



American Guild of Organists

Chartered 1896

European Chapter

Chartered 1979

Newsletter January 2012

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The Dean's Corner

Dear European Chapter Members,

Happy New Year! I hope you've refreshed your spirits during the holidays and are ready to launch into the New Year with inspired hope and enthusiasm. May I suggest a special way for you to "charge your batteries" in 2012? Make plans now to attend the European Chapter Spring Meeting in York, England, during the week after Easter, 9-13 April. Bring your spouses and music-loving friends! As you will read in this newsletter, three of our English members are ready to welcome us in York. They have been working tirelessly for months to make this **another fantastic Spring Meeting**. Let's not disappoint them. Let's tell them immediately that we are planning to come. I guarantee -- (and I know I say this every year because IT'S TRUE)-- you will not regret your decision to choose to spend this time together with European Chapter colleagues and friends, exchanging ideas, listening to- and playing wonderful organs in beautiful churches, enjoying meals together, making new international contacts and friends. I look forward to meeting you in York!

Now let me introduce and extend a warm welcome to our three newest European Chapter AGO members: David Backus from Schwangau, Germany and Lois and Thomas Toepfner from Westborough, Massachusetts, USA. Don't miss the article written by Dr. Backus in

this newsletter about the Heinrich Fleischer Centennial in Eisenach, Germany, taking place in July. Everyone is invited to attend! And you can meet Lois and Thomas Toepfner this year, as well, at the York Spring Meeting. Lois is currently serving as National Secretary of the AGO! Watch for more information about these new members in future newsletters in the "Introducing our Members" column.

With all best wishes,

Judy

The Secretary's Voice

Dear Members,

I, too, hope that the New Year 2012 is off to a great start for all of you! As you can read in the following pages our members are as active as ever and our Chapter has some great things in store for 2012. Don't wait any longer to make your plans and bookings for the Spring Meeting. It's important for the preparations to know how many will be attending. Read more about it, and other great events in Europe and Stateside, in the following pages. I haven't given up hope that some of our new members will submit material to introduce themselves in the next issue of the Newsletter. Wishing you all a good read!

Bernard

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**Please submit your items for the next
Newsletter before March 30th!**

News from the Board

European Chapter Membership list 2011/2012: Additions and Corrections

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Support your Board, be an active Member!

European Chapter Spring Meeting 2012 “Organs of Yorkshire” York, England

Planning for our Spring Meeting 2012 is really moving into top gear now! All venues, coach transport and meals are booked, the hotel is ready and waiting to receive your reservation and the three of us are all lined up to welcome you to some of the finest organs in Yorkshire next April!

It's been a real pleasure to put the arrangements in place for what promises to

be a fascinating week together. Since detailed information was published in the November Chapter Newsletter many members have already completed their bookings but we still have room for several more. If you are considering joining us, do please complete your reservation with our hotel as soon as possible and notify John Falkingham and Judy, our Dean, by email as requested in our last Newsletter.

In response to queries from members, you may find the following further information helpful in completing your plans.

If joining us from mainland Europe or the States we recommend that you arrange flights into Manchester International Airport rather than into London. (A shuttle flight from London to Manchester is an option). Manchester Airport has a train station within the airport complex from which you can take a train directly to York without the need for any changes. On arrival in York you will probably find it best to take a taxi to the hotel, although it is only a short walk there from York train station.

When you make your hotel booking with the Queens Hotel (details in November Newsletter), those of you requiring a twin or double room will need to take the £104.00 per room option for Monday April 9th, since this includes the welcome dinner on that date, as well as breakfast on the following day. For Tuesday April 10th through to Friday April 13th you will require the £77.50 per room option which includes breakfast but no evening meal.

In contrast with previous years, we are planning to take rather more lunches and evening dinners together than has sometimes been the case. As a result the sterling cash payment due on arrival will not only include your coach transport throughout the week but also two lunches and three evening meals. (A fourth will have been included in your hotel booking).

Although the value of this cash payment will depend to some extent on final numbers booking, we currently estimate

that it will be between £110 and £120 each, which is good value considering the number of meals included! Please note that the additional registration fee does not apply to AGO members or to Chapter Friends.

As mentioned in our last newsletter article, our itinerary is subject to minor changes, two of which we are delighted to share with you. Since we were last in touch, arrangements have been put in place for the winner of the 2011 Quimby Competition, Ben Bloor, to present a recital to members during our day based in the City of York. Ben is currently Organ Scholar at New College, Oxford, and is not to be missed!

Our second “stop press” item is equally pleasing to share. We have discovered that York Minster will be presenting a full programme of Choral Evensongs during our week in the city, despite this being directly after Easter. Prior to our visit to the Minster organ on Tuesday April 10th we will thus have the chance to take part in this most special aspect of English cathedral worship!

