



# American Guild of Organists

Chartered 1896

## European Chapter

Chartered 1979

*Newsletter April 2020*

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### *The Dean's Corner*

Dear European Chapter Members,

Only a month ago, not many of us would have thought that we would now be in this exceptional situation or that the corona measures would affect our daily lives in such a drastic way. Perhaps some of the changes will continue beyond the corona era.

Probably some of you will experience that even on the Easter days - possibly extended to Pentecost - church services cannot be held with a congregation. Have you also noticed, that it is so quiet outside that you hear the awakening nature much better than usual?

In this context of standing still for a moment because we have no choice, it is good to notice that an enormous solidarity is growing between people.

When about a month and a half ago the first doubts started to arise about a possible cancellation of our Spring Meeting 2020, which Axel and Ricarda had so fantastically prepared that everyone was looking forward to it, there was intense communication back and forth within the board for weeks.

Needless to say, it was a difficult decision for everyone to cancel this great event, especially at a time when the extent of the corona crisis was not yet felt everywhere within the great geographical distance in which our members live. In the meantime, it is clear to everyone that there was no other choice. That doesn't

make it any less regrettable, but it helps us to see things in perspective.

Many people who were planning to participate in the Spring Meeting will miss this annual moment of getting together and family feeling.

Let's keep in touch with each other in the coming weeks through the modern media of communication, so that we can keep abreast of each other's lives and grow as a community of people sharing the same passion, despite being forced to stay at home. May this newsletter be a first step in this direction !

Hoping to see you all soon !

*Johan*

### *The Secretary's Voice*

Dear Members,

Many of us have had a little more time on our hands because most of our duties have been cancelled. For my part, I have had much more medial contact with old and new friends. Meanwhile it has often been said, that this crisis also has potential for us to grow. Let us try not to dwell on the restrictions and hardships but rather recognize and implement the opportunities it gives us. Communication is so important! Let's intensify our professional and social relationships. What can be healthier than friendship?

*Bernard*  
bernard.sanders(at)web.de

**Please submit your items for the next  
Newsletter before June 30<sup>th</sup> !**

## 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 !*

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### Update from our Webmaster

Don't forget our Chapter **Facebook page!** Not only that, but photos from all of our Spring Meetings have been put up there as an album. Follow this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1291359287568257.1073741830.912597592111097&type=1&l=5c5fd786b0>

It is public, so people who are not on FB can see it too.

**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 !

*Barry Jordan*

## Spring Meeting 2020

As most of you well know by now, or can imagine, due to the increasingly strict measures as a result of the Corona pandemic the 2020 Spring Meeting planned for Cologne in April had to be cancelled. This was a very difficult and sad decision, but one which was necessary and the only responsible one. The circumstances allowed no choice in the matter.

It is especially tragic that all of the time, energy, and preparation work which Ricarda and Axel had invested will not come to fruition this year. All the prospective participants were very much looking forward to becoming acquainted with the many interesting instruments in the Cologne area and in the Eifel and are very grateful for all of the effort involved.

Naturally everyone was also looking forward to seeing all of the other participants from far and near. Hopefully we will soon have the opportunity of getting together and perhaps even be able to visit some of the instruments after all.

Many of our members have personally written to the Board and to Ricarda and Axel expressing their regret, that the Meeting could not take place as planned, and inquiring as to whether it would take place at a later date.

We are excited to be able to report that this may very well be possible. Finding an alternative week for a meeting of this magnitude has always been a problem, which is why the next Spring Meeting is being planned for the week after Easter in 2021. Ricarda and Axel were very much looking forward to welcoming the participants to their locality and are also disappointed, that it could not take place this year. They are seriously considering the possibility of freshening up the preparation for next year.

We will certainly keep our members abreast of the situation and make a definite announcement in due time.

Until then, stay healthy!

With warmest regards, best wishes, and with heartfelt greetings

*Bernard*

### **Mission, Vision and Value Proposition**

The **mission** of the American Guild of Organists is to foster a thriving community of musicians who share their knowledge and inspire passion for the organ.

The **vision** of the American Guild of Organists is to engage, support, and uplift every organist.

