



American Guild of Organists

Chartered 1896

European Chapter

Chartered 1979

Newsletter July 2011

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The Dean's Corner

Dear European Chapter Members,

Our chapter is growing! WELCOME to our newest members:

Ben Bloor, Windsor, England, organ scholar and winner of our European Chapter 2011 Quimby Competition. Read about Ben in the "Introducing New Members" column of the April Newsletter.

Daniel Razonale, Ardmore, PN, winner of the Philadelphia Quimby competition (Region III), who will be studying in Milan at the 'Verdi' Conservatory for two years starting in September.

Jane Errera, Bethlehem, PN

AGO Region III Councillor.

Onnalee Röhrs, Munich, Germany, organist/choir conductor at a Lutheran church in Munich; former student of European Chapter member Dr. Lee Garrett in Portland, Oregon; full time job at Hanser Publishing Company in Munich.

Nicole Ortega, Paris, France, friend and concert consultant for Paris organist and European Chapter member, Carolyn Shuster Fournier.

Tatiana Baer, Nice, France, hotel manager and wife of our Chapter Treasurer, Charles Baer.

Note to renewing members: There are still a few of you out there who have not yet sent me a message about the method of payment you wish to use. PLEASE do it today. We want to get as close as possible to 100% renewal again!

Several of our members attended AGO Regional Conventions in the USA and other musical events this summer and I've been hearing some enthusiastic reports. Hopefully some of these members will share their personal experiences in a future newsletter. It could be just such a report that will spur someone on to attend such an event in the future.

Watch the next newsletter for details about our Spring Meeting 2012 in York, England during the week after Easter.

With all best summer greetings,

Judy

The Secretary's Voice

Dear Members,

As I'm sure most of you can appreciate, the time before the Summer break was incredibly full. This is, of course, strenuous at the time but perhaps we appreciate vacation all the more. You can read about some of the activities in the following pages. The Recital column is a little short. (Probably our concert artists were more concerned with playing well than with submitting the information.) As always, I wish you a good read and a relaxing time of recuperation and relaxation. Hope to hear more from all of our members in the Fall !

Please submit your items for the next Newsletter before Sept. 30th !

Bernard

bernard.sanders@t-online.de

News from the Board

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The new 2011-2012 European Chapter Membership list will be sent to members in September. Watch for it!

The chapter web page has been updated. Have a look and write to Tania Hermans at tatyana.hermans@telenet.be if you'd like to add information to it!

European Chapter AGO/Quimby Competition → Region II

Congratulations to **Ben Bloor** for the fine playing in the Region II Competition! Although Ben did not win first or second prize, only positive feedback has come from members who heard him play. One comment was: "Good choice!" in selecting Ben to represent the European Chapter in the Competition. Ben, we wish you continued success in your musical endeavors.

European Chapter of the AGO "Spring Meeting 2011" in Bremen Report

The "Spring Meeting" of the European Chapter was held from April 25th to 29th. 28 participants from 3 European countries and 7 US states spent the week after Easter seeing, hearing, and playing organs in and around Bremen, Germany. The newest instrument visited was only 10 years old, the oldest was the Gothic organ from 1457 in nearby Rysum. Romantic organs included were the Sauer organs in the Bremen concert hall "Glocke" (IV/76, 1928) and Cathedral (IV/110, 1893), and the Furtwängler & Hammer (III/54, 1916) in the Cathedral of Verden, the latter wonderfully demonstrated by the house organist Tilman Benfer with pieces by Widor. In outlying towns there are many Arp Schnitger organs to choose from. The North German Baroque expert Harald Vogel himself demonstrated the instruments in Grasberg (II/21, 1694), Ganderkesee (II/22, 1699), and also the Erasmus Bielefeldt organ (II/23, 1734) in Osterholz-Scharmbeck. The Schnitger organ in Cappel (II/30, 1680), made famous by the historic recordings by Helmut Wacha, and Norden (III/46, 1688) were demonstrated by members Elisabeth Harrison and Rhonda Edgington. These were not only exceptionally capable and talented organists, they were also responsible for the entire

