

Citations for the 2021 Honorary Awards Recipients

VALERIE HALL

Valerie Hall is a recipient of the Diploma of Fellow of the Royal Canadian College of Organists, honoris causa. Born in Winnipeg, Valerie Hall completed her Bachelor of Music degree in Organ Performance at the University of Manitoba, followed by a Master of Church Music degree from Concordia University in River Forest, Illinois. She also achieved the Associate diploma in voice performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music. Pursuing her vocation as a church musician Valerie has served as Director of Music and Organist at Anglican cathedrals in Brandon and Saskatoon, and at the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Regina. She is currently Organist and Liturgist at St Mary the Virgin Anglican church in Regina.

Valerie's professional career has been shaped by her lifelong commitment to music education. While Director of Music at Holy Rosary (Roman Catholic) cathedral in Regina, Valerie established an innovative and highly successful Organ Scholar program, providing interested teens with training in organ playing, accompanying and liturgy. This program – the first of its kind in Canada – has successfully developed many young capable church organists. She is also the founder of the Regina Summer Voice Intensive, a week-long voice academy which aims to inspire interest in solo singing. In addition, Valerie teaches both voice and organ at the Conservatory of Performing Arts at the University of Regina.

Complementing her vocation as a church musician and teacher, Valerie is an accomplished concert performer. In addition to regular recitals as an organist, she is a talented harpsichordist and continuo player. Valerie is also the founder of Regina's early music vocal ensemble, Scola – a group with which she continues to perform.

Finally, Valerie has a distinguished record of leadership within the College and our profession. Joining the RCCO national Board of Directors in 2000, she was subsequently elected as National Chair for Membership. In 2008 Valerie Hall was elected National President of the College. Since retiring from the Board she has continued to share her wisdom as a member of the RCCO Strategic Planning committee. Valerie has also been active in College leadership at the local level, serving terms as Chair of both the Saskatoon and Regina centres.

HART GODDEN

Hart Godden grew up in Saskatoon, where he earned a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Saskatchewan, before completing a Master's degree in conducting and a Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Regina. He also holds the Associate diploma of the Royal Canadian College of Organists.

For the past quarter-century Hart Godden has been organist and Director of Music at Knox-Metropolitan United Church in Regina. He is the founder and artistic director of the Halcyon Chamber Choir and is also Artistic Director of the Regina Philharmonic Chorus, which has developed into one of the major community choruses in Canada under his direction. As a

keyboardist Hart performs as a member of the "High Flutin" trio and he performs with the Regina Symphony Orchestra and the Per Sonatori Baroque ensemble as organist and harpsichordist. He also works as a pipe organ technician for Pipeworks, the Western Canada representative for Casavant Frères.

FRED GRAHAM

Born in Ontario, Fred Graham began his studies at the Royal Conservatory of Music and the University of Toronto, followed by advanced studies in Berlin and London as well as at Eastman and at Drew University. He has enjoyed a distinguished career as a teacher and church musician in Ottawa, Saint John (New Brunswick), Halifax and Toronto, and has presented organ recitals across North America and in Germany and the United Kingdom.

A composer of hymn tunes and widely-published authority on Methodist hymnody, Fred Graham served on the committee compiling the United Church hymnal *Voices United*. For his work and scholarship, he has been honoured as a Fellow of the Hymn Society. Since joining the faculty at Emmanuel College (University of Toronto) at the beginning of the century, Fred Graham has been recognized likewise for his dedication to theological education. Together with Patricia Wright, Fred Graham established the innovative Master of Sacred Music programme at Emmanuel. A long-time devoted member of the RCCO, Fred has most recently served with distinction as Chair of the RCCO Professional Support committee.

HAZEL OGILVIE

Born in Jamaica, Hazel Ogilvie came to Canada at an early age. By age 15 she was regularly playing the piano in churches, where she rapidly developed an interest in the organ.

Determined to learn more Hazel soon began organ lessons at the Royal Conservatory of Music. Her passion led her to acquire an organ for her home and to follow further study, while pursuing a career as an elementary school teacher in Toronto. Beginning in 1997 Hazel Ogilvie served as organist and choir director at several churches in the greater Toronto area. For the past decade she has regularly served as a supply organist in and around Toronto.

Since joining the College in 1994 Hazel has been a dedicated member of the Toronto centre of the RCCO. She served for almost two decades on the centre executive, including a term as President of the Toronto centre. In addition, Hazel was actively involved in the planning and execution of National conventions hosted in Toronto in 2002 and 2009.