#### **Value Proposition**

As a member of the American Guild of Organists you can:

- **connect** with other organists
- **enhance** your skills as an organist and choral conductor
- **celebrate** the organ in historic and evolving contexts
- **discover** news of the organ and choral world online and in *The American Organist*
- Engage wider audiences with organ and choral music.
- **nurture** new organists of all ages
- **share** knowledge and expertise
- **enjoy** camaraderie at chapter events and conventions
- **find** inspiration and challenge
- **receive** encouragement from colleagues
- **experience** great organs and organists
- **access** career opportunities and job listings
- **earn** professional credentials through AGO certification

*Approved by the National Council  
May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016; revised by the  
National Council June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016.*

### *Members' News*

**Margaretha Christina de Jong** has written an organ composition as a wedding present for Katelyn Emerson, who married in September 2019. This work, called Fantasia on 'All People That on Earth Do Dwell', written in a French-Romantic style, will be published this year by Bärenreiter Verlag. Carus Verlag will publish her 20 Chorale Preludes 'through the year', and also her Fantasia on 'Salve Regina'. The latter was commissioned by Christa Rakich. Her 'Seven Compositions for Organ Plus' (organ + violin, flute, or oboe) have been

accepted for publication by the Dr. J. Butz Verlag of Bonn, Germany.

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**Giorgio Parolini** has taken on a new teaching position; since February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020, he teaches Organ at the Conservatorio di Musica "Luca Marenzio" in Darfo Boario Terme, which is a detached department of the Brescia Conservatory.

Darfo is located in the so called Valle Camonica, and possibly its name comes from the German "Dorf", it is a picturesque place surrounded by mountains and with two lakes not far away: Lago d'Endine and Lago d'Iseo. The area was already inhabited in prehistoric times: there are rock carvings in the locality of Corni Freschi (Attola), at the foot of the Monticolo, and in the municipal park of the rock carvings of Luine. One can explore the Italian version of Wikipedia here and maybe get a translation online:

[https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darfo\\_Boario\\_Terme](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darfo_Boario_Terme)

He's looking forward to starting work there and will have much to do. Although the Organ Class is not large, he feels energy for this new adventure; also the landscape around helps and the mountains give peace of mind.

The main reason for this change is the distance: his previous position in Catania was more than 1000 km from his home, this one only around 100 km.

*We wish him all the best for a good start!*

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**Bernard Wayne Sanders** has been commissioned by the Music Director of the Minster in Konstanz Steffen Schreyer to make an arrangement of the chorale "Gelobt seist du, Herr Jesu Christ" by Josef Venantius von Wöss for their celebration of the Feast of St. Konrad. Sanders' arrangement for Congregation, Choir, Orchestra, and Organ is to be premiered as the song of Thanksgiving in the Pontifical Mass on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020. Beethoven's Mass in C-Major will also be performed in this service.

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## Stateside News



AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS  
2020 NATIONAL CONVENTION  
July 6-10, 2020 — ATLANTA, GA  
[www.agoatlanta2020.com](http://www.agoatlanta2020.com)

Registration for the 2020 American Guild of Organists National Convention in Atlanta opened already in November of 2019. The discounted rates for those that registered prior to November 30<sup>th</sup> are unfortunately no longer available but

you can visit [www.agoatlanta2020.com](http://www.agoatlanta2020.com) for more information and a complete schedule of venues, performers, workshops and events.

Visit <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/ATLRA/G-AGON> to book your hotel reservation. Be sure you are using the promo code G-AGON for discounted rates. We highly encourage you to stay at the host hotel for the best rates and easiest access to transportation and events.

We hope to see you in Atlanta!  
(please refer to News from HQ  
concerning the National Convention!)

## News from HQ

*There has been some questioning as to whether the AGO National Convention in Atlanta will indeed take place. In a letter from April 3<sup>rd</sup>, James Thomashower wrote:*

“As I write this . . . , the AGO National Convention in Atlanta, July 6-10, is still scheduled to occur as planned. The hotel contract requires payment of a very substantial, six-figure cancellation fee if we cancel now. If it becomes impossible to hold the convention for any number of reasons stipulated in the *force majeure* clause of the contract, such as continuing government restrictions on the number of people who can congregate together, cancellation will be possible without incurring any penalty.

On a related matter, in light of the stay-at-home orders so many of us must follow, the NCOI and NYACOP have been postponed to a future date to ensure that all competitors will have had adequate time and an equal opportunity to prepare.”

