



# American Guild of Organists

Chartered 1896

## European Chapter

Chartered 1979

*Newsletter October 2020*

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### *The Dean's Corner*

Dear European Chapter Members,

It would be quite an understatement to say that my first year as Dean of the European Chapter turned out not as expected. Started in good cheer, it developed wonderfully within the partly renewed Board. Soon plans were enthusiastically drawn up that had both an eye for tradition and for step-by-step renewal. We were eagerly looking forward to a Spring Meeting in Cologne, which promised to be brilliant. And then, all of a sudden, the world came to a grinding standstill . . .

Like everyone else, we initially stayed at home, learning to cope with new rules. Meanwhile, we also learn - by trial and error - to live with a less predictable future. In the past few months there was at times hope that relief from corona measures was imminent, but gradually we understood that the uncertainty might continue on for quite a while. This also means that we as a Chapter Board will have to adjust our plans for upcoming activities and attempt to draw up a corona-proof program.

The European Chapter is truly international. Our members live in several countries in Europe, Canada and Australia, plus several States in the USA. That makes us the unique and wonderful melting pot that we are. Simply superb !

In practice, this means that for meetings with more than a few members, most of us

have to undertake a long journey, which is especially difficult in these times of corona limitation.

Fortunately, we have people on our Chapter Board with the talent and inspiration to develop initiatives in these corona times that will unite you Chapter Members (if necessary virtually) around our passion, initiatives that will allow us to experience the joy and connection that we long for so much - even if it has to be in a different, corona-safe way for the time being.

Let's inspire each other with our enthusiasm, our stories and experiences ! And of course, plans that we are not able to realize right away will be given an even more important place on our to-do list !

*Johan  
Chapter Dean*

### *The Secretary's Voice*

Dear Members,

In addition to all that Johan has mentioned, let us keep members who have contracted the virus or have friends or family members who have suffered with it in our thoughts and prayers during this time. Those of us who have been mostly spared these trials should be especially and consciously thankful.

*Bernard*  
[bernard.sanders\(at\)web.de](mailto:bernard.sanders(at)web.de)

**Please submit your items for the next  
Newsletter before Dec. 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

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## 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.*

## Chapter News

### European Chapter Newsletters 2000 - 2020

In the year 2000 at the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Chapter Meeting in Nördlingen, Bavaria, Bernard Sanders took over as Chapter Secretary and Editor of the Chapter Newsletter. Ever since then he has taken Minutes at the Board Meetings and produced an issue of the Newsletter every 3 months. At the outset the Newsletters were printed (photocopied) and mailed with the postal service to all members. Gradually

more and more members opted for the email solution. This was an important changeover to save the Chapter postal expenses and the editor much time and effort. Since then the Chapter membership has grown from 20 to over 140!

To document this history for posterity the chapter is preparing a printed edition of all of these Newsletters. One will be sent to AGO Headquarters in New York. The former and present Chapter Deans and Secretaries will also each have one.

Anyone else who would like to have a bound copy can order one from the Newsletter Editor **before November 1<sup>st</sup>**. The preparation for printing will begin as soon as the October issue is finished.

Costs for the book are as follows:

Clothbinding / Embossed: approx.. 80,- €  
Pressbound/not embossed: approx.. 50,- €  
plus shipping and handling

### *Members' News*

In 1998 **Dr. Miriam Zach** recorded “*O Sacrum Convivium*” by Rolande Falcinelli (1920-2006) on the 1991 Mander organ in Princeton University Chapel, Princeton, New Jersey. This recording was chosen by Michael Barone for inclusion on a program entitled “*Women Working*”. This particular edition of NPR Pipedreams was in honor of Women’s Equality Day, August 26, 2020, the centennial anniversary of the 1920 adoption of the 19th Amendment to United States Constitution giving women the right to vote. It was broadcast on August 17<sup>th</sup> and can be accessed under

<https://www.pipedreams.org/episode/2020/08/17/women-working>

Dr. Miriam Zach founded the International Women Composers Library in 1995 in Gainesville, Florida. See “Introducing Our Members” to get to know her!

