



## American Guild of Organists

Chartered 1896

## European Chapter

Chartered 1979

*Newsletter October 2016*

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### *The Dean's Corner*

Dear European Chapter Members,

Another exciting AGO year has begun for the European Chapter! Why exciting? Well, there are many reasons. Let me name a few:

1.) In the Membership Report in this newsletter you will see that in October we reached 133 in our Chapter membership! Just two years ago we numbered 116, so this is another membership milestone for our Chapter. Let me give a special welcome to our newest members: Margreeth de Jong, Middelburg, Netherlands; Stefan Heinemann, Wiesbaden, Germany; Donald Mackenzie, Aylesbury, England; Jason West, returning member now living in Washington D.C.; Kathy Cooper, returning member living in Arlington, Virginia; Christoph Hintermueller, Bergkamen, Germany, now studying in Los Angeles; Thomas Dahl, Hamburg, Germany, (2016 winner of the National AGO Competition in Improvisation in Houston!); John Wolfe, Evan Currie and Roshan Chakane, all students of European Chapter member Renee Louprette at Rutgers University in New Jersey. We are thrilled that you have chosen to become members of the European Chapter of AGO! We look forward to getting to know you!

2.) We are going to the USA during the week after Easter in 2017 for our Spring

Meeting! This is not a new announcement for most of you, but for those of you who have not yet heard the news: The European Chapter Spring Meeting 2017 will be held in Washington D.C. and our member there, Roger Schumacher, is the organizer. There is still a little bit of room for you to join us, so read the latest news about the event in this newsletter and let both Roger and myself know about your plans to attend. You will also be able to see the latest draft of the itinerary. Great work, Roger!

3.) Your Chapter Board met this month in Hasselt, Belgium, for our annual meeting to discuss the business of the chapter. What an enthusiastic group of officers I am privileged to work with year after year on your behalf here in Europe. I'm not sure that you are aware that your Chapter Board members live in a variety of countries: Belgium, France, Germany, England, USA, Italy and The Netherlands. That means that our Chapter, which is full of international members living around Europe and in the USA, is also represented on your Board by just such an international group of individuals. Very special, indeed! **Thank you board members**, for your continuing devotion, work, time, energy and support of AGO and the European Chapter.

4.) This newsletter is full of NEWS about what is happening in the lives and careers of many of our European Chapter members

here in Europe, as well as European Chapter members living in the USA and Australia. The AGO gives organists, choir directors, organ friends and fans around the world wonderful opportunities to gain knowledge and experience, to be supportive of colleagues and receive support in return. Just taking the step to become involved or simply meet one new person in our profession can bring fulfillment and joy that I guarantee will spread to others.

With warm wishes,

Judy

### *The Secretary's Voice*

Dear Members,

This issue is so full of interesting and exciting things that I don't want to keep you very long from reading further. During our Board Meeting we did discuss one item that I'd like to pass on here. Barry Jordan and I agreed that our jobs as Web-Master and Newsletter Editor respectively would be much easier if our members would send us photos and information. Freely after JFK, "Don't ask what your Chapter can do for you, think about what you can do for your Chapter!" Have a good read!

Bernard

[bernard.sanders@web.de](mailto:bernard.sanders@web.de)

**Please submit your items for the next  
Newsletter before Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> !**

### *News from the Board*

*Dean and Membership Coordinator:*

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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 !*

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### **European Chapter AGO Address corrections**

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(formerly of Naples, Italy)

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Watch for the new

**Membership List 2016-2017**

coming soon!

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### **The European Chapter Web Site**

can be visited at: [www.agoeurope.eu](http://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.

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## Membership Report

by Membership Coordinator

*Judith Riefel-Lindel*

The Dean's Message already "spilled the beans." The European Chapter is continuing to grow! As of October 2016, the European Chapter numbers 133 members, a jump of 17 in the last two years. Where are our members living? And how many are living there? Here's the list: Germany 37, France 11, Italy 7, Netherlands 6, Belgium 3, Liechtenstein 1, Switzerland 1, Poland 2, Lithuania 1, Republic of Moldova 1, Sweden 1, Finland 1, England 18, Scotland 2, Australia 1 and the USA 40. Where in the USA? New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, North Carolina, Florida, Alabama, Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, Colorado, Montana, Oregon, Washington, California and Arizona.

During the next few days I will be sending the membership list to our members. Watch for it and think about making personal contact with your fellow European Chapter members in the near future! It might start with an e-mail to one member who happens to live in or near a place you would like to visit. But let me warn you: You'll soon want to travel all over Europe, the USA and Australia looking up European Chapter members.

This is such an incredibly interesting international group of people!

