



American Guild of Organists

Chartered 1896

European Chapter

Chartered 1979

Newsletter July 2016

1. *The Dean's Corner ; The Secretary's Voice*
2. *News from the Board; Spring Meeting 2017 Announcement;*
4. *Introducing our Members; Members' News*
6. *Obituary*
7. *Stateside News*
8. *News from HQ*
10. *Recitals Past & Present*

The Dean's Corner

Dear European Chapter Members,

As I sit here in my Dutch house which was built in 1938, on this gloriously sunny Sunday in July, 2016, and I start this letter to you, I find that I'm rather bursting with a feeling of being happy and lucky to have all of you in my life! Although we live far apart from each other, what a gift it is, this AGO European Chapter connection that we have and have had for so many years now, which continues to bring us together in a way that is so special that I just had to mention it here. When you read the articles in this newsletter from our members Roger and Corrado living in the USA, Giorgio who lives in Italy, Bernard and Christoph in Germany, Carolyn in France, myself in the Netherlands, plus news from National AGO, I hope that you will read with interest and in many cases excitement about what these members are sharing with you. And on top, I hope you'll be inspired to share with us something about yourself, next time!

Spring Meeting 2017 in the USA! YES! Read all about it in this newsletter and don't miss the details in the **Appendix**, by our member and organizer in Washington D.C., Roger Schumacher.

Also, huge **CONGRATULATIONS** to our member **Katelyn Emerson**, who won First Prize in the AGO National playing competition in Houston, held just prior to

the National Convention. Good for you, Katelyn! In addition, I am happy to bring to your attention that our member **Cheryl Duerr**, has been reelected for another term as our AGO **Regional Councillor**. Hurray, Cheryl !

And one last thing: As of 12 July, **I have a new email address: judith.riefel-lindel@outlook.com** PLEASE delete any other e-mail addresses you may have for me in your contact list. Thank you!!

Have a wonderful Summer!

Judy

The Secretary's Voice

Dear Members,

For some of you stateside the Summer break is in full swing but for many of us here it's just starting. I'm relatively certain that whichever position you're in, there is no lack of things to take care of nor danger of boredom. This Newsletter should give you the opportunity to look back and incentive to look ahead. Looking back on things accomplished and people to remember is always important for a perspective on making plans for the future. The announcement of the Spring Meeting will surely catch your attention. Don't hesitate to sign up! Space is limited and going fast! But above all, have a good read!

Bernard

bernard.sanders@web.de

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

News from the Board

Dean and Membership Coordinator:

Judy Riefel-Lindel

judith.riefel-lindel@outlook.com

Sub-Dean:

Johan Hermans

j.h.o@skynet.be

Secretary and Newsletter Editor:

Bernard Sanders

bernard.sanders@web.de

Treasurer:

Charles Baer

charlesbayer2000@yahoo.com

Registrar:

John Falkingham

john.falk24@tiscali.co.uk

Web-Master:

Barry Jordan

organman1957@barryjordan.de

Educational Coordinator:

Ruth Ahrend

ruthahrend@aol.com

Professional Development:

Giorgio Parolini

info@giorgioparolini.com

ONCARD Assistant:

Betsy Mixon-Stemmler

betsymixon@web.de

Support your Board, be an active Member!

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 Announcement

Dear European Chapter Members,

**17th - 22nd April, 2017 Washington, D.C.
USA, here we come!**

Surprised? I'll share a little history and background that led to the decision.

1) Here in Europe we sometimes forget that The American Guild of Organists to which the European Chapter belongs is an American organization comprised of 15,500 members and 300 Chapters. Most Chapters are in America, but a small number are located in other countries

around the world. In 1979 the European Chapter was founded by a group of American organists who were playing in military chapels in Europe and were missing the contact with each other that they had enjoyed by being members of AGO in the United States. From the beginning these Americans made contact with European organists/church musicians and organ builders, to whom they introduced the American Guild and its mission and invited them to join. As the American military began pulling out of Europe, many AGO members were among those returning to the states, but many of these members continued to renew their membership in the European Chapter (up to today!) right along with those American AGO members who remained in Europe. These members, along with the European members who had joined the European Chapter up to that point, continued to march forward, not letting the spirit of AGO be diminished, even though the number of members fell to lower than 30. Since that time in the late 1980s, early 1990s, the European Chapter has continued to grow into the amazing international group of organists, church musicians, organ builders, organ friends and fans that it is today. Its 128 members live in 14 countries in Europe, 22 states in the USA, and in Victoria, Australia.