organisation of the week. The itinerary, the hotel, meals, transportation, and simultaneous translations were all congenially and conveniently arranged. Even the weather was superb! The Schnitger in Lüdingworth (III/35, 1683) and the Klapmeyer (III/35, 1730) were ably demonstrated by the incumbent Ingo Duvensee. Other interesting instruments rounding out the program included the Gottfried Silbermann (I/8, 1732) in the crypt of the Bremen cathedral, a lesser Romantic Heinrich Röver (II/12, 1897) in Lilienthal, a new organ by Van der Putten (II/23, 2001) in old style with meantone tuning and sub-semitone keys, and the I/9 meantone organ by an anonymous builder of the 16th Century in Uttum. The latter was demonstrated by member Wim Riefel with appropriate music from the Susanne von Soldt Manuscript (1599) and by Sweelinck. A reading here of Sweelinck's Chromatic Fantasie by member Barry Jordan, Cathedral Organist of Magdeburg, highlighted the consequences of meantone tuning on authentic period music. Certainly a most interesting instrument was the Ahrend & Brunzema (III/33, 1962) in the Bremen Martini church. Especially considering other instruments being built at the time (Neo-baroque, "Orgelbewegung"), this organ has incredible tonal colors and truly vocal qualities. It was introduced as probably the best organ in Bremen on which one could play Bach, which several participants proceeded to do. The a-minor Concerto, the G-Major Prelude and Fugue, and the g-minor Fantasie and Fugue all received respectable readings. A benefit concert for the victims of the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear catastrophe in Japan was presented Thursday evening on two of the organs in the Bremen Cathedral (Wegscheider, Sauer). Music for four hands was performed by the cathedral organist Prof. Wolfgang Baumgratz and Megumi Ishida-Hahn. A very special experience was saved up for the final afternoon. The group was treated to a personal tour of the Ahrend organ building workshop in Leer-Loga. Jürgen Ahrend not only built fabulous new organs – in baroque style – he was also responsible for the

restoration of almost all of the Schnitger organs we had visited, and many more which we had not. He and his wife Ruth were also very gracious hosts for lunch in Uttum including an opportunity to follow the royal wedding broadcast and welcomed the group into their home after touring the workshop. He is now semi-retired and his son Hendrik is treading in his father's footsteps. The meeting adjourned in the picturesque "Schnoor" neighbourhood with a closing dinner and ample expressions of gratitude to those responsible for the resounding success, the aforementioned Beth and Rhonda but also Dean Judy Riefel-Lindel for contacts and coordination.

Bernard Sanders,

Members' News

Rhonda Edgington had an article published in the May issue of *The Organ*. It's listed on their website. In it she wrote about the organs of the Bremer Dom. Have a look !

Bernard Sanders' "Four Chorale Preludes on Hymns of Hope and Comfort" have been accepted for publication by Concordia Publishing House of St. Louis, MO. This is the sixth volume of Sanders' organ arrangements of hymn tunes from the Lutheran Service Book that CPH has produced.

Concordia Publishing House also commissioned Sanders to compose a piece for the launch of their on-line Downloadable Library in the Fall. This will include for the most part seasoned works that are out of print but still have viability. They want to attract customers to that Downloadable Library by offering this piece for free. At the same time it was to be something commemorating the 10th anniversary of 9/11 which is why the Hymn "Grant Peace, We Pray, in Mercy, Lord" to a melody by Mendelssohn (Nr. 777 in the Lutheran Service Book) was chosen as the musical theme.

In a concert on Pentecost Sunday, June 12th, Sanders premiered his own organ

composition "The Peace of God" at the Protestant Church of St. Johannes in Bad Dürkheim, Germany.

Under the motto "Dreams and Visions" the European Church Music Festival opened in Schwäbisch Gmünd, Germany, with an ecumenical service on Friday, July 15th. For this service the "Junger Kammerchor Ostwürttemberg" commissioned Sanders to write a motet on the bible text from Genesis 28, 12-17 which they then premiered under the direction of Wilfried Lang. The work, entitled "Jacob's Dream", is scored for SATB div., *a cappella*.