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## Spring Meeting 2017

Washington, D.C., April 17 - 22, 2017

### TIME FOR AN UPDATE!

Dear Friends,

As I've worked to arrange the Spring Meeting for the European Chapter in Washington, D.C., next April, I've had the occasion to meet some of the most wonderful people! Organists, Music Directors, Pastors, Organ Builders, hotel and restaurant people, officials and members of local AGO chapters...entirely without exception, these people have been excited to learn that the European Chapter is coming to town, willing to go out of their way to help, and have offered their instruments, their churches, and their ideas to help make our week a fantastic experience. So I'd like to begin this update by thanking you, the members of the European Chapter, for giving me the opportunity to do this work for you. It's been educational, interesting, and very fun. I'm so much looking forward to seeing how it all turns out next April!

And **we have an Itinerary!!** Have a look at the bottom of this update. As I'm sure each of you understands, this Itinerary is still a draft at this early date! Much can happen between now and April to change individual items on this program. But in the case of each church, each organ (12 of them!), each venue...the resident organists and officials in charge have been contacted, and each has agreed to host us in the timeframe shown in this program. This is one of the core activities of our week...seeing and playing interesting, American-built organs...and I'm very excited how this has all come together. Surely you will be thrilled to get your fingers (and feet) into these wonderful instruments!

Another core activity of the week will be the chance to meet members of AGO chapters in the USA, and this Itinerary

gives us the opportunity to mix with members of *four* AGO chapters...one in the university town of Winchester, Virginia (home to Shenandoah University) and three chapters in the D.C. area, our “tri-chapters” (the D.C. Chapter, the Northern Virginia Chapter, and the Potomac Chapter in the Maryland suburbs of D.C.). A couple of these chapters already have begun publicizing this visit by the European Chapter, and we’ve seen real interest and excitement on the part of local AGO members.

We are working, as well, to offer participants other enriching experiences. Setting up the meals has been a challenge, especially since I’ve wanted to keep the costs down. Having lived in Europe for 11 years, I know that great food can be had there for very reasonable prices. It’s a bit more difficult in the U.S. to find places where large groups can experience wonderful meals at modest cost. But I believe the culinary experiences we will be offering during the week might just tickle your palate and leave you sated without doing great violence to your wallet. That’s the objective, at least!

But the most enriching experience of the week? Why, of course, that would be spending time with good, close friends in the European Chapter, renewing acquaintances with American members of the Chapter who are returning to join us in the D.C. Spring Meeting, and, of course, making new friends here in the USA! I mean...the organs are great, yea, and who doesn’t like to eat??! But renewing old friendships and making new ones, especially among persons in our elite little corner of the professional world (fellow organists and organ lovers)...that’s the best! And there will be plenty of opportunity for that on a bus trip through the Shenandoah Valley, at meals, at each venue, or just hanging out at the hotel! Good friendships are immeasurably important...but they need to be nourished. We’ll be doing plenty of that at the Spring Meeting!

It’s wonderful that, as of today, we have 40 persons signed up to attend. Our room block at the Marriott Hotel in Tyson’s Corner has been expanded to 30 rooms, and 25 of these already have been reserved by individual attendees. And it’s still early, but the sooner we know whether you plan to attend, the better! Please don’t delay contacting Judy and me if you’re thinking seriously about attending. The deadline to register for the Spring Meeting is January 31, 2017.

So if you’re still undecided and haven’t yet committed, you still have a while to think about it, but please tell us what you’re thinking. The hotel block will fill, and by late January, the opportunity will have passed you by.

Official registration for the Spring Meeting will take place in the lobby of the Marriott Hotel from 4:00 - 6:00 pm, Monday, April 17. As in the past, if an attendee already is a member of the European Chapter, there is no registration fee. Non-members will be asked to pay \$30 (or 30 Euros) to register for the Spring Meeting, or they may become a member of the European Chapter, including the category of Chapter Friend, for \$20 (or 20 Euros), in which case they will be excused from a registration fee to participate in the Spring Meeting.

Participants are expected to pay for their own lodging, meals and transportation during the Spring Meeting. As has been our practice in the past, the cost for the chartered bus will be split between the participants and the European Chapter. The many additional costs of the Spring Meeting are covered by the European Chapter. About two months before the Spring Meeting, the participants will be informed as to his/her share for the bus, as well as the amounts for the Opening and Closing dinners. The participants will be asked to pay for the bus and dinners in cash at registration between 4:00 and 6:00 in the Marriott Hotel lobby.

The European Chapter 2017 Spring Meeting in DC promises to be a very

interesting, enjoyable, and rewarding experience, professionally and personally. Please consider joining us!

