



American Guild of Organists

Chartered 1896

European Chapter

Chartered 1979

Newsletter July 2010

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The Dean's Corner

Dear European Chapter Members,

July can be a lovely month for organists, I notice, when full schedules relax and summer warmth makes a welcome appearance, especially in the normally freezing, European churches. I always suggest to my students that they take advantage of the summer months to get extra practicing done in that special environment in a church when sunshine streams through windows. "Go in the early morning or evening when you can be all alone. You just might have the thought that you are thankful to be an organist!"

Don't miss this **European Chapter news** in this newsletter:

2011 Quimby Competition for young organists; Don't you know of a student who would like to enter? Ann Elise Smoot is the coordinator for the European Chapter competition. Please get in touch with her immediately aes@aesmoot.com if you think you know of a potential candidate for the competition

Spring Meeting announcements for 2011 and 2012: Bremen, Germany and York, England. Very exciting! Response from so many of our members willing to organize a future Spring Meeting has been overwhelming. Your European Chapter Board had to choose which area in which country we should visit next. We hope our members are pleased that our 2011 Spring Meeting during the week after Easter will be in the area of Bremen in

North Germany. The organizers will be our members Rhonda Edgington and Beth Harrison. The Spring Meeting in 2012 will be in the area of York, England. Organizers will be our members, Mike Irvine, John Falkingham and John Swindells.

European Chapter Membership Renewal for 2010-2011: Almost completed. If you haven't yet renewed your membership, please think about doing it today and then write to me about which method of payment you would like to use: judith.riefel-lindel@wanadoo.nl Also if you have questions about your membership, please write.

I look forward to your response.

With best greetings,

Judy

The Secretary's Voice

Dear Members,

Putting together the Chapter Newsletter is always an interesting adventure. Even as you are reading these lines the next issue is developing. Twelve weeks long articles and information get collected. Just in the final stages they get organized and subsequently turn up on your e-mail.

Allow me to express my gratitude to all who contribute to the publication! Allow me at this time also to urge all of you to submit information that you think is interesting and relevant for our colleagues for inclusion in the next issue.

Wishing you all a good Summer
and a good read !

Bernard

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

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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
tania.hermans@skynet.be if you'd like to
add information to it!

Members' News

Bernard Sanders setting of the Gregorian Introitus "Dignus est Agnus" for Schola (men) and Orchestra was premiered on a concert in the St. Gallus church in Tuttlingen, Germany on Nov. 19th 2009, with the composer conducting. His "Dirges in the Dark" and "Eclogue & Fugue in g" both for Organ solo were premiered in a Lenten concert on Saturday, Feb. 28th 2010 in the church of St. Mary's in Tuttlingen,

Germany, with the composer at the organ. Mary Joy Rieder-Peroz from Minneapolis did the premier performance of Sanders' "Introspection" on June 19th 2010 also in the church of St. Mary's, Tuttlingen.

Frank Mento has good news to share with us: the restoration of the organ at Saint-Jean de Montmartre Church in Paris is well under way; the organbuilder and his workers started remounting the instrument on June 15 and it should be finished in September. Here is a link showing some pictures of the organ being restored: http://www.paris.fr/portail/accueil/Portal.lut?page_id=1&document_type_id=2&document_id=84613&portlet_id=21961

HORP: What is that?? Read about this exciting project started in 2001 by **Beth Harrison**, one of the organizers of our next Spring Meeting. More information at:

<http://horp.org/index.html>

Read about Beth on the next page!

Carolyn Shuster Fournier premiered a work of Jacques Charpentier (who, by the way, lives in Carcassonne) based on the "Ubi caritas" for the Messiaen Festival at the Trinité Church in 2008. She is currently preparing for two concerts in Paris in July. Her CD in homage to Nadia Boulanger was released in June.

Stateside News

Joy and Mike Irvine had a wonderful time at the AGO National Convention in Washington D.C. in July. Here is Mike's report:

The first impression of Washington was what a hot week it was. Temperatures were hitting records at 102 deg F, about 36 deg C, so considerable energy had to be summoned just to keep up with it all! Still, there is that old song about mad dogs and Englishmen being out in the noonday sun!

