

American Guild of Organists

Chartered 1896

European Chapter

Chartered 1979

Newsletter January 2011

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The Dean's Corner

Dear Members,

2011 has begun with a whirl of activity behind the scenes in the European Chapter. On our agenda are two very special events: The AGO/European Chapter Quimby Competition for Young Organists in London and the European Chapter "Schnitger Plus" Spring Meeting in Bremen. Dates: Saturday, 26 February in London and Easter Monday to Friday, 25-29 April in Bremen. Please read the details for both events in this newsletter and don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions about either.

Both the Competition and the Spring Meeting have already had wonderful responses from members and non-members alike and I find it particularly rewarding to experience how these activities are alive and well in our chapter! In fact, they are "so much" alive that your European Chapter board was forced to make the decision to ask YOU, our Members, if you can give us extra support financially for these 2011 events. Unfortunately our European Chapter treasury, which consists only of the Chapter portion of the yearly dues of our members, is not able to finance both events adequately. By making a donation, however small or large, for the Quimby and by paying a Registration Fee for the Spring Meeting, we can do it!!

Many, many thanks go to our member in London, Ann Elise Smoot, who is the Quimby Competition Coordinator for this event and who has been working for months already corresponding with potential candidates, locating judges and making preparations at the church where it will take place. This is a

tremendous amount of work. Please read her Quimby report in this newsletter. It's exciting!!

Many, many thanks go also to our two members who are organizing our Spring Meeting in Bremen and surrounding, Beth Harrison (USA) and Rhonda Edgington (Bremen). As usual for our Spring Meetings, preparations began months in advance and require untold amounts of decision-making and communication via e-mail, telephone and face-to-face, plus preparation visits to churches, restaurants, hotels + more. How lucky we are to have members prepared to do this for the European Chapter!!

With all best wishes and greetings from wintry Holland,
Judy

The Secretary's Voice

Dear Members,

Keeping it brief, I would also like to thank all of the members who have contributed articles and information for this issue of the Newsletter. With our expanded membership it is becoming a more interesting platform to inform colleagues and friends about important events. Whether you have news to report or concerts to announce think about sending them for inclusion in the upcoming issues. You might be surprised who turns up !

Please submit your items for the next Newsletter before March 31st !

Wishing you all a good read !

Bernard

bernard.sanders@t-online.de

News from the Board

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Support your Board, be an active Member!

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!

Address Corrections

Please correct the following addresses in your latest Membership List:

Jennifer Chou

Please remove her optusnet email. Her new email address effective immediately is

bach000@tpg.com.au

also possible are:

bachbwv000@gmail.com

jenchou@alumni.northwestern.edu

Mobile: 0410 844 552

Web: www.jennifer-chou.com

Kerry Beaumont

e-mail: info@kerrybeaumont.org

Andrea Koroscha:

Marktplaats 18/1

Axel Wilberg

An der Kirche 1

D-53894 Mechernich.

Mob: +49 170 5942478

Quimby Competition Update

We need your help!

We have had an outstanding response to the Chapter's 26 February Quimby Competition, receiving enquiries from 17 young organists! (I would wager that this is an unprecedented level of interest in any Quimby competition to date.) Unfortunately, the down side of this is that we had to limit our intake to the first 8 applications received as it would be impossible to accommodate a larger number of competitors in one day, and indeed would also make practice arrangements impossible.

Because of this wonderful response, the expenses associated with the competition have grown. Amongst other things, the church has had to be booked for longer and our three distinguished judges need to be paid enough to compensate them for a full day of judging. 8 rounds of 40 minutes apiece with a couple of breaks for discussion and writing notes soon adds up!

A very special and important way that YOU can help the European Chapter would be to make any donation, however small (or large!) to help with defraying some of these costs. In particular, we want to be able to provide a reasonable amount of prize money to our winner - who will be representing the European Chapter in the Region II competition - as this will help defray some of his/her expenses in travelling to New Jersey this July. Your generous donation would be acknowledged publicly in TAO, in our Chapter Newsletter and at the Regional Convention.

I am delighted that we have so many young organists willing and eager to compete! I look forward to the 26th of February.