Roger

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**European Chapter of the American  
Guild of Organists  
Spring Meeting, Washington D.C.  
April 17 - 22, 2017**

**Monday, April 17**

Members Arrive

7:00: Opening Dinner

at Clyde's of Tyson's Corner

Special guest: James E. Thomashower,  
Executive Director, AGO

**Tuesday, April 18**

9:00 - 11:00: Natl. Presbyterian Church  
(Aeolian-Skinner)

11:30 - 1:00: Lunch (on your own in the  
Shirlinton neighborhood)

1:30 - 4:00: Virginia Theological Seminary  
(Taylor & Boody)

5:30 - 6:30: National Cathedral  
Choral Evensong

7:00 - 9:00: Dinner on your own in  
National Cathedral neighborhood

Possible late night encounter with National  
Cathedral organ (Ernest M. Skinner & Son)

**Wednesday, April 19**

9:00 - 11:00: First Baptist Church of  
Washington DC (Austin)

11:30 - 1:00: Lunch (on your own in  
Dupont Circle area)

1:00 - 3:30: Driving Tour of the City

4:00 - 7:00: Basilica of the National  
Shrine of the Immaculate Conception  
(Moeller and Schudi)

7:30: Return to Hotel; Dinner on your own  
in the Tyson's Corner area

**Thursday, April 20**

Staunton & Winchester, Virginia

7:30: Depart Hotel for Taylor & Boody  
OrganBuilders, Staunton

10:00: Arrive T&B Organ Shop; tour shop

12:00: Lunch at T&B Organ Shop

1:00: Trinity Episcopal and Christ  
Evangelical Lutheran (Taylor & Boody)

3:30: Depart Staunton

5:00 - 9:30: Winchester AGO Chapter,  
Demonstration Recital and Hosted Dinner

9:30: Depart Winchester for  
Tyson's Corner Hotel

10:45: Arrive Hotel

**Friday, April 21**

10:30 - 12:30: New York Avenue  
Presbyterian Church (Schleuter)

12:30 - 2:00: Lunch (on your own in  
McPherson Square area)

2:30 - 4:30: St. John's Church (Episcopal)  
Lafayette Square (Lively-Fulcher)

5:00 - 7:30: St. John's (Episcopal)  
Norwood (Berghaus)

5:30 - 7:30: Reception Hosted by Tri-  
Chapters (DC, Northern Virginia, and  
Potomac)

8:00 - 10:00: Farewell Dinner

10:30: Return to Hotel

**Saturday, April 22**

Members Depart

*Introducing Our Members*



**Thomas Dahl** was born in Tönning in northern Germany. After completing his secondary education, he went on to study

church music, composition, music pedagogy, musicology and organ performance in Hamburg, Stuttgart, Paris and Chicago. Dahl finished his studies with six diplomas including the concert exam in organ performance under Jon Laukvik and the Prix d'excellence under Daniel Roth.

Other significant organ teachers were Heinz Wunderlich with whom he studied the major organ works of Max Reger, Willibald Bezler, Wolfgang Rübsam and Jean Guillou.

In seven international organ-playing and improvisation competitions he has been a prize winner or finalist. In 2016, he won 1<sup>st</sup> prize as well as audience prize at the AGO's National Competition of Organ Improvisation in Houston.

In 1996 Thomas Dahl was appointed Director of Music and Principal Organist at St Peter's, Hamburg, the oldest of the five main churches, where he is a successor to Telemann and C. P. E. Bach. His most important duties at St Peter's are the direction of the Hamburg Bach Choir and the St Peter's Collegium musicum, as well as the planning and execution of musical programmes for weekday, Sunday and festival services and for concerts. In 2007 he was honoured by the regional bishop with the title of *Kirchenmusikdirektor*, in 2015 he was nominated Honorary Fellow of Birmingham Conservatoire.

Since the age of eighteen, his concert career has taken him all over Europe, to the United States, Japan and Egypt. He has performed in such venues as Notre-Dame de Paris, Thomaskirche Leipzig, the St Petersburg Philharmonic Hall and St Thomas Church New York. He also has participated in the international music festivals of Paris, Moscow and Rome. Mr Dahl has taught courses and seminars at conservatories around Europe and in the United States. To date he has directed five *Hamburg Master Courses* in Organ at St

Peter's. In 2012/2013 he held a teaching position for organ improvisation at the Cologne School of Music.

Works of Bach and Reger, the French symphonic repertory and improvisation are at the core of Thomas Dahl's organ recital programs.

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

### *Members' News*

**Jean van Cleef** has organized a Vesper service with music by Monteverdi to be held on November 27th, 2016 at 6 PM. This service is to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Church of St. John's in Zutphen (Netherlands). At this point in time the church came into Catholic hands through intervention of King Louis-Napoleon, brother of the Emperor, and was inaugurated by the archpriest of the church province of the Netherlands. The ensemble will consist of vocalists (Choir and Soli), strings, archlute, organ, cornetto and sackbuts (renaissance trombones) and will be conducted by Jean van Cleef.