2) Because European Chapter members live so far apart from each other, from the beginning it wasn't easy to plan events to which more than a few members could attend. In 1999, the idea of a longer gathering of members took shape in the form of a Spring Meeting that would last 5 days and be held during the week after Easter. It worked! The European Chapter Spring Meetings have continued non-stop to today and continue to be located and organized by one of our members in the city or area where he or she lives or has spent a great deal of time, as was the exceptional situation when we went to Mallorca. Through the years the Meetings have taken us to many different cities in several European countries. This will be

the first Spring Meeting that takes us to the other side of the Atlantic Ocean, the "home" of the American Guild of Organists and the country where many of our European Chapter members live. Since our American members have remained faithful to the European Chapter and have continued to support it by renewing their membership year after year and by attending our meetings in Europe, it seems only natural that our American members will also be happy to welcome their European colleagues to their corner of the world. The idea of a Spring Meeting in the USA has been seriously brewing in the European Chapter for the last couple of years and will now become a reality!

3) Just like anywhere, be it in Europe or in the United States, wherever you go you will find unique organs. It may well surprise some of our European members who have never had the chance to hear, see, or play organs in the USA that there are American organs of exceptional quality to be found everywhere. The Washington D.C. area is no exception. This Spring Meeting will emphasize organs built by American and Canadian organ builders such as Casavant, Skinner, Moeller, Taylor and Boody, Steiner-Reck, Lively-Fulcher, and others who have built and are building some of the highest quality organs anywhere. New names to you? Not after the Spring Meeting!

European Chapter member and Washington D.C. Chapter member, Roger Schumacher, is very excited to be the organizer of our Spring Meeting 2017, centered in Washington D.C. and the surrounding area of Virginia and Maryland. He has already done a tremendous amount of work to find the right hotel for us, select the bus company, and set up our itinerary. Since we knew that a Spring Meeting in America would be a new idea for many and perhaps would require extra effort on the part of our members to attend, we decided it was important to send this announcement to our current members in late May, as plans had started settling, even before announcing

the location now in our July newsletter, as is our usual custom. Much to our HAPPY surprise, **33 members** have already made hotel reservations and are planning to attend.

If you are interested and hope to be able to join the European Chapter members in this adventure, please let Roger and me know as soon as possible. As Roger will tell you in the following "Details," if we need to try to get more hotel rooms at our wonderful group rate, we will need to do that very soon.

Roger's email address:

sebring441@aol.com

Judy's email address:

judith.riefel-lindel@outlook.com

Roger and I and the European Chapter Board hope you will be excited about this opportunity and will start making plans to attend.

With warm regards,

Judy

From the Editor: For all of the details which are available at the present time, read the **Appendix** from Roger which was sent with this Newsletter!!

European Chapter AGO Address corrections

Saska Stoutemejer, new e-mail:

saskagstoutmeijer@gmail.com

Judy Riefel-Lindel, new e-mail:

judith.riefel-lindel@outlook.com

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.

Introducing Our Members

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

Members' News

Our member **Corrado Cavalli** writes from Chicago:

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It is my pleasure to give you good news! The church of St John Cantius in Chicago, where I have the honor to be resident organist since June 2015, has been voted as the Most Beautiful Church in the US for its art and liturgy!

Please have a look at this article on the Chicago Tribune

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/ct-st-cantius-church-award-met-2-20160419-story.html>

Here is the church web site link

<http://www.cantius.org/>

in which you can find information about the church activities including our organ concert series.

Last but not least: last week we performed the "Waisenhaus" mass K139 by Mozart during the 12:30 mass. That ended our "Mozart project", in which in the past two years our choir and orchestra played and sang the complete Mozart sacred works (masses, motets, etc) during Sunday masses!

Regards

Corrado Cavalli

See the article under „Stateside News“!

