

# ROYAL CANADIAN COLLEGE OF ORGANISTS - WALTER MACNUTT SCHOLARSHIP

## APPLICATION FORM

### Purpose of this Award

Available every two years, the Walter MacNutt Scholarship has been instituted to honour and perpetuate the memory and legacy of Walter MacNutt, former Organist and Choirmaster of St. Thomas's Church, Toronto, by nurturing the development of the accomplished and dedicated liturgical musician. The award is granted every two years and amounts to \$5,000 for each successful candidate who, to apply and qualify, must be a member of the Royal Canadian College of Organists and must be 40 years of age or under on the application deadline date.

### Skills for Development

This scholarship is designed for a person who has already achieved a high level of proficiency (Associate of the Royal Canadian College of Organists or equivalent) and wishes to develop further skill in the effective integration of sacred music and liturgical celebration. Such skill would facilitate the collaborative creation (with ministers, choristers, and congregations) of an intellectually and emotionally coherent and compelling aesthetic experience, through

- collaborative sensitive accompaniment for hymn, chant, and choral music
- appropriate improvisation to integrate different elements of the liturgy
- judicious transposition for congregational comfort and tonal sequencing
- thoughtful programming to reflect themes and texts of the liturgical calendar
- sensitivity to emotional and conceptual content in both sung and spoken texts
- familiarity with music that supports the liturgy, including that of Walter MacNutt

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
(applicant must be 40 years of age or under on the application deadline date)

Highest academic level achieved to date: \_\_\_\_\_

RCCO membership (name of Centre): \_\_\_\_\_

**Names and addresses of two referees:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Applications, to be considered complete, must include the study plan and curriculum vitae and must be submitted by **November 1, 2017**, by mail to:

**RCCO National Office,  
204 St. George Street, Suite 202,  
Toronto, ON M5R 2N5**  
or by email to [info@rcco.ca](mailto:info@rcco.ca).

**Programs of Study**

Candidates will choose between two programs of study in Canada (not at a university):

1. An apprenticeship at a church with a distinguished liturgical tradition, studying with the organist and choir director there; OR
2. On-the-job training at the applicant’s church of employment, studying with a distinguished organist and choirmaster who will supervise the applicant’s performance in that church.

**Application Process**

In addition to the personal information above, the application should include a curriculum vitae of the applicant and a specific plan of study, observation, and application written jointly by the applicant and the organist and/or choir director (1) of the church where the apprenticeship will be fulfilled, OR (2) with whom the applicant will study.

The submitted plan will include paragraphs explaining (1) the candidate’s understanding of liturgically oriented music, and (2) his/her reasons for pursuing this particular line of study. Two letters of reference will be supplied (in addition to the study plan). Travel to other churches with similar distinguished liturgical traditions, for purposes of observation, may be part of the plan. The study will be completed within at most two years.

**Initial Assessment**

In addition to the submitted plan, the candidate will be required to audition for at least two examiners selected by the RCCO, and to demonstrate pertinent skills on the organ, by

- performing a chorale prelude of at least moderate difficulty
- accompanying a hymn as if for a singing congregation
- transposing a hymn either up or down a full tone
- improvising on a hymn tune or in free style

This initial assessment may be conducted in person or by electronic means (with recordings validated by guarantors). The judges’ decision is final.

## **Final Assessment**

To receive the final portion of the award, the recipient will be required to demonstrate the skills developed during the study period by presenting written examples of his/her liturgical planning and performed examples of his/her liturgical service playing. The candidate will display his/her skill by programming music appropriate to a day in the liturgical calendar (other than Christmas or Easter) and by playing the organ with sensitivity to the texts and actions of the selected liturgy. The demonstration will require the assistance of one or more singers and will feature the candidate **in the context of an actual church service:**

- performing a chorale prelude of at least moderate difficulty
- accompanying a congregational setting (psalm or communion)
- accompanying a hymn and re-harmonizing the final verse
- transposing a hymn or psalm chant up or down a full tone
- improvising on a tune or freely for communion and postlude

This concluding assessment may be conducted in person or, most likely, by electronic means (with recordings validated by guarantors). The judges' decision is final.

## **Scholarship Funding**

The funds will be disbursed by the RCCO National Office four times at regular intervals during the course of study, not to exceed two years. Upon receipt of a statement from the instructor testifying that the recipient has fulfilled obligations at each interval, RCCO national office will forward funds to the recipient. The recipient and the instructor will submit an agreement itemizing expenses, including:

1. the amount payable to the instructor for each hour of instruction, at a rate agreed upon between the recipient and the instructor; and
2. other costs incurred toward study: e.g. visit(s) to other churches for further education, honoraria for supply organist(s) during such visit(s); and/or purchase of educational materials such as music, books, etc. relevant to the study.

For further information, please contact the National Office of the RCCO at:

RCCO National Office, 204 St. George Street, Suite 202, Toronto, ON M5R 2N5  
Tel: (416) 929-6400 Fax: (416) 929-2265 Email: [info@rcco.ca](mailto:info@rcco.ca)