As mentioned in November, if you would like any further information or advice in completing your booking please feel free to contact John Falkingham directly by email at the following address: john.falk24@tiscali.co.uk

Since we need to confirm final numbers with our venues and for transport and meals shortly, please arrange your flights and hotel booking as quickly as possible now in order to secure your place with us in April. We need to receive confirmation of your booking by the end of February at the latest and look forward to welcoming you to England for a delightful week together after Easter!

*John Falkingham
Mike Irvine
John Swindells*

European News

**HEINRICH FLEISCHER
CENTENNIAL
IN EISENACH / THÜRINGEN**

Heinrich Fleischer (born April 1st, 1912 in Eisenach, passed away 28 February, 2006 in Minneapolis, USA) would have reached his hundredth birthday in 2012; this Centennial will be marked by students, friends and colleagues from July 1st to September 15th under the auspices of the Culture Office of the city of Eisenach. An exposition in the City Museum of Eisenach opens in the afternoon of July 1st and runs throughout. Later the same afternoon Professor Stefan Engels, Hochschule für Musik und Theater Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, Leipzig, plays a memorial organ concert in the Georgenkirche where Johann Sebastian Bach and also Heinrich Fleischer were baptized. The churches Schuke organ stands in the casework of the Sterzing organ built under the direction of Bach's uncle.

Heinrich Fleischer studied in the Latin School in Eisenach where Martin Luther and Johann Sebastian Bach preceded him, Fleischer himself being a grand nephew in the eleventh Generation of Martin Luther. Guided towards a career in music by family friend Rudolph Mauersberger, then Cantor and Organist in the Georgenkirche, Fleischer studied two years in Weimar with Michael Schneider and completed his study under Karl Straube in Leipzig. After two years as Organist and Cantor in Saalfeld and Jena, Fleischer was called by Straube to Leipzig where he became Organist of the University Church of St. Paul and the youngest Lecturer (soon Professor) in the Leipziger Hochschule.

Fleischer earned his Ph.D. degree in Musicology after studies at the Universities of Jena and Leipzig. After the Second World War Fleischer was called to Valparaiso University in the USA as guest- and soon tenured professor, from where he participated in the then blossoming church music revival, particularly in Lutheran circles and soon became well known as recitalist and lecturer throughout the USA.

From 1952 until 1959 Fleischer was University Organist of the University of Chicago (Rockefeller Memorial Chapel) and Professor in the Department of Music

and the Divinity School. In earlier years he taught organ also at Chicago Musical College. From 1959 until his retirement in 1982 Fleischer was professor of organ at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

Fleischer's intellect and experience placed him in a position to exert through his teaching, playing and editing of organ music, and continual activity as lecturer, a strong and durable influence. In the eighties he was subject of a doctoral dissertation at Minnesota, and in 2002 a Festschrift appeared at his ninetieth birthday with articles in German and English edited by a committee of former students and colleagues.

Following Professor Engels' concert on Sunday are four lectures:

Monday, July 2nd

Prof. Bruce Backer, New Ulm/USA
lectures in the museum on
Heinrich Fleischer

Tuesday, July 3rd

Prof. Dr. David Backus
(Fleischer student and organizer of the Centennial) lectures on Albert Schweitzer
in the Bach-haus, Eisenach

Wednesday, July 4th

Prof. Dean Billmeyer, Minneapolis/USA
(Heinrich Fleischer's successor as organ professor at the Univ. of Minnesota)
lectures on Heinrich Fleischer with musical illustrations in the Heinkirche,
Eisenach

Friday, July 6th

Prof. Dr. Daniel Chorzempa, Florence/Italy
lectures in the museum
Dr. Chorzempa, widely known as recitalist (also Cembalo and Piano) and Phillips recording artist, was a Fleischer student and Fleischer's Assistant at the University of Minnesota before he earned his Ph.D. and moved to Europe.

Lectures are in German without translation.

Further information, including hotel reservation and transport information is available from

Director, Kulturstadt Eisenach
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(only in German)

or

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Stateside News

HONORING AND REMEMBERING HEINRICH FLEISCHER

Steve Gentile and Diana Lee Lucker will be presenting a recital on Sunday, January 15th at 3:00 PM at Wayzata Community Church, 125 Wayzata Boulevard East in Wayzata by Minneapolis, Minnesota. This will be the first recital in a series “Honoring and Remembering Heinrich Fleischer (1912-2006)”. April 1st, 2012 will mark the 100th anniversary of his birth. Gentile will be performing works that he studied with Fleischer. The second part of the recital will be three duets for organ and piano. Diana Lee Lucker will be the pianist. The *Passacaglia* written for Gentile by Massimo Nosetti will be featured.

