



NIAGARA NAZARD

Niagara Centre

September 2018

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PRESIDENT’S LETTER

Dear Friends and Colleagues:
 It’s hard to believe that we’re beginning the fall season; I hope you all had a great summer and had some time off from work to relax and recharge, whether you went away to the cottage, or enjoyed a “Staycation” and completed some unfinished projects around your home.
 Welcome Back! I’m really looking forward to the year ahead with the programming of events the executive committee has been working on for the upcoming months. We hope that you will take advantage of what we will be offering, and we are always open to suggestions and new ideas to improve and strengthen our centre and its outreach to the community. I’m very pleased that we have a Vice-President this year; something we

haven’t had for several years. David Ruler is a very motivated and experienced Organist, with loads of experience both musically and with marketing and has agreed to taking on this role. I’m sure that you have all seen some of his work if you have visited our website or our Facebook page. He has taken these two ongoing responsibilities as well as others, all to help build a more active centre for all of us.
 We also welcome Ryan Baxter to the executive committee, though unfortunately, it probably will only be for this year, as he plans to continue his musical studies abroad after completing his degree at Brock. He brings lots of energy and fresh new ideas to the table as we plan and provide the events that you will see in the coming year. He has also been working with David on the website and Facebook page.
 Though we’ve had somewhat of a late start with it, the Executive Committee would like to welcome you back with the annual “Welcome Back Barbecue”, which will be held at the home of John and Marg Clipsham, 11 Crosshill Road Fonthill, on September 29th at 6:00 p.m. for 6:30. The main dish (Hamburgers, Hotdogs, Sausages) will be provided by the centre, and we are asking that you bring either a salad or a dessert (though if you brought something else, we wouldn’t turn it down.) You will be contacted by phone to see if you will attend and to indicate what you will bring.
 We would really like to see you at this event. It’s always great to be together with people who share the same interests in music as you, and in many cas-

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BRIGHT NAMES HALLOW SONG

(Byron, *Childe Harold*)

In the church where I grew up, for a number of years we had a minister who was a good preacher and pastor, but as far as music was concerned, he didn't know a bee (or even a B flat) from a bull's foot. EXCEPT: whenever we sang "The Lord's my shepherd" he would announce "Hymn number such and such, to the tune CRIMOND" (which wasn't even in our hymnbook at the time). Oldies (like me) and believers in the divine right of kings will be able to calculate that this postdates the 1947 wedding of HRH the Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh, when the tune leapt to popularity (although it originally dates back to about 1872).

There is probably a Ph.D. waiting for someone who writes the *magnum opus* on how hymn tunes become associated with the names they are given in various hymnbooks, including how the same tune can be named differently in different collections (if it has been written already, I haven't read it). I also find it interesting to note how many hymn tunes, in hymnbooks aimed primarily at English speakers (or English *singers*) are named after German towns or places not all of which, by a long chalk, are written by German composers. A quick look at the hymnbooks of several denominations gives the following figures: **Together in Song: 13; Hymns Ancient and Modern New Standard: 8; Methodist Hymn-Book: 37;** and my latest acquisition, top of my Christmas wish-list, **Ancient and Modern: 21.**

Some of these cities play a significant role in the musical and general history of not only Germany but Europe as a whole.

One of my favourite tunes is FULDA ("We have a gospel to proclaim"). Fulda is a delightful city in central northern Germany, unfortunately not on the usual tourist routes. It has a beautiful baroque cathedral, in which can be seen the grave of St. Boniface, English Benedictine missionary and reformer who is often called "the Apostle of Germany" for the role he played in the Christianisation of that country in the eighth century.

MANNHEIM ("Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us") on the other hand I must say I find a rather pedestrian tune. However the city of that name, on the middle reaches of the Rhine, has played a very important role in the history of music. Under the Elector Palatine Carl Theodor the court became famous for its orchestra, an unusually large ensemble renowned throughout Europe for the precision and finesse of its performances, but also for its exploitation of such devices as the "Mannheim crescendo" (then a novelty because of its carefully graded increase in volume). When Mozart first heard them, he thought all his Weihnachten had come at once.