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**Giorgio Parolini** reports:

At the beginning of last October I had the pleasure and privilege to play in the "Orgelfestwoche" at Schlosskirche in Wittenberg. This event was held from October 2nd to October 9th for the dedication of the new Choir Organ at the end of the long restoration work on the church. Actually the church was officially reopened the morning of October 2nd in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen of Denmark.

Previously the new Choir Organ was located in a Chapel of the Castle complex. It was built in 1965 by Schuke Orgelbau Potsdam (16 stops, 2 manuals and pedal). The same organ builder dismantled it, restored it, installed it in its new location (pipes are behind the choir stalls at the left-

hand of the altar) and provided a new console.

The Orgelfestwoche (Organ Festival Week) consisted of an Evensong on Sunday, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>, for the dedication of the organ (with the Schola Cantorum Adam Rener singing under Sarah Herzer's direction and with Thomas Herzer at the organ), a concert for Organ 4 hands on Monday, Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>, with Thomas and Sarah Herzer, midday organ concerts from Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> featuring respectively Vincent Ryan (US), Steven Hoffman (US), Izumi Ikeda (Japan) and Giorgio Parolini (Italy).

On Saturday, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>, an Orgelnacht "reFormationen" was organized. It began at 20.17 (=8:17 PM, guess why...) and featured all of the five organists who had played during the week plus Joachim Schäfer, one of the leading German Trumpet players. In all of the concerts both the new Choir Organ and the Gallery Organ (Ladegast) were used, and the final 95 minutes long program featured a diverse array of organ music (Locklair, Reger, transcriptions....), improvisations on "Ein feste Burg" between which the full church sang with gusto all 4 stanzas) and music for Trumpet and Organ. A surprise was waiting for the audience at the intermission: outside of the church they could have some little refreshments accompanied by a barrel organ playing folk tunes.

A service on Sunday, Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> - again with music for Trumpet and Organ - rounded off the event.

This "Organ Week" was highly successful and had a huge impact on both community and tourists: at every concert the church was packed.

For me it was great to come back to the Schlosskirche and to be part of this event in such an important place. Beside which, I had the great pleasure of seeing Sarah and Thomas Herzer, the church musicians in Wittenberg, again and of getting in touch with new colleagues coming from as far as the US and Japan. On this occasion I experienced how important it is for us organists to establish personal contact with

colleagues, forming friendships based on mutual respect, admiration and appreciation.

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You may recall that our member **Christoph Keller** successfully completed the examinations to become a certified Stock Market broker (Zertifizierter Wertpapier-händler und Mitglied der Deutschen Börse) on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Shortly thereafter (Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>) he already had a new job. The company which trained him and prepared him for the examinations, „Minotaurus Capital“, has hired him to become the Training Director for the division in charge of preparing others for the examinations.

The company gave several reasons for his appointment: his history of dedication to the company, his accomplishments concerning the structuring of the preparation for the examination, and the depth of his knowledge of the contents. In addition, there was a necessity to add a qualified broker in this new role to support the incumbent teacher of the brokering trade.

His duties will include organizing the didactic, developing a new syllabus, teaching the basics and specialized courses for finance mathematics and strategies for exam preparation.

Since May "Minotaurus Capital" is recognized as the official training center for the state of Hamburg. Starting November it will act as the external training center for future brokers of the "Deutsche Bank" and "Commerzbank", which will dramatically increase the number of trainees. At the same time the company will intensify its cooperation with the "Capital Market Academy" of the Frankfurt Stock Exchange.

Needless to say, Christoph is delighted by this development – and we are, too!

He will continue to concertize, record, and post his interpretations on You-Tube.

**Christoph Keller**  
[kontakt@christophkeller.org](mailto:kontakt@christophkeller.org)  
[www.christophkeller.org](http://www.christophkeller.org)

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**Bernard Sanders'** "Christusgebet" for mixed choir a cappella was chosen to be included in the collection of music for the Diocesan Church Music Day in the Diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart. The composition was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> Prize in a composition contest in 2003. For the Patron's Feast of the St. Gallus church in Tuttingen on Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, his Christ-the-King Mass for Soli, Choir, Organ and Strings was performed under the direction of the composer. The Mass was composed as a commission for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Christ-the-King parish in Göppingen, Germany, and premiered there in 2013.

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**Be sure to read Gabriel Dessauer's** report on the AGO National Convention in Houston in the Appendices (English or German!). **Don't miss it!** Thank you, Gabriel!

