

**St. Peter's on-the-Rock
Anglican Church
Stony Lake
Music Report
Annual Vestry Meeting**

October 2020

- Our Phoenix digital pipe organ is in its 17th year of service and is in excellent condition; a service visit was provided by Mark Anderson of Phoenix Organs in June to replace the digital display unit which had ceased to display the organ functions. This was a relatively simple replacement of the self-contained display part.
- Our Technics electronic piano is in its 10th year of service and is in excellent condition.

With the decision to close St. Peter's due to the pandemic, and subsequent decision to offer virtual online services, the planning for music for the summer went into full swing. The Executive Committee provided the outline for components of the service, including prelude, postlude, one hymn and two spots for special items, which were often musical offerings.

In the early part of the spring, during full lock-down, there was great uncertainty about access to St. Peter's island and whether marinas would be allowed to open. The piano and organ needed to be checked, maintained and played, which was possible by mid-June.

Recording of much of the organ music was done in late June, recorded by James Raffan, Helen Batten's brother, on a one-day recording session. Since the day was prior to spring clean-up, the winter covers were still on the windows at the front of the church. Tony Whittingham and Ward Strickland saved the day by arriving on very short notice, and removing the covers so that the church could be in suitable condition for video (and audio) recording. An impromptu 'first hymn of the season' was sung energetically by Ward and Tony, in their resonant baritone voices, in 2-part harmony accompanied by full organ. 'Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven' rang in 2020 with enthusiasm, even 'tho none of us had any idea how the season would unfold. It was an emotional moment, to be together again in the church, (albeit responsibly physically distanced), making music. The hymns, preludes and postludes were recorded in both audio and video, so that the editing team could have maximum flexibility. Over 90 'takes' were recorded that day.

Throughout the summer, various other recording were made as each weekly service became defined, new participants came forward to help, and music was adjusted and recorded to suit. Each service had between 4 and 7 musical

segments, with a range of 2 – 15 musicians participating. In total, 27 different musicians provided their time and talent this year, with incredible willingness and support. Each participant recorded in their own space, in locations across the entire country, from Caroline Bruce in Newfoundland, to the Edison Singers in Elora, to Bob Trennum in Lakefield, to Morgan Strickland in Ottawa, to Jeanne Lamon, Christina Mahler & Christina Hutten in Victoria, British Columbia. Not counting the countless practice 'takes', 80 recordings of musical elements were incorporated into our 13 services. Very large electronic files criss-crossed the ether to 'hellostpeters@gmail.com' and the phenomenal editing team of Rachel Corbett and Emily Schnurr painstakingly transformed the component files into each weekly service.

Special mention is needed for Bob and Jill Trennum, for their contributions this summer. Bob's skillful song-writing, in many cases with music specially for St. Peter's, and sonorous performances with voice, guitar and piano were offered for our use immediately upon the decision to create virtual services. Jill and Bob assisted tirelessly with the children's programme on multiple occasions as well.

Special mention is also needed for Morgan and Ward Strickland. Morgan is a professional operatic soprano, with experience & training all over the world, and is now based in Ottawa. Her Dad, Ward, is a passionate and expressive singer as well, having demonstrated same in the front row of St. Peter's for many years, but until this year, father and daughter had never sung a duet together. THIS year, that history changed, with Morgan and Ward preparing not one, but two poignant duets, creating harmonious musical history for all of us.

These recordings will be available through the St. Peter's website, as the services will be posted.

Utmost appreciation and thanks to all the musicians:

James Bourne
Caroline Bruce
Bruce Cole
Rachel Corbett
Taylor Dalton
The Duketow Family
Catherine D'Addario
Noel Edison
Lanny Fleming
Kyle Guglielmo
Christina Hutten
Keenan Kelly
Ariana Kloosterman
Jeanne Lamon
Mike Lepock

Blair Mackenzie
Christina Mahler
Shawn Oakes
Cristina Pisani
Nellie Scholtes
Morgan Strickland
Ward Strickland
Bob Trennum
Katie Walshaw

Our last trip to the church to record for the Thanksgiving service was on October 3. The organ and piano were unplugged and tucked in tightly until next year.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Batten, Director of Music