

Winnipeg Organ Festival

Mark **July 4 to 9, 2015** on your calendars. The Winnipeg Organ Festival (WOF) presents organists from across Canada and beyond to perform during 5 days of concerts, workshops and worship featuring "The King of Instruments". Two major themes have been incorporated into the programming: collaboration with other musicians and human rights & world peace.

This Festival is being organized by the Winnipeg Centre of the Royal Canadian College of Organists, Canada's oldest musicians' organization which aims to "promote and facilitate opportunities for access to, appreciation of, and participation in all facets of the organ ...". The WOF planning committee has been working hard for 2 years already to develop a program which will rival the phenomenal artistic success of the 2004 Festival which some of you may recall.

For the complete program, check our website at www.winnipegorganfestival.ca

Some of the highlights are:

- Gala Concert at Westminster United Church with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Alexander Mickelthwate conducting. Renowned American organist James David Christie will be the soloist in a program that includes the well-known Organ Concerto by Poulenc and the exciting concerto for Organ and Strings by Canada's Denis Bédard.
- Choral Concert at Westminster United Church. Dr. Elroy Friesen will be assembling a chamber choir to present a choral program on a human rights theme. Highlights will be the world première of newly commissioned works for choir and organ by Andrew Balfour, Timothy Corlis, Leonard Enns and Stephanie Martin. Two of these commissions were made possible by the generous support of the Foundation for Choral Music in Manitoba. Organist for this concert will be Jenny Vincent.
- Hymn Festival at Knox United Church - your opportunity to actively participate! Christine Longhurst will lead the audience in a selection of new and old hymns, accompanied by organist Richard Greig and a praise band.
- Several solo organ recitals and one featuring the organ/saxophone duo of Lottie Enns-Braun and Allen Harrington.
- Significant focus on children and youth with workshops on introducing children to the organ (Evangeline Keeley), Organ and Orff instruments (Jewel Casselman) and an Organ Academy running parallel to the Festival which will offer organ instruction to students from across the country.
- Choral reading sessions.
- Competition for young organists from across Canada

Registration is now available on the Festival website. You are sure to want to not only experience this wonderful organ festival but also take in the sites of beautiful Winnipeg including the newly opened world class Museum of Human Rights and The Journey to Churchill at Assiniboine Zoo as well as our lovely parks and exciting restaurants. Stay on for a few days and visit great Lake Winnipeg and its gorgeous beaches and recreational opportunities.