

Calgary Herald calls Conservatory a boon to City's classical scene

Look no further than Mount Royal College Conservatory to see why Calgary's active classical music scene ranks second to none in Canada.

Not only is MRCC the country's largest institution of its kind, but "the breadth and scope of our programming is unique and really sets the standard," says acting director Sheldon Nadler.

The Conservatory offers everything from early childhood music courses and Suzuki piano teacher training to private musical instruction both on and off campus — not to mention special summer projects such as the Morningside Music Bridge, an exchange program for very talented young musicians from Canada, China, and elsewhere; an international organ school; and Shakespeare in the Park, a major and very popular public offshoot of the theatre program.

"When I started here The Conservatory was basically a 10-month operation," says Nadler, who has been both administrator and teacher at the college since 1982. "Now it's year-round."

Founded in 1910 as an original part of Mount Royal College, The Conservatory has from the outset focused on "providing high quality musical instruction," Nadler says. "Of course, in recent years we've grown a lot, and the scope of our activities at this point is greater than it's ever been."

Today, The Conservatory offers a two-year credit performance diploma in music — classical or jazz — as well as in the acting and technical streams of the theatre program. The theatre department, which has been putting on productions for over 40 years, will offer three productions this year at MRC's Wright and Nickle Theatres.

The Conservatory also features credit-free musical instruction at every playing level in virtually every instrument. The Academy program, started in 1980, offers gifted and motivated young musicians additional opportunities of playing in small chamber groups and taking part in master classes.

The institution has an operating budget of close to \$5 million. The Academy program as well as the special summer projects are funded through donations and endowments.

When the doors to MRC opened in 1911, there was a total enrolment of 154, of which only a handful of students were enrolled in The Conservatory.

The 2003 enrolment in The Conservatory stands at more than 5,000 students, representing approximately 3,700 families. There are 12,000 individual course registrations in The Conservatory's main divisions of music, theatre, and speech arts.



Professor Lee Kum Sing with Katarzyna Kluczynska at the 2003 Morningside Music Bridge at Mount Royal College. Ted Jacob photo.

"We've had a kind of facilities freeze for The Conservatory for a while," Nadler says. "We're hoping to have a new Conservatory building soon where we'll be able to expand, but right now as far as enrolment is concerned — we've been capped."

There are five choirs and 11 orchestras run by The Conservatory. Participants in the choral program, under the direction of David Ferguson, range in age from six to adult (the Kantorei Choir). The instrumental ensemble program, which includes the Calgary Youth Orchestra, is under the musical direction of Edmond Agopian.

The Conservatory also maintained two wind groups and a jazz orchestra last year, Nadler says. "But it's fair to

continued next page

In This Issue

- 2** *The Conservatory's Shirley Anne feasts on success*
- 3** *Staccato: Notes, news and events at The Conservatory*
- 7** *New violin instructor brings old-world flavour to The Conservatory*
- 7** *Ballance dives into new job*
- 8** *The Conservatory gets a new kind of organ donation*

Conservatory a boon... *continued from page 1*

say that while the majority of students in all those groups are students who are taking lessons here at the college, a very large percentage of them are part of the (Conservatory's) community outreach.

"The ensembles are open to any student in the city from any teacher — they don't have to have a previous connection with us."

As well as offering public concerts, MRCC has partnerships with several area high schools and a new official partnership with the Calgary Philharmonic.

"We've had a relationship with the CPO for many years now where our students can perform with it as soloists (school or Saturday morning concerts)," Nadler says. "Sometimes our orchestras will actually go down to Jack Singer Concert Hall and talk to musicians and hear concerts as a group."

Many of the Calgary Philharmonic's players are employed by MRCC as part of its approximately 175-member teaching staff (which includes branch instructors who work off site around the city).

Asked whether the employment opportunities offered by The Conservatory are partly responsible for the high calibre of musician

employed by an orchestra offering an otherwise modest pay scale, Nadler says it's a "symbiotic relationship."

"Without the CPO, we wouldn't have the benefit of players and teachers who come from the orchestra."

The MRCC music and theatre programs each average between 15 and 20 graduates per year.