Musically though, it was a wonderful week, fully up to expectation, and I will just mention a few highlights:

- The Rising Stars recitals at the start of the week showed exceptional talent, and give great hope for the future
- We heard Paul Jacobs play for the first time at St Anne's RC church on a lovely fresh-sounding Letourneau, and he was a revelation. All the attributes of a top-level concert pianist applied to the organ - fluidity, sensitivity, expression and total control all at once
- Organ and harp - Jean-Baptiste Robin and Elizabeth Blakeslee (Washington SO) gave a lovely interpretation of Debussy's *Après-midi* at St John's Episcopal using a newish Lively-Fulcher. Though the acoustic was dead and the organ could be over-loud, this was also handled very sensitively
- A hymn festival with Bruce Neswick, choir and brass at the National City Christian church. This was packed, and the congregational singing was phenomenal with the magnificent big Skinner/Moller in a generous acoustic. This was one of my favourite organs of the week, and Bruce led the hymns in grand style, adapting superbly to us singing in unison, parts, male or female voices only. He also improvised before and between verses in many different styles. A truly inspirational occasion
- An afternoon out at Annapolis for the Naval Academy. This was intended partly as a sightseeing visit of this lovely little town, but it was so hot that most of us cowered in the shade until David Higgs evening recital. The chapel is enormous and impressive, appearing to grow in size as you walk in. The organ is a Hutchings with the biggest console I have ever seen, having 500 stopknobs, but in fact two-thirds of it is digital (gleaned from the organ technician) Still, there are 5700 pipes and David gave a superb recital on it even if the 32's sounded more like road

drills than organ pipes. For his encore he used the theatre sounds and traps, which worked particularly well.

- The closing concert at the National Shrine including our very own Renee Anne Louprette and David Briggs. This is also a magnificent building with a fine acoustic and the Moller organs at each end with matching 4-manual consoles. We were privileged to enjoy the concert up in the gallery, but the space below was packed to the aisles with a 3000-strong audience. The biggest challenge was the Three Psalms commissioned from David Hurd which required both organs and a large choir below. Our two organists, separated by a couple of hundred feet and coordinating with the conductor, mastered this superbly, and it was a wonderful experience. Renee then performed a new piece with choir by Olivier Latry, *Salve Regina*, which had wonderful sonorites and contrasts, also exploiting the chamade trumpet, probably devastating to the choir in the gallery with the organ. David Briggs concluded with one of his legendary improvised Organ Symphonies, and this brought tumultuous applause

So, a wonderful Convention from our perspective, and the AGO are to be congratulated

Best wishes,

Mike Irvine

Introducing Our Members

Elizabeth Harrison is the Executive Director of the Historic Organ Resource Program (HORP), which she founded in the spring of 2001 to assist organ students, organ professors, organ enthusiasts, and professional organists to experience and learn from historical and historical-style instruments. She received bachelor's degrees from Duke University and Southern College, a Master of Music degree from New England Conservatory, and a Doctorate of Musical Arts degree from Stanford University. She serves on

the faculty of the Oklahoma City University's Wanda L. Bass School of Music, teaching organ and church music. She has also taught as a faculty member at Stanford Univ., Cogswell Polytechnical Institute, and Westminster College (New Wilmington, PA), teaching courses in studio organ, organ literature, sacred music, music theory, and music history.

From 1988 to 1991, Dr. Harrison studied at the North German Organ Academy in Bunderhee, Germany, where she was chosen as the Organ Assistant to help with teaching. Since returning to the United States, she has distinguished herself as one of the leading experts on Baroque organ pedagogy and one of the sought-out performers in the United States and Europe. Her publications include several papers on early keyboard pedagogy and an article in the Revised New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians. Her CD's include The Sweelinck School of German Organists (Raven label), Schnitger in Neidersachsen (with others, ORSEV label), and The Sounds of Bellingwolde (Spring 2009).

