



American Guild of Organists

Chartered 1896

European Chapter

Chartered 1979

Newsletter July 2021

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The Dean's Corner

Dear European Chapter Members,

Over the past few months, many of us have experienced a gradual relaxing of corona measures, combined with a step-by-step return to the pre-pandemic way of life. For a while, that "normal" life seemed within reach, but only a few weeks later, it already turns out that that long-awaited return will take a little longer. However, let's remain optimistic!

In the meantime, we can look back on a successful virtual Spring Meeting and the start of our own YouTube channel with self-made videos by European Chapter members. We should be proud of the know-how that we have built up over the past year!

As your Chapter-Dean, I invite all of you to watch the videos or post new ones! We aim to set up another online meeting in the Fall, with room for informal talk and the exchange of impressions about the videos and the process of making them.

One thing that has increasingly concerned me lately is how we can introduce more young people to the organ. As a teacher at a music academy, I have noticed that the number of pupils for organ is decreasing year after year. Our instrument seems more distant and more difficult to identify with a domestic musical life than, for example, the harpsichord, not only for young children but also for their parents. On the other hand, just last week I had the opportunity

to personally experience how a surprisingly high percentage of younger people respond enthusiastically to a personal introduction to the organ. Let's make an effort to get more young people to make such a personal acquaintance! By the way, we have a formula that makes it attractive for young people to become a member of the AGO and thus the European Chapter: This is the **Year of the Young Organist!**

Looking forward to hearing from you!
Cordially,

Johan

The Secretary's Voice

Dear Members,

The first-ever virtual Spring Meeting was indeed a great success with over 40 active participants literally from all over the world. Read all about it in Giorgio Parolini's excellent report.

And after so many months with concerts being cancelled more often than taking place, our concert calendar is blossoming once again. Take a closer look, perhaps someone is playing in your area!

It would be great if more of you would introduce yourselves to our Chapter Members. Let us get to know you! The Columns "Members' News", "Introducing Our Members", and "Recitals Past and Present" are all there for that purpose!

Also looking forward to hearing from you!
Bernard [bernard.sanders\(at\)web.de](mailto:bernard.sanders(at)web.de)

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

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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 !

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:

<https://www.agoeurope.eu/>

See Newsletters from 2000 until present and pictures from the Spring Meetings !

Barry Jordan

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 9th, 2016; revised by the
National Council June 7th, 2016.*

Chapter News

AGO EUROPEAN CHAPTER VIRTUAL SPRING MEETING 2021 REPORT

by Giorgio Parolini

AGO EUROPEAN CHAPTER OPENING ONLINE SOCIAL HOUR

Every year members of the European Chapter meet the week after Easter in a different country. Organized as a rule by a member of the Chapter who lives there, the week is spent exploring organs, music,

landscape, historical facts, and culinary delights of that country and region. This week of gathering in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere has been greatly enjoyed and appreciated since the very first Spring Meeting back in 1999.

The Spring Meeting in 2020 had been planned to take place in Cologne (Germany), organized by our members there, Axel Wilberg and Ricarda Kossack. At the very last moment it had to be cancelled because of the COVID pandemic. After initial disappointment, Board and organizers were eager to once again plan a Spring Meeting in Cologne for the week after Easter 2021 until the second wave of the pandemic in late Fall made it clear that our traditional gathering couldn't take place in 2021 either. During Zoom meetings, the Chapter board developed the idea of offering a kind of "Virtual Spring Meeting," planning and organizing online events for Easter Monday and the following Friday, at exactly the same times as when the Opening and Closing Dinners usually take place. After great efforts of planning and organizing the event, Easter Monday (April 5th) arrived and, at 9 PM Brussels time, about 50 members of the European Chapter participated in the "Social Hour". They logged in from all around Europe (Germany, Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands, Scotland, Finland, France), the United States, and even from Australia where it was then already early Tuesday morning. While everyone was connecting, a fun and light-hearted Zoom tutorial was offered. Instructions for using the platform were explained in the manner of a flight attendant before take-off. Following this, Dean Johan Hermans welcomed everyone, remarking on the disappointment about again not being able to gather in Cologne and talking about the exchange of ideas, information, and the hard work that resulted in the event participants were about to enjoy. Johan also mentioned that the Spring Meeting in Cologne was not cancelled but only rescheduled and made

an allusion to it having the longest preparation time ever.

Board Member Alissa Duryee moderated the introductions when every participant was able to present himself/herself with a brief talk about his/her country of origin, work, music experience, etc. We were honored to have some special guests from AGO Headquarters: James Thomashower (Executive Director), Elizabeth George (Director of Member Engagement and Chapter Development), and Leah Semiken (Manager of Membership and Chapter Relations).