A high percentage of Academy graduates as well as those in the acting stream of the theatre program (chaired by Doug Rathburn) generally go on to university for further schooling prior to embarking on professional careers as performers, Nadler says.

"We find that they're recruited and hired directly out of our program," he says. "They find employment very quickly."

bclark@theherald.canwest.com

The preceding article appeared originally in The Calgary Herald, Sept. 10, 2003. Reprinted courtesy of The Calgary Herald.

Conservatory Star...



**Shirley Anne,
Special Projects
Coordinator,
The Conservatory**

Flare and creativity... these are two traits that Shirley brings to her position as Special Projects

Coordinator at The Conservatory. Both will be evident at this year's **Feast of Sound and Song** — The Conservatory's premier fundraising event for Academy students. It takes place on October 19, and Shirley is using her creative flare to highlight the silent action and turn it into a unique and fun experience for everyone.

And while **Feast of Sound and Song** is one of The Conservatory's most public events, it's a very small part of Shirley's responsibilities. Her main focus is sourcing public and private funds for Conservatory programs. Shirley takes advantage of her academic background in Fine Arts and Arts Management, as well as her professional experience as owner and operator of two art galleries in Ontario and B.C., to help her do her job well.



*Feast of Sound and Song
wish upon a star...*

Academy Program students at **The Mount Royal College Conservatory** dream of becoming world-class musicians. To allow them to fulfill these dreams, we invite you to make a wish upon our stars at our 11th annual **Feast of Sound and Song** fundraising gala.

Join us Sunday, October 19, 2003
for an evening of fine dining and entertainment by our students.

Calgary Stampede Roundup Centre
Palomino Room, 20 Roundup Way SE

FOR TICKETS AND MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
www.mtroyal.ca/conservatory/feast
















Staccato: quick notes, news and Conservatory events

It's the fall, and with the change in season come changes in The Conservatory's lineup. Here's the rundown:

Back to school... Paul Dornian has traded his brief case for a backpack. The Director of The Conservatory is back in the classroom for an MBA at the U of C. In Paul's absence, **Sheldon Nadler** will serve as Acting Director and **Julie Jacques** assumes the role of Acting Manager of General Programs.

More new duties... This year, in addition to running Mount Royal Kantorei, **David Ferguson** will reassume the role of Director of the Youth Choir. **Anita Perla** continues as Director of the Junior Children's Choir, and for this year that choir will accept children from 7 to 11 years of age. The changes reflect a consolidation of ensembles in the choir program for the 2003-2004 year.

New faces...

Faculty

Gianetta Baril: Harp; **Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser:** Conductor/Calgary Youth Wind Band (formerly Regional Intermediate Band); **Leila Chiacchia:** Accompanist; **Nigel Edmonton-Boehm:** Cello Instructor; **Lana Henchel:** Accompanist; **Donna Holstine:** Speech Instructor; **Gareth Jones:** Conductor/Calgary Youth Wind Ensemble (formerly Senior Band); **Elisa Riegel:** Cello Instructor; and **Sanja Suplevska:** Violin Instructor (see profile)

Branch

Rodd Bauman: Violin/Viola Instructor

Administration

Trudy Ross is the new Manager of the Calgary Youth Orchestra. She recently retired from the University of Calgary's Music Department after working as Chief Administrative Officer for 13 years. Trudy replaces Vanessa Goymour, who's now Manager of Education and Outreach with the CPO.

Support Staff

Erin MacLean: Casual, Support Staff, Conservatory Office. Erin is also in the Music Diploma Program under vocal studies; **Janine Ballance:** Administrative Assistant, Credit (see profile)

Survivors... The Conservatory is operating at capacity and people looking for lessons have had to be put on a waiting list. The task of processing registrations fell to those brave souls on the front desk — **Janice Desrosiers**, **Betty Steedman**, **Shelley Davis** and **Erin MacLean**.

Moving closer... **Janice Desrosiers** loves her job so much that she's moved closer to The Conservatory just to cut down on her commute. Her family is now living in Southwood.

