



American Guild of Organists

Chartered 1896

European Chapter

Chartered 1979

Newsletter April 2008

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The Dean's Corner

Dear Members,

It was another **fantastic** European Chapter Spring Meeting during the week after Easter, 24-29 March in Mallorca. Twenty one European Chapter members, colleagues and friends from Spain, Germany, Holland, Belgium, England, Canada, the USA and Japan (!) met each other in the city of Palma for five days of historical organ hopping and motoring around that beautiful island. I know I don't only speak for myself when I say that European Chapter member **Matthew Provost**, who set up the tour with the help of Prof. Arnau Reynes from Palma, Mallorca, told us about the organs and demonstrated **all** but one of them, deserves our utmost gratitude. His love and knowledge of Mallorcan organs impressed us again and again and without him the Spring Meeting would never have been such a wonderful success. Please read the tour report in this newsletter. Thank you Matthew!!

I also want to extend special appreciation to two other European Chapter members for their contributions during and after the Spring Meeting. The first is Dr. Beth Harrison from Pennsylvania, who assisted Matthew at the organs the entire week. I know Matthew was happy to have his former colleague from study days in North Germany there to

pull stops and help with whatever was needed. We were too! Thank you, Beth. The second member is Mike Irvine, who recorded the organ demonstrations and took fantastic photos throughout the tour, especially for our European Chapter members, both those who could attend and those who couldn't. These are a treasure for whoever is interested in seeing and hearing Mallorcan organs and they are available!! Please read further on in this newsletter how you can either relive the Spring Meeting or "go" there via photos and recordings. The quality of the recordings and the photos is first class. I encourage you to take advantage of this offer.

Now, for those of you who couldn't attend the Spring Meeting, we have another chapter offering being planned by your European Chapter Board. Especially if the week after Easter is never a possibility for you to get together with your fellow European Chapter members, you are invited to **Hasselt, Belgium** during the week-end of **October 17-19, 2008!** This is an invitation to all European Chapter members! Details of the week-end will come later, but the main events will be at least two concerts presented by several of our European Chapter members who regularly concertize. These concerts will be given as part of the **AGO International Organ Spectacular** and we hope as many chapter members as possible

will be able to attend in order to: 1) meet each other and 2) show support for those performing.

This is also the time of year for me to say thank you to the members of the European Chapter board. What a great crew!! And I get to work with them. What a pleasure! Unfortunately we have to say good-bye to one member who will be greatly missed by us all, Joseph Olefirowicz. Joseph has moved back to the USA to take a full time church position in Massachusetts. Joseph, keep in touch and come back to visit us soon! Taking Joseph's place on the board will be Kathy Cooper, an American who is living in Spain. Kathy has enthusiastically attended the last two European Chapter Spring Meetings and we are very much looking forward to working with her on the board during the new AGO year starting July 1st. Welcome, Kathy.

Happy Spring,

Judy

The Secretary's Voice

Dear Members,

Judy has done an excellent job of introducing the material in this issue of our Chapter Newsletter. Without repeating anything there is still more to discover here:

Our Members are as active as ever in the World of Organ. Read about it in Member's News and especially in the Concert Calender. The newest member of our Board took the opportunity to introduce herself. Several items from HQ and an inquiry from a colleague from Singapore about round up the overview.

By now you've all read about my composition "Ornament of Grace" receiving the 1st Prize in the AGO contest. This prize will be officially awarded at the National Convention in Minneapolis this June. I am very glad that I will be able to attend personally and am looking forward to the Convention-Experience. If any other members are planning to be there, let me know. I'm especially looking forward to seeing old friends and acquaintances as

well as meeting new people and making new friends!

In the meantime just sit right down and have a good read. Hope you enjoy it!

Bernard

**Please submit your items for the next Newsletter before June 30th !
Look ahead and inform your friends and colleagues about important events!**

Bernard Sanders

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GERMANY

Members' News

Joseph Olefirowicz writes:

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Finally coming into the 21 century, I will

be phasing out olefirowicz@aol.com

in the coming weeks. Please register/save:

josepholefirowicz@mac.com

as my new e-Mail address. The MAC address is already active and accepting e-mails. The AOL address will probably be phased out by the end of May.

Thanks and regards,

Joseph

Note from the editor:

As our Dean mentioned in her column, Joseph has served several years on the Chapter Board and will be sorely missed not only in that capacity but also as a fine colleague and good friend. Many thanks for your selfless service, insight and input, and for being there! Best wishes for a fulfilling and successful career! Bernard

Bernard Sanders "Chorale Prelude on Hanover" has been accepted for publication by Wayne Leupold. It will appear in the July issue of the periodical "The Organist's Companion".

