



American Guild of Organists

Chartered 1896

European Chapter

Chartered 1979

Newsletter January 2016

1. *The Dean's Corner ; The Secretary's Voice*
2. *News from the Board*
4. *Members' News*
5. *Introducing our Members*
6. *News from HQ*
7. *Humor*
8. *Recitals Past & Present*

The Dean's Corner

Dear European Chapter Members,

Happy New Year! Once again I'm excited to bring you greetings in January from the Netherlands in this, the first of our 2016 quarterly European Chapter newsletters. Bernard Sanders, you are to be commended for gathering the news from our fantastic European Chapter members, as well as from AGO Headquarters, year after year, and putting it together in such a way that it continues to inform and inspire. May I take this opportunity to extend a special "THANK YOU, Bernard," from all of us who receive and read this AGO newsletter. And on top, huge CONGRATULATIONS as well, for your latest achievements in composition. (Don't miss Bernard's personal news in this newsletter!)

And now, in addition to the wonderful articles you will read in this newsletter, may I call your attention again to the **very important deadline of 31 January 2016**, the date that we need to have received your hotel payment as your registration for the European Chapter Spring Meeting 2016 in Scotland. It's going to be another exceptional gathering of our international group of AGO members and friends, so I hope you are making plans to attend. Chris Bragg, our European Chapter Scottish member who is making all the arrangements this year, has given us the

latest details in this newsletter. Any questions? Don't hesitate to ask.

With every good wish for another musically fulfilling year,

Judy

The Secretary's Voice

Dear Members,

Naturally the Spring Meeting 2016 is the central component of this issue but don't stop there! With news from France, Austria, Lithuania, Minnesota, Texas, New York, Australia and even Africa you may not be able to stop reading until you get to the very end! Whether you're interested in entertainment or action, you'll find opportunities here. Visit the concerts listed on the final page if you're in the neighbourhood, attend the workshop in Alsace, a POE, the Spring Meeting in Scotland or the National Convention in Texas. The organ scene is international and so is our chapter. Whatever you decide to do, be sure to sign up in time. Especially important: the deadline for the hotel payment and registration for Scotland is in less than 2 weeks! If you want to come, you have to take action *right away!*

Have a good read – but don't stop there!!

Bernard

bernard.sanders@web.de

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

News from the Board

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Support your Board, be an active Member!

European Chapter AGO

Address corrections

A few errors in the most recent Membership List need to be corrected:

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Charles Baer/Tatiana Kuracheva,

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e-mails and tel. numbers remain the same

Please note that the e-mail addresses are formulated with (at) in place of @. This is to foil the efforts of electronic "phishing" for such information on-line. In order to use the addresses please insert the @ before adding them to your address book. Thank you !

Spring Meeting 2016 in Scotland Mon., March 28th – Fri., April 1st

Registration deadline: Sunday Jan. 31st

We are looking forward very much to meeting in Scotland during Easter week! Scotland is home to a collection of late 19th and early 20th century organs which illustrate the distinctive artistic paths taken by the UK's leading builders of the time. The instruments to be visited in Dundee, Glasgow and Edinburgh include unaltered examples of the work of 'Father' Henry Willis, William Hill, his son Thomas Hill, the Yorkshire Schulze-disciples Forster and Andrews, their strikingly original Yorkshire neighbors Wordsworth and Maskell and, as if that wasn't enough, two of the UK's most outstanding early 20th century 'town hall' organs by Arthur Harrison and Norman & Beard respectively. The group will be guided by organist and writer Chris Bragg, organ historian and consultant Matthew Hynes and Edinburgh City Organist, Dr John Kitchen.

Participants will also enjoy a day in historic St. Andrews with free time to explore this ancient town, the 'home of golf', with its ruined Medieval Cathedral and Castle. In St. Andrews, participants will also attend an organ recital by legendary Canadian pedagogue John Grew, a piano recital by Dutch pianist Ronald Brautigam (renowned as one of the world's leading Beethoven interpreters) and an option lunchtime harpsichord recital featuring the second part of Bach's Clavierübung performed by outstanding University organ scholar, Sean Heath.

