



American Guild of Organists

Chartered 1896

European Chapter

Chartered 1979

Newsletter January 2017

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The Dean's Corner

Dear European Chapter Members,

It's the New Year! How did we turn that corner from 2016 to 2017 so quickly? At least it seems that way to me and I think to quite a few others, as I pay attention to the murmurings around me. I don't know about yours, but my New Year's Resolution is to stay positive!! And guess what? It's not as difficult as it seems! All we have to do is to think of the European Chapter of AGO and its membership full of hard-working, happy, humorous, handsome, humble, holy, high-powered and hip people and we can have a good day. Music is the glue and inspiration that binds us together. Are we lucky? Oh my, yes.

Our 2017 Spring Meeting in America in April is going to be another in a long line of spectacular European Chapter Spring Meetings. All the signs are there. Roger Schumacher, THANK YOU for the countless hours you have already spent on our behalf organizing, planning, writing, talking and walking the extra mile (even literally) to assure that our members and friends enjoy their time in your special city of Washington D.C. In this newsletter you can read the most recent news about the Spring Meeting. There is still time to plan to join us there. Do think about it and you won't regret it, I'm sure.

A wonderful warm welcome to all the people who joined the European Chapter in

2016. You can read about some of them in the column "Introducing our Members" in our newsletters. Please don't miss this chance to start getting to know - and to be inspired by - your fellow AGO members.

With every wish for an energizing 2017,
Judy

The Secretary's Voice

Dear Members,

The New Year is already in full swing, which means that most of us have already had the dubious pleasure of setting up our calendars and making the first preparations for things to come. For many of us this includes plans for the Spring Meeting in Washington, D.C. Roger has sent the latest update on that event but for reference, the July 2016 Newsletter Appendix contains detailed information (available on the Chapter Website). This important Chapter event is an ideal opportunity to meet our new members and also colleagues abroad. Deadline for signing up is fast approaching. Two of our new members introduce themselves in this issue and others have submitted information for your perusal in Members' News and Recitals Past & Present. Take a few minutes and see what's going on in the world of our European Chapter! Have a good read!

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

News from the Board

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Support your Board, be an active Member!
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 !

European Chapter AGO Address corrections

Since there have been quite a few changes and additions to the Membership List 2016/2017, our Membership Chair Judy Riefel-Lindel will be sending a complete and corrected new copy shortly. Please be patient!

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.

Spring Meeting 2017

Washington, D.C., April 17 - 22, 2017
TIME FOR AN UPDATE!

Dear fellow Spring Meeting attendees,

As I'm writing these words, we're having our first snowfall of the Winter in the Washington D.C. area . . . just a dusting this time . . . slightly over an inch, but heavier snow is almost guaranteed for later. I'm already thinking about the pleasant weather that Spring will bring and how fun it will be to share blossomed cherry trees, good food, excellent American-made organs, warmer weather, and a good time next April with all of you. I can hardly wait, and I hope that you are as excited as I am about this Spring Meeting!

By way of update, there isn't a lot to report. There have been only the most minor of changes to the itinerary since the October update. A few venues had to be moved around on the calendar to accommodate changes in church schedules. The restaurant where we planned to have our Opening Dinner had to close because of construction near their building, so we've moved the Opening Dinner to a fun American-cuisine restaurant called "Wildfire." And we've set up a firm to cater our Closing Dinner and a church social hall to host it. The souvenir booklet is coming along . . . all

the inserts have been prepared for the venues and their organs, a publisher has been identified and his timelines established, the tour of the city is in draft, and restaurants have been researched and lists prepared. Lots of details to think about and still much to be done before the Spring Meeting will be fully “ready for show.” I’m grateful for the work that previous organizers have done in various European cities to host Spring Meetings of the past, as I study their experiences and learn from their successes in putting this event together.

Our number stands at 41 persons so far. Half of the group are European Chapter members who live in nine European countries - Germany, Sweden, Austria, the Netherlands, Finland, Belgium, the UK, France, and Italy. The other half will be coming from 12 U.S. states - New York, North Carolina, New Jersey, Virginia, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois, Washington, Florida, Connecticut, and the District of Columbia. What a fascinating group - organists and non-organists, pastors, professors, students, cathedral and church organists, concert masters, AGO officials and recent competition prizewinners, photographers, choir directors, choir singers, members who play flutes, saxophones, drums, and other instruments, and ministers of music! How could our week together be anything LESS than stimulating, educational, broadening, and downright FUN??!