The prize winning composition "Ornament of Grace" has been installed on the B.A.C.H. website and can be viewed and heard there:

<http://bach.nau.edu/AGO/Ornament.html>

It is published by Concordia Publishing House and is already available!

A selection of Sanders' organ music was broadcast at 9:30 PM on April 21st on Vatican Radio

www.105live.radiovaticana.org

Pierluigi Morelli dedicated an entire program of "I colori dell'organo" (The colors of the organ) to Sanders' works.

Heather Hernandez will be playing works by Charles Quef, Naji Hakim, and Olivier Messiaen for the CAZAGO Organ Marathon at the American Lutheran Church of Sun City, Arizona, on February 17, 2008 at 2:30pm. Her part of the program is entitled "Music from Organists of *La Trinité*, Paris". For more information contact:

Heather Hernandez
22218 N 32nd Ave
Phoenix, AZ 85027
(623) 582-3441

Email: hmhorganist@cox.net and
hmharrington@hotmail.com

Kathy Cooper writes

Looking for photos

The folks at national have provided us with a banner for a PR project in connection with the Organ Spectacular in October, an "International Organ Celebration 2008-2009." The idea is to have AGO members take a photo of themselves in scenic places all over the world. For instance, Peggy Evans, who is on the project committee, made one of herself in Antarctica. Kathy Cooper did one in Castilla-La Mancha, Spain. Well-known monuments like the Eiffel Tower, Big Ben, etc. would be fantastic. They'll use the photos in a variety of ways...from time to time in TAO, and at a special display booth set-up at the convention for starters. We have taken a few already in Mallorca and Judy has it at the moment. There is no specific end date but if you are interested, please contact Judy soon; it would be great to have a nice showing of our chapter at the convention display. By the way, it's in a

mailing tube and not too large...about 2' by 3'.

Johan Hermans has performed numerous concerts in- and outside of Europe in 2007. Here some of the notable dates.

May 5th Canterbury Cathedral (UK)
Opening recital of the "Canterbury Cathedral Organ Recitals 2007"

June 6th St.-Truiden,
Museum at the Begijnhof (B)

June 23rd Rio de Janeiro, Igreja Luterana
Martin Luther: Celebration of 180 years
Lutheran community in Rio de Janeiro

July 5th St.-Petrus- en Pauluskerk
Organ festival Oostende (B) 2007

July 17th St. Margaret's Basilica
6th Organ Festival "L'Arte Organica"
Nowy Sącz (PL)

July 19th Bazylika Karmelitów
"Na Piasku" 17th International Summer
Organ Festival of Krakow (PL)

July 22nd Cathédrale St. Bénigne, Dijon (F)

July 30th Lincoln Cathedral (UK)
Lincoln Cathedral Celebrity Recitals 2007

Aug. 1st Derby Cathedral (UK)
Derby Cathedral Organ Recitals

Aug. 4th Hasselt Cathedral (B)
Organ recital series "Organ on Saturday"

Aug. 10th Valladolid San Andrés Church
International Organ Festival
"Arte Organica" (Spain)

Aug. 20th Virga-Jessebasiliek
with Fabienne Vénien (cello)
International Organ Festival of Hasselt (B)

Sept. 2nd St. Franziskuskirche
5. Pforzheimer Orgelsommer 2007 (D)

Sept. 7th Chiesa di St. Maria, Piemonte (I)
International Organ Festival Valduggia

Sept. 8th Chiesa di Collecchio, Parma (I)

Sept. 9th Chiesa dell'Assunzione di Maria
Vergine Fornovo di Taro, Parma (I)

Oct. 10th Guildford Cathedral (UK)
Guildford Cathedral Organ Recital Series

Oct. 21st Straelen, Mönchengladbach (D)
"X. Internationalen Straelener Orgelherbst"

Oct. 28th Oosterhout (NL)
Final recital "Basiliekconcerten 2007"

Dec. 26th/28th Hong Kong Cultural Center
Masterclass

Dec. 29th Hong Kong Cultural Center
Organ recital

2008 Russian Tour

Jan. 16th St Petersburg Philharmonia

Recital series "World's Best Organists"

Jan. 17th Kondopoga (Karelia) Recital in
the great concert hall of the Cultural Palast

Jan. 20th Moscow Cathedral Recital series
"European Masters of the Organ"

Please see the concert listings at the end of
this Newsletter for upcoming events!