The first work which this choir commissioned from Sanders, "Rejoice, Rejoice, Rejoice", has been accepted for publication by the Christoph Dohr Verlag (Cologne, Germany) and will be released soon.

Heather Hernandez has a new job as organist at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church in Phoenix as of May 1st, 2011. Congratulations, Heather !

At a special RSCM service in Blackburn Cathedral, **Dr John Bertalot**, Cathedral Organist Emeritus of Blackburn Cathedral, and Director of Music Emeritus of Trinity Episcopal Church, Princeton, NJ, was presented with an award to mark his 70 years of achievements in the service of Church music around the world.

The Award was presented by the Lord Bishop of Blackburn, the Right Reverend Nicholas Reade, who told the large congregation why the Award was being made.

'It all began for JB over 70 years ago when he joined his local church choir in Sussex at the age of 8. It was while he was a chorister that he fell in love with church music and began to learn the organ. He later won the major organ scholarship to the Royal College of Music in London, and organ scholarships to Oxford and to Cambridge where he studied, respectively, with Dr Harold Darke, Dr Egon Wellesz,

Dr Boris Ord and Professor Patrick Hadley.

At Cambridge he played the organ in the University Church for Billy Graham's first mission to the University. His first professional post was at St. Matthew's Church, Northampton, which had a superb choir and organ, a large choral society and two orchestras. Benjamin Britten became the active Patron of the St. Matthew's Concerts which JB had founded. JB was also made a Special Commissioner of the RSCM. Then, for 18 years, he was Director of Music of Blackburn Cathedral, and Associate Professor of the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. He founded the Renaissance Singers in 1965 which were rated by the BBC, for two years running shortly after their formation, as the best mixed voice choir in Great Britain. He was closely involved in the financing and (with Dr Francis Jackson) the design of the cathedral's new Walker organ in 1969. He inaugurated weekly lunchtime recitals on the new organ and also ambitious concerts by his Singers and arranged for prestigious musicians to give concerts in the cathedral, including international composer Flor Peeters, the choir of St. John's College, Cambridge and also the King's Singers.

In 1983 he was appointed to Trinity Episcopal Church in the University town of Princeton, New Jersey, which supports one of the most ambitious church music programs in the US. His assistant organists at Trinity included Eric Plutz (now organist of Princeton University Chapel) and Scott Dettra (now organist of Washington National Cathedral). He was also Adjunct Associate Professor at Rider University in Princeton, and he founded the Princeton Singers, which were acknowledged to be one of the top three mixed-voice choirs in the US. His Princeton Singers were the featured choir for the Centennial Conference for the American Guild of Organists in New York City, which was attended by 3000 organists from all over the world. The Princeton Singers also made three concert

tours of the UK, singing to capacity audiences in Westminster Abbey, the Hereford Cathedral Three Choirs' Festival and also in the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge.

He has led choral workshops for choirs and choirmasters on four continents, and his books and compositions are published on both sides of the Atlantic (see Amazon-Bertalot).

Before leaving Princeton he was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Music for his services to Church Music. He was also awarded honorary Fellowships of the Royal School of Church Music, and of the Guild of Church Musicians for his services to Church Music around the world.

He retired to Blackburn 13 years ago and was closely involved in the design and finance for the rebuilding of the Blackburn Cathedral organ in 2002.

JB is now organist of a village church in the heart of the Lancashire countryside, where he has a flourishing adult choir, and where he was closely involved in the design and finance of their brand new organ.'

Jens Korndoerfer is pleased to inform us that his latest CD "Variations ... on America" has just been released and is available online. The program features highlights from more than two centuries of organ music in the New World...

