



The E-Newsletter of The Royal Canadian College of Organists

- February 2023 -

**National Organ Competition  
Application Deadline Extended**



**Applications are still being accepted  
for the 2023 National Organ Competition**

**[Apply Now!](#)**

**Application Deadline: February 15, 2023**

Up to 6 competitors will be chosen from the preliminary round (adjudicated by recording) to advance to the live rounds, where they will compete for \$8500 in prizes. The semi-final and final competition will take place July 1 and 5, 2023 in conjunction with Organ Festival Canada in Toronto.

The National Organ Competition was established to encourage and reward a high standard of organ playing. The Competition is open to Canadian organists, permanent residents and non-Canadian organists studying toward a degree or diploma in Canada, who are under the age of 30 and are members of the Royal Canadian College of Organists. Previous first prize winners are not eligible.

## Organist Launchpad Update



The Organist Launchpad has wrapped the first week of filming!

Our thanks to the presenters, performers, crew and staff who went above and beyond to make this project such a huge success.

The videos will present an exciting and diverse range of topics by an exciting and diverse range of presenters. From practical performance skills to business tools; conducting to organ maintenance; and even tips for recording your own performances.

Keep an eye on the [RCCO YouTube channel](#), as we begin rolling out the videos!

## Summer Organ Academy 2023



THE ROYAL CANADIAN COLLEGE OF ORGANISTS  
LE COLLÈGE ROYAL CANADIEN DES ORGANISTES

# SUMMER ORGAN ACADEMY

*Continuing education for organists*

**Nurture. Inspire. Grow.**

Plans are well underway for this year's Summer Organ Academy, which will be held in Toronto from June 26 - July 1, 2023.

The 2023 Academy offers private lessons and classes with leading Canadian and international organists. Accommodation will be optional to provide day access to participants who do not require housing. Participants requiring accommodation will stay on campus at the University of Toronto.

The program includes four 1-hour private organ lessons, two mini-group classical improvisation lessons, 2 mini-group modern keyboard skills lessons, three lectures, one round-table discussion, and two masterclasses. For those who are not be able to attend the full program, auditing the lectures or masterclasses, and private organ lessons will be available.

Registration will begin the first week of March. Keep an eye on the Summer Organ Academy [webpage](#) for updates.

Organ Festival Canada 2023



Organ Festival Canada 2023 will be held in Toronto, July 2-6 and features performances by Stefani Bedin, Chelsea Chen, Ken Cowan, Robert Dixon, John Paul Farahat, Philip J. Fillion, Aaron James, Jean-Willy Kunz, Nathan Laube, Jonathan Oldengarm, Manuel Piazza, Christa Rakich, Rashaan Rori Allwood, David Simon, and Aaron Tan, at venues throughout Toronto and the GTHA.

Register online at <https://organhistoricalsociety.org/2023-RCCO-OHS/>

Registration opens February 15, 2023.

## News from RCCO Vancouver Centre



Our January, 2023 Region 8 meet-up featured **Gilles Parenteau** of Nelson, BC. About a dozen RCCO members along with friends of Gilles from Ottawa, and Perth (Australia) joined to learn and share about the project which Gilles presented. It is a project of collaboration between Canada Council for the Arts and Rwanda School of Creative Art and Music (directed by Juno award-winning Rwandan artist, [Jacques "Popo" Muligande](#)). This school is home to 160 students, teens to 25 years old. For two weeks this February and March, Gilles will be working with students at the music school, introducing the pipe organ and incorporating technology to allow Michael Dirk at St John's Shaughnessy in Vancouver to perform a piece written by Denis Bédard specially for this project. Bédard plans to make his composition, "Rondeau sur un thème rwandais" available to other organists who are interested in performing it. The free PDF will be available soon at <https://cheldar.ca>

Gilles has recently received confirmation that the project will be promoted by SAGE Colleges and Institutes Canada throughout Tanzania, Kenya, Belize, Dominica, Guyana, Grenada, St. Lucia and Jamaica!

During the collaboration in Rwanda, the plan is to have Rwandan student(s) play the sustained chords, while Micheal Dirk fills in the melody and complex rhythm, in addition to the Nyundo school choir singing parts of the theme.

Matt Bray, professor of audio engineering at Perth University, Australia, has been instrumental in assisting Gilles. He helped explain how they are working to overcome challenges with latency while performing together from other continents. Matt

specializes in "telematic music performance" ([telemidi.org](http://telemidi.org)) and this project is part of his PhD in telemidi.

One of Gilles' colleagues, Dominique Soutif, had many words of praise for Gilles. He stressed that this project is "ahead of its time", combining pipe organ with electronics. "It's ambitious," said Dominique, a former CBC producer from Ottawa who will help with the recording and producing of "Rondeau".

We are hoping for a national enthusiastic collaboration from organists across Canada by sharing a greeting with the students of Rwanda School of Creative Art and Music. Please forward your greetings to the students, along with a photo or short video clip of yourself or a colleague playing the organ to [gilles\\_parenteau@hotmail.com](mailto:gilles_parenteau@hotmail.com)