As usual, our Spring Meeting will begin with the Opening Dinner on Easter Monday and will end with the Closing

Banquet on Friday evening. Bed and Breakfast Accommodation in the hotel (Premier Inn, Dundee East) has been reserved for five nights (arriving 28 March, departing 2 April) but must be paid for when you register. The best way to do this will depend on where you live:

Where do I live?	Cost, single room?	Cost double room?	Method
United Kingdom	£316.75	£179 per person	Please send Sterling cheque made payable to Chris Bragg, 6 Eden Park, Cupar, KY15 4HS
Europe	EUR 425	EUR 242 per person	Bank transfer direct to the chapter's bank account
USA	\$481	\$272 per person	Please send Dollar check made payable to Judith Riefel-Lindel, Bonendaal 32, 7231 GH Warnsveld, Netherlands

Information you need for bank transfer in Euros into our European Chapter account:
AGO, Judith Riefel-Lindel, Premier Inn in Dundee, Spring Meeting 2016
IBAN: DE65 2855 0000 0002 0556 89
BIC: BRLADE 21LER

Please note that any registrations received after January 31st can no longer take advantage of the group prices quoted above and will not be guaranteed a room.

We look forward to seeing you in Dundee on Monday March 28th!

Chris Bragg



The 1883 Wordsworth and Maskell instrument at St. Salvador's Episcopal Church in Dundee which we will visit on the first day.

The European Chapter Web Site

can be visited at: www.agoeurope.eu
 See Newsletters from 2000 until present and pictures from the Spring Meetings !

Mission Statement

The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to enrich lives through organ and choral music. To achieve this, we:

- Encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music;
 - Inspire, educate, and offer certification for organists and choral conductors;
 - Provide networking, fellowship, and mutual support;
 - Nurture future generations of organists;
 - Promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles; and
 - Engage wider audiences with organ and choral music.
-

Members' News

Organ/Clavichord Meeting in Saint-Avold, France [workshop & concerts]

Together with the dean of the Saint-Avold conservatoire and the professional help of **Alissa Duryee** and Vincent Bernhardt (organ professor at the Metz conservatoire), **Fabrice Muller** is organizing a clavichord and organ intensive in Saint-Avold, **May 19 through 22**. This encounter will be open to both organists (beginners through advanced) who wish to perfect their art, and to non-organists who wish to discover both the organ and the clavichord. Three concerts will be presented during the course of the weekend. **Katelyn Emerson** and Katie Minion who are currently studying in Toulouse on Fulbright scholarships will be special guests. Public subsidies pending, the price of tuition will be quite modest (in the neighborhood of 15 euros). Please consider attending and tell your students! The only requests to participants are as follows:

1. Be in touch
2. Bring at least one short piece of music you have well-prepared [do not hesitate to be in contact for recommendations regarding repertoire]
3. Most importantly, bring your love for music!

Fabrice Muller

FabriceRMuller@gmail.com

P.S.: For those of you who could not attend the Spring Meeting in Saint-Avold in 2014 or who wish a reminder, [here is a video featuring the French Classical organ there.](#)

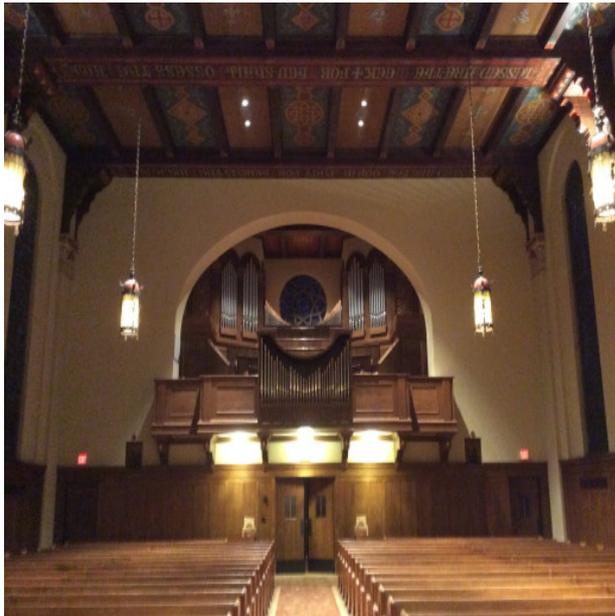
Steve Gentile played a concert in memory of Massimo Noretto. on October 25th, 2015, at the Catholic Church of St. Helena in Minneapolis. It was also in celebration of the 25th anniversary of additions to the Wicks organ which were installed while Steve was organist there. The program included works by D. Buxtehude, J. S. Bach, C. Franck, N. Boulanger, R. Jones,

E. Pasini, M. Noretto's "Variations on a Japanese Folk Tune" (1995) and Rondo-Scherzo (1989) (dedicated to Steve Gentile), the U.S. premier of the Trio: "Mit Ernst, o Menschenkinder" (2014) by Andrew Tessman (b. 1988) and also the U.S. premier of Noretto's last composition "Preludio su 'Universi qui te exspectant'" (Gradual for Advent I - Let none who hope in you, Lord, be put to shame. O Lord, make me know your ways. Teach me your paths.) from Oct. 12, 2013.

