

# Organ Intermezzi 2014

Thursdays at 12:15 p.m.

7/03/2014	Jonathan Oldengarm, organ & Claudia Tesorino, saxophone (Berlin, Germany)
7/10/2014	Robert Sigmund (Montreal)
7/17/2014	Adrian Foster, 1st prize, 2014 Lynnwood Farnam Organ Competition
7/24/2014	Gabrielle Tessier (Montreal)
7/31/2014	Henri-Franck Beauperin (Angers, France)
8/07/2014	Kurt-Ludwig Forg (Borken, Germany)
8/14/2014	Thomas Annand (Ottawa)
8/21/2014	Marc-Andre Doran (Montreal)
8/28/2014	Jonathan Oldengarm



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## From the Choir

### A Busy Spring Agenda Offered Many Opportunities to Choir Members

Choir preparations for Holy Week began with the first of the year. Scores for Bach's *St John Passion* were passed out during choir rehearsal, and the rehearsals commenced. For many choristers, this was a return to a labour of love – revisiting Bach's telling of the Good Friday story based on the Gospel according to St. John. For new members of the choir, it was an experience of wonder and excitement.

Under the direction of Jordan de Souza, we all learned more about Bach and about the meaning of each chorus, recitative passage and aria – thus gathering a deeper understanding of the enlightened composer himself and his insight into the Passion story. When the performance arrived, the choir sang as one voice. And it was an incredible experience to sing with the highly skilled musicians of Ensemble Caprice who played so exquisitely on period instruments.

For the choir, the focus on the *St John Passion* brought a sense of immediacy to the experience of Holy Week – Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and joyous Easter. Together with the clergy and congregation, we moved through this sacred time, finding deep meaning in the progressive services. Again, the choir is deeply grateful to both Jordan de Souza and Jonathan Oldengarm for their guidance and musical mastery.

There were more special musical events emerging from the choir during the months from January to April. On March 2, Celebration Sunday, the choir sang the wonderful work by Benjamin Britten called

*Rejoice in the Lamb*. Then on March 14, many choir members participated in the church congregational dinner and fundraiser for new choir chairs. While some choristers were helping with the silent auction or serving dinner, others were “singing for their supper” – sharing a delightful song program for those present. And if that was not enough, 13 singers and pianists (Jonathan and Jordan) came together on April 4 for a cabaret performance in the church sanctuary to raise funds for the music program.

The variety of talent present thrilled the audiences of both the congregational dinner and the cabaret. In fact, more and more of the vocal solos for choir events are now being performed by choir members. This year alone, more than 20 of the choir singers sang solos in services and church-related events. Such opportunities give our choral singers a chance to demonstrate their unique and wonderful talent both within and outside of the church choir context. And the results are so delightful and exciting!

The choir also performed at the concert in honour of Wayne Riddell on May 25. This dear and gifted man has been a source of inspiration for so many musicians throughout Canada, as well as a source of ongoing support and encouragement for the A&P music department. It was truly a joy for the choir to participate in the celebration.

Wendy Glaubitz