Never too early... **Brett Joffe** was born on Sept 10 and five days later, he was already attending **Patti Frizzell's** Music with Your Baby. Brett's older brother is in that class and his sister finished taking it in the last session.

Keeping step for a good cause... **Joy Bilozir** and her colleagues with the New Attitude Line Dance Company put on their line dancing shoes in May to complete a 1.5 km route in the Calgary Co-op *Walk for Safe Kids*. The event raised money for the Missing Children Society of Canada.

Big achievements... The second Michael Hill International Violin Competition was held in June in Queenstown and Auckland, New Zealand. There were 18 international competitors and one of **Bill van der Sloot's** students, **Shanshan Yao**, placed sixth. She was the youngest person in this prestigious and highly competitive event. In September, Shanshan started at the Curtis Institute of Music.

Arnie Choi (instructor **John Kadz**) won first at this year's Shean Competition in Edmonton; Shanshan placed second in the same competition.

Again this year, our Conservatory was well represented in the finals of the Canadian Music Competition with many finalists and top prize winners.

Sarah Steeves won the 2003 *Queen's Golden Jubilee Scholarship for the Performing Arts* from the Province of Alberta. This prestigious award is granted annually to one young Albertan who shows extraordinary talent and potential in the performing arts. A recent graduate of the Sr. Academy Program, Sarah was a long time student of **Tom Mirhady**, cello, and **Ruth Mossop**, piano. Sarah is beginning her Bachelor of Music (Cello Performance) at the University of Toronto under the direction of Shauna Rolston, as a U of T scholar.

CD recording... **Susana Ringer** recorded her first CD at a piano concert at the University of Alberta on May 18. The title was originally going to be *Susan's Old Shoes* because the songs are based on her childhood experiences and memories. *Felicitaciones querida!!*

More musical recordings... Recently graduated jazz student, **Oliver Miguel** celebrated his first CD release at the Beat Niq on August 8, 2003.



Staccato... *continued from page 3*

Instructors **Ralf Buschmeyer** and **John Hyde** did an acoustic jazz duo CD together this summer. The CD release party was on September 25 at the Beat Niq. CDs will be available at Chapters, Sam the Record Man and Megatunes.



Release of a different

kind... The Alfred Publishing Company has released another of **Peter Jancewicz's** piano compositions this past September. It is called *The Anabana Rag* and is for intermediate level pianists.

Scoring a score... **Cairan Ryan**, member of the Regional Senior Band, recently won a provincial prize for a piece of music he wrote about the City of Calgary. Cairan has donated the complete orchestral score to The Conservatory.

Leah Field — former student of **Jennifer Orr**, **Ruth Mossop** and **Elaine Case** — had a busy summer. She was a member of the UBC Opera Ensemble (she is entering her second year of studies at UBC) that toured the Czech Republic. They were based in the Opera house at Usti Nad Laven and presented there, as well as at other cities in the Czech Republic. The ensemble also presented recitals and *The Merry Widow* at the Westben Arts Festival in Campbellford, Ontario.

Following the opera tour, Leah worked as the Assistant Director of the Shakespeare school at the Stratford Festival in Stratford, Ontario. Leah has participated in the program previously, and was asked back this year as a member of the teaching staff.

Martie Fishman sure knows how to put on a production. As artistic director of MRC's *Shakespeare in the Park*, he led the company's 16th season, drawing record audience numbers. This year was dedicated to MRC's retiring President, **Tom Wood**, whose tremendous commitment helped the production grow into Calgary's most popular public outdoor theatre. This season also marked the start of a new and exciting partnership between *Shakespeare in the Park* and the Calgary Flames.

Jazz infuses Calgary... This year's jazz festival in June had a strong showing from The Conservatory including **John Hyde**, **Ralf Buschmeyer**, **Sheldon Zandboer**, **Viviane Cardinal** and **Jerry Hébert**.

Hébert's Calgary Youth Jazz Orchestra was also involved, as was MRC alumni **Tanya Kalmanovitch**.

JP Fournier of the Theatre Arts Program went to Hamnar, Norway, this summer to teach stage combat (a.k.a. sword fighting) to the Nordic Society of Stage Combat, with members from Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Estonia.