News from the Board

Support your Board! Be an active member!

Current Board Members

Dean and Membership Coordinator:

Judy Riefel-Lindel

Secretary and Newsletter Editor:

Bernard Sanders

Sub-Dean:

Johan Hermans

Treasurer:

Elmar Jahn

Members at large:

Charles Baer

Giorgio Parolini

Joseph R. Olefirowicz

Web-Master:

Tanja Hermans

With the exception of Joseph Olefirowicz
these Board Members are willing to
continue in office for the upcoming AGO
year. As mentioned in the Dean's Corner
Kathy Cooper is willing to take his place.
If there are no objections from the
membership they will begin their duties
starting July 1st.

**EUROPEAN CHAPTER ORGAN
SPECTACULAR in HASSELT,
OCTOBER 16-19, YOU'RE INVITED!**
See Dean's Message, mark your calendars,
and watch for further details coming your
way soon!

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

The URL (address) for the website of the
European Chapter is:

[http://www.agohq.org/chapter/?handle=eur
opean](http://www.agohq.org/chapter/?handle=eur
opean)

Spring Tour 2008

**Report of the Spring Meeting/Organ
Tour of Mallorca, Spain, March 24-28,**

Submitted by Matthew Provost

The annual Easter week organ tour put
on by the European Chapter of the
American Guild of Organists took place
from Monday, March 24th to Friday, March
28th on the magnificent Mediterranean
island of Mallorca, Spain. 21 participants,
organists and non-organists, from across the
globe (Belgium, Canada, England, Germany,
Japan, The Netherlands, Spain, The United
States) met to share a week of fellowship
and music making. American organist
Matthew Provost served as tour leader and
docent.

The opening gathering and supper took
place at the Hotel Isla de Mallorca in the
heart of Mallorca's capital city, Palma. As
old friends and new acquaintances gathered,
laughed, and ate in anticipation of the tour
to come, it was quickly apparent that a truly
amicable, harmonious group dynamic was
ensured.

On Tuesday morning the group headed
west from Palma, winding its way along the
mountainous roads that lead to the
treacherous cliffs, azure sea vistas, and
picturesque mountainside villages of the
western coast. In the peaceful pendant
village of **Banyalbufar**, the group visited the
Church of the Nativity and the oldest organ
of the tour. Although not irrefutably
established, the Banyalbufar organ is
believed to date from the mid-17th century,
likely the work of Fra Vicenç Pizà. The
organ stood originally in the Rosary Chapel
of the monastery of Sant Domingo in
Palma. Following the senseless destruction
in 1837 of the Sant Domingo, the 1/4-comma
mean-tone organ (I/9) was relocated to
Banyalbufar in 1847. Lovingly restored in
1971 by German organbuilder Gerhard
Grenzing, the organ of Banyalbufar served
beautifully to wet the group's appetite for
the many flavorful musical dishes to follow.

Following the coast northwards, the tour
took lunch at the sunny seaside in **Port de**

Sóller. By way of the *Túnel Major* which passes clear through the western mountains connecting Palma and Sóller, the group saved hours of backtracking through the mountains to arrive at **Santa Maria del Camí** to visit the last organ (1737, I/8) for Mallorca by the Valencian builder Lluís Navarro. Joining the group in Santa Maria was Mallorcan organologist Antoni Mulet who spoke about the history of the Santa Maria organ. Mulet also accompanied the group north to **Pollença** to see the first of Navarro's organs for the island (1732, I/10) in the convent church of Santo Domingo. Mulet informed the group that the father of Valencia's most famous musical son, Juan Cabanillas (1677-1712), was born in Pollença, and it is thus fitting that there should be a Valencian organ there. Special attention was paid in Pollença to the delightful, snarling *Regalies* stop, a horizontal regal with turned wooden resonators.

Contrasting the Valencian flavor of the previous day, the Wednesday tour was dedicated to the Mallorcan organs of the inland plains beginning with the Mateu Bosch organ (1746, I/13) in **Sencelles**. Three generations of Boschs (pronounced BAWSK) would dominate organ building on Mallorca throughout the 18th century.

Continuing northward up the central highway, the group heard next the Gabriel Thomàs organ (1816-22, 1827-32, II/19) in the leather-goods-city of **Inca**. Here the group would see for the first time three distinctive features of Mallorcan organs: the *cadireta*, or *Rückpositiv* division; the integration of older, original (in this instance, late Gothic) case work into 18th- & 19th-century cases; and the *trompeteria* or full-blown battery of horizontal reeds (16, 8, 4, 2). The group would also hear the first of the week's many *Batallas* or battle pieces which rely on the remarkable brilliance and penetration of the horizontal trumpets for the full effect to be realized.