*European News*  
*Obituary*

Former member Dr. **Carolyn Shuster Fournier** writes from Paris:

My last Master, André Isoir, passed away on Wednesday, 20 July, on his 81<sup>st</sup> birthday. His funeral was held on Wednesday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, at 10 a.m. at the Saint-Germain-des-Près Church in Paris, where he was honorary organist.

The French organist André Isoir died on 20 July 2016, on his eighty-first birthday. Born July 20, 1935, in Saint-Dizier, France, he studied organ and piano at the École César-Franck. He then studied at the Paris Conservatoire with Rolande Falcinelli (organ), winning first prizes in organ and improvisation in 1960. Among various competition honors were St. Albans (1965) and three successive Haarlem competitions. Isoir served as titular organist at St-Médard, St-Séverin, and the Abbey of St-Germain-des-Près, all in Paris. He taught organ at the Conservatoire d'Orsay from 1974 until 1983, when he moved to the Conservatoire National de Région de Boulogne-

Billancourt, where he taught organ until 1994. He was one of the greatest French organists after the Second World War. A great teacher, he discovered new repertory and contributed to the renewal of early French organ music, as attests his numerous recordings. Chévalier of Arts and Letters and the National Order of Merit, André Isoir has received numerous distinctions as an international concert and recording artist. With more than sixty recordings in his discography, he won the Grand Prix du Disque eight times between 1972 and 1991. An eminent professor, he has taught over 900 organists from all over the world. A Renaissance man, he was an international concert organist with a vast repertory as well as a composer who made numerous transcriptions. Fascinated by organ building, he served as an organ consultant and was a corresponding member of both the French Historical Monuments (from 1970 to 1985) and the Commission of Unclassified Historical Monuments (from 1980 to 1984).



**André Isoir (1935-2016)**

*News from our  
Regional Councillor*

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you've had a smooth start to your fall programming. For myself, the summer always goes too quickly, but this fall brings a lot of exciting events and work as well.

**Negotiations with FTC on Noncompete**  
Many of you already know that James Thomashower has spent a great deal of time this year negotiating with the FTC on non-compete aspects of our organization. At some point in the near future, I will have a to-do list for all chapter leaders to help you respond to the requirements of this agreement. I expect to have more complete information after next week's National Council meeting.

Most organizations like ours are dealing with this same issue, or if they aren't now, they soon will be. The best approach is to deal with it and move on.

**Montreal Organ Festival, July 2<sup>nd</sup> -7<sup>th</sup>  
(add on days July 1<sup>st</sup>, Canada Day,  
and July 7<sup>th</sup>).**

It's a busy region this fall with preparations for our Montreal Regional Convention July 2-7. This regional is a special affair because it is being planned jointly with the Royal Canadian College of Organists. Performers include Roomful of Teeth, Cherry Rhodes, Nathan Laube, Olivier Latry, and the choir of Kings College Cambridge which will do evensong each evening of the convention, among many other notable performers.

Our convention next year coincides with the Montreal Jazz Festival, <http://www.montrealjazzfest.com/default-en.aspx>, The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Canada, <http://canada.pch.gc.ca/eng/1468262573081>, and the 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Montreal,

<http://www.tourisme-montreal.org/blog/montreals-375th-celebrations-2017/>.

It is sure to be an exciting week.

Registration is open now - rates are as follows (All prices in Canadian dollars)

The deadline for early registration is March 2, 2017. Today's exchange rate is .7573 American dollars to equal a Canadian dollar, making the member rate before March 2<sup>nd</sup> \$300.

| <u>Registration Type</u>         |                      |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| <u>Before March 2</u>            | <u>After March 2</u> |
| Member (RCCO/AGO/FQAO)           |                      |
| \$400                            | \$450                |
| Senior Member (65+)              |                      |
| \$375                            | \$425                |
| Student (under 25 with valid ID) |                      |
| \$200                            | \$200                |
| Non-Member                       |                      |
| \$500                            | \$550                |
| Daily Rate                       |                      |
| \$150                            | \$150                |
| Daily Rate (July 4)              |                      |
| \$200                            | \$200                |

We are hoping that every student who wishes to attend will be able to attend. Chapters can sponsor a student to the convention for approximately \$750 including registration and housing at McGill University. I hope that you will encourage your chapter to sponsor one of your own students, or another student who wishes to go. I also encourage chapters to sponsor a workshop or concert. The region relies on chapter support for all such regional events. Thank you very much for your support.

I will soon have an article and links which can be shared on your chapter websites. Here is a link to the Festival website which also links to the Sheraton Montreal Hotel for reservations.

<http://www.montrealorganfestival.org/home.html>.

Please link to the hotel from the festival website so that your room will be credited to the festival contract and so that you get the festival room rate of \$175.