Prairie kids in the Maritimes... **Frances Chiasson** took the **Mount Royal Children's Choir** on tour to the far east — PEI — this past summer. The group performed at the King's Playhouse in Georgetown on June 30 as part of the *Habitat for Humanity Concert*. On Canada Day, they were in Charlottetown.

The Mount Royal Youth Choir went even further a field. **Brent Pierce** accepted an invitation by the organizers of an international festival in Aberdeen, Scotland, for his group to perform and tour the country.

Sheila Garrett performed as a member of the Banff Festival Orchestra this summer, in orchestral concerts and with the Banff production of John Estacio's opera, *Filumena*.

Congratulations to... **Susan Drayson**, who used the summer to graduate from the University of Calgary with a Masters of Music degree, and **Anita Perlau** who graduated with a Diploma of Fine Arts in Kodály from the University of Calgary.

Winning jobs... A number of Conservatory alumni have secured jobs with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra. **Jeff White** and **Nick Boychuk** will be part of the CPO's bass section this season. Both Jeff

and Nick are former students of **Sheila Garrett** and are graduates of the Academy program, as well as former members of the CYO under **Edmond Agopian**.

Jay Gupta (viola), who studied with **Nick Pulos**, has won a one-year position with the orchestra. Another former Academy student and member of the Calgary Youth Orchestra, **Donovan Seidle**, is now Assistant Concert Master with the CPO. Donovan studied with **Fiona Carnie** and **Edmond Agopian**.

Patrick Staples was a student of **Edgar Meyer** at the Banff Centre for the second time this summer. He also studied at Orford with **Joel Quarrington**. Patrick was a recitalist in each of the *Catch a Rising Star* series at Irene Besse Hall this past season, and was a featured soloist performing before the *C3 Concerto Concert* in the Jack Singer lobby. He was also the recipient of an AFA grant as well as a Kiwanis Festival scholarship, and runner-up in both the CYO and C3 concerto competitions.

.....
Winning on the net... This summer, **Vicki Goodfellow-Duke** entered a poetry writing class with the online magazine, *Contemporary Verse 2*. Finalists had to submit a new poem every week over a five-week period. Vicki won the grand prize. Go to <http://www.contemporaryverse2.ca/home.html>.

One of Vicki's poems is reprinted below.

Hail my Canada...

Hail my Canada, humble and noble,
 Fair countenance of graceful dignity,
 Gowned in glory austere and feral,
 Sky-crowned summit, Emerald Falls majesty.
 Chaste beauty rare, glaciated north, pines and tides,
 Sweet yielding ochre field; fall mapled-gold.
 Peoples distinct with selfsame quiet pride,
 A bold spirit and creed, known yet untold.
 Your name Sanctuary, Grand Wilds, Land of Peace.
 Your blood it is rich, and your breath blows free.
 Your laugh a chanson of fiddle and drum
 You are the end of the earth, and the sun.
 You are birth, hope, survival, a victor apart,
 Hail Canada, royal home of my heart.

Vicki Goodfellow-Duke

Nenniger on the Mountain... The CPO's decision to revive the popular *Mozart on the Mountain* concert was good news for **Emily Nenniger** (violinist and student of **Bill van der Sloot**) who was asked by organizers to perform a solo. Despite the cold and rain, Emily mastered her performance.

.....
Ties that bind... There are so many professional connections between The Conservatory and the CPO that it's easy to understand why the two organizations are now in the process of signing a formal partnership agreement. Look for details in the upcoming *Prelude* magazine.

.....
Making history... The **Suzuki Piano Pedagogy Program** at MRC is the first institution to offer on-line distance delivery of piano pedagogy course material. The on-line course has already been nominated for awards in the field of distance education. Its artistic director, **Merlin Thompson**, gave a presentation on the on-line program at the *2003 Suzuki Association of the Americas Leadership Conference* in Denver, Colorado.

MRC Suzuki Piano Students **Daniel Pond, Leanne Santos, Emily Felice** and **Eric Fung** were chosen to participate in Master Classes with **Bernadene Blaha** at the *2003 Calgary Suzuki Piano Summer Institute*.