In **Sa Pobla** the group was introduced to the work of the dominant family of Mallorcan organbuilders from the 17th

century, the Caymari family. Probably executed in 1717 by Jaume Caymari, the Sa Pobla organ (II/20) reveals the features which distinguish the Caymari tradition. Most prominent among them are: the wide, single field, flat façades; the small field of dummy pipes set into the pipe shades; and the spiral chiseling of the case pipes. Further enhancing the aesthetic experience of visiting Sa Pobla is the virtual museum of religious regalia laid out in the many upper chapels and chambers of the church. While meandering through the upper passages and listening to the noble sounds of the organ, one is transported through the religious history of that place via the innumerable paintings, reliquaries, vestments, and statues on display.

The final stop on Wednesday included two organs in the town of **Muro**: first, in the splendid Gothic parochial church (one of only two Gothic churches outside of the capital city of Palma), the beautiful Josep Bosch organ (II/19) from 1761; and in the convent church of Sant Francesc de Paula, a rare treat in the form of the only preserved processional organ on Mallorca, by Jordi Bosch (? , I/4). In Muro the group met up with another of Mallorca's leading organ personalities, Arnau Reynés, organ professor at the University of the Balearic Islands and organist of the Basílica de Sant Francesc in Palma. To the clashing sounds of thunder and torrential down-pouring rain, the day ended with a tempestuous ride back to Palma.

On Thursday, the tour headed to the southeastern shore. The first stop was the southern plains town of **Campos**. In the Convent of Sant Francesc de Paula the group visited another organ by Gabriel Thomàs (1820, II/15). The delicate convent church was amply filled with sound, as even in such a small setting the organ's disposition includes a full principal plenum and two horizontal trumpets.

Most organ tours have at least one instrument of global significance that reigns supreme over the entirety of the organ-

landscape visited. On the paradise island of Mallorca it is the superlative masterpiece by Jordi Bosch (1762, II/21) in **Santanyí**. Like the organ in Banyalbufar, the Santanyí organ was originally constructed for the Convent of Sant Domingo in Palma. Unique in all Mallorca, this magnificent instrument is based on a 16' principal and includes a 25 (!) rank mixture. The great division, or *orgue major*, also includes a hauntingly lyrical *corneta magna*, a sort of gargantuan *Über-cornet* stop for solo lines. In the *cadireta* more surprises await the listener. The 8' reed stop, called *Saboyana*, is a throaty, half-length hybrid between the French classical *Cromorne* and the central German *Krummborn*. The dizzying, whistle-like quality of the 2/3' *Siurell*, another right-hand solo stop, adds to the array of unique colors available. The horizontal *trompeteria* (16, 8, 8, 8, 4, 2) is counted among the finest in the world. With its crisp speech, massive volume, and awe-inspiring visual impact, the *trompeteria* of Santanyí makes the inimitable fiery fanfare of Iberian organ music spring to life.

The final day was devoted entirely to the organs of the capital city of **Palma**. After a morning of free time to explore the sultry narrow streets, sparkling parks, quaint shops, and Palma's massive Gothic cathedral, the group met in the afternoon to visit three more instruments. Beginning in the **Monestir de Sant Jeroni**, the group was allowed to enter the quiet solitude of a functioning abbey. Only four participants were allowed to ascend to the organ gallery as access was only possible by passing through the living quarters of the abbey. The remainder of the participants sat quietly in the church proper as the sweet tones of Mateu Bosch's best preserved organ were heard (1746, I/11). In the **Convent del Socors**, the group visited another organ by the Caymari clan. Built in 1702 (III/29) by Damià and Sebastià Caymari, the organ of El Socors is a rare original example of a three-manual Mallorcan organ, the third manual being the *orgues d'eco*.

With good timing on its side, the group visited the only modern instrument included in the tour, the three-manual and pedal, 53-rank Grenzing organ for the breath-taking **Basílica de Sant Francesc**. Not yet dedicated, the brand-new, eclectic-style mechanical action instrument was made available and demonstrated by Arnau Reynés. The new organ was installed behind an exquisite 18th-century case and incorporated the original *trompeteria* of Jordi Bosch (1771). With the arrival of this new instrument, new pathways into the greater breadth of organ repertoire are made available on Mallorca for the first time. The French *récit*, full 32' pedal division, manual sub-couplers, and solid-state combination action are features not available in any other organ on Mallorca, making the Basílica de Sant Francesc the new Mallorcan center for the study and presentation of an international, eclectic palette of organ repertoire.

