
TOTAL	\$1,950	\$2,750

EXPENSES

Lunch, refreshments (5 days @ \$3.50xM)	175	263
Teachers @ \$160/wk/pair	480	800
Faculty lecturers (4@40)	160	160
Transport (gas & parking)	50	100
T shirts & printing (@\$12) +taxes	160	220
Publicity - brochure printing	600	600
Registration forms/postage	80	80
"Young Person's Guide" @\$12 USx20	0 (donated)	
Donations to churches	300	300
Unforeseen	200	200
Bus for Field trip + Park fee	300	350 (could be cars??)
TOTALS	\$2,505	\$3,073
Profit/(Loss)	<u>(\$555)</u> ===	(\$323)

NOTE 1) - there is \$500 under "Donations" and Unforeseen" that may not be fully spent, if at all.

NOTE 2) - Sponsors will donate at least \$250 towards student fees. This is all distributed back to the students, and thus does not affect this budget.

NOTE 3) - For a small group of students and staff, it would save money to not use a school bus to visit Elora/Guelph, but use private cars/vans instead.

NOTE 4) - Staff may consider donating back a portion of their fee to balance the budget.

NOTES ON THE HAMILTON CENTRE POW JULY 2001

Overall Comments

1. The program was successful in that both staff and students enjoyed it, and learned a good deal. Many students want to attend again next year (if there is one!)
2. The overall program design was about right in terms of practice time and lessons plus other activities. Organ-based videos are popular, to help fill waiting time.
3. The concept of students preparing and presenting a project was not popular - it felt too much like school. Future programs should drop this idea and replace it with perhaps more organ crawls, some recreation, and maybe more workshops presented by faculty.
4. The program generated substantial goodwill towards the RCCO, as evidenced by on-the-spot donations, a scholarship offer for a needy student, and promises of future support from parents. We share the perception that the program offers vital training and encouragement not easily available elsewhere. In addition, all the organs were offered for use at no charge; in gratitude, and for future goodwill, we were able to make a subsequent donation to each church.
5. Even though this was a day camp (not residential) the overall organization requires numbers of people to operate it smoothly. Twenty Centre members were involved, all on a volunteer basis. The planning began about 15 months earlier, and most detail planning was completed by six months prior, to enable printing of the brochure.
6. We were prepared to handle up to 24 students, but 14 turned out to be a good number, and in fact POW broke even financially, after making the donations to churches. There may be more potential students out there, but obviously we are dealing with a small minority audience. Some came from up to 100 miles away.
7. Most students felt they did not want a residential camp, and that 9 till 5 was fine. Some distant attendees stayed in the Hamilton area for the week.
8. The AGO was generous with support, and donated 20 copies of "Young Person's Guide to the Organ" as well as 20 T-shirts. These were left over from the 1996 AGO Centennial, and were nice quality shirts, with a small AGO logo. We added a POW overprint plus a sponsor logo on the back. We did not apply for a grant, but perhaps could have, as the AGO has funding for the POE program. A delicate issue might be that by definition a POE is residential, whereas our POW was not. However, in future there is no harm in asking for funds from the AGO.
9. Publicity to attract attendees is vital. The brochure was ready in February and distributed to many churches (of all major denominations), as well as to piano teachers. A few churches paid for the student to attend. Distribution of students by denomination more or less followed the relative sizes of each denomination, with perhaps some extra Christian Reformed students.
10. Few students could play hymns competently - it is a learned skill! However several could play repertoire at the Grade 9 or so level. All improved their playing ability noticeably during the week.