Ann Elise Smoot

-- EUROPEAN CHAPTER -- -- SPRING MEETING --

Schnitger Plus: A Tour of Schnitger Organs and more in Bremen and the Surrounding Areas; April 25-30, 2011

Join the Bremen Town Musicians for our 2011 Spring Meeting!



“Come with us to Bremen - you can become a town musician there.” As the donkey and the dog invited the cat (and later the rooster) to join them in the famous Brother's Grimm Fairy Tale, we want

to invite you to join us in Bremen and the surrounding areas for the European AGO Annual Spring Meeting. Just as the Bremen Town Musicians, a band of music-loving strangers become friends through their journey and adventures, we also will become friends as we share music, adventures, meals, and much more.

Highlights of our week include the Schnitger organs in Norden, Ludingworth, Grasberg, and Stade. Older organs include Rysum (unknown builder, 1457) and Uttum (unknown builder, 16th century). Don't forget, we will also visit wonderful instruments from nineteenth and twentieth centuries, including the Wilhelm Sauer Organ from 1893 in the St. Petri Cathedral in Bremen. Prof. Harald Vogel will accompany us on one of our days and we look forward to his organ demonstrations and his insights into the organ landscape of his home. We will also visit the Ahrend workshop where we will be treated to a tour of the workshop hosted by Hendrik Ahrend, master organ builder.

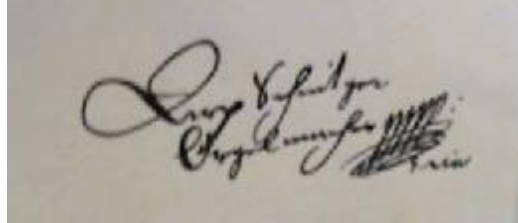
Think about joining us! It's the easiest way to familiarize yourself with the North German organ landscape. If you're thinking of attending the Spring Meeting, please contact Judy Riefel at judith.riefel-lindel@wanadoo.nl. Costs, hotel, and other information are listed below.

**Deadline to register for Spring Meeting:
February 25, 2011**

Registration fee:

**50€ for Chapter Members
100 € for non-members**

Hotel Residence



<http://www.hotelresidence.de/en>

Hohenlohestraße 42
28209 Bremen - Mitte
Phone: +49-421-348710
Fax: +49-421-342322

E-Mail: info@hotelresidence.de

Single Rooms: 77 € per night, double rooms are 88 €, 99 €, or 111 € per night

Remember to tell them that you are part of the “AGO” for our discounted rate!

Our rooms will be held

ONLY until Feb. 25 !

*Rhonda Edgington
and Beth Harrison*

Members' News

Heather Hernandez and her husband Robert are proud to report the birth of their second son Jacob on December 19th.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to the whole family from the European Chapter !

Dr. Heather Hernandez
Director of Parish Music
Lutheran Church of the Master,
Phoenix, AZ
Phoenix Girls Chorus, accompanist
Secretary, Phoenix (AZ)
Sigma Alpha Iota Alumnae Chapter
Director for Doctoral Grant Program,
Sigma Alpha Iota Philanthropies, Inc.

Carolyn Shuster Fournier Chas recorded a new CD with the title “In Memoriam Nadia Boulanger” read more about this under European News.

Another of **Bernard Sanders'** compositions was broadcast on the nationally syndicated radio program PIPE DREAMS. Their program Nr. 1050 entitled "**The Holy Birth**" included his "Theme and Variations on *Ihr Kinderlein Kommet*" as performed by Julian Bewig on the 2002 Fischer & Krämer organ in Saint Mary's Church in Emsdetten, Germany. Tune in to PIPE DREAMS and listen to the program!

Introducing Our Members

AUDREY JACOBSEN

*B.A., M.Mus., Prix de Virtuosit -Paris,
Fulbright Scholar to Italy
Concert Organist - Church Musician - Teacher
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AudreyJ5@cox.net*

Curriculum Vitae of Audrey Jacobsen - American Organist

Audrey Jacobsen has had a distinguished career as a concert pianist, concert organist, church musician, and university level teacher. Her performance career in music began at the age of seven as a child prodigy concert pianist.