Contents:

Ives: Variations on "America"
Foote: Oriental Sketch
Parker: Allegretto
Selby: Voluntary A-Dur
Chadwick: Pastorale Es-Dur
Buck: Concert Variations on
"The Star-Spangled Banner"
Barber: Adagio for Strings
Lemare: Marche Heroique
Sowerby: Carillon
Albright: Nocturne, Finale - The Offering
+Bolcom: Sweet Hour of Prayer
Jens Korndoerfer / Orgeln Saints-
Angeles-Garidens de Lachine

Montreal, St. Andrew & St. Paul
Montreal

<http://www.jpc.de/jpcng/SESSIONID/d50cae01cc3d426b514fea70f0044174/classic/detail/-/lang/en/currency/EUR/hnum/1151369/art/Jens-Korndoerfer-Variations-on-America>
http://www.schott-musik.de/shop/Zeitschriften/organ/cd/show_281700.html

Jens Korndoerfer
7578 Bloomfield Ave.
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CANADA

William Hurt has a Hauptwerk digital practice organ at home. It has been most successful and runs a variety of sample sets. It has a 3 manual key-desk and 10 channels of sound. If anyone is interested, please contact him directly.

Mr. William Hurt III
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Introducing Our Members

In each issue we'd like to introduce another member. Send us your resumé for inclusion!

News from HQ

**AGO NATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON
ORGAN PEDAGOGY
TO BE PRESENTED IN
COOPERATION WITH
EASTMAN SCHOOL OF
MUSIC**

**EROI Festival 2011: Improvisation and Organ
Pedagogy**
November 10–13, 2011, Rochester, N.Y.



New York. The AGO and the **Eastman School of Music** are partnering to produce the 16th biennial **AGO National Conference on Organ Pedagogy**, November 10–13, 2011, in Rochester, N.Y. The conference, designed in cooperation between the AGO Committee on Continuing Professional Education and the 10th annual **Eastman Rochester Organ Initiative (EROI) Festival**, will present the topic of organ improvisation through a variety of compositional techniques and styles. Complete information, including online registration, is available [online](#). **Early registration discounts are available through August 15.**

"The goal of the AGO's pedagogy conferences is to address various topics and issues pertaining to organ instruction in North America," declared David Heller, director of the AGO Committee on Continuing Professional Education. "The City of Rochester and the Eastman School of Music, with its multiplicity of instruments and performing venues, will provide a superb setting in which to address the topic of improvisation from many different angles, providing information and resources that will be useful to all instructors of the organ at all levels of instruction."

The four-day conference will present master classes featuring students at a variety of levels, panel discussions

addressing the teaching of improvisation, and sessions that will provide attendees with resource material in the pedagogy of improvisation. The keynote address, *Why Is Improvisation So Difficult?*, will be given by Eastman faculty member William Porter.

A distinguished faculty of internationally renowned organists and teachers working in the discipline of organ improvisation will include Jeffrey Brillhart (Yale University), Tony Caramia (Eastman), Sophie-Veronique Cauchefer-Choplin (Royal College of Music, London), Hans Davidsson (Eastman), Michael Dodds (University of North Carolina School of the Arts), Gerre Hancock (Butler School of Music, University of Texas), David Higgs (Eastman), Denise Lanning (Denver Chapter, AGO), Rudolf Lutz (Schola Cantorum Basiliensis), William Marvin (Eastman), Bruce Neswick (Indiana University), David Peckham (Horseheads United Methodist Church, Horseheads, N.Y.), McNeil Robinson (Manhattan School of Music), Pamela Ruiten-Feenstra (author of *Bach and the Art of Improvisation*), John R. Shannon (Sweet Briar College), and Daniel Zager (Eastman).

For further information, please contact please contact EROI Festival Coordinator Annie Laver at 585-274-1564 or e-mail anne.laver@rochester.edu.

**THOMAS MURRAY HONORED BY
AGO NATIONAL COUNCIL**

Celebration of Brilliant Performer,
Teacher, and Friend Raised \$30,000 in
New Haven, Conn., Benefitting AGO
Endowment Fund

New York. The AGO presented its eighth annual Recital and Gala Benefit Reception on Sunday, May 15, at Yale University in New Haven, Conn. An estimated audience of 500 colleagues, students, and friends came together to celebrate the lifetime achievements of Thomas Murray on the occasion of his thirtieth anniversary at Yale.