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**Bernard Wayne Sanders** has been commissioned by Concordia Publishing House of St. Louis, MO, to write a Chorale Prelude and alternate harmonization of the Hymn-Tune “AUS TIEFER NOT” (“From

Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee” (Lutheran Service Book No. 607). It is scheduled to be released in 2021 in the Lenten Volume of the Series “*Proclaim! Preludes and Harmonizations for the Hymn of the Day*”.

### **New CD: Intrada**

The first recording of the organ in the church of St. Petrus & Jakobus major in Nendingen, Germany is entitled *Intrada* and has been released by the ambitus Musikproduktion label.

Modelled after choir organs by Cavallé-Coll, the 2 manual instrument with 27 stops was built in 2011 by the Jäger & Brommer Organ Company of Waldkirch. The complete disposition and pictures can be found on their web site. **Bernard Sanders**, who was the organ consultant for the project, performs a program of his own compositions including the "Prelude, Recitative and Fugue" commissioned by the Wichita AGO Chapter in that same year. Also included are three Partitas (MENDELSSOHN DA PACEM; CHRISTUS, DER IST MEIN LEBEN; ST. THEODULF), Sonata da camera (for manuals alone), *Intrada ex d*, Cradle Song, Elegie in memoriam D.H., and a Chorale Prelude on LIEBSTER JESU.

The booklet contains photos and information in English and German about the instrument, the composer/performer, and about the works played. The new album is available from the ambitus label ([www.ambitus.de](http://www.ambitus.de)), from Jäger & Brommer, ([www.waldkircher-orgelbau.de](http://www.waldkircher-orgelbau.de)), or from the composer.

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### **Corona Tales from New York and Switzerland**

*by Chelsea Chen*

My husband and I flew to New York in early March. He was there for company meetings and I was there for eleven concerts around the U.S. Within 4-5 days of our arrival, 8 of my concerts were cancelled, first at the universities, then at the churches. One concert even cancelled while I was on the plane from New York to California, after they had insisted for days it was still going to happen. I ended up

nervously visiting my parents in San Diego before flying right back -- I really worried I might bring the virus to them! Still, my May concerts had not yet been cancelled, so I remained hopeful. We knew there would be a lockdown, but we decided for work and family reasons it was worth it to stay. I had planned to be in the U.S. for two months anyway.

My old apartment in Queens is rather small (about 46 square meters). It had been perfect for me as a single person for several years. Quickly we realized it was not so perfect for a couple. There was no way he could carry on with work calls all day with me practicing in the same room, even with headphones. Fortunately he had access to his office building in Manhattan, because his work was deemed "essential" (and there were literally no other people on his floor!). But he didn't want to risk taking public transportation to get there. So I offered to drive him back and forth from Forest Hills, Queens to Midtown Manhattan in my old 2004 Toyota Prius that normally sits idly at his parents' house in Jamaica, Queens. It was truly a blessing to have that car, because all of a sudden, with no traffic on the streets, this was the best mode of transportation. It felt like an apocalypse with Times Square empty no matter what time of day. I would drop him off in the late morning and pick him up in the evening. The rest of my day was spent cooking and hunting for groceries and cleaning supplies. There were lines around the block to enter stores and sometimes shortages of meat and paper towels, along with hand sanitizer or bleach. It was demoralizing watching the numbers of cases and deaths skyrocket every day. Then it hit home when our close friend's father contracted Covid and died after 2 months in the hospital with no visitors. Several other friends and parents of friends also got very sick.

Every other Sunday morning I started playing the organ via Zoom livestream for my old church in NY using my electronic organ. Worshiping with and seeing our friends' faces was a balm for us, and it

helped me stay motivated to practice. That Zoom service playing continues on to this day, in fact, despite our being back in Switzerland!

It seemed like an eternity until we made it to June. On top of the pandemic, we then had street protests all over New York, making driving a bit more unpredictable. By this point all of my remaining concerts in the U.S. had been cancelled, so we decided it was finally time to head back to Switzerland. Thank God Swiss Air decided to bring back the flight from JFK to ZRH. When we arrived at JFK airport we witnessed another apocalyptic scene with all the doors to the terminal locked except one, and almost no people in sight! Then we landed in ZRH and no one was wearing masks at the airport or on the trains! AHHH! (That has since changed, as mask-wearing became mandatory on public transit in July).