The final event of the American Guild of Organists, European Chapter Spring Meeting/Organ Tour of Mallorca, was a festive supper hosted by the American Consular Agent of the United States in Palma de Mallorca, Amy Christiansen. Her warm welcome, alacrity, and honest appreciation for the efforts of the American Guild of Organists made for a most enjoyable finale of a most enjoyable journey.

Most especially, the success of this year's Spring Meeting was, like all previous AGO European Chapter tours, due entirely to the collegial, amicable spirit of guild members. By listening to each other play magnificent organs, by seeing each other's expressions of surprise and wonderment as we hear the sounds of the past and new sounds as yet unheard, and by sharing in the centuries-old heritage that is the pipe organ, we enrich our own communal cultural experience as well as that of humanity.

MALLORCA PHOTOS AND RECORDINGS

Photos from the Spring Meeting in Mallorca, taken by Mike and Joy Irvine

and John Falkingham have been collected and can be viewed at:

<http://mikepix.fpic.co.uk/c1491206.html>.

Mike says, "Note that if you click on the main picture, it will come up larger, and if you then right-click, you can save it to your own computer for printing or whatever." He goes on to say, "If you would like a CD of the same photos at full quality, let me know."

Irvine.Mike@blueyonder.co.uk

Also, Mike, in collaboration with Matthew, is preparing the recordings of the organ demonstrations heard throughout the tour. "There will probably be 4 CDs." Write to Mike if you are interested!

Introducing Our Members

¡Hola desde España! I have been living in Madrid with my husband, Chris, for almost two years, mostly having a lot of fun. It's our first time living overseas. (Am I really the only AGO member living in Spain?) I really enjoyed our chapter's spring tour this year to Mallorca and last year to Belgium. What a great opportunity! I now have an instrument in my home so I am playing again.

At first, it was difficult to find information about concerts in Madrid and the prospects for finding a place to practice were not good. I was told that there is no association for organists, that they are pretty much on their own, and furthermore, that there are not many good opportunities for organists. Grim. I did go to practice at one church - with permission from the priest - and when I was leaving, I popped in to the office to ask where to find the light switches. I was told by a parishioner that they didn't need an organist...they had two! My Spanish was nowhere near good enough to explain what I was doing there, that I wasn't even looking for a job.

With luck and some contacts, and conjugated verbs, things are improving. I found a concert in Valladolid - by chance in surfing the web - and had the happy occasion to hear our own Johan Hermans playing the historic instrument in the Iglesia Parroquial de San Andrés

(<http://home.comcast.net/~flcorg/sanandres/index.html>)

That concert was part of a longer series, *Arte Organica* which takes place each summer in the region known as Castilla y Leon, organized by Fundación Siglo. Johan recommended that I get in touch with a colleague who has some connections here and I was able to introduce myself to the organist at the Catedral de la Almudena (Madrid), Roberto Fresco, who has been very helpful. He has told us about concerts and has also helped me get started studying Spanish organ music. (The cathedral has a 4-manual mechanical organ of 70 ranks by Gerhard Grenzing, 1999.

<http://www.grenzing.com/pdf/ALM.pdf>)

Spain is different in *many* ways from what we are used to but especially in the customs regarding concerts. Most of the concerts at churches are free and open to the public but sometimes you still have to go ahead of time to get tickets, *entradas*. We learned the hard way when we were asked if we had our *invitaciones* after driving an hour to Toledo. We were lucky and after waiting until the people in the know were seated, we were able to get seats. Afterward we asked and learned that we should have come the day before and gotten the free *invitaciones*. The concerts at the Palacio Real are also free and open but with very limited seating. You have to show up early...about 45 minutes to an hour, get a sticker and stand in line to wait to be escorted into the capilla. The organ there is a lovely Spanish baroque instrument, completed by Jordi Bosch c.1778. We heard Monserat Torrent and Jean-Patrice Brosse play there and look forward to going to future concerts.

My impression is that for church services in Spain, the organ is under-used - for just some service music and to accompany the choir or cantor and maybe a short postlude. In Bilbao, however, we visited the cathedral one Sunday and the very hospitable and talented organist, Gorka Iglesia Hildago, took us to the loft to visit the organ, a lovely Pellerin & Uys tracker. When we commented that it was

great to hear the congregation singing (there were actually hymn books in the pews) and the organ well-used, he explained that the people in the north, having a bit of the French catholic influence, are strong singers. Spaniards of all ages, however, seem to really love to listen to the instrument and I am pleased to say that the concerts we have attended were completely full.