European News

The gala was sponsored by the AGO National Council and its Development Committee. Major funding was provided by the Yale Institute of Sacred Music and Pemcor Inc. of Lancaster, Pa., printer of *The American Organist*. The event raised \$30,000 to be invested in the AGO Endowment Fund in Thomas Murray's honor.

The recital, which was played by Thomas Murray on the world renowned Newberry Memorial Organ in Woolsey Hall, was introduced by Craig Whitney, New York Times assistant managing editor (retired) and author of *All the Stops: The Glorious Pipe Organ and Its American Masters*. Professor Murray's program included Bach's Toccata in F Major (BWV 540), Sonata II (1937) by Hindemith, selections from Symphony I on Gregorian Themes (1932) by Guy Weitz, and the Symphony in D Minor by Franck, transcribed by Calvin Hampton. A reception, which was attended by 125 individuals, followed in the Yale President's Room.

Established in 1994, the AGO Endowment Fund provides income to expand programs for leadership development among AGO members; educate new organists; and cultivate new audiences for organ and choral music. Tax-deductible contributions to the Endowment Fund are invested in perpetuity to produce continuing income support for essential Guild programs and educational projects.

Those unable to attend the gala will receive a copy of the souvenir program book with their contribution of \$25 or more to the Endowment Fund. Contributions in honor of Thomas Murray can be made online at www.agohq.org or by mailing a check to: AGO Endowment Fund, 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1260, New York, NY 10115. All gifts will be acknowledged in *The American Organist*. For information, please call 212-870-2311 (ext. 4308) or e-mail gala@agohq.org. ■

Dear friends and colleagues,

Finally there's good news from Trier: The new organ of Konstantin-Basilika will be built definitely and will sound for the first time at Christmas 2014 !

Enthusiastically writing these lines concerning the current state of our organ project, I naturally do this from my personal perspective. However, the context in which this unique organ project has to be seen makes it clear very soon that it is a matter of cultural-historical, church-linked and political and not least theological dimensions in which the relation of the organist to "his" new instrument appears only as a small part of the whole.

With highest respect for all individuals and institutions that were involved in the long and highly complex process of preparation and approval I can state even today that the participation in this process has been a personal benefit for me. Because here I could and still can experience many people - committed to the most different disciplines and partly representing diverging positions - gradually converging on an intense way of discussing one certain question and finally reaching consensus in its results. I consider this as being very encouraging and standard-setting when it comes to dialogue culture and mutual respect.

In 2001 the idea of building a new main organ for the Konstantin-Basilika in Trier was approached seriously and thanks to the generous help of the state of Rhineland-Palatinate very soon a genuine perspective for the realization of this vision was created. Now, 10 years and countless creative working hours later, it is finally done: the organ builder, the appearance and the completion date of the new organ can be announced officially!

I am more than happy about all this and – as I have been promising continually about the past years - I would like to share with you our anticipation and the current state of official information, sending you some links and information.

Organ builder

The new main organ for our church will be built by the renowned German organ building company Hermann Eule Orgelbau from Bautzen (Saxony):

www.euleorgelbau.de

Architect

The architectural office Auer & Weber (Stuttgart / Munich) will be commissioned with the exterior design of the instrument:

www.auer-weber.de

First presentation of the project

In our daily paper the following article from march 23d 2011 was published as the first official presentation of the project (you can find a computer generated image of the projected instrument here as well):

<http://www.volksfreund.de/nachrichten/region/kultur/Kultur-in-der-Region-Das-lange-Warten-hat-ein-Ende;art764,2724290>

Moreover, there was a short interview:

<http://www.volksfreund.de/nachrichten/region/kultur/Kultur-in-der-Region-Drei-Fragen-an-Basilika-Kantor-Martin-Bambauer;art764,2724285>