**Hartford POE July 23-28, 2017**  
**Vaughn Mauren, Coordinator**  
[vmauren@gmail.com](mailto:vmauren@gmail.com)

Hartford is continuing their commitment to the region by hosting a POE next summer, based at the beautiful Trinity College. Registration will be open in January. I will update you with links to the POE as soon as they are available.

### **2017 Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists**

Four chapters are hosting RCYO competitions next winter – Boston, Buffalo, Greater Bridgeport and New York City. Contact information for the centers will be published in the November TAO. The Quimby rules were printed in the September TAO and can also be found on the website. Quimby competitions take place from January to March with the winner of each chapter competition competing on the regional level in Montreal on the Saturday prior to the convention. This is a link to the competition webpage which has rules for chapters and competitors alike.

<https://www.agohq.org/performance-competitions/rcyo/>

### **AGOYO AGO Young Organists**

All members under the age of 30 are automatically enrolled in AGOYO and afforded entrance to the AGOYO FB page. The Dean of the Northeast Region chapter is Caroline Robinson. Other chapter officers are Katelyn Emerson, David Ball, Janet Yieh, Michael Hey, and Forrest Eimold. You will be hearing more from AGOYO in the near future. They are looking to partner with chapters to help support YO members to attend the Montreal regional.

If your chapter is interested in hosting a Regional convention, Pipe Organ Encounter or Jubilee, please contact me and I will be happy to discuss it with you and your board. Even a small chapter – like our Southeastern MA chapter – can host an event.

I am happy to visit your chapter to support the work or your board, encourage events, work on growth strategies, or just bring news from National.

If you are a new chapter leader and would like some help getting up to speed, please don't hesitate to ask – I am happy to help or set you up with a mentor who has performed your role. You can find an interactive link to the Chapter management handbook, as well as a wealth of other chapter support materials on the HQ website. I hope very much that you will encourage your chapter board to budget to support our regional events – especially POEs and Regional Conventions. Those of us who have worked on these committees know that they are a labor of love we perform for our colleagues and to spread love of the organ. They need and deserve our support for these herculean efforts.

I look forward to catching up with you at some time in the next year and hope you and your chapter have a wonderful and productive year.

Everything good,

*Cheryl Duerr*

Northeast Regional Councillor

## *News from HQ*

### **AGO's Highest and most Prestigious Awards Bestowed at National Convention**

**New York City.** The AGO bestowed its two highest awards of national distinction in conjunction with the 53rd biennial AGO National Convention in Houston, Tex. Award presentations were made during the Guild's Annual Meeting. AGO President John Walker made the presentation to Frederick Haas, and at Walker's request, Jeffrey Hoover made the presentation to Robert Bennett because of Hoover's long association with the award recipient.

The **AGO President's Award** was presented to **Frederick R. Haas** of Philadelphia, Pa. The prestigious award, created in 1988, is presented biennially to recognize outstanding contributions to the art of the organ in the United States. The 2016 President's Award was given to Haas "in gratitude for his inspired artistry,

faithful support, and generous patronage of the King of Instruments.”

The **AGO Edward A. Hansen Leadership Award** was presented to **Robert C. Bennett** of Houston, Tex. Created by the AGO National Council in 1999 to honor the memory of the Guild’s distinguished past president, Edward A. Hansen, AAGO, the prestigious award is presented biennially to recognize individuals who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in the AGO. The 2016 Edward A. Hansen Leadership Award was given to Bennett “in gratitude for his lifetime of devoted service to the Guild and his leadership in the Houston Chapter spanning more than seven decades.”

#### **BIOGRAPHIES**

**Frederick R. Haas**, organist and philanthropist, is a native of Villanova, Pa., and has performed throughout the Philadelphia region his entire life. He is Assistant Grand Court Organist at Macy’s Center City Philadelphia, where he performs on the Wanamaker Organ weekly, and co-chaired the 2016 OHS National Convention in Philadelphia, June 26–July 2. Fred Haas began piano study at age six and, during high school, had organ lessons with Robert Plimpton. He was admitted to the Oberlin Conservatory as a student of David Boe, and studied with Fenner Douglass, David Craighead, Harald Vogel, and William Porter through the Oberlin Summer Organ Institutes. He was awarded a bachelor’s degree in organ performance from Oberlin in 1983 and returned to Philadelphia. He was assistant organist to Jeffrey Brillhart at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church until 1986.

A lifelong advocate for the King of Instruments, Mr. Haas is founder of the Historic Organ Trust, an organization dedicated to preserving and restoring important American pipe organs. He is a board member of the Historic Organ Restoration Committee at Atlantic City’s Boardwalk Hall and was lead donor of the Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ (Dobson, Opus 76) in Verizon Hall, Kimmel Center

for the Performing Arts, Philadelphia. Mr. Haas is a trustee of the William Penn Foundation, trustee of the Wyncote Foundation, a patron of new and traditional opera at the Metropolitan Opera and at Opera Philadelphia, and a trustee of Santa Fe Opera.