Although there are many interesting historic organs on the Iberian mainland, the years of civil war in Spain (1936-39) wreaked devastation on the churches. Untold numbers of manuscripts may have been lost forever and many instruments were destroyed or simply “died” due to neglect. And so, many of the fabulous antique caseworks hold rebuilt and replaced instruments. Our chapter tour in Mallorca was especially interesting because the island escaped much of the devastation of those years. Many of the organs there, although restored, are actually in original or nearly original configurations.

As my language abilities improve, so do my experiences. Poco a poco, we are figuring out how things work here. We have learned never to make assumptions – a luxury I enjoyed in the USA – and we have learned you have to ask just the right question to get the answer you want. If you are in Madrid, please get in touch; I’m not sure I can get you in to see any organs, but we know lots of great tapas bars!

Kathy Cooper

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

News from HQ

New York. AGO and its Committee on Educational Resources are excited to announce the addition of two new products to its catalog of educational resources: *Playing Dieterich Buxtehude's Works Rhetorically*, by Leon W. Couch III, and *Conversations and Lessons with David Craighead*, by Judith Hancock. Both are available for purchase online at

www.agohq.org or by calling 800-AGO-5115.

Playing Dieterich Buxtehude's Works Rhetorically

This three-CD presentation by Leon Couch provides a stimulating discussion of the historical, rhetorical, theoretical, and practical aspects of musical rhetoric. He demonstrates how a practical application of rhetoric to the music of Buxtehude can make a dramatic impact. The resource was designed to benefit both the accomplished organist as well as the beginning student. This product includes three CDs: two lecture CDs, and a CD containing performances of sample works, the complete lecture texts in PDF documents, and a printed lecture text booklet with examples. Funding for this project was generously provided by the Boston (Mass.) AGO Chapter Special Projects Advisory Committee, Converse College, the District of Columbia AGO Foundation, and Goshen College. \$25.

Conversations and Lessons with David Craighead

The AGO Committee on Educational Resources endeavors to preserve the legacies of famous organists and teachers. In *Conversations and Lessons with David Craighead*, this renowned teacher shares his insights in an interview and in recordings of his lessons. David Craighead was professor of organ and chair of the organ department at the Eastman School of Music from 1955 to 1992. An accomplished organ artist, he has been the recipient of many awards throughout his career. Dr. Craighead was an exceptionally gifted teacher, and many of his students now hold prominent positions across the country. As Judith Hancock plays *The World Awaiting the Saviour* (Dupré) and *Jesus Christus Unser Heiland* (Bach), Dr. Craighead's discussion touches on teaching methods, score preparation, touch, and other topics of interest for organists at different levels of proficiency. \$10.

For further information, please contact AGO Manager of Educational Resources

Harold Calhoun, 212-870-2311 (ext. 4318)
or e-mail <hc@agohq.org>.

AGO NATIONAL CONVENTION WILL CELEBRATE THE KING OF INSTRUMENTS

The Forty-Ninth AGO Natl. Convention in Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN, June 22–26, 2008 will Inaugurate the International Year of the Organ and Feature Premier Performances of New Organ and Choral Music.

New York City. The AGO will hold its 49th biennial National Convention in Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN., June 22–26, 2008. More than 2,000 are expected to attend with more than 1,500 already registered. While convention registration is open to all, AGO members receive a discounted registration rate. Convention headquarters will be the Minneapolis Hilton Hotel. Complete details, including convention and hotel registration, are available online at <www.ago2008.org>.

The 2008 AGO NATIONAL CONVENTION is the first to be held in the Twin Cities since 1980. Celebrating the "King of Instruments," the convention will include a plethora of inspiring performances of organ and choral music by internationally recognized artists and ensembles; more than 65 workshops on a variety of professional and interesting topics, including a Messiaen pedagogy track and choral reading sessions; and 100 exhibits by organbuilders, music publishers, and other vendors providing products of interest and services to the organ and choral music profession.

The International Year of the Organ (IYO), a year-long celebration of the organ, will be inaugurated at the AGO National Convention in the Twin Cities. The year will include various events in this country and abroad designed to entertain, inform, and engage new audiences for organ music, while giving seasoned listeners a fresh perspective on the organ's expansive repertoire. The convention will feature the premier performances of works by Stephen Paulus of St. Paul, Minn., and

Bernard Wayne Sanders of Muehlheim, Germany, composed specifically for the IYO.