Historic Organ Resource Program

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

News from HQ

AGO EXPANDS ACCESS TO LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP Eleven Individuals Have Made a Commitment to Lifetime Membership in the Guild since the Membership Category Was Created in 2009

New York City. - The AGO is proud to offer a new membership category for

individuals who wish to make a commitment to the AGO for life. Lifetime Membership was approved by the AGO National Council as a pilot program in 2009. The opportunity to enroll in Lifetime Membership is now extended to all at the start of the 2010–2011 membership year.

This new category was created in order to provide a membership option for those who wish to declare their timeless support of the Guild by making a commitment to Guild membership for life. Lifetime Membership is available for \$3,000, either as a lump sum or payable over six years. "Lifetime members never have to write a check for AGO membership renewal again," declared Herbert Buffington, director of the AGO's Committee on Membership Development and Chapter Support. "AGO National Headquarters will credit the chapter portion of the Lifetime member's dues to the local chapter of the member's choice on an annual basis." Lifetime members designate the corpus of their Lifetime Membership dues for one of the following funds at the end of their life: the AGO Endowment Fund, New Organist Fund, Nita Akin Fund, or National Council-Designated Fund, which supports general operations.

Eleven individuals became Lifetime Members during the pilot program in 2009; many more are expected to enroll as Lifetime Members during the 2010–2011 membership renewal campaign. Lifetime Members are listed on the AGO Web site, www.agohq.org, and honored in THE AMERICAN ORGANIST Magazine annually.

Complete information and an application to become a Lifetime Member are available online at www.agohq.org/membership. For further information, please contact AGO National Headquarters at 212-870-2310 or e-mail members@agohq.org.

Obituary

Yvonne Lorioid-Messiaen passed away
May 17th 2010.

**Financing a renovation program,
heritage promotion, and awareness of
organ music for young rural people**

**Project with the Heritage and Culture
Association in Saintonge (2010)**

The mission of the Heritage and Culture Association in Saintonge (France) is to promote the heritage of this ancient province straddling four French states (*departments*): Charente, Charente-Maritime Deux-Sevres, Vendee.

Cedric Burgelin, recipient of First Prize for organ at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris, is the artistic adviser of the city of Jonzac and titular organist of the historic Cathedral of Saintes, Charente-Maritime. With the town of Jonzac, Burgelin has already begun renovating the organ, and has set up a youth outreach program for piano, harpsichord and organ. An organ, he says, is like a human body, a fine mechanism which requires regular check-ups. In Charente-Maritime there are fifty-two organs, twenty-six are prestigious - seven are of a special class. Cedric Burgelin proposed a regular audit of these twenty-six instruments of prestige in the Charente-Maritime to the Association for the Heritage and Culture in Saintonge. At the same time, he took the opportunity to visit each of the twenty-six cities and promote an educational goal for spreading music to students of schools and colleges in rural areas. Cedric Burgelin has developed an outreach program to the instrument on three keyboards. The children involved are in primary classes (grades 1 and 2) and upper grades (6th and above). After each check-up, a concert is given to the inhabitants of the city. On April 19th, Cedric Burgelin met with school children of the town of Pons.

*(Cedric Burgelin is a former member of
the European Chapter of the AGO)*

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Concerning the Quimby Chapter Competition

Dear colleagues,

The chapter board has decided to hold another AGO Quimby competition for Young Organists, to take place in London between February and early April, 2011. **Important to note** is that the number of participants and where they live can have influence on the exact date and location of the competition.

The competition is open to any young organist under 24 years of age as of 1 August, 2011, and membership in the AGO is not required. (Past first-place Regional Competition winners are ineligible to compete.) We will be publishing full details of how to enter and when the competition will take place after the next board meeting in October, but your students can start preparing now! Deadline for entries is postmark 21 January 2011 and all forms and instructions can also be found on www.agohq.org. The repertoire for the competition is:

1. A prelude (a toccata or fantasia is acceptable) and fugue by JS Bach. The 8 'Little' Preludes and Fugues are acceptable, as is BWV 582, but not BWV 572.
2. A work by a composer born between 1800 and 1900 (a single movement of a larger work is acceptable).
3. A work by a composer born after 1900 (a single movement of a larger work is acceptable).