Blaha also gave informal teacher and parent sessions during the Summer Institute. The highlight of the week-long Institute was a recital by Blaha which featured *Poulenc's Story of Babar*, narrated by Merlin Thompson.

.....
Lucky lady... **Lynda Young** accompanied 16 year old **Wang Yujia** to Zurich, Switzerland in September. The Orpheum Foundation for the Advancement of Young Soloists invited Wang Yujia to perform in the Tonhalle with Maestro **David Zinman** conducting the Tonhalle Orchestra.

.....
Happy travelers... **John Kadz** went to Beijing in September to teach masterclasses at the Central Conservatory. His father, **Bob**, joined John on the trip.

Miami bound... **Elizabeth** and **Marcel Bergmann** will head to Miami, Florida in December to act as jury members and panelists at the 9th Murray Dranoff International Two Piano Competition.

Staccato... *continued from page 5*

Low-cost last-minute tickets for students... Between September 8 and June 14, young arts lovers in Calgary have access to over 120 separate events — there are hundreds and hundreds of performances to choose from! For additional information, go to www.liverush.ca.

••••••••••

Students get free entry to Land's End season... Elizabeth and Marcel Bergmann are offering free admission to Conservatory students to performances this season by the Land's End Chamber Society. Students simply need to call and leave a voice mail message at 440-5903.

••••••••••

Instruments for sale... Parents, students and faculty of The Conservatory will soon be able to post their instruments for sale on our web site. We're working on having this service up and running by January, 2004.

••••••~•••

Upcoming events...

Classical recitals take place the first Tuesday of the month (except January) in the Leacock Theatre from noon – 1:00 pm. Dates are as follows: Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec. 2, Jan. 20, Feb. 3 and Apr. 6.

Jazz recitals take place the first Wednesday of the month (except January) in the Leacock Foyer from noon – 1:00 pm. Dates are: Oct. 1, Nov. 5, Dec. 3, Jan. 21, Feb. 4, Mar. 3 and Apr. 7.

Organ recitals take place the first Thursday of the month (except January) in the Wyatt Recital Hall from noon – 1:00 pm. Dates are: Oct. 2, Nov. 6, Dec. 4, Jan. 8, Feb. 5, Mar. 4, Apr. 1, May 6 and June 3.

The Conservatory's Piano Academy program features the following events open to the public:

Tuesday, November 4, 12:10 pm. *Cantos Museum Lunchtime Concert*, featuring students from the Mount Royal Academy program performing on historic instruments. Admission is free; concert will be held at the Cantos Foundation building located at 134 - 11th Ave. SE.

Saturday, November 15. Recital featuring the 2003 laureate of the prestigious Queen Elizabeth International Piano Competition, **Severin Von Eckardstein**, Germany. Leacock Theatre. Details on the event will be available on our web site closer to the event.

Monday, November 17. Academy Master Classes with guest, **David Moroz**, from the University of Manitoba. Junior/Intermediate classes are from 4 – 5 pm, and the Senior class is held from 5:15 – 7:00 pm in the Leacock Theatre. All are welcome to attend.

Tuesday, November 25, 12:10 pm. *Cantos Museum Lunchtime Concert*, featuring students from the Mount Royal Academy program performing on historic instruments. Admission is free; concert will be held at the Cantos Foundation building located at 134 - 11th Ave. SE.

Mount Royal College Theatre Arts Program 2003/04 Season

Unity (1918) by Kevin Kerr
Directed by Susanne Gillies Smith
November 20 – 22, 24 – 29, 2003
Wright Theatre, MRC
8:00 pm
Ticket prices \$12 adult/\$8 student/senior
Call 440-6139 for tickets and more info.

The Diviners by James Leonard
Directed by Joe Norman Shaw
February 11 – 14, 2004
Nickle Theatre, MRC
8:00 pm
Ticket prices \$12 adult/\$8 student/senior
Call 440-6139 for tickets and more info.