Steve studied at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, the University of Minnesota, and at Northwestern University. He also studied at the International Academy in Haarlem and in Paris with Michel Pinte. Having served as Director of Music/Organist at the Church of St. Helena in Minneapolis for 28 years, he returned there as the Assistant Organist after a hiatus of five years. He taught for 34 years at the MacPhail Center for the Arts (formerly a part of the University of Minnesota) and continues to teach private organ students, substitute and concertize.

His repertoire extends from the old masters to the great romantics and he greatly enjoys performing contemporary pieces composed by his friends. He has performed in France (including St. Clotilde, Paris), Spain, Italy, Hong Kong and throughout the United States. In 2015 he performed music by Massimo Noretto at the Spring Meeting of the European Chapter in Italy. The widow of the composer was present for the event.

Gentile has been a member of the Executive Board and a long-time member of the Education Committee of the Twin Cities Chapter of the American Guild of Organists; he has served as Sub-dean, Program Chair and Dean and is presently on the Pipedreams Scholarship Committee. He is well-known as a clinician, recitalist, and adjudicator. He has also composed religious music, mostly settings of Psalms.



The Wicks organ at St. Helena's.

Bernard Sanders' composition "Venite Adoremus: A Christmas Fantasy" has been accepted for publication by Concordia Publishing House. The Fantasy consists of Chorale Preludes on the Hymn-Tunes "Gelobet Seist Du", "Greensleeves", "Divinum Mysterium", and "Quem Pastores" preceded by and connected to each other with material from "Adeste Fidelis" and a concluding Toccata upon that Hymn-Tune. Each of the Chorale settings can also be played separately. It is scheduled for release in May.

For the AGO National Convention 2016 the Houston Chapter held a composition contest for Chorale Preludes on Hymn-Tunes written after 1960. Nineteen entries were chosen to be published along with several commissioned works in a "Bayoubüchlein" which will be distributed at the Convention in June. Composers were invited to send in up to three works. All three entries by Bernard Sanders were chosen for inclusion. These being "Tree of Life" (by Bruce Becker), "Lord of Life" (by Kevin J. Hildebrandt), and "Stay With Us" (by Walter Pelz).

[PS from Bernard: if any of our readers are planning to go to Houston and would be interested in sharing a Hotel room for the Convention, please contact me !!!]

Member **Frank Mento** has made a Podcast with noted Lithuanian organist and new member **Vidas Pinkevicius** available on the internet:

<http://www.organduo.lt/podcast/sop-podcast-14-frank-mento-on-harpsichord-playing-for-organists>

Member **Michael König** shares his story about concertizing in Africa:

Being just a free-lance organist, Rodgers has sent me to Kenya in June to find out about possibilities for organ education (they believe organ sales will only happen if there are organists who can play).

While in Nairobi the contacts to people in charge of Catholic Church music on a national level were established, and I was told about their choir festival in late October. Having recognized this to be a major event for showcasing an organ, Rodgers agreed to send an instrument there and sponsored me to play it.

As the weeks went by, information about the Pope's visit started to appear, and again Rodgers offered to sponsor the organ and the organist. Finally, I heard about the National Catholic Eucharistic Congress to be held in Subukia in early October, with some 20,000 people expected to come. To have a dress rehearsal for November in terms of logistics and cooperation with the Catholic Church in Kenya, this event was also outfitted with a Rodgers organ, and again yours truly was the organist.

Many people here have already told me that these events have significantly changed the way Kenyan church musicians think about the organ. So I can only be thankful to Rodgers for having sent me there with all the freedom to do whatever helps to promote the beauty of the organ and organ music.