Our member **Giorgio Parolini** writes from Italy:

As many of our members know, teaching is one of my musical activities: since December 2012 I had been teaching Organ at the Conservatorio di Musica "G.P. da Palestrina" in Cagliari. In November 2015 it happened that I lost my position because of the peculiarity of the system in Italy (it would take a very long time to explain it since it is very complicated).

I was very fortunate that a teaching position opened up at the Istituto Musicale Pareggiato "V. Bellini" in Catania and that my credentials were judged very high. I got the position there starting December 2015. There I have a full organ class (11 pupils) plus additional hours for teaching a little bit of organ to composition students. This means that I commute between home and Catania three times each month. In a day and a half I do about 18-19 hours of teaching plus travelling 1100 km there and another 1100 km back, a flight of around one and a half hours.

The students range from beginners to very advanced pupils: this means a lot of work (happy about that), with a lot of new ideas and information about our instrument and its repertoire to share with them. I hope to stay there next year, too, in order to develop other activities for them. It is important to me to get to know the pupils, how they work, how to encourage them and get them to make good progress.

The building where the school is located once was a monastery of nuns, the chapel (actually more a church than a chapel) is now the Auditorium.

We have two organs: one (photo 1 or photo 1bis) is located in a classroom and until 15 years ago it was in the chapel. This organ was built in 1956 by Vincenzo Mascioni as Op. 724, the action is electric.

Grande Organo (Manual I)

Principale 8'
Flauto Armonico 8'
Dulciana 8'
Ottava 4'
Decimaquinta 2'
Ripieno 4 file 1 1/3

Recitativo-Espressivo (Manual II)

Bordone 8'
Viola 8'
Flauto a cuspid 4'
Nazardo 2 2/3'
Flautino 2'
Voce Celeste 8'
Oboe 8'
Tremolo

Pedale

Subbasso 16'	I – Ped
Bordone 8'	II - Ped
Flauto 4'	II – I

Couplers

Super- and Sub-Octave Couplers



In 2001 the school was able to build a large mechanical organ for the Auditorium (photo 2), the instrument is located – as you can see – where the altar once stood. It is built according the Werkprinzip. Just above the console is the Positivo, the Grande Organo is on top, and the Pedal pipes are located in the side towers. The pipes of the third manual are located in a swell box behind the Grande Organo.

This instrument was also built by Mascioni as their Op. 1159. The key action is mechanical, the stop-action is electric in

order to have the sequencer (6 x 255 combinations).

Grande Organo (Manual I)

Bordone 16'
Principale 8'
Ottava 4'
Quintadecima 2'
Ripieno 4 file 1 1/3'
Flauto 8'
Tromba 8'

Positivo (Manual II)

Bordone 8'
Principale 4'
Cimbalo 3 file 2'
Flauto a camino 4'
Sesquialtera 2 file
Flautino 2'
Cromorno 8'
Tremolo

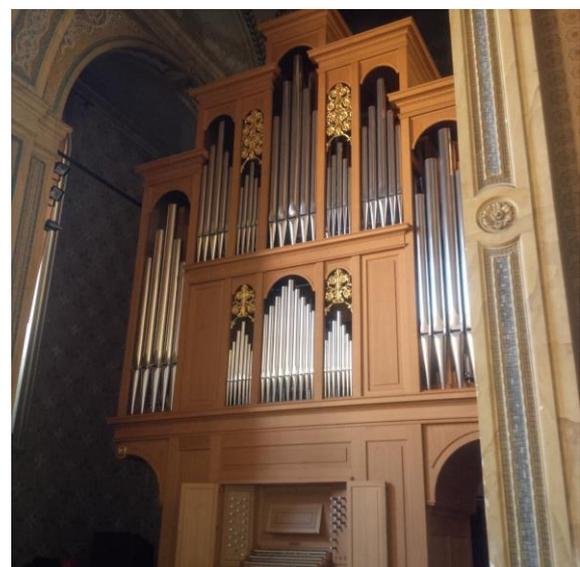
Recitativo-Espressivo (Manual III)

Flauto armonico 8'
Flauto a cuspid 4'
Nazardo 2 2/3'
Principale 2'
Viola da gamba 8'
Tromba Armonica 8'
Oboe 8'
Tremolo

Pedale

Subbasso 16'	I – Ped; II – Ped;
Basso 8'	III – Ped
Ottava 4'	III – I; III – II;
Trombone 16'	II – I

Couplers



Note from the Editor: We all wish you much success with this new position, Giorgio!