She earned the B.A. degree in Music with a double performance major of Organ and Piano from Wilkes College and received her Master of Music in organ performance from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. After graduation she continued her organ study with four years of post-graduate, independent organ study with European artist-teachers in Switzerland, France and Italy. She was the first American organist to be awarded the "Prix de Virtuosit " in both performance and improvisation at the Schola Cantorum in Paris. This was awarded with highest honors - *avec mention tr s bien*. Her study in Paris with Jean Langlais included private study at his home, at the Basilica of Sainte Clotilde, and master classes at the Schola Cantorum with emphasis on the organ works of C sar Franck and Jean Langlais. While in Europe, she also received a Fulbright scholarship and

subsequent renewal to the Conservatorio di Santa Cecilia in Rome, Italy. Her European artist-teachers were Hans Vollenweider, Jean Langlais, Gaston Litaize, Fernando Germani and Luigi Ferdinando Tagliavini.

She has had an extensive career in church music in Europe and in the United States. Her church positions as organist/director have included: The Anglican Church of the British Embassy, Paris-France and St. Paul's Within-the-Walls American Episcopal Church, Rome-Italy; as organist/director of four choirs: Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Los Angeles; and as organist: Trinity Anglican Church (now Cathedral) in Brussels-Belgium and Principal Cathedral Organist of Holy Family Cathedral, Orange, CA. She is currently the Principal Organist of San Francisco Solano Catholic Church, Rancho Santa Margarita, California.

As a teacher, Audrey Jacobsen has been Chair of the Organ Department and University Organist at the University of Redlands, CA, and teacher/founder of the Center for Organ Study and Performance at Holy Family Cathedral, Orange, CA.

Ms. Jacobsen continues to concertize in the United States and in Europe (France, Italy, Switzerland, and Denmark). Recent solo organ recitals have been at First Congregational Church of Los Angeles, the Ordrup Kirke International Organ Festival, Ordrup-Denmark, the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, Los Angeles, Holy Family Cathedral, Orange, CA, and AGO chapter recitals in California including Kern County and Central Coast chapters. Her concert activities include concerto performances (at the University of Redlands, Redlands, CA, and at Holy Family Catholic Cathedral, Orange, CA, performing the Poulenc Organ Concerto), Trumpet-Organ Duo (with Alfred Lang), and Organ Duo with Hans-Ulrik Holm in Gentofte-Denmark.

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

European News

Carolyn Shuster Fournier's new CD "*In Memoriam Nadia Boulanger*" is as informative as it is interesting. The program presents French and American compositions by and around this circumspect musician and pedagogue. With only two exceptions the music was composed during her lifetime, between 1887 and 1979. In spite of this there is an incredible diversity in style and content from the authentic Romantic of Gabriel Fauré (*Pie Jesu*), whose Requiem she often conducted and recorded, to the unreconciling early pieces by her American students Aaron Copland (*Preamble for a Solemn Occasion*, 1949/53) and Virgil Thomson (*Pastorale*, 1922). Next to these are a traditional but finely chiselled Fugue (from "*Trois Pièces*", 1920) which Jacques Ibert dedicated to Nadia Boulanger and the "*Suite Carmelite*" (1960) by Jean François, one of her French students. The temporal exceptions I mentioned are "*Mosaïques*" composed in 1989 by Noël Lee, a resident of Paris born in China, and "*Prelude and Fugue*" composed in 2003 by Denver born David Conte, both of whom also studied with Mlle. Boulanger. The booklet in French and English contains a wealth of information and interesting photographs of the composers and interpreters. Saving the best for last, the program also includes all four of Nadia Boulanger's compositions for organ and a very moving setting of "*Pie Jesu*" by her younger sister, Lili Boulanger. Both settings of the "*Pie Jesu*" are sung exquisitely by Magali Léger, a rising star French soprano whose New York debut in Merklin Hall, New York, was celebrated in January 2010. Carolyn puts a virtuosic technique and faible for sensuous colors, both tempered by impeccable taste, in the service of her interpretations, consistently bringing out the best of the compositions. The Cavaillé-Coll organ in the church of St-Antoine-des-Quinze-Vingts in Paris was an ideal choice for this recording, combining a broad tonal palette with a warm but not too reverberant acoustic. Perhaps this is an organist's CD for organists, but it's from the top drawer and one not to be missed !