VIENNA is an unpretentious little tune ("Christ from whom all blessings flow" or "Jesus, Lord, we look to thee"). The city of course is not part of Germany, but still proudly German-speaking (if you can understand the accent). What more needs to be said, musically speaking? You could practically pave the Ringstraße with the little plaques that say "X lived here": Mozart, Beethoven, Haydn, Schubert, Brahms, Mahler, a handful of Straußes, and the list goes on

BRESLAU ("Take up thy cross, the Saviour said") is no longer in Germany either. Under the name of Wroclaw it is proudly Polish (the border moved, not the town). But it was largely German-speaking when Brahms thanked the university for his honorary doctorate, delighting the students and horrifying the academ-

Note; this article is of Australian origin which explains some of the hymn book names.

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CARL WOLFF January 27, 1937 – August 29,

Carl Wolff died peacefully in the Arnprior & District Memorial Hospital at the age of 81 after a brief illness and will greatly missed by his colleagues of the Niagara Centre of the Royal College of Organists. A scholar, pianist and organist, teacher, treasured friend, and relative, Carl



was born in Arnprior Ontario where he attended school and began his lifelong love of music, achieving his ARTC (Associate of the Royal Conservatory of Toronto) in piano performance and teaching while he was still in high school. In 1958 he graduated from Carleton University with first class honours in history. Carl went on to obtain an M.A. from Harvard University where he was a member of the Harvard University Choir and assistant editor (research) for the Harvard University Hymnbook. In 1965, Carl was appointed to the teaching staff at Brock University in St. Catharines as an Assistant Professor of History. He taught British and European Political and Cultural History. In addition to his teaching duties, Carl was an integral part of the Brock Fine Arts Committee, and Brock University convocations where he served as Master of **Convocation** of Music from 1965 until his retirement in 2000. Carl served in various volunteer roles with the Niagara Symphony, and he played organ and harpsichord continuo in orchestral concerts as needed. Carl also volunteered with

St. Catharines Community Concerts, and was a member of the Royal Canadian College of Organists, joining the centre in 2003. He served as president of the Niagara Centre for two years and was a member of the executive until he moved to Arnprior. He was a dedicated member of the Hymn Society, and in later years he was a member of the choir at St. Barnabas Anglican Church in St. Catharines. Carl enjoyed travelling to the UK, Europe, the US, and throughout Canada. In later years he cherished his annual vacations in Portugal. In declining health, Carl moved to Arnprior in 2016. Carl was predeceased by his parents, Ernest and Olive (nee Stein) Wolff

, and infant sister Cora Marie. He is survived by his aunt Evelyn Stein of Belleville, his cousins Edna Carey and June Wolff of Arnprior, Earl Wolff of Oshawa, and Wilda Armstrong of Belleville. Always interested in the next generations of cousins, Carl delighted in their activities and

With acknowledgements to the Boyce Funeral Home

ics, by cobbling his Academic Festival Overture out of student drinking songs.

Who is not stirred by HANOVER (“O worship the King, all glorious above”), probably by one of the most English of composers, William Croft? Confusion reigns when you have to remember it has one ‘n’ in English and two in German. One factor in giving the tune this name is that it was originally (and wrongly) attributed to Handel, who was court conductor in Han(n)over before he moved to England, eventually taking up residence in Brook Street, just down the road from Hanover Square (he must have been homesick!).

SALZBURG (“O God of Bethel by whose hand”) doesn’t have anything to do with Mozart (or with Rodgers and Hammerstein either), as it is adapted from an air in a mass by Johann Michael Haydn, younger brother of you know who. But it is a rare visitor to Salzburg who does not call in at Mozart’s birthplace in the street with the rather ho-hum name of GetreidegaÙe (grain lane). The good burgers of Salzburg make big bickies (and chockies) out of the Mozart trade, conveniently forgetting that he couldn’t get out of there fast enough.