Life in Switzerland has since then been much more relaxed. We were happy to gain 30 square meters of space in our apartment here! My husband's office is a 7 minute walk away (no more wasted time driving around and around). Aldi and Coop are right below our building, and there are no lines. I got to play my one previously scheduled organ concert in Zürich at the Fraumünster on July 30<sup>th</sup>. And I managed to record one of my pieces (The Moon Lady) the day before the concert, which was the first video recording I've made in a long time

<https://youtu.be/p2SuIb1OZ0I>.

This past Friday I played continuo for a Bach Motet video recording. The organist at the Fraumünster conducted his 8 professional singers and asked me about a month ago to participate. Beyond that, I'm starting to work on writing a piece for trumpet/organ for my former teacher in San Diego (Leslie Wolf Robb). I'm also practicing whatever I feel like practicing, since my next concert might be months away.

As for other activities, I've enjoyed playing tennis with a good friend several times this summer on the red clay courts. I

also go for hikes and walks around the lake with friends. And perhaps my German will improve with all the extra time I have for studying, but I'm not certain. Time will tell.

I hope everyone else has been staying well and pray that we all manage to find some peace and comfort during this exceptionally difficult year.

*If you have corona-related experiences to share, please send them to the Newsletter  
Editor: [Bernard.Sanders\(at\)web.de](mailto:Bernard.Sanders(at)web.de) !*

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### Obituary

In memory of **Martyn Paul Cole** who passed away on 16th August 2020.

Martyn was already a proficient handyman, viola player and organist when Trisha met him in 1967. He had graduated with a degree in Physics from Queen Mary University the previous year, and was working near Keele where he decided to do an extramural harmony course and was invited to join the university orchestra where Trisha was struggling in the viola section. It wasn't long before Martyn realised that Trisha was the only one for him and they were married in the rain on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 1970. Martyn's second job was in cutting-edge research finding the best materials to make thin-film semi-conductors, which went on to make the microchips which make our lives so much easier these days. He moved to British Aerospace in Bristol where Fiona, David and Jonathan were born. Although he had always avoided sports at school he made time for the children during his busy weekends, much taken up with home improvements and being a choir man at St Mary Redcliffe, and was always the one who scored a goal in football or a six in cricket.

Martyn stayed with BAe for the rest of his working life and when he took early retirement at 54 he fulfilled a long-held dream of buying a house in France. The time spent in France was filled with hard physical work on the property and music. It was in France that he gave his first organ recitals and accompanied a choir that

Trisha later came to conduct. This collaboration was intensely satisfying for both and this period with the "Chœur des Hauts Cantons", musically and socially, was amazing. Sadly during this same period Martyn was diagnosed both with spinal stenosis for which he had five operations and a lot of metal inserted in his back, and Parkinson's Disease.

He returned to his home county of Suffolk directly from the university hospital of Nîmes at the end of 2013. He was very unwell at the time but after discovering hyperbaric oxygen therapy had a miraculous recovery which enabled him to live a relatively fulfilling life, close to family, going to the cinema and concerts, a musical in London, international athletics at the Olympic Stadium, 2 Proms at the Albert Hall last year and no less than 7 cruises, the highlight being a musical Baltic cruise to St Petersburg.

Festivities for his important events have been legendary, especially his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday in France, and Ruby wedding celebrations both in France and England. He died suddenly but not unexpectedly 10 days after a rather lower key Golden Wedding celebration.