The organ project on the internet:

Further articles can be found on the following websites:

www.musik-konstantin-basilika.de – die Website der Kirchenmusik an der Basilika:

www.musik-konstantin-basilika.de

the website of church music at Konstantin-Basilika:

<http://www.musik-konstantin-basilika.de/neue-hauptorgel.html>

www.trierer-orgelpunkt.de – Chor- und Orgelmusik in Deutschlands ältester Stadt:

www.trierer-orgelpunkt.de

Choir and organ music in Germany's oldest city:

<http://www.trierer-orgelpunkt.de/neuebasilikaorgel.htm>

Public exhibition of the architectural drafts:

On Tuesday, April 12th, 2011 the opening of the exhibition of the architectural drafts for the new organ took place at 7 p.m. in the Basilika. This event simultaneously marked the completion of the architectural competition and the beginning of the implementation phase of the project. The ceremony was framed by music for trumpet and organ (Markus Schwind, trumpet).

Reports on this can be found here:

<http://www.volksfreund.de/nachrichten/region/kultur/Kultur-in-der-Region-Ein-passgenaues-Instrument;art764,2751004>

www.ekkt.de – the Website of the Evangelischen Kirchenkreises Trier (with Videos):

www.ekkt.de – the website of the Protestant Church community Trier (with video clips):

[http://www.ekir.de/trier/448.0.html?&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=2073&tx_ttnews\[backPid\]=34&cHash=d36fc4ed02dcf604f93837438d009ebc](http://www.ekir.de/trier/448.0.html?&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=2073&tx_ttnews[backPid]=34&cHash=d36fc4ed02dcf604f93837438d009ebc)

Inauguration and further information

The organ shall be inaugurated at Christmas 2014. And as we all know that nothing returns as fast as Christmas ☺, the remaining perceived waiting time should not turn out too long.

As soon as there are further announcements to be made you will find them on the websites already mentioned:

[www.musik-konstantin-basilika](http://www.musik-konstantin-basilika.de)

www.ekkt.de

www.trierer-orgelpunkt.de

On behalf of our parish and also personally, I would like to give my wholehearted thanks to all institutions and individuals that have supported the organ project financially and ideally and have invested their valuable time and competences up to this point.

Now I wish you all a blessed Easter season!

Best regards from style Trier,

Martin Bambauer

Recitals Past and Present

*You can advertise here for your concert engagements to come as well as report those past.
Please submit items for the next Newsletter !*

- May 13th 5 PM Rhonda Sider Edgington, Organ Church of Unser Lieben Frauen, Bremen (D)
Music by Sweelinck, Buxtehude, Daniel Pinkham, Scheidemann, and Muffat
- June 5th Otto M. Krämer, Organ Münster, Salem (D)
Improvisation Concert on the historical Schwarz Organ together with Matthias Mück
- June 18th Jennifer Chou, Organ Dunblane Cathedral, Scotland
- June 29th Rhonda Sider Edgington, Organ Holy Trinity Luth. Church, York Springs, PA
Concert as part of the AGO Region III Convention on the Taylor and Boody organ
Music by Muffat, Sweelinck, Scheidemann, Buxtehude, Luebeck, and Bach
- July 31st 6 PM Rhonda Sider Edgington, Organ St Peter and Paul Church, Niederndodeleben (D)
Music by Luebeck, Boehm, Buxtehude, Sweelinck, Krebs, Bach
- August 14th 5 PM Rhonda Sider Edgington, Organ Basedow Church, Basedow (D)
Music by Luebeck, Boehm, Buxtehude, Sweelinck, J Praetorius, Scheidemann
- Sept. 18th 6 PM Otto M. Krämer, Organ (Impro.) Catholic Church, Moers-Meerbeck (D)
- Oct. 16th 5 PM Otto M. Krämer, Organ (Improvisation) St. Hubert, Kempen (D)

Every Saturday (11:30) Organ Music at Market Time Marktkirche, Wiesbaden (D)
Hans Uwe Hielscher and guest organists from around the world