Bernard Sanders' "Drei leichte Stücke" ("Three Easy Pieces") for Organ (published by Christoph Dohr, Cologne) have been recorded by Carson Cooman and can be heard on You-Tube as follows:

#1:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zMXbzqvD-vY>

#2:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5v-ojPAtOHg>

#3:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=22OXxTYVMDE>

Carson is a prolific composer himself and much in demand as a concert organist. He is also Composer in Residence at The Memorial Church of Harvard University and Organ Editor for the Lorenz Publishing Company.

Dr. Sharon L. Hettinger was invited to play a full recital, in memory of a long-time choir member at her home parish, in Niles, Michigan. The program included Sanders' "From the Realms of Endless Day" for Flute and Organ (published by Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, MO) which she had commissioned several years ago in memory of her mother, who had also been an organist. Carol Stauffer Bosler was the flautist. The concert was quite well attended and the artists were rewarded with a number of fine compliments on the work. Sharon is the Director of the Committee on Continuing Professional Education for AGO National.

Our member **Christoph Keller** has great news:

On May 13th he successfully completed the examinations to become a certified Stock Market broker (Zertifizierter Wertpapierhändler und Mitglied der Deutschen Börse EUREX (Terminbörse). This exam lasts 3

grueling hours and is considered to be the most difficult worldwide. As a rule, 60% do not succeed, especially not the first time! This probably makes him the only concert organist in the world who is also a licensed stock market broker!

His plans, besides building up his broker activities, also include finishing up his Youtube recordings of the BACH-Fugues of Schumann, the 3 Chorales of Franck, some more Bach and the Cortège et Litanie von Dupré, which he recently committed to memory. He will also continue concertizing and is available for programs in the 2016-2017 season.

Christoph Keller
Organist • Recitalist
Recording Artist • Future Trader
Siercker Weg 7 • 66663 Merzig
Germany
kontakt@christophkeller.org
www.christophkeller.org

Congratulations Christoph! Looking forward to hearing more about your successes in both fields! Bernard

Obituary

Our member **Carolyn Shuster-Fournier** writes from Paris:

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

My dear friend Marie-Noëlle Balazuc passed away June 6th and I played at her funeral at the Saint-Pierre de Montmartre Church the following Monday. In 2003, she had so kindly welcomed us for a reception in her apartment, at 3, Rue Ravignan, during the European AGO Chapter's visit to Paris. Generous and highly cultivated, she regularly attended concerts, visited art galleries and collected contemporary art works. She often invited poets, musicians and artists to her home for dinner. I will never forget countless precious moments shared with her the day before her passing. If any AGO members

would like to write to her son Cyril Balazuc, here is his e-mail address:

cyril.balazuc@gmail.com .

If by chance you happen to have any photos of her during the visit to her home, could you so kindly send them to me and to her son?

With all my gratitude and
very best greetings

Carolyn



From the Editor

I very well recall the lovely reception she held for us in her apartment. At one point she vocalized her regret, that so few of us could speak French. Jon Gillock and I, who had been engaged in a conversation, overheard the remark and responded immediately. My French being considerably weaker, I participated as well as I could. We both had noticed several remarkable paintings on her walls and she was delighted to tell us more about them. Her gracious and charming personality will certainly be sorely missed by many!

Those members who participated in the Paris Spring Meeting will certainly also remember our visit there. Our thoughts and prayers are with her and with the family and friends in mourning.

Sateside News

St. John Cantius chosen America's Most Beautiful Church

Manya Brachear Pashman

Contact Reporter
Chicago Tribune

Threatened with the wrecking ball in 1988, St. John Cantius Roman Catholic Church, with its opulent baroque interior, stands as one of Chicago's many symbols of resurrection.