The second recital in the series will be on Sunday, February 26 at Como Park Lutheran Church in Saint Paul at 3 PM. The third will be on April 1st at First Lutheran Church in Saint Peter.

PROGRAM (Jan. 15th)

J. S. Bach: Clavierübung Chorale-preludes and the St. Anne Fugue (E-flat)
Johannes Brahms: Two Chorale-preludes
César Franck: Fantaisie in A-Major
Max Reger: Toccata & Fugue in D

Massimo Nosetti: Passacaglia
C. Franck: Prelude, Fugue and Variation
E. Demarest: Fantaisie

- a reception will follow the program -

News from HQ

AGO National Convention
Nashville, Tennessee – July 1-6, 2012

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USA

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS AWARDED \$15,000 GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

NEA Funding Will Support New Music, Workshops, and Performances at the 51st Biennial AGO National Convention in Nashville, Tenn., July 1–6, 2012

New York. The AGO has been awarded a grant by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to support the 2012 AGO National Convention in Nashville, Tenn., July 1–6, 2012. The \$15,000 NEA “Art Works” grant is directed to new music, workshops, and performances, and carries a mandate that it be matched dollar for dollar from other funding sources. The 2012 AGO National Convention is the third consecutive AGO National Convention that has garnered funding from the arts endowment.

AGO President Eileen Guenther stated, “The recognition by the NEA reaffirms the importance of new music commissions to increase organ and choral repertoire available to future generations, and to increase the American public’s knowledge of and appreciation for contemporary classical music. The AGO is especially interested in supporting new music for the concert stage, as there are increasing numbers of American concert halls, including the Schermerhorn Symphony

Center in Nashville, with new concert organs.”

AGO Executive Director James Thomashower added, “It is an honor to be recognized by the NEA. We are highly grateful for this grant that will enable us to continue our tradition of presenting outstanding musical performances when we meet for our 2012 AGO National Convention in Nashville.”

NEA Chairman Rocco Landesman announced that the agency will award 863 grants to organizations and individuals across the country. The 863 grant awards total \$22.543 million, encompass 15 artistic disciplines and fields, and support projects in 47 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. “Art Works is the guiding principle at the NEA,” said Agency Chairman Landesman. “And I’m pleased to see that principle represented through the Art Works-funded projects that demonstrate the imaginative and innovative capacities of artists and arts organizations to enhance the quality of life in their communities.”

For its 51st biennial National Convention in Nashville, Tenn., the AGO has commissioned new compositions from Diana Burrell, David Conte, Eleanor Daley, Craig Phillips, Rosephanye Dunn Powell, and Roberto Sierra. The NEA grant will support these newly commissioned works and their premier performances, as well as educational workshops and concert programming during the convention. The roster of convention performers will include organ recitalists Sophie-Véronique Cauchefér-Choplin, Matthew Dirst, Ahreum Han, Hector Olivera, Jane Parker-Smith, Craig Phillips, Raul Prieto Ramirez, Cherry Rhodes, Tom Trenney, and Thomas Trotter, plus winners of the AGO National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance, the AGO National Competition in Organ Improvisation, and the AGO/Quimby Regional Competitions for Young Organists; choral ensembles Choir of Trinity College (Cambridge) and Nashville Chamber Choir; and

instrumental ensembles Nashville Baroque Ensemble, Nashville Symphony (with organists Nathan Laube and Todd Wilson), and Joseph Gramley/Clive Driskill-Smith (organ and percussion duo).

For further information about the 2012 AGO National Convention, please visit www.Ago2012.org. For further information about the National Endowment for the Arts, please visit www.Nea.gov.

Members' News

Jens Korndoerfer has uploaded highlights from his live performances during the Canadian International Organ Competitions (www.ciocm.org). Here is the link to his Youtube-Channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/JensKorndoerfer>

Rhonda Edgington has an organist position at the Hope Church, Reformed Church of America in Holland, MI, where she now lives with her family (see the address correction above). She also now has a manager for her concert activity: www.arielartists.com and does some accompanying at Hope College.

Basilica Organist Martin Bambauer visits Fort Worth (Texas)

For 9 days AGO European chapter member Martin Bambauer, organist and choirmaster at Konstantin-Basilika Trier, stayed in Trier’s American sister city, Fort Worth (Texas). The invitation came about in cooperation of the Trier Committee of Fort Worth Sister Cities and the Fort Worth Chapter of the AGO.

During his stay, Martin gave two recitals on important instruments in the Fort Worth area. On Sunday, October 23rd, he played the marvellous Casavant organ of Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth - with 129 stops on five manuals and pedal being not only the biggest church organ in the state of Texas, but also the biggest organ in french-symphonic style worldwide! His program included music

by Franck, Saint-Saens, Widor, Duruflé, Liszt and improvisation.