Village of Idiots by John Lazarus
Directed by Jean-Pierre Fournier
March 25 – 27, 29 – April 3, 2004
Wright Theatre, MRC
8:00 pm
Ticket prices \$12 adult/\$8 student/senior
Call 440-6139 for tickets and more info.

••••••~•••

Choirs Concerts

"O Canada", A Celebration of Canadian Music
With Mount Royal Junior Children's Choir and Mount Royal Youth Choir
Friday, November 7 at 7:30 pm
Rosza Centre, U of C.
Tickets \$10.00 for adults and \$8.00 for students and seniors.
Call 440-6769 for more information.

Calgary Youth Wind Ensemble Christmas Concert
Sunday, November 23 at 2:00 pm
Leacock Theatre at MRC
Tickets at the door for \$4.

"Christmas in Song" Concert
by The Calgary Youth Orchestra and MRC Choir Groups
Monday, December 1 at 7:00 pm
Epcor Centre for the Performing Arts, Jack Singer Hall.
TicketMaster for tickets and prices at 777-0000.

••••••~•••

National String Orchestra of Mongolia makes its Canadian debut at the Leacock Theatre on Friday, October 24. The performance includes folk music, contortionists and throat singing. For information call 220-8455.

Conservatory Portraits...

The Conservatory runs like a fine-tuned instrument thanks to about 165 faculty and 35 staff. They work quietly and diligently behind the scenes making sure The Conservatory stays on track as a centre of excellence. In each issue we will bring you a different staff and faculty member so you can start to meet them and find out what gets them pumped.

.....

Sanja Suplevska, **Violin Instructor**

Born into a musical family in Skopje, Macedonia, violinist Sanja Suplevska graduated from the Faculty of Music Arts in Skopje in 1992. Upon graduating, she started working with the Macedonian Philharmonic Orchestra, during which time she was also a concertmaster and soloist of the Macedonian Youth Chamber Orchestra, performing extensively in Macedonia and other East European countries. In 1994 she took a three-year specialization at the *Mozarteum*, Salzburg, Austria where she worked with several prominent artists, including Ruggiero Ricci. While studying in Salzburg, she was performing and touring with various chamber ensembles in Austria and Western Europe. In 1997, she came to Canada where she completed her Master of Music at the University of Calgary, studying with Edmond Agopian. Sanja started with The Conservatory in September.

What I love most about teaching... is passing on the passion for classical music that was passed on to me by many people from different places and times in history.

What frustrates me most about teaching... is the attitude of a few violin students who feel it's supposed to be all fun and games.

My mentor is/was... There were many: Mozart, Bach, and Shostacovich. Then there is also my father, a violinist himself, who has an infectious love and respect for classical music. My professors were also mentors, especially Mr. Ruggiero Ricci who taught me how to be myself in the music world.

My favorite place in the world to vacation is... Ohrid, Macedonia. During the day I swim in a crystal clear lake and in the afternoons go to good restaurants, which provide an almost mystical experience. In the evenings I enjoy the various concerts and classical music events featuring international artists performing in magical old ambiances such as cathedrals, fortresses, amphitheatres, etc. during the Ohrid Summer Festival.

Another passion of mine is... reading, playing backgammon, discovering old well-done movies, shopping, cooking, dancing, skiing, travelling.

My favorite book and author is... hmmm, a difficult question... at this moment I can think of Venko Andonovski and his book *Frescoes and Grotosques*. In old European churches the frescoes are eroding and this has created blank spaces. Andonovski reminds us that in human history there are also gaps of information. While a visual artist might fill in the

frescoes to create a new image, Andonovski fills in the historical gaps with his interpretations of imaginary conversations and happenings.

If I suddenly had some free time...
I would sleep.

My biggest accomplishment is... to have come alone to such a different culture — Canada (and not run back to my Mom). I am now discovering this wonderful Canadian culture which places importance on global esthetics and not just local ones.

The best kept secret about me... is that I don't have too many secrets.

.....