The AGO's prestigious national competitions in organ performance and improvisation will be conducted during the convention; each winner will be featured in recital. The winners of the AGO/Quimby Regional Competitions for Young Organists will be presented in nine "Rising Stars" recitals. The winning compositions of the AGO/ECS Publishing Award in Choral Composition and the AGO Award in Organ Composition will receive their premier performances. American Public Media's Pipedreams Live will crown the convention and be recorded for future broadcast.

The world renowned St. Paul Cathedral Choir, London, under the direction of Andrew Carwood, will be in residence for three days of the convention. The choir will give a full concert at the Saint Paul Cathedral in St. Paul, and will sing Choral Matins and Evensong at the Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis. The choir's participation in the convention is made possible by a generous grant from the St. Paul Foundation, Katherine B. Andersen Fund.

The commissioning and premier performances of eleven masterworks representing an hour of new music has garnered the support of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). Commissioned composers include Judith Bingham, Jaakko Mäntyjärvi, Aaron Kernis, Libby Larsen, and Steven Stucky. In addition, six short pieces for organ and orchestral instruments were commissioned for the Little (Minnesota) Organ Book, to be published by Augsburg Fortress Press. This collection will contain the commissioned works of Carol Barnett, Cary John Franklin, Linda Tutas Haugen, Monte Mason, David Evan Thomas, and Janika Vandervelde.

For further information, please contact AGO National Convention Coordinator Bill Stump, e-mail: whstump@msn.com.

European News

The following letter came to my attention:

Dear Mr. Sanders,

I am a member of the American Guild of Organists (Singapore chapter) and will be spending a Summer semester with the University of Heidelberg from April until the end of July. As such, it will be fabulous if I will still be able to practice during that period of time and, hopefully, be able to

attend classes conducted by some of the organists in the region. Would the Europe chapter of the AGO be able to assist me in this? Thank you very much for your help.

Yours Sincerely,

Melissa Goh, Singapore

If anyone can be of service, please contact Ms. Goh directly at:

dreamer.mel@gmail.com

Humor

The organ is the instrument of worship,
for in its sounding we sense the Majesty of God
and in its ending we know the Grace of God.

Why are the organs in Heaven unplayable?

Because their keys were stolen to make accordions in Hell.

Why do some people take an instant dislike to organists?

Because, in the long term, it saves time.

What's the definition of a gentleman?

An organist who can play the works of Tournemire, but doesn't.

Why did the chicken cross the road?

To get away from the Tournemire recital.

How many cathedral organists does it take to change a light bulb?

"Change! What's change?"

How many organists does it take to change a light bulb?

One - but he'll do it too loudly.

What's the difference between organists and government bonds?

Government bonds eventually mature and earn money.

If you were in a room full of organists and had a
gun with only one bullet, who would you shoot?

Yourself.

Said Wanda Landowska to a rival musician:

"There's no reason why we should not be friends.

We both play Bach. You in your way, and I in his."

Definitions:

Accidental: Wrong note.

ad libitum: A premiere.

Audition: The act of putting oneself under extreme duress to satisfy the sadistic intentions of someone who has already made up his mind.

Cadence: The part when everybody hopes you're going to stop.

Coloratura soprano: A singer who has great trouble finding the proper note, but who has a wild time hunting for it.

Crotchet:	Similar to knitting, but usually faster.
Diatonic:	A low-calorie drink by Schweppes.
Glissando:	A technique adopted by string players for difficult runs.
Perfect Pitch:	When you throw a banjo into the dumpster and it lands exactly on top of the bagpipes.
senza sordino:	A term used to remind the player that he forgot to put on his mute a few bars back.
Soviet String Quartet:	A Soviet Symphony Orchestra returning to Russia after its tour of the U.S.A.
Vibrato:	A device used by singers to hide the fact that they are on the wrong note.
Interval:	The time it takes to find the right note.