We are quickly approaching the deadline for sign-up (January 31), and we still have rooms left in our reserved block at the hotel. If you’re on the fence and still postponing this decision, or if you know someone who wanted to attend but delayed committing, **now is the time!** We need to have a clear understanding by the end of this month who will be with us, so don’t delay any longer. Take that step: let Judy and me know you want to join us, call the hotel, and make your flight arrangements. You won’t regret it! The Spring Meeting promises to be a wonderfully fun and professionally rewarding experience.

A word about costs. As always, the European Chapter takes care of many of the expenses for our annual Spring Meeting. The organizer works closely with the Chapter to try to hold down the costs of this event. The participants are asked to pay for their own hotel room and food and to share in the cost of the bus. We do have to be totally honest about the fact that hotels (as you have noticed), food, and transportation are generally more expensive in the U.S. than they are in Europe. With this in mind, the European Chapter has been able to raise its budget for this meeting, and of course, as your organizer, I will continue to do my best to make our first American Spring Meeting manageable, cost-wise, for the Chapter and the participants. We will let you know by early March how much you should expect to bring with you in cash to help pay for the bus, the opening and closing dinners, and perhaps other meals during the week. This amount will be quite consistent with what you have paid on previous Spring Meetings.

I also owe you a detailed explanation what to expect when you arrive at Dulles International Airport - U.S. Customs, the airport ordeal, getting to the hotel, etc. I promise you will have a wealth of detail, so that getting you lodged comfortably in your hotel room will be a snap. You’ll get those details as we get closer to Spring Meeting, around early March.

Meanwhile, I would like to repeat an offer I made previously: if you have any special needs or requests such as special diet requirements or allergies, medical conditions that we should be aware of, advice on things to do and see in your free time here, or anything else, please don’t be shy about contacting me directly. At the end of the week, it will be my great pleasure to know that your awesome time in the Washington D.C. area was, in some small way, thanks to my efforts on your behalf. So reach out and let me know whether there is something I can do to ensure you have an excellent experience here.

Please accept my very best wishes to you for a happy and prosperous New Year! I look forward to seeing you in just a few months!

Roger

Members' News

Micahel König has been appointed as one of four committee members of the new nationwide AGO Committee On New Organists (CONO), which has the task to provide assistance and guidance in any form for aspiring organists. This can reach from online videos to lists of people who are interested in teaching.

As the only member of the committee who lives outside the US he sees his role particularly as an advocate for all international chapters. Especially in Africa and East Asia where the demand for new organists is huge!

[Michael is planning to attend the Spring Meeting in D.C.!]

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Heather Hernandez reports from Arizona: "As of Christmas time our son Michael is 8 and a busy 2nd grader active in cub scouts for the 2nd year. Jacob just turned 6 on Monday. He's in kindergarten and also in cub scouts in the new Lion pilot program. I'm still keeping busy as the organist at St. Thomas the Apostle and as an independent consultant for Thirty-One Gifts. February 28th is our church concert featuring the Fauré Requiem. My husband Robert is still working at Fox 10 as a photojournalist and is assistant den leader for the cub scout's Wolf den (Michael's den). We enjoy camping as a family in the summer and the guys go camping with cub scouts throughout the year.

Wishing you a very merry Christmas and all the best for 2017!

*Heather, Robert,
Michael, and Jacob Hernandez*

Last September **Christa Rakich** played, with cellist Kathy Schiano, the world premiere of a Sonate for Organ and Cello by our new member Margaretha Christina de Jong. A wonderful piece, commissioned through the generosity of the Jolidon Fund of the Hartford AGO Chapter. The premiere used the Richards-Fowkes Opus 23 organ at the Somers Congregational Church in Somers, CT. The concert included works for baroque cello and viola da gamba as well as Margreth's new piece. You can hear the Sonata here: [Sonate for Cello and Organ](#)

Bernard Sanders' Christ-the-King Mass for Soli, Choir, Organ and Strings was performed by the Catholic Church Choir of Tuttlingen under the direction of the composer on December 25th and 26th in the churches of St. Gallus and St. Mary's respectively. The Mass was commissioned and premiered in 2013 for the 50th Anniversary of the Christ-the-King Church in Göppingen.

Cathedral Organist Prof. Ruben Sturm and his wife Kirsten Sturm performed Sanders' Two Tableaux for Two Organs ["Cat's Cradle" and "L'hibou à la chaise" (The Owl on the Chair), the latter after a sketch by Picasso] in the Rottenburg Cathedral (Germany) on Nov. 20th, 2016.