Janine Ballance, **Music Credit Administrative Assistant**

From a long line of native Calgarians, Janine is married with two children, ages seven and nine. When Seth and Jade were young, Janine worked part-time in a variety of positions at the Riverbend community association including bookkeeping, newsletter editing and bartending weddings. For the last year and half, Janine has worked at Mount Royal College initially in the Finance Department, moving over to The Conservatory in August.



If I had another job to do for only one day I would... deliver the College mail, but only if I could drive Brian's motorized cart around campus.

The strangest job I've ever had... As a teenager, it was in my nature to have strange summer jobs. One year, I did ear piercing and makeup at the Calgary Stampede; I was a chambermaid in Banff; I've also cleaned and repaired coffee machines at the Gulf Canada Square.

If I suddenly had the day off I would... take advantage of the kids being in school and just do whatever pops into my mind at the time.

continued on page 8



Conservatory gets organ donation of a different kind...

It's a new kind of organ donation.

The Cantos Foundation is loaning a digital replica of the famed Carthy Organ, called the Chinook Carthy organ, to the Mount Royal College Conservatory. The "Carthy Clone" is the only known example of a digital reproduction of an existing pipe organ.

"Its sound is spectacular," says Neil Cockburn, head of Organ Studies at Mount Royal College and the curator of the Carthy Organ at the Jack Singer Concert Hall. "The biggest difference is that you're not in the hall with its outstanding acoustics."

The Carthy clone is currently housed in the Nickle Theatre at Mount Royal College, which is a 10th of the size of the Epcor Centre's concert hall. The creation of the Carthy Clone began when the Calgary International Organ Festival and Competition expressed concern there weren't enough organs on which players can practise during the world-renowned event.

A team of sound engineers was commissioned to come to Calgary from the Allen Organ Company in Macungie, Penn., to digitally record sound waves produced by the Carthy Organ. The original "stops and ranks" from the Jack Singer pipe organ were then electronically inserted into the Carthy Clone's memory bank, allowing the clone to produce an exact replica of the majestic Carthy pipe organ's sound.

The result is a pipeless digital reproduction. It has nine speaker towers, each 3.6 metres tall and weighing 380 kilograms. The organ also has 75 stops and 111 ranks. The console's bench and pedalboard weighs more than 495 kilograms. The instrument was housed in the Cantos Foundation's museum in Calgary, which holds one of the world's largest collections of keyboards and other related instruments.

Students enrolled in MRC's summer master classes as a part of the International Summer Organ Academy and the Pipe Organ Encounter have 24-hour access to the organ.

aburroughs@theherald.canwest.com

Reprinted courtesy of *The Calgary Herald*



The original Carthy Organ in the Jack Singer Concert Hall, Epcor Centre for the Performing Arts.

Conservatory Portraits... *continued from page 7*

I have a background in... music. I have my grade ten piano and I played the saxophone for about six years.

I'm also passionate about... trying new things at least once. Skydiving, bungee jumping, and cliff jumping are just a few things to mention. Maybe one day I will appear on the TV reality show *Fear Factor* and bring home \$50,000.

The best vacation I had... I actually have two: Jamaica with my best friend when I was single, and Mexico with my husband and a group of friends shortly after we were married. I also had the opportunity to go to England with my husband, Scott, and his dad. Scott was competing in the World Power Lifting Competition.

I'm most proud of having accomplished... raising a strong and close family.

The best kept secret about me... is that I played with the Calgary Round Up Marching Band.

The Mount Royal College Conservatory
4825 Richard Road S.W.
Calgary, AB T3E 6K6

Conservatory Notes is published in the fall, winter and late spring by The Conservatory (Sheldon Nadler, Acting Director). Phone (403) 440-6821, fax (403) 440-6594, www.mtroyal.ca/conservatory. Stories and comments for the winter issue are invited and should be submitted by Monday, January 19, 2004, to Silvana Saccomani, ssaccomani@mtroyal.ca, (403) 440-6710.

Albert O'Neil, Managing Editor, aoneil@mtroyal.ca, (403) 440-6771

Silvana Saccomani, Editor, ssaccomani@mtroyal.ca, (403) 440-6710

David Soltess, Layout, dsoltess@mtroyal.ca, (403) 440-8958