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 !*

March 29 th 11 AM	Frank Mento, Organ	St-Jean de Montmartre, Paris (F)
	Works by César and Joseph Franck	
March 30 th 4 PM	Chris Bragg, Organ; Emma Jones, Violin	De Open Hof, Soest (NL?)
April 5 th 7:30 PM	Chris Bragg, Organ; Emma Jones, Violin	Ev. Kirche, Eitorf (D)
April 12 th	Johan Hermans, Organ	Abbey church, Westmalle (Antwerp) (B)
April 13 th 6 PM	Otto Krämer, Organ	Krefeld, Ev. Kirche St. Hubert (D)
	Improvisations	
April 16 th	Johan Hermans, Organ	ev. Auferstehungskirche Düsseldorf (B)
	in the series "4. Oberkasseler Orgelfrühling (Organ built by Sauer, 2004)	
April 27 th 6 PM	Otto Krämer, Organ Improvisations	Kirrweiler-Maikammer (D)
		Kath. Pfarrkirche "St. Kosmas und Damian"
May 9 th	Johan Hermans, Organ	Basilique St-Christophe, Charleroi (F)
	Recital with Fabienne Vénien, Cello	
May 14 th 12:45 PM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ	Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels Los Angeles, CA (USA)
May 16 th 8 PM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ	St. Bede's Episcopal, Menlo Park, CA (USA)
May 18 th 8 PM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ	Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption San Francisco, CA (USA)
May 19 th	Otto Krämer, Organ	Bühlkirche, Zürich (CH)
	Improvisations: Dance and the Organ	
May 21 st 8 PM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ	St. James Episcopal, Pasadena, CA (USA)
May 24 th 1:30 PM	Chris Bragg, Organ; Emma Jones, Violin	Hooglandse Kerk, Leiden (NL)
May 30 th	Craig Cramer, König-Organ 1714	Niederehe/Eifel (D)
June 1 st	Craig Cramer, König-Organ 1727	Steinfeld/Eifel (D)
June 1 st 4 PM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ	Elise Notre Dame, Chatou (F)
June 4 th 8 PM	Chris Bragg, Organ	Grote Kerk, Coevorden (NL)
June 8 th	Craig Cramer, Organ	Silbermann Museum, Frauenstein (D)
June 20 th	Johan Hermans, Organ	St. Jacobs church, Antwerp (B)

June 21 st	6 PM	Otto Krämer, Organ	Redcar, England (UK)
		Silent Film and the Wurlitzer Organ	
June 22 nd		Johan Hermans, Organ	Roeselaere (B)
July 13 th	6 PM	Otto Krämer, Organ	Jakobikirche Herford (D)
		Improvisations upon Request	
July 13 th	8 PM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ	Vor Frue Kirke, Assens (DK)
July 14 th	8 PM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ	Sct. Peders Kirke, Naestved (DK)
July 19 th	11 AM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ	Sct. Nicolai Kirke, Kolding (DK)
July 26 th	12 MM	Chris Bragg, Organ	Cathedral, Dunblane (UK)
July 28 th		Johan Hermans, Organ	Mechelen (Vaals) (NL)
		International organ summerfestival	
Aug. 3 rd	7:30 PM	Chris Bragg, Organ	Kirkko, Nurmijärvi (FIN)
Aug. 6 th	8 PM	Chris Bragg, Organ	Stora kyrkan, Östersund (SWE)
Aug. 10 th	6 PM	Chris Bragg, Organ	kyrka Frösö (SWE)
Aug. 15 th	12:30 PM	Chris Bragg, Organ	Grote Kerk, Leeuwarden (NL)
Aug. 16 th	8 PM	Chris Bragg, Organ	Grote of Sint Nicolaaskerk, Brouwershaven (NL)
		Emma Jones, Violin	
Aug. 20 th	8 PM	Chris Bragg, Organ	Grote of Eusebiuskerk, Arnhem (NL)
Aug. 22 nd	12 MM	Chris Bragg, Organ	Grote Kerk, Vlissingen (NL)
Aug. 23 rd	8 PM	Chris Bragg, Organ; Emma Jones, Violin	Magnuskerk, Anloo (NL)
Aug. 25 th	8:30 PM	Chris Bragg, Organ	Basilique Notre Dame, Nice (F)
Aug. 31 st	6 PM	Otto Krämer, Conductor	St. Peter u. Paul, Straelen (D)
		Werke von W.A.Mozart	
Sept. 4 th	3:30 PM	Chris Bragg, Organ; Emma Jones, Violin	Hervormde Kerk, Vorden (NL)
Sept. 7 th	5 PM	Otto Krämer, Organ	Diessen-Ammersee (D)
		Improvisations	
Sept. 21 st	8 PM	Otto Krämer, Organ	Riedisheim-Elsass (F)
		Improvisations	
Nov. 5 th	12:45 PM	Chris Bragg, Organ; Emma Jones, Violin	Oude Kerk, Zoetermeer (NL)
Nov. 11 th	5 PM	Otto Krämer, Organ	Langenfeld St. Josef (D)
		Improvisations to Silent Movie	

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