Introducing Our Members

Organist, improviser, pedagogue, composer and blogger **Dr. Vidas Pinkevicius** is the creator of "Secrets of Organ Playing" - a blog with tips and

training for organists and a weekly podcast which features in-depth conversations with experts from the organ world who share their insights. He is an active promoter of organ improvisation and the art of the organ and popularizes this instrument through lectures, seminars, demonstrations and recitals. Currently he is the president and co-founder of the National Association of Organists (NAO) and teaches at the National M.K.Čiurlionis School of Arts. He is also the organist of Vilnius University and heads the university organ studio "Unda Maris". Further, he initiated the NAO educational project „the Organ for the Future of Lithuania“ with the goal of introducing the pipe organ to a general audience in various parts of Lithuania, especially to children.

One of his specialties is storytelling through organ improvisation based on biblical and liturgical themes, literary works, poetry, visual art, fairy tales, legends and myths of various nations of the world. In 2015 he improvised musical stories based on "the Legend About the Founding of Vilnius", "the Little Mermaid", "Egle, Queen of Grass-Snakes", "Jurate and Kastytis", and "From Harmony: Improvisations for Saint Cecilia Day". He has appeared in international organ festivals throughout Europe and the USA.

Most of his improvisation recitals are recorded and available on YouTube. You can find a playlist of many improvisation recitals at:

[Vidas Pinkevicius Organ Improvisations - YouTube](#)

Vidas Pinkevicius, DMA
Organist of Vilnius University
Founder of organ studio "Unda Maris"
President of National Association of
Organists in Lithuania
Teacher at National M.K. Ciurlionis
School of Art
www.organduo.lt

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

News from HQ

AGO Pipe Organ Encounters provide youth and adults with opportunities for intensive study of the King of Instruments

Nine Summer Programs for Teenagers and Adults Will Be Supported with Generous Funding from the Associated Pipe Organ Builders of America, the American Institute of Organbuilders, and the Jordan Organ Endowment

New York City. The AGO is proud to announce seven PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTERS (POEs) for students aged 13–18, one POE (Advanced) for students entering grades 9–12; and one POE+ for adults in 2016. Complete contact information for each weeklong Pipe Organ Encounter can be found in *The American Organist Magazine* and online at www.agohq.org. The summer schedule follows:

POE for ages 13–18

June 26–July 1, Waverly, Iowa
July 10–15, Northampton, Mass.
July 17–22, Lexington, Ky.
July 24–29, Baltimore, Md.
July 24–29, Atlanta, Ga.
July 25–30, Salt Lake City, Utah
August 7–13, Palo Alto, Calif.

POE (Advanced) for grades 9–12

July 10–15, Cincinnati, Ohio

POE+ for adults

July 10–14, Grantham, Pa.

The PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTER (POE) is an introduction to the pipe organ through instruction in organ playing, repertoire, history, design, and construction. These regional summer music institutes for teenage students provide private and group instruction in service playing and solo repertoire, opportunities to learn about the musical heritage of various religious denominations, and a chance for young musicians to meet others with similar

interests. Piano or organ proficiency ranging from intermediate to advanced is required. Scholarship assistance is available.

The POE (Advanced) provides intermediate to advanced classes in areas such as organ literature, history, pipe organ construction and design, music theory, improvisation, conducting, and service playing for students who have achieved a high level of success in organ study. Scholarship assistance is available.

The POE+ is a summer program filled with practical information and instruction for adult keyboard musicians interested in improving their service-playing skills. Participants will be introduced to basic organ skills through private instruction and classes. The weeklong experience will lead to greater confidence and competence at the organ.

Generous funding from the Associated Pipe Organ Builders of America (APOBA), the American Institute of Organbuilders (AIO), and the Jordan Organ Endowment will support the summer programs from coast to coast. "The AGO and APOBA have enjoyed a mutually beneficial relationship since 1975," declared AGO Executive Director James Thomashower. "Likewise, the AIO has been active in supporting the Guild's

educational programs, beginning with their partnership in Pulling Out All the Stops, a video produced jointly by the AGO, AIO, APOBA, the Organ Historical Society, and the American Theater Organ Society in 1996. Collectively, APOBA and the AIO have contributed more than a half million dollars in support of the AGO's educational programs during our long association. In addition, we are delighted to have received a ten-year commitment of support from the Jordan Organ Endowment at Columbus State University for our POE program. For all this committed generosity in supporting the Guild's mission—to enrich lives through organ and choral music—we are deeply grateful."

POE site locations are selected by the AGO Committee on the New Organist and approved by the AGO National Council after application by AGO host chapters. Applications are available from AGO National Headquarters. The application deadline is April 15.

