

## RCCO TORONTO CENTRE SUBSTITUTE ORGANIST LIST

Here is the contact information for several organists in the Greater Toronto Area who may be available to substitute. Several of the organists on this list have provided a short biography about themselves and their experience, which you can read on the following pages of this document.

If you would like to be added or removed from this list, please email Stephen Frketic at [sfrketic@yahoo.com](mailto:sfrketic@yahoo.com), or call Hazel Ogilvie at 905 881-7266. You must be a current Toronto Centre RCCO member to appear on the list!

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2	Paulo Busato	416 795-8877	<a href="mailto:busatopaolo@gmail.com">busatopaolo@gmail.com</a>	Toronto
3	Giles Byrant	905 355-5098	<a href="mailto:giles.bryant@sympatico.ca">giles.bryant@sympatico.ca</a>	Colborne
4	John Charles	289 788-6451	<a href="mailto:johncharles2022@gmail.com">johncharles2022@gmail.com</a>	Toronto/ Hamilton
5	J.-C. Coolen	905 683-5757	<a href="mailto:jccoolen@sympatico.ca">jccoolen@sympatico.ca</a>	Ajax
6	Patrick Dewell	647 657-2486	<a href="mailto:patrick.dewell@gmail.com">patrick.dewell@gmail.com</a>	Toronto
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23	Scott Weidler	647 270-1196	sweidler59@gmail.com	Toronto
24	Alexandra Weiss	416 879-2416	alexandra416@gmail.com	Toronto/ Scarborough
25	James Wevers	647 349-9305	j-lwevers@sympatico.ca	Toronto
26	Peggy Wong	416 443-3506	peggypkw@gmail.com	Toronto

### **Note on the Organist Biographies:**

*In order to help people in their search for an organist, I've asked everyone on the list if they can provide a few sentences about their experience, what types of services and organs they are open to playing, and where in the GTA they are coming from. Here are the responses. I hope this helps proves useful!*

#### **Peter Bayer**

FAGO (Fellowship in the American Guild of Organists), BA in Organ Performance, The Catholic University of America. I have completed five years of organ study. I am familiar with Roman Catholic and Anglican services. I am currently a graduate student (in Ancient Philosophy), at the University of Toronto, so I am less likely to be able to play for weekday services, but available for Sundays.

#### **Giles Bryant**

After twenty years at St. James' Cathedral and sixteen years at All Saints Church, Peterborough, I am at liberty on Sundays or for mid-week services. I am used to the intricacies of most types of service, but prefer traditional hymnody. I think it reasonable to say that I can only work east of Yonge Street as I live in Colborne. I could undertake short long-term jobs with warning. Minimum fee of \$250

#### **Paulo Busato**

Experienced Organist, Pianist, Music Director Conductor and Vocal instructor in all styles of music from classical to jazz. Available for evening rehearsals, Saturday and Sunday Services or Masses.

#### **John Charles**

I am an accomplished organist and choir director with many years of experience in several different denominations -- Anglican, United and Presbyterian -- in both Canada and Australia. The experience also includes work as accompanist for several choir tours in Canada, the United States, England, Australia and New Zealand. I am available for Sunday services, weddings, funerals and short-term positions.

#### **J.-C. Coolen**

Over 25 years' experience in worship music leadership (organ, piano, choral), primarily in United Church of Canada congregations. Comfort and familiarity in leading music in a wide range of liturgical contexts (including United Church, Anglican, Roman Catholic and evangelical), including traditional choral+organ, folk, praise and worship, Taizé, etc. (except jazz). Able to cantor (baritone), and while playing piano. Skilled handbell conductor and ringer. Sunday morning availability limited to select

summer Sundays, but year-round availability for other worship times on Saturdays/Sundays, as well as weekdays. Geographic preference: Toronto/York/Durham.

### **Marianne Gast**

Since the church where I had been playing for 8 year amalgamated with three other churches about 3 years ago, I freelance as a sub organist/pianist. As I have excellent command of sight-reading and improvisation in both classical and popular styles, I am ready to step in on a short notice if needed. I am comfortable playing for all nominations eg Roman Catholic, Anglican, Baptist, Presbyterian, United etc. and willing to take on an occasional or longer commitment in the GTA. I am told to have a friendly, easy to get along personality.