4. A hymn: choose one of the following:

- Lobe den Herren
- Nicaea
- Mit Freuden Zart

The works in categories 2 and 3 must be contrasting in mood. For the hymn, the competitor will introduce the hymn and play two stanzas as if accompanying a congregation. The first stanza of the hymn must be played from the version downloaded from www.agohq.org. Published and/or improvised arrangements may be used for the introduction and/or other stanza if desired. Total performance time (including piston setting) must not exceed 40 minutes.

The first place winner is expected to compete in the Region 2 regional competition (the winner of which performs at the National Convention as a 'rising star'!) and assistance will be provided with travel expenses. S/he will also receive free

AGO membership for one year and a cash award.

This is a great opportunity for a young player, and not necessarily a greatly experienced one. **Judges are specifically asked to judge the performers exclusively on their standard of performance and not on the difficulty of the works chosen, so this competition could appeal equally to relatively inexperienced organists, as well as those with more experience.**

Please start thinking about whether you know anyone who would like to apply! There are more details, and the full set of rules, available on the AGO website. I will be coordinating the competition, so please feel free to email me with questions on aes@aesmoot.com Ann Elise Smoot

With all best wishes,

Ann Elise Smoot, London

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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 !*

June 12th 8 PM Christoph Keller, Organ St. Michael, Saarbrücken (D)
Works by J.S. Bach, Cèsar Franck, Josef Rheinberger and Percy Whitlock

June 30th 8:30 PM Rhonda Edgington, Organ (Arp Schnitger) St. Salvator, Pellworm (D)
Music from American and Europe by Buxtehude, Bach, Sweelinck, Muffat, Luebeck, Bruhns and
Bernard Wayne Sanders, James Woodman, and Dan Locklair

July 3rd 4 PM Carolyn Shuster Fournier, Organ St. Gervaise, Paris (F)
Works by Louis Couperin, Francois Couperin, Gervais Couperin

July 11th 5 PM Carolyn Shuster Fournier, Organ Frederiksborg Castle (Denmark)
Works by Antonio Valente, Samuel Scheidt, Dietrich Buxtehude, Louis Couperin, J.S. Bach,
Alexis Chauvet, Cesar Franck, Jehan Alain, Alexandre Guilmant

July 10th 9 PM Giorgio Parolini, Organ Parish Church of Chiomonte, Turin (I)

July 14th Martin Bambauer, Organ Sande-Kirke (Norway)

- July 11th 7 PM Bernard Sanders, Organ Ev. Johanneskirche, Bad Dür rheim (D)
 Dr. Martin Weidner, Trumpet; Music for Trumpet and Organ
 Works by T. Albinoni, Jean-Baptiste Senaillé, Heinrich Stölzel, David Lasky, Bernard Sanders
- July 24th 10:30 AM Anna Schröder, Organ (Arp Schnitger) St. Ludgeri, Norden (D)
 Works by Johann Sebastian Bach and Dietrich Buxtehude
- July 28th 8 PM Rhonda Edgington, Organ (Arp Schnitger) St. Ludgeri, Norden (D)
 Works by Bach, Buxtehude, Sweelinck, Muffat, Luebeck, Bruhns, and Jacob Praetorius
- Aug. 1st 4 PM Rhonda Edgington, Organ St. Wilhaldi, Osterholz-Scharmbeck (D)
 Works by Bach, Buxtehude, Sweelinck, Muffat, Luebeck, Bruhns, and Jacob Praetorius
- Aug. 8th 4:30 PM Giorgio Parolini, Organ Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris (F)
- Aug. 10th 8:45 PM Giorgio Parolini, Organ St. Martin, Colmar (F)
 Concert for Trumpet and Organ; Luciano Marconcini, Trumpet
- Aug. 13th 7 PM Giorgio Parolini, Organ Holy Cross Church, St. Malo (F)
- Aug. 29th Martin Bambauer, Organ Reformed Church, Uster (Switzerland)
- Sept. 11th 6 PM Martin Bambauer, Organ Cathedral, Meissen (D)
- Sept. 12th 6 PM Martin Bambauer, Organ St. Johann, Zittau (D)

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