F. Anthony Thurman, DMA
Director of Development and
Communications
American Guild of Organists
National Headquarters and THE
AMERICAN ORGANIST Magazine

Humor

Elementary Bible School Tests – Pay Special Attention to the Wording and Spelling !

If you know the Bible even a little, you'll find this HILARIOUS !

Kids were asked questions about the Old and New Testaments. The following statements about the Bible were written by children. They have not been retouched nor corrected. Incorrect spelling has been left in.

1. In the First Book of the Bible, Guinnessis, Got got tired of creating the world so he took the Sabbath off.
2. Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of Ark. Noah built and Ark and the Animals came on in pears.
3. Lots wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.
4. The Jews were a proud people and throughout history they had trouble with unsympathetic Genitals.
5. Sampson was a strong man who let himself be led astray by a Jezebel like Delilah.
6. Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.

7. Moses led the Jews to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread which is bread without any ingredients.
8. The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up to Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Commandments.
9. The First Commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.
10. The Seventh Commandment is Thou Shalt Not Admit Adultery.
11. Moses died before he ever reached Canada. Then Joshua led the Hebrews in the Battle of Geritol.
12. The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.
13. David was a Hebrew King who was skilled at playing the Liar. He fought the Finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in biblical times.
14. Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.
15. When Mary heard she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta.
16. When the three wise guys from the East side arrived they found Jesus in the manager.
17. Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.
18. St. John the blacksmith dumped water on his head.
19. Jeses enunciated the Golden Rule, which says to do unto others before they do one to you. He also explained a man doth not live by sweat alone.
20. It was a miracle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off the entrance.
21. The people who followed the Lord were called the 12 decibles.
22. The Epistels were the wives of the Apostles.
23. One of the oppossums was St. Matthew who was also a taximan.
24. St. Paul cavorted to Christianity, he preached Holy Acrimony which is another name for marriage.
25. Christians have only one spouse. This is called monotony.

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 !

- Dec. 7th (Lunchtime) Jennifer Chou, Organ Geelong (Australia)
Works include "Cradle Song" by Bernard Sanders
- Dec. 16th (Lunchtime) Jennifer Chou, Organ St. Paul's Cathedral Melbourne (Australia)
Works include "Cradle Song" by Bernard Sanders

2016

- Jan. 1st 5 PM Barry Jordan, Organ Dom, Magdeburg (D)
(New Year's Concert) Works by Tschaikowski, Johann Strauss Jr.
- Jan. 18th 9:30 AM Carolyn Shuster Fournier, Organ Trinité, Paris (F)
A selection of works by Messiaen for the 75th Anniversary of the composition of the Quartet for the End of Time in the Stalag VIII A of the prison-of-war camp in Görlitz, Germany on Jan 15th, 1941 including The Celestial Banquet, Ascension Day I-IV, Refinement of the Glorified Bodies (from Le Corps Glorieux), God Among Us (from Nativité), Apparition of the eternal Church, etc.
- Feb. 14th 4 PM Barry Jordan, Organ Domremter, Magdeburg (D)
Works by D. Buxtehude, J.S. Bach, C.P.E. Bach, G. Merkel
- Feb. 27th 5 PM Barry Jordan, Organ Marktkirche, Hannover, (D)
Works by J.S. Bach, Richard Bartmuß, Marcel Dupré
- March 6th 4 PM Barry Jordan, Organ Domremter, Magdeburg (D)
Works by J. G. Walther, J. S. Bach, J. G. Rheinberger

March 25th 5 PM Barry Jordan, Organ Dom, Magdeburg (D)
(Good Friday) Marcel Dupré, Le Chemin de la Croix

April 2nd 6 PM Barry Jordan, Organ Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedächtnis-Kirche, Berlin (D)
Works by J. S. Bach, Michael Nyman, Marcel Dupré

Apr. 6th 1:15 PM Martin Welzel, Organ Temple Church, London (UK)
Works by Hancock, Bridge, and Preston

Apr. 16th 7 PM Martin Welzel, Organ Pauluskirche, Ulm (D)
Works by Hancock, Bunk, Preston, Bridge, and Baker

May 14th 7:15 PM Martin Welzel, Organ Cathedral, St. Gallen (Switzerland)
Works by Scheidemann, Homilius, Bach, Bunk, Preston, Bridge, and Baker

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