Concordia Publishing House (CPH) has accepted a collection of Sanders' Chorale Preludes on Welsh Hymn Tunes for release in 2017.

In a New Years Eve concert in St. Mary's, Tuttlingen, Sanders did the world premier of his own "Fanfare-Voluntary", a festive composition showcasing the horizontal trumpet. Also on the program was the first European performance of "Three Pastorales on a German Carol" (Josef, lieber Josef mein) by Harvard composer Carson Cooman.

On the Feast of Epiphany (Jan. 6th, 2017) the Catholic Church Choir of Tuttlingen sang the premier performance of "Verbum caro" in the catholic church of St. Mary's. It is one of two Latin motets

for the Christmas Season which Sanders set for Choir (SAM) *a cappella*.

[Bernard is planning to attend the Spring Meeting in D.C.!]

Introducing Our Members

Donald MacKenzie was born in Ayrshire (Scotland) in 1970. In July 1992 (22 years ago) he began his long association with the world famous Odeon Leicester Square Compton Organ by playing it for film events. In October 1993 he was engaged to play the organ for 5 weeks before each performance of the Disney film, 'Aladdin'. Since then he has appeared regularly at film premières, special events and organ concerts. He has broadcast from the Odeon on BBC Radios 2, 3, 4 and the World Service. He has been featured on a number of television programmes and Donald has played for numerous Royal Film Performances, including several in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen.

When he is not playing for concerts Donald specializes in the art of improvised accompaniments to silent films - his first public appearance accompanying films was aged 14, for a special evening screening in Paisley Town Hall. He has now more than thirty feature films 'under his fingers' including many of the major classics of the silent screen, as well as many different types of short silent films. These have been acclaimed by the critics and the audience absolutely love the experience of Donald's accompaniment to a film. His stylish accompaniments have led to numerous engagements (with many repeats) throughout the UK at venues such as The Victoria Hall - Hanley, The Usher Hall - Edinburgh, The Alexandra Palace - London, The Music Hall - Aberdeen, The Caird Hall - Dundee, Derby Cathedral, Leicester Cathedral, Saarlouis Evangelical Church, Wolverhampton Civic Hall, St Anne's Cathedral - Belfast, Clonard

Monastery - Belfast, De Montfort Hall Leicester, The Musical Museum - Brentford, The Troxy Stepney and also in Europe and the USA.

His overseas concert appearances have included - in Poland at the Bielsko Biala Bach Festival, in Philadelphia (USA) at the Wanamaker Store and Girard College, in Holland for the Nederland's Orgel Federation and several times in Germany playing the Moller organ in the music hall of the world famous organ building firm of August Laukhuff. At this venue he has also played for silent film evenings as part of the Hohenloher Cultural Summer Festival. In 2008 he was honoured to become a Patron of the Lancaster Town Hall Organ Restoration Project. He was the Chair of Jury for the First Silent Film Competition held at The Babylon Cinema, Berlin in 2015.

Several highlights of Donald's career include playing to an audience of over 4,000 in Balboa Park, San Diego on the world famous outdoor organ, and he has played numerous times in front of members of the Royal Family including Her Majesty The Queen.

Donald MacKenzie

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Organist of the Odeon Leicester Square

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He will be playing in Amsterdam on the 21st of January 2017 for the Oliver Hardy 125th Celebrations at The Tuschinski Theatre.

Christoph Hintermüller was born in 1993 in Unna.

In 2009, he had the opportunity to

participate in a statewide unique project called “Organ offensive”. The idea was to give talented young musicians a chance to receive formal organ lessons. One year later he transferred to the renowned Archepiscopal Mallinckrodt High School in Dortmund. In October of the same year, he began working towards the C-Exam in Church Music in the Archdiocese of Paderborn. Shortly afterwards, Christoph was appointed certified ecclesiastic musician of St. Clemens.

At his high school, the church musician Klaus Stehling taught music classes. In addition, he conducted the school’s outstanding choir which Christoph accompanied regularly. This cooperation led to organ and choir concerts in Dortmund and the Berlin Cathedral. Further concerts took place in French cathedrals such as Notre Dame and Notre-Dame d’Auteuil in Paris, Saint-Étienne in Meaux, and Notre Dame d’Amiens. Other venues were the cathedral of Palma de Mallorca in Spain, St. Michaelis (Hamburg) and the Cathedral of Lübeck.