This past weekend, the Goose Island neighborhood parish, built by Polish immigrants in the 19th century, marshaled more than 16,000 of its fans and faithful to be voted "The Most Beautiful Church in America," edging out Cathedral of the Madeleine, the seat of the Salt Lake City Archdiocese.

The contest, dubbed Church Madness, began as a whim of Patrick Murray, a self-proclaimed liturgy geek and consultant for Granda Liturgical Arts, a church design company in Omaha, Neb. Inspired by the NCAA basketball tournament nickname, March Madness, Murray designed a bracket of 64 architecturally alluring churches throughout the U.S. and posted them on his personal blog, which usually had about 10 views a day — "I think nine of them were from my mom."

But the introduction of the "Sacred 64" bracket quickly changed that. By April 7, four days after the contest debuted, the blog was up to 70,000 views from 3,500 visitors. It had about 7,000 visitors Saturday, the day St. John Cantius took the title.

"I've been surprised at the emotional response," said Murray, 25, a native of Des Plaines who grew up part of the time in Northbrook and once attended St. John Cantius. "At the same time I shouldn't be. The whole point of art and architecture in these churches is to play to our emotions and lift our hearts."

The Rev. Joshua Caswell, a priest with the Canons Regular, the religious order housed at St. John Cantius, said he believes the contest provided a pleasant distraction for Catholic faithful.

"Beauty matters," he said. "Our culture is starved for beauty."

He admits he didn't think about the importance of the contest at the time. But as St. John Cantius advanced to the "Theological 32," the "Stunning 16," and

the "Ecclesiastical Eight," he was in it to win it, as were other competitors, he learned.

Also included in the original bracket was St. Peter's, a windowless urban art-deco church in Chicago's downtown. "I was hoping to present a variety of styles, spotlighting the fact that beauty and creativity can come in all shapes and sizes," Murray said.

Still, he was happy to see St. John Cantius claim the title. "It had an extraordinary impact on my faith," he said. "That was my first time ever understanding that we have this great Catholic heritage of art and tradition and liturgy that's all so important, and through baptism it's mine."

mbrachear@tribpub.com

Twitter @TribSeeker

Copyright © 2016, [Chicago Tribune](#)

A version of this article appeared in print on April 20, 2016, in the News section of the Chicago Tribune with the headline "St. John Cantius leads U.S. in beauty - Goose Island neighborhood church wins contest, voted most beautiful in America" —

[Today's paper](#)

News from HQ

AGO Elects 2016–2018 National Council and Regional Councillors Election Results Announced at AGO National Convention

New York City. On July 1, 2016, four newly elected officers, three national councillors with portfolio, and seven regional councillors begin their two-year term of leadership on the National Council and Board of Regional Councillors of the American Guild of Organists (AGO). Election results were reported and councillors were installed on Wednesday, June 22, during the AGO Annual Meeting held in conjunction with the AGO National Convention in Houston, Texas. In addition, in accordance with AGO Bylaws, AGO Past President John Walker will remain on the Council as a non-voting member for a

period of one year. The non-voting AGO Executive Director also serves as an ex officio member of Council. Election results follow:

NATIONAL COUNCIL

President

Michael Bedford, AAGO, ChM (Tulsa, Okla.)

Vice President / Councillor for Competitions and New Music
Eileen Hunt, AAGO (Salem, Mass.)

Secretary / Councillor for Communications
Mary V. Stutz (Williamsburg, Va.)

Treasurer / Councillor for Finance and Development
Barbara Adler, SPC (Ithaca, N.Y.)

Councillor for Conventions
Michael Velting (Nashville, Tenn.)

Councillor for Education
Don Cook, AAGO (Provo, Utah)

Councillor for Membership
David K. Lamb, CAGO (Clarksville, Ind.)

Non-Voting (Ex officio) Members of the AGO National Council

AGO Past President
John Walker, FAGO (Baltimore, Md.)

AGO Executive Director
James E. Thomashower, CAE (New York, N.Y.)

Seven regional councillors were also elected during the national election. In accordance with the Guild's new organizational structure, the regional councillors will be represented on the National Council through the Chair of the Board of Regional Councillors. During the AGO National Convention in Houston, Matthew Burt (West Regional Councillor) was elected to serve in this capacity.