**Robert C. Bennett** has given more than 70 years of service to the AGO. At the age of 13, he was elected treasurer of the Houston Chapter and has since held multiple terms as dean and auditor. Bennett was coordinator of the 1958 AGO National Convention in Houston, co-coordinator of the 1988 AGO National Convention, and advisor to the 2016 AGO National Convention. Additionally, he was coordinator of the 1973 AGO Mid-Winter Conclave and AGO Region VII Convention.

Bennett was Diaconal Minister of Music and Fine Arts at St. Luke’s United Methodist Church in Houston, where he designed its organ and served for 42 years. He was chair of the subcommittee on hymn tunes for the 1988 United Methodist Hymnal and the 1993 hymnal supplement. He is a Fellow of Trinity College, London, and holds a doctorate from Southwestern University.

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### **AGO Names Prizewinners in National Competitions**

**New York City.** The American Guild of Organists (AGO) is pleased to announce the results of its **National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance** (NYACOP) and the **National Competition in Organ Improvisation** (NCOI). Prizewinners were recognized at the 53rd biennial AGO National Convention in Houston, Tex. The following prizes were awarded:

#### **National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance**

##### **First Prize - Katelyn Emerson**

The Jordan Organ Endowment Prize: \$10,000, awarded in conjunction with a solo recital on the Jordan Family Organ in

Columbus, Ga.; The Lilian Murtagh Memorial Prize: \$3,000 cash award and career development assistance provided by Karen McFarlane Artists; a CD recording by Pro Organo; a performance at the 2018 AGO National Convention in Kansas City, Mo.; and a series of award recitals throughout the U.S.

**Second Prize - Kirk Rich**

\$5,000 cash award provided by Kegg Pipe Organ Builders

**Third Prize - Weicheng Zhao**

\$3,000 cash award provided by John-Paul Buzard Pipe Organ Builders

**Audience Choice Prize - Weicheng Zhao**

\$1,000 cash award provided by the Martin Ott Pipe Organ Company

**National Competition in Organ Improvisation**

**First Prize - Thomas Dahl**

\$3,000 cash award provided by the estate of McNeil Robinson; a CD recording by Pro Organo

**Second Prize - Matt Gender**

\$2,000 cash award provided by Dobson Pipe Organ Builders Ltd.

**Third Prize - Kalle Toivio**

\$1,500 cash award provided by Pamela and Steven Ruiten-Feenstra

**Audience Choice Prize - Thomas Dahl**

\$1,500 cash award provided by David and Robin Arcus

**National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance**

The National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance promotes the highest level of organ performance. The competition serves as a springboard for emerging young organists, allowing them to continue to develop their performance ability by participating in the various demanding stages of this competition. Established in 1950 and held biennially, the competition is open to organists between the ages of 22 and 32.

The judges for the final round of the 2016 NYACOP in Houston were Edoardo Bellotti, Dean Billmeyer, Susan Ferré, James Kibbie, Ludger Lohmann, John

Schwandt, and Carole Terry. Major support for the competition was provided by the Jordan Organ Endowment, Karen McFarlane Artists, Kegg Pipe Organ Builders, John-Paul Buzard Pipe Organ Builders, the Martin Ott Pipe Organ Company, the Nita Akin Competition Fund, and the Dallas (Tex.) AGO Chapter, host of the semifinal round.

**NATIONAL COMPETITION IN ORGAN IMPROVISATION**

The National Competition in Organ Improvisation advances the art of improvisation by recognizing and rewarding superior performers in the field. Improvisation is the pinnacle of achievement for a musician who can combine the elements of performance and composition simultaneously in the creation of a new work of art. Since 1990, the AGO NCOI has motivated and inspired hundreds of the most talented organists in America. Today, it is the preeminent competition in North America dedicated to preserving and advancing improvisation at the organ, and is open to all regardless of age or country of citizenship. A flourishing tradition of improvisation has always been fundamental to a truly vital musical culture. Although musical extemporization has enjoyed a rich heritage in Europe for many centuries, the art form is in perilous risk of extinction in America except among a few organists and jazz musicians. The NCOI continues to set the standard for organists seeking to demonstrate their skill in extemporaneous performance, the highest and most challenging musical art form.

The judges for the final round of the 2016 NCOI in Houston were David Arcus, Marie Rubis Bauer, Pamela Decker, Marie-Bernadette Dufourcet, David Enlow, Tom Trenney, and David Ashley White. Major support was provided by the estate of McNeil Robinson, Dobson Pipe Organ Builders Ltd., Pamela and Steven Ruiten-Feenstra, and David and Robin Arcus.