### **William Goodfellow**

I was actively employed as a church musician for over 45 years, playing in a number of churches e.g. United, Presbyterian and Anglican until my retirement in 1995. Since that time I've been on the supply list for the RCCO and have also now played in Christian Science, Lutheran and Anglo Catholic churches. I live in the south east part of the city and have supplied in various locations throughout the GTA, I have also 'kept the bench warm' in short term positions.

### **Christine Hanson**

I'm an accomplished organist and pianist, with over 20 years experience as a liturgical musician. My musical education includes the RCCO Service Playing and Colleague levels, and an ARCT in Piano. My experience is mostly within United, Lutheran, Anglican and Roman Catholic churches. I live in downtown Toronto, own a car, and am willing to travel within Metro Toronto, and not too distant areas of the GTA. I am available for Weddings, Funerals, weekday services, Saturdays, and most Sundays.

### **Paul Jessen**

I have played since 1973 and have a doctorate in organ. I am familiar with Protestant, Anglican, and Catholic services. I can cantor (bass) in English, French, German, and Italian. I am available for funerals year round, but Sunday mornings only in June, July, August, & September. I cannot play for Weddings during weekends. I have no car, so venues must be accessible by TTC.

### **Gerald Martindale:**

I have 25 years experience as a supply organist. I have a Bachelor of Musical Arts degree, an ARCT, ARCCO and I'm a Registered Music Teacher. I'm willing to play anywhere in Toronto or surrounding municipalities that can be reached by public transit. I have experience playing the organ for liturgical and non-liturgical churches. Also, I'm willing to take on interim positions as Organist and Choir Director.

### **Laura McClure**

I have extensive experience with Presbyterian, United, and Mennonite services, and have also worked with the Anglican liturgy. Sixteen years of experience accompanying vocal and instrumental soloists, choirs, and of course congregations. Open to long-term subbing. I live in Oakville and have a car.

**Hazel Ogilvie**

I started my first position as organist and choir director in 1997. I continued in a full-time position until 2012, when my Church was closed down by the Diocese. During those years I worked in an Anglican Church, except for three and a half years in a Baptist Church. I am familiar with the Anglican Liturgy and Contemporary Worship, Praise Songs etc. I will travel out of town in the summer or good weather.

**Larry Rootes**

Have extensive experience with Anglican, Lutheran and Roman Catholic Liturgies. But have also worked in United Churches. I have both a Mus. Bach, and an M.Div. from The Faculty of Theology, University of Saint Michael's College. I am also a lay pastoral assistant at my own parish St. Alphonsus Catholic Church. I am most comfortable with most types of music, live in Scarborough, and drive.

**Ashley Tidy**

I was a regular church organist/choirmaster from 1956 to 2000, when I retired. I have frequently done supply work, both single services and long-term, ever since. I am available most Sundays and most weekdays for weddings and funerals. I live in downtown Toronto and prefer to stay in Metro Toronto, but will usually go anywhere in the G.T.A. I am skilled in Anglican, United, Presbyterian and Baptist traditions, but open to others. Open to long term subbing as long as the church is actively looking for a new organist.

**Johan van 't Hof**

CRCCO, 42 years playing, currently associate organist St Peter and St Simon Anglican, Bloor St, Toronto since 2011. Previously 31 years assistant at St Johns York Mills Anglican. Experience – organist at Wycliffe College during university, substituted in 35 churches over the years. I prefer pipe organs in good condition, happy to play in any denomination, but not thrilled at Praise Team genre or piano. Open to long term subbing. I live in Durham, so prefer east side of Toronto due to traffic.

**Scott Weidler**

I live downtown Toronto and have a car so I can travel within reason. My experience is mostly with liturgical churches, especially Lutheran and Anglican, but have played quite often at Roman Catholic, United and Presbyterian, as well. I have an odd schedule that allows me to be available on some Sunday mornings and other times, such as weekday funerals. I am unable to take a long-term position at this time.

**Alexandra Weiss**

Experienced pianist, accompanist, and organist, Dr. Alexandra Weiss, is available on Saturdays and Sundays for substitute work, weddings, funerals, short-term positions and permanent positions. I am an excellent sight-reader and I am familiar with Anglican services. I live in Scarborough and have a car.

**Peggy Wong**

I am a graduate from the University of Toronto, Royal Conservatory of Music and the Trinity College of Music. I have been a Choir Director and Organist for various Anglican Churches for over twenty-five years. I have experience supplying for different denominations and am available for Sunday Services, Weddings, Funerals and interim positions.