**BOARD OF REGIONAL
COUNCILLORS**

Northeast Region

Cheryl Duerr, AAGO (Attleboro, Mass.)

Mid-Atlantic Region

Glenn L. Rodgers, AAGO (Delran, N.J.)

Southeast Region

Homer Ferguson III (Pinehurst, N.C.)

Great Lakes Region

Karl Bruhn (Batavia, Ill.)

North Central Region

Marilyn Schempp, SPC (Sioux Falls,
S.Dak.)

Southwest Region

Vicki Schaeffer (Norman, Okla.)

West Region

Matthew Burt, SPC (Palo Alto, Calif.)

"The process of nominating 14 candidates to serve on the National Council and an equal number of candidates for the seven Regional Councillor positions is a major undertaking," reported AGO Executive Director James Thomashower. "It requires a conscientious effort among seven Regional Nominating Committees and the AGO's National Nominating Committee. More than 40 volunteers are involved in finding two highly qualified nominees for each office. We thank all of the nominees for their willingness to serve in these volunteer positions."

The election was held from April 1–30 and managed by Intelliscan Inc., an independent election management firm engaged by the AGO to administer the

election, receive the ballots, and tabulate the results. The total number of ballots cast was 5,514, representing responses from approximately 35% of the Guild's membership. "The ability to vote and elect the Guild's leaders is both a benefit and a responsibility of membership," added Thomashower. "With so many outstanding candidates, members were faced with many hard choices. As is often the case, some of the races were not decided until the final ballots were cast. I extend my sincere thanks to all members who took part in the election. Our organization's future will be shaped by the leaders you have selected."

Detailed election results can be found in the July issue of The American Organist Magazine, p.7.

F. Anthony Thurman, DMA
Dir. of Development and Communications
American Guild of Organists
National Headquarters and THE
AMERICAN ORGANIST Magazine
475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1260
New York, NY 10115
212-870-2310
212-870-2311 Ext. 4308 (Direct)
FAX: 212-870-2163
E-Mail: fathurman@agohq.org
web: www.agohq.org

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 !*

- | | | | |
|---|---------|-------------------------|---|
| Apr. 29 th | 7:30 PM | Christa Rakich, Organ | Christ Church, Chattanooga, TN (USA) |
| Program includes the American premiere of Jesu, meine Freude, by Margaretha Christina de Jong | | | |
| July 20 th | | Steve Gentile, Organ | Wayzata Comm. Church, Minneapolis, MN (USA) |
| Works by Pachelbel, J.S. Bach (BWV 545), Vierne, Jacob Bijster | | | |
| July 2 nd | 12 MM | Giorgio Parolini, Organ | Kirka, Giovik (Norway) |
| July 3 rd | 7 PM | Giorgio Parolini, Organ | Lillehammer Kirka, Lillehammer (Norway) |
| July 7 th | 5 PM | Barry Jordan, Organ | Kloster im Grauhof , Goslar (D) |
| Works by Buxtehude, Bruhns, Scheidemann, Lübeck, Bach | | | |
| July 24 th | 8 PM | Giorgio Parolini, Organ | Pedersöre Church, Pietarsaari (Finland) |
| July 28 th | 7:30 PM | Giorgio Parolini, Organ | Stabkirche, Hahnenklee (D) |
| July 31 st | 6 PM | Giorgio Parolini, Organ | Alexanderkirche, Marbach am Neckar (D) |
| July 30 th | 3 PM | Bernard Sanders, Organ | Saalkirch, Ingelheim am Rhein (D) |
| Works by G. Pierné, J. S. Bach, R. Stoughton, Sanders, and G. Bélier | | | |
| July 31 st | 4:30 PM | Martin Welzel, Organ | Cathedral, Orléans (F) |
| Works by Mendelssohn, Langlais, and Vierne (Symphony V op. 47) | | | |
| Aug. 14 th | 11 AM | Bernard Sanders, Organ | Dom St. Martin, Rottenburg (D) |
| Works by G. Pierné, J. S. Bach, R. Stoughton, Sanders, and G. Bélier | | | |

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