After reviewing the newest CD from our Paris connection I pulled out my copy of the CD "*Elégie: In Memoriam Marcel Dupré*" which Carolyn recorded several years ago together with the German Cellist Julius Berger. Indeed I had forgotten how lovely it is. In contrast to the Boulanger-CD this recording does not at all make the impression of being "modern", even though the compositions once again are all firmly imbedded in the 20th Century (from 1911 to 1971). Perhaps the chamber music idiom or even the *cantabile* voice of the Cello itself kindle an emotional response in the listener. The selections are all somewhat off the beaten path of standard repertoire (for which I, personally, am very thankful!). The program opens with an unpublished "Lamento" for organ solo by Jean-Dominique Pasquet utilizing the note names of Marcel Dupré composed the day after his death. Dupré's own Sonata in a-minor for Cello and Organ (1964), his last chamber work written in the year after the death of his daughter, is immediately followed by his Three Pieces for Cello and Piano (1916) in transcription for Cello and Organ. In these six movements we experience a cross section of his compositional creativity and mastery. Louis Viérne dedicated his 3rd Organ Symphony to his "dear pupil and dear friend" Dupré. The Adagio movement is rendered here in a transcription for Cello and Organ. Also included are a "Prière" by Camille Saint-Saëns and "Andantino religioso" by Émile Bourdon, both for Cello and Organ. The CD closes as it opened with an organ solo, Bourdon's "Elégie" *in memory of his very dear friend Marcel Dupré*. The choice of instruments surely contributed to the romantic impression. The two organ solos are preformed on the Cavaillé-Coll organ in the church of St. Bernhard in Mainz, Germany, the pieces with Cello on the Merklin-Schütze organ in the Reformed Church of the Holy Spirit in Paris, which was rebuilt by Cavaillé-Coll-Mutin. The Cello playing leaves nothing to be desired and the Organ is far more than accompaniment. On the Boulanger-CD Carolyn had ample opportunity to demonstrate her virtuosity, on this CD it's her musicality that is showcased. Each performer is brilliant alone but the final result is much more than the sum of the two parts. Pardon my rave reviews but it's all deserved. Convince yourself !

Bernard Sanders

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 !*

- Nov. 14th 4:30 PM Giorgio Parolini, Organ St. Louis en l'Île, Paris (F)
Works by D. Buxtehude, B. Storace, G. Boehm, J.S. Bach, D. Zipoli, J.L. Krebs
- Nov. 16th 8:30 PM Giorgio Parolini, Organ St. Médard, Brunoy (F)
Works by G. Frescobaldi, B. Storace, B. Pasquini, J.S. Bach, D. Zipoli, G. Gherardeschi, V. Bellini
- Nov. 28th 4 PM Giorgio Parolini, Organ St. Ignazio di Loyola, Milan (I)
Works by Storace, Zipoli, Boehm, Bach, Krebs, Gherardeschi, Bellini, Reger, Bossi, Widor
- Dec. 4th 5 PM Otto Maria Krämer, Organ Salvatorkirche, Ruhr (D)
Improvisation to the Silent Movie "Metropolis"
- Dec. 4th 3 PM Johan Hermans, Andrea Koroscha, Organ St. Quintinus Cathedral, Hasselt (B)
Works for 4 Hands and 4 Feet by C.V.H. Alkan, P.D.Q. Bach, A. Willscher and G. F. Haendel

2011

- Jan. 23rd 5:45 PM Carolyn Shuster Fournier, Organ St. Nicolas-du Chardonnet, Paris (F)
Concert on the centenary of the birth of Jehan Alain (Feb. 3rd 1911)
Works by Louis Marchand, J.S. Bach, Maurice Duruflé, Jehan Alain
- Feb. 6th 4 PM Susan Landale, Organ St. Louis de la Salpêtrière Chapel, Paris (F)
Works by Bach, Buxtehude, Guilman; assisted by Gwenaëlle Clémino, soprano
- Feb. 10th 8 PM Didier Matry, Organ Notre-Dame de l'Assomption, Meudon (F)
Works by Bach, Mendelssohn, Gigout, Matry, Dupré, Alain, Gouinguéné, Franck
- April 24th 4 PM Didier Matry, Organ St. Louis de la Salpêtrière Chapel, Paris (F)
Concert for Easter; assisted by Agnès Matry, Trumpet

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