His well-rounded musical training prepared him for pursuing a degree in Church Music. He began this in 2013 at the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz where he studies with Prof. Daniel Beckmann (organ literature), Prof. Gerhard Gnann (organ literature), and Prof. Hans Jürgen Kaiser (organ improvisation). Parallel to his studies he was hired as

organist at St. Pankratius in Mainz. Since then he has taken over the musical direction of the church choir of Worms-Herrnsheim, the choir community of Mainz-Bretzenheim, and the church choir of St. Markus in Muehlheim am Main.

A semester abroad began in September 2016 in Los Angeles (USA) where he is studying with Christoph Bull and receiving additional private lessons with Cherry Rhodes.

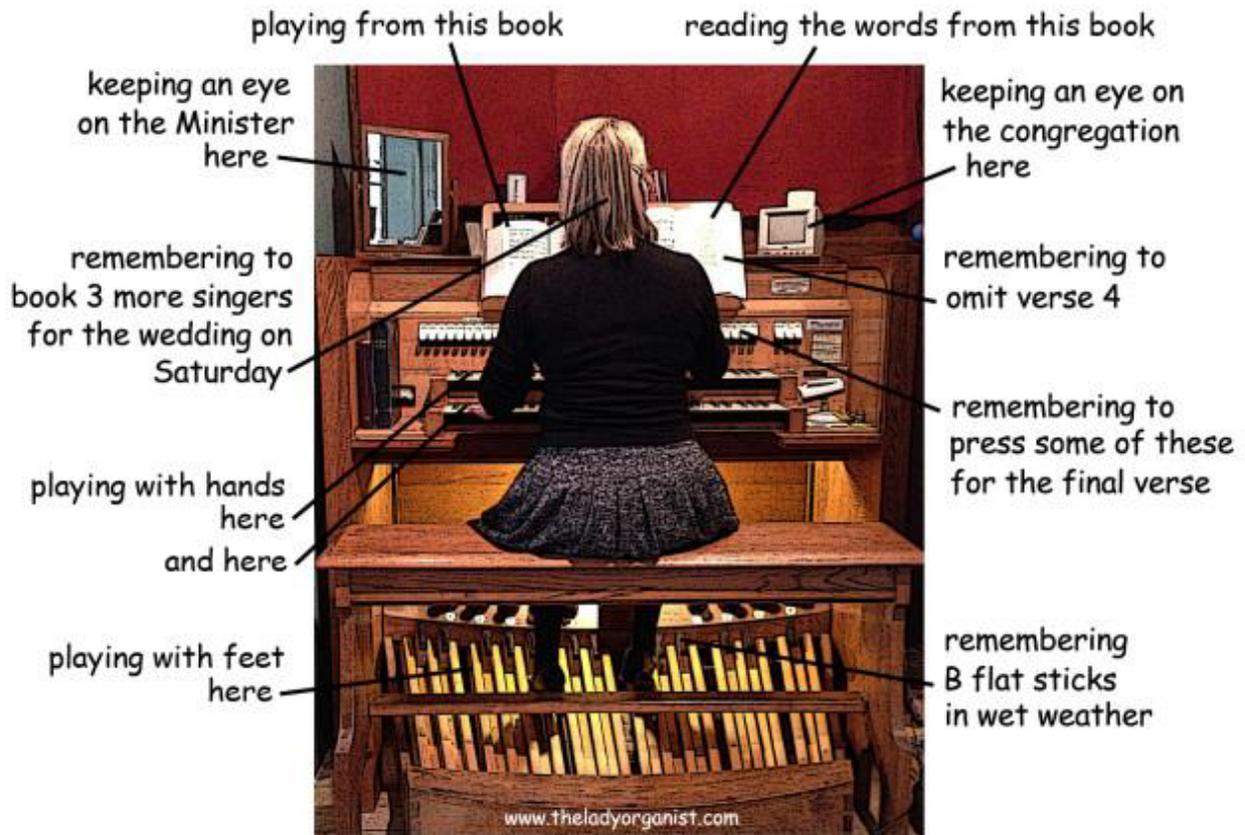
Christoph is interested in American organ music. Even though many American composers studied in Germany (Dudley Buck, John Knowles Paine, etc.) this music is unfortunately hardly known in Europe.

Next to his university studies, he pursues an active concert schedule that has taken him to England, Austria, France, Spain, Norway, Italy, and Switzerland.

In his free time, he concentrates on learning about psychology, coaching, clinical hypnosis, and show hypnosis. Over 350 shows and performances regarding hypnosis have taken him to different universities and schools in Germany, England, Austria, Spain, France, Switzerland, Tunisia and the USA.

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

Humor



THE CHURCH ORGANIST