*Requiescat in pacem*

### *European News*

#### **The Organ: Instrument of the Year 2021**

The German Music Council (der Deutsche Musikrat) has named the organ "Instrument of the Year 2021". (Last year it was the Violin.) The aim of these nominations is to bring the respective musical instruments more into the public eye. Germany is the leading organ country worldwide. Over 50,000 organ instruments sound almost every day. The organ building tradition in Germany is long. These instruments have been built here since the first millennium after Christ. More than 450 German workshops are currently doing organ building, restoration and maintenance work. Nowhere in the world are there so many organs and organ

builders and also so many organists. The declared aim of the experts is that future generations should also get to know and appreciate the organ as an instrument. It can touch people's hearts like hardly any other musical instrument, which clearly explains why the organ is such an outstanding instrument. The organ is a musical instrument with a diverse range of sounds from soft to loud, from delicate to strong, from shrill to gentle. It is a whole orchestra which the organist conducts. The organ has a future. From groove, jazz, pop, meditative to classical, everything in musical literature can be heard on the organ. Since the organ cannot come to the people, it is now time for people to experience the miracle of sound that an organ can express.

The "Day of the Organ", which takes place every year, will take place next year on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

*(revised and translated by  
Bernard Sanders from an article  
by Wolfgang Brommer)*

### *Introducing Our Members*

Dr. **Miriam Zach**, Ph.D. is a musicologist, organist, harpsichordist, pianist, author, and professor. She is the inaugural Charles and Mary Sukup Endowed Artist in Organ in the Department of Music and Theatre teaching organ, harpsichord, music history, and interdisciplinary courses at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa (USA). After completing degrees from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois (USA) and the University of Chicago (USA) she lived in Europe for five years studying organ in Paris (France) and with Jobst Hermann Koch in Lemgo (Germany), and teaching music at the Universität Bielefeld (Germany) and in Rome (Italy). Currently she is serving as Dean of the Central Iowa AGO [www.ciaago.org](http://www.ciaago.org), Director of Music/Organist at St. John's Episcopal

<https://www.stjohns-ames.org>, Founding Director of international festivals of women composers ([iwclib.org](http://iwclib.org)), and enjoys playing Baroque chamber music as a member of the Alachua Consort <http://alachuaconsort.com>. From 1996-2016 at the University of Florida she taught interdisciplinary Honors Music and Health, undergraduate and graduate Music History, organ, and harpsichord, and was Professor of the Year 2000-01. Her publications include the book "For the Birds: Women Composers Music History Speller" (2006, 2015), co-edited book "Resonance: Essays on the Intersection of Music and Architecture" (2007), and CD "Hidden Treasures: 300 Years of Organ Music by Women Composers" (1998) recorded with the Mander organ in Princeton University Chapel. She can be heard on Pipedreams National Public Radio (2007, 2010, 2013, 2020).

*Dr. Miriam Zach*

Charles and Mary Sukup  
Endowed Artist in Organ

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[church@stjohns-ames.org](mailto:church@stjohns-ames.org)

Alachua Consort

<http://alachuaconsort.com/>

International Women Composers Library

<http://womencomposerslibrary.org/>

Culicidae Press

<http://www.culicidaeypress.com/>

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

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## Recitals Past and Present

*Because of restrictions due to the Corona-Virus pandemic, it is very possible that some of the 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 !*

Sept. 28 <sup>th</sup>		Katelyn Emerson, Organ Masterclass	Northrop Auditorium, U. of M.
Sept. 29 <sup>th</sup>		Katelyn Emerson, Organ Concert	Northrop Auditorium, U. of M. Minneapolis, MN (USA)
		Works by Mozart, Bairstow, Elgar, Widor, H. Parker, Karg-Elert, H. Reimann	
Oct. 4 <sup>th</sup>		Johan Hermans, Organ	St John Bosco Church, Danzig (PL)
Oct. 18 <sup>th</sup>	5 PM	Hartmut Siebmanns, Orgel Werke von Beethoven, Vierne, Willscher und Gawthrop	Kilianskirche, Korbach (D)
Oct. 18 <sup>th</sup>		Johan Hermans, Organ Fabienne Vénien, Violoncello	The Cenakel, Tilburg (The Netherlands)
Nov. 29 <sup>th</sup>	5 PM	Axel Wilberg, Organ Works by Bach, Walther, Zachow, Balbastre, Yon	St. Lambertus, Mechernich-Holzheim (D)
Dec. 12 <sup>th</sup>	11:30 AM	Axel Wilberg, Organ Works by Merkel, Reger, Monar, Karg-Elert, Yon	St. Lambertus, Erkelenz (D)

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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