## Introducing Our Members

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

## Humor

*I heard a doctor on TV say that during this isolation period,  
it helps to finish off things which we have started.*

*I looked through my house to find things  
I had started but never finished.*

*First I finished off a bottle of Merlot,  
a bottle of Chardonnay,  
a bodle of Baileys, a butle of wum,  
tha mainder of Valium un srciptuns,  
an' a box a chocletz.*

*Yu haf no idr how fablus I feel rite now!  
Sned this to all who need inner piss.  
An' tel'um u luvum.*

## Recitals Past and Present

*Because of restrictions due to the Corona-Virus pandemic, it is very possible that some of the pending concerts listed here may not take place. Please inform yourself closer to the date!*

*You can advertise here for your concert engagements to come as well as report those past.  
Please submit items for the next Newsletter !*

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|----------------------------------|---------|--|---|
| Dec. 7 <sup>th</sup>             | 3 PM    | Johan Hermans, Organ   | St Quintinus Cathedral, Hasselt (B)   |
|                                  |         | Works by J.S. Bach, Bernard Sanders, Dale Wood, Emil Weidenhagen and G.F. Händel.  |   |
| Dec. 31 <sup>st</sup>            | 10 PM   | Bernard Sanders, Organ   | Maria Königin, Tuttlingen (D)   |
|                                  |         | New Year's Eve Concert: Works by J. S. Bach, Pietro Yon, Bernard Sanders   |   |
| <b>2020</b> Jan. 5 <sup>th</sup> | 9:30 AM | Johan Hermans, Organ   | Herz Jesukirche, Bottrop (D)  |
|                                  |         | with Vocal Ensemble; OrgelPlus Festival  |   |
|                                  |         | Works by J.S. Bach, Hans-André Stamm, Harrison Oxley, Gilbert Martin and Kurt Bikkembergs (premiere of 'In Epiphania Domini' by Kurt Bikkembergs, commissioned by the Festival). |   |
| Jan. 6 <sup>th</sup>             | 5 PM    | Katelyn Emerson, Organ   | St. Karl Borromäus, Winnenden (D)   |
| Feb. 16 <sup>th</sup>            | 4 PM    | Katelyn Emerson, Organ Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA  |   |
| Feb. 23 <sup>rd</sup>            | 3 PM    | Katelyn Emerson, Organ   | Lee Chapel, Elizabeth Hall, Stetson University, DeLand, Florida, USA              |
|                                  |         | "Great Organists at Stetson" Series  |   |
| March 1 <sup>st</sup>            | 3 PM    | Katelyn Emerson, Organ   | First Church of Deerfield, Deerfield, MA (USA)                                    |
|                                  |         | Works by Sweelinck, van Noordt, Pasquini, Muffat, Buxtehude, J. Haydn, Brahms, Langlais, Eben  |   |
| March 4 <sup>th</sup>            | 7:45 PM | Martin Welzel, Organ   | Wiederkunft Christi, Kolbermoor (D)   |
|                                  |         | Works by Bach, Demessieux, and Baker   |   |
| March 21 <sup>st</sup>           | 12 MM   | Martin Welzel, Organ   | Paderborn Cathedral (D)   |
|                                  |         | Works by William S. Lloyd Webber, Gerard Bunk, and Percy Whitlock.   |   |
| March 22 <sup>nd</sup>           | 4:30PM  | Martin Welzel, Organ   | St. Johannes Baptist, Paderborn-Wewer (D)   |
|                                  |         | Works by Scheidemann, Pachelbel, Wm. S. Lloyd Webber, P. Whitlock, Liszt/Guillou, and Vierne   |   |
| June 3 <sup>rd</sup>             | 6 PM    | Hartmut Siebmanns, Organ   | Marienkirche, Ahrensböök (D)  |
|                                  |         | Works for Oboe and Organ by Beethoven, Vierne, Willscher, Cooman (Sea Psalms, Uraufführung)  |   |
| June 19 <sup>th</sup>            | 8 PM    | Johan Hermans, Organ   | Basilica St. Małgorzaty, Nowy Sącz (PL)   |
| June 20 <sup>th</sup>            | 7 PM    | Johan Hermans, Organ   | Basilica, Krosno (PL)   |
| June 22 <sup>nd</sup>            | 8 PM    | Katelyn Emerson, Organ   | St. Jakobus, Dachau (D)   |
| June 27 <sup>th</sup>            | 11 AM   | Giorgio Parolini, Organ  | Cathedral, Luxembourg (Lux)   |
| June 28 <sup>th</sup>            | 6 PM    | Katelyn Emerson, Organ   | Maria Schray and St. Jakobus, Pfullendorf (D)                                     |
| July 1 <sup>st</sup>             | 6 PM    | Katelyn Emerson, Organ   | Konzertsaal, Staatliche Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst Stuttgart (D) |
|                                  |         | Master Recital   |   |

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