***Biographies of the 2016 competitors can be found in the April 2016 (NYACOP)***

*and May 2015 (NCOI) issues of THE AMERICAN ORGANIST Magazine.*

## **AGO Recognizes Three**

### **Award Winning Composers**

**New York City.** The AGO honored three awardwinning composers at its Annual Meeting on June 22, during the 2016 AGO National Convention in Houston, Tex. AGO Vice President Christian Lane presided over the award presentations to **David Ashley White** of Houston, **Ivan Božičević** of Croatia, and **Michael Gilbertson** of Hamden, Conn.

The 2016 **Distinguished Composer Award** was presented to **David Ashley White**. The prestigious award, created in 1986, is presented biennially to recognize outstanding composers of organ and choral music in the United States. White's anthem, *With a Shining Like the Sun*, for mixed chorus, brass, timpani, organ, and congregation, was given its premier performance during the convention. Previous award recipients include: Virgil Thomson, Ned Rorem, Daniel Pinkham,

Samuel Adler, Dominick Argento, William Albright, Conrad Susa, Emma Lou Diemer, Dan Locklair, William Bolcom, Alice Parker, Carl Schalk, Margaret Sandresky, Richard Proulx, Stephen Paulus, Craig Phillips, and Libby Larsen.

The 2016 **AGO/Marilyn Mason Award in Organ Composition** was presented to **Ivan Božičević** for *The Moonpiper—A Bagpipe Dance for Organ*, which was given its premier performance by Joby Bell during the convention. The award included a cash prize of \$2,000, and publication by Hinshaw Music Inc.

The 2016 **AGO/ECS Publishing Award in Choral Composition** was presented to Michael Gilbertson for his anthem for SATB choir, organ, and trumpet, *The Voice of the Lord*, which was given its premier performance during the convention. The award included a cash prize of \$2,000 and publication, both provided by the ECS Publishing Co.

Additional information about AGO new music competitions and awards can be found on the AGO Web site, [Agohq.org](http://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 !*

|                       |         |                                                                                |                             |
|-----------------------|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| July 17 <sup>th</sup> | 5 PM    | Carolyn Shuster Fournier, Organ<br>Nicolas Debacq, Trumpet                     | Cathedral, Soissons (F)     |
|                       |         | Works by Martini, Viviani, J.S. Bach, M. Duruflé, Telemann, Delalande, Purcell |                             |
| Aug. 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | 8:30 PM | Martin Welzel, Organ                                                           | Cathedral, Brixen (I)       |
|                       |         | Works by Nivers, Pachelbel, Scheidemann, Bach, and Rheinberger                 |                             |
| Aug. 10 <sup>th</sup> | 8 PM    | Martin Welzel, Organ                                                           | Pauluskirche, Darmstadt (D) |
|                       |         | Works by Boëly, Scheidemann, Pachelbel, Bach, Liszt, Langlais, and Preston     |                             |
| Aug. 16 <sup>th</sup> | 8 PM    | Martin Welzel, Organ                                                           | Cathedral, Turku (FI)       |
|                       |         | Works by Boëly, Scheidemann, Pachelbel, Bach, Liszt, Langlais, and Preston     |                             |
| Sept. 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 7 PM    | Martin Welzel, Organ<br>Louis Vierne: Cinquième Symphonie Op. 47.              | Theatinerkirche, Munich (D) |
| Oct. 30 <sup>th</sup> | 8 PM    | Martin Welzel, Organ                                                           | Cathedral, Speyer (D)       |
|                       |         | Works by Reger, Baker, Bach, Hancock, Bridge, Langlais, and Preston.           |                             |

Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> 7 PM Thomas Dahl, Director Laeishalle, Grosser Saal, Hamburg (D)  
 Reger: Der 100. Psalm, Mendelssohn: Wie der Hirsch schreit, Bach: Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott

Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> 6 PM Jean van Cleef, Director St. John's, Zutphen (NL)  
 Vesper-Service with works by Monteverdi for the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church

Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> 9 AM Bernard Sanders, Director St. Gallus, Tuttlingen (D)  
 Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> 10:30 AM Choir, Soli, Organ and Orchestra St. Mary's, Tuttlingen (D)  
 Bernard Sanders: Christ-the-King Mass in A

**2017**

Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> 8 PM Martin Welzel, Organ Mariä Himmelfahrt, Dachau (D)  
 Works by Hancock, Scheidemann, Pachelbel, Bach, Liszt, Vierne, and Preston.

Mar. 4<sup>th</sup> 8 PM Martin Welzel, Organ Notre-Dame Cathedral, Paris (F)  
 Works by Roth, Demessieux, Vierne, and Baker.

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