EISENACH (“O love, how deep, how broad, how high!”) is a small town with extremely rich historical, musical and literary associations. Martin Luther went to school here from 1498 to 1501. Twenty years later, he used his time in the Wartburg nearby, in a sort of protective custody away from the minions of the Church and the Empire, to begin his German translation of the New Testament. J.S.Bach was born here in 1685. You can still visit his house, although there is some controversy as to whether it is the right one. Much later, Richard Wagner used the spectacular setting of the Wartburg, one of Germany’s most iconic castles, as the scene of the Minnesang contest in his opera **Tannhäuser**.

I could go on for a long time: BERLIN, STUTTGART, NÜRNBERG, INNSBRUCK, RATISBON (better known to APT river cruisers as Regensburg), BREMEN among better-known cities, PADERBORN, QUEDLINBURG, NASSAU, SOLOTHURN, LÜNEBURG, GIESSEN among the not-so-well-known.

It is clear that the well-known German chorales have had a great influence on our hymnody (and because of their idiosyncratic rhythms and smaller degree of interchangeability do not rely so much on hymn-tune names). But some consideration of the names we have looked at may highlight a connection that goes deeper. Are our musics related in much the same way as our languages are? Percy Grainger, although not the most avid hymn-singer in the world, probably thought so.

Laurie Wigney

es, doing the same work as you in the church. Come out to this event, showing your support for the centre and one another as we begin another season of music, whether you are retired, working in a church, or a school. When the people of a church get together and hold a event as a fundraiser for the church, they will toil over this for a few days, (and it's a lot of work), and at the end of all that work, they've only made maybe \$1200. That isn't a lot of money, but behind the scenes is where the real value grows... The value is getting the people of the church together in fellowship building friendships and relationships within the congregation. Most likely, any one of them could write a cheque for \$1200, call it a day, and forget about having a garage sale, but it wouldn't be as valuable to the church as the garage sale.

Thanks to Ken Stevens for providing us with our two newsletters; both "The Tierce" and "The Nazard". Please keep these in mind as you plan events with your church, school, or performing a recital, etc. and send your submissions to Ken Stevens at

cstevens31@cogeco.ca .

We want to know what is going on in the region, and support the events of our members. When you're putting your schedule together, remember that The Tierce is a monthly newsletter, and the Nazard is produced roughly four times a year. Take advantage of this as free advertising, to the interested crowd you

are trying to reach in the first place. It also helps us all in scheduling, as we can avoid double booking and competing against each other for an audience. As you know, we are planning a Bus Trip to Toronto to view, listen to and play some magnificent organs in very beautiful worship spaces. We have had to change the proposed date, as there were conflicts in schedules with two of the places we hope to visit. It has now been

changed to January 12th and I'm awaiting the approval of two of the churches and are have already confirmed Metropolitan United, with a 5 manual Casavant; the largest organ in Canada, and St. James Cathedral has confirmed this date as well. We're just waiting for final word from St. Michael's Basilica Cathedral, with its brand new Casavant organ in the gallery and its digital twin, built by Phoenix in the chancel, and Yorkminster Park Baptist church which has such large organ chambers that our group will be able to walk right in and have a look around. It's going to be exciting to get together and check out these instruments.

In the coming weeks, you will be notified of upcoming events for the next couple of months, as the Executive Committee have been working on a number of ideas, with the goal of having at least one event per month, and I hope you will participate.

Once again, it's Great to have you back with us for the year, and I hope to see you all soon!

Best Wishes,
Rob Anderson

Niagara Centre

Founded 1940

Executive 2015-2016

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Forum

Letters/articles & event announcements by our members are always welcome and should be directed to 905-788-0511 or cste-vens31@cogeco.ca Since we do not publish to a schedule any material received will be held for the next issue.

Centre website

As you know, the National Website is accessible at rcco.ca. There, members can log in using the identity and password given on their renewal information form.

In addition we now have our own dedicated site at rscmniagara.com.