On Thursday, October 27th, he played another recital with works by Bach, Gigout, Duruflé and improvisations at the organ of St. Vincent's Cathedral in Bedford, a beautiful tracker organ built by Fort Worth based organbuilder Roy Redman.

„The number of excellent organs in Fort Worth alone is very impressive“, Martin says. Moreover, he visited other instruments such as the Fisk organ of the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas and an original 1879 Hook & Hastings tracker organ.

But there was also enough time to get to know the area, meet colleagues from various churches and AGO members and make new friends. The Trier Committee had set up a broad itinerary for Martin that not only included a guided tour of Fort Worth, visits to the three world-class museums of the city (Kimbell Art Museum, Amon G. Carter Museum, Modern Art Museum) and an evening with the members of the Committee but also a visit to the Fort Worth Stockyards where you can find historical buildings and countless exhibits from the 19th century that document Texan cowboy culture. The advertising slogan of the fifth largest city of Texas with about 740,000 inhabitants is more than true – it really is a “City of cowboys and culture”.

Most important to Martin were the numerous personal contacts that he could establish and that he feels are a major enrichment for him. “I was very much touched by the cordial hospitality that I could experience in Fort Worth. I felt so very welcome and for me that is an exceptional quality of the partnership of Trier and Fort Worth and of my AGO membership.”

Martin's heartfelt thanks for making this such a great trip for him goes to AGO members Ed Ackermann and Dale Bench, his hosts Judy and Emmet Smith (TCU), Michael Bennett and Melissa Mitchell, the Sister cities members Ruth Mereien-Gürke

(Trier), Beth Weibel (FW), Jean and Dave Frick (FW), Hilde and Helmut Horchler (FW), his colleagues Robert August (First Presbyterian Church FW), Al Travis (Broadway Baptist Church FW), Candace Bawcombe (St. Vincent's Cathedral Bedford), Roy Redman and his day hosts Pat Wooley, Doug and Judy Harman, Roswitha Knoop and Marsha Rapfogel.

A Report from the Beginnings

I got involved with the AGO back around 1990 while I was stationed at FT Campbell, KY. After being transferred to the 1st Armored Division in Bad Kreuznach in 1993, I sought out the AGO Europe and found it almost non-existent. I can't remember the chairwoman's name then, [*Note from the editor: Lonnie Beuermann???*] but she gave me the freedom to do whatever I wanted to do to get things going, so I hosted the first get-together in a long time in 1994 at my church, Bergkirche Waldböckelheim, to get things going. We had about 15 people turn up and Herr Willi Leyendecker volunteered his knowledge of the history of the organ and some organists, not to mention the Weinprobe! It wasn't long after that that I couldn't do any more alone and Judy got interested again and I think you took over as secretary. [*Note from the editor: Kurt Ludwig Forg became Secretary, I didn't take over until 2000*] You two really made a difference.

When I did a newsletter, poorly at best, I didn't think anyone read it, but when I was on an organ tour in Paris, I was speaking with Hanfried Lucke who said he knew my name from the AGO. Big surprise.

I like reading about the European chapter, but although it's nice to read about the professionals and their concerts, it would also be great to hear from the Sunday organists like me. We're just people who enjoy playing well and exchanging music or titles.

Carmen Moschitta

Note from the editor:

Dear Carmen, thanks for your input to this issue of the Newsletter, but also especially for your commitment to the European Chapter in the early years. If it hadn't been for you and others involved, Judy and I and all of the others who have taken up the cause since wouldn't have had anything to take over !

Introducing Our Members

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

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 !

Jan. 15 th	4 PM	Carolyn Shuster Fournier, Organ Noëls by d'Aquin and Balbastre.	Saint-Roch, Paris (F)
Jan. 22 nd	5 PM	Martin Bambauer, Organ	Pauluskirche, Darmstadt (D)
Feb. 18 th	9 PM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ	St. Martino, Vergiate (Varese) (I)
March 4 th	4:30 PM	Bernard Sanders, Organ Lenten Concert with Music for Brass Quartet and Organ by Mendelssohn, Mouret, Bach, Sanders	St. Mary's, Tuttlingen (D)
March 10 th	5 PM	Martin Bambauer, Organ	Basilica of St. Constantin, Trier (D)
July 4 th	8:30 PM	Martin Bambauer, Organ	Basilica of St. Constantin, Trier (D)
Sept. 27 th	8 PM	Martin Bambauer, Organ	Trinitatiskirch, Cologne (D)
Every Saturday (11:30)		Organ Music at Market Time Hans Uwe Hielscher and guest organists from around the world	Marktkirche, Wiesbaden (D)