The word was then passed on to Chapter Treasurer and Membership Coordinator Ludo Vandersmissen who presented an overview of Chapter Membership and its recent development. He also announced a new program established by AGO Headquarters: "Year of the Young Organist" – Investing in the Future; from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 one year free Guild Membership (with *The American Organist* in printed version) for all current, lapsed, and new members under the age of 30 (more information at www.agohq.org/free-membership).

Elizabeth George then spoke about AGO commitment towards young organists. They are the future of our profession and AGO has also secured funds to assist those who had and have problems caused by the pandemic. Another important piece of information was offered by Ludo: European Chapter Members of any age who are suffering financial difficulties due to partial or total job losses because of the pandemic may be eligible for assistance with paying their Membership Dues. Members who find themselves in this situation are welcome to confidentially contact our Dean Johan Hermans for further information and assistance.

A first photo montage followed. Pictures taken during past Spring Meetings had been provided by some of our members. Seeing this montage was a wonderful opportunity to recall faces,

places, and instruments played in many different European countries and in the Washington D.C. area, where the Spring Meeting took place in 2017. Our members Axel Wilberg and Ricarda Kossack presented a preview of the Spring Meeting in Cologne with excursions to the nearby Eifel region and Maria Laach Abbey with their instruments and landscapes. In a slideshow, participants could see the most important churches and organs to be visited in (among them the Cologne Cathedral and St. Agnes). Everyone is really looking forward to it and hoping that it can take place the week after Easter 2022.

Elizabeth George then informed participants about how Headquarters dealt with the pandemic and the sudden need to use new media and technology. Crucial were the sharing and focusing on the positive creativity of colleagues who initiated various events in order to arouse public interest in the organ and organ music and to keep it alive. For example, one colleague used a drone to film the instrument he usually plays. She also gave an overview of the different Webinars organized by the Guild. These are listed on the AGO website under “Education”, and are worth exploring for all AGO members. James Thomashower announced the “OrganFest”: it will be an online event from the end of June to the beginning of July. During OrganFest, a fifty-minute film called “Fugue” will premiere, and the AGO OrganFest 2021 YouTube page will share workshops, performances, and more, all made specifically for this special event! Its purpose is to reach out to people who do not experience the organ and organ music in church or school.

Agnes Goerke reported on the construction of a new organ for the Concert Hall in Helsinki. This organ was scheduled to be ready at the beginning of 2023 but constraints caused by the pandemic have delayed its completion until early 2024. The Austrian firm of Rieger is building the instrument. With 123 stops, it will be one of the largest

organs built in a concert hall. The instrument will have some interesting features: flexible wind, microtonal pipes, numerous overtone stops. Also, the design is completely new: all the pipes will be housed inside the instrument, while the wind system will be visible to the public. If interested visit this website:

<https://urutsoimaan.fi/en/musiikkitalos-organ/> with details, photo rendering, specification etc. We really look forward to visiting Helsinki in the near future!

The time arrived for the second photo montage. This time the photos were more on the humorous side, depicting funny episodes and moments which took place during our trips. An appropriate soundtrack [*Capriccio in Jazz' by Margreth the Jong*] accompanied the flow of photographs full of smiling faces, which captured the joy of being together during our fabulous Spring Meetings.

Board Member Katelyn Emerson talked about the launch of the Chapter video channel on YouTube, explaining its content (presentation of organs and locations where Chapter Members live), its functions, and how to submit videos. Alissa Duryee mentioned the memo with tips on making videos. As of April 5th, 22 videos had been submitted and uploaded to the video channel. Participants and members are encouraged to continue submitting clips since they will continue to be uploaded until the end of Summer/early Fall 2021. A big and heartfelt thanks is due to Katelyn and Alissa for their efforts in preparing and making the video channel. Thank you, ladies!

Past Dean Judy Riefel-Lindel shared with all the participants her gratitude for the work done and for what has been offered to Chapter members this year. She recalled all past Spring Meetings spent together all around Europe and in the U.S. during her 20 years as Deans and thanked James Thomashower and Leah Semiken for their work and for their support of the European Chapter. James Thomashower thanked Judy in return and remarked on the importance of the European Chapter

for the Guild, assuring us of their support for any problems which might arise.

Michael Koenig, a member of both our chapter and the AGO Committee on the New Organist (CONO) who now lives and works in London, introduced the "International Organ Week", an event organized by The Royal College of Organists from April 18th to April 24th, 2021. Each day at 9.00 PM (Brussels time) "The Organ Show" was aired, and every day a different theme was explored. These included visits to particularly interesting sites and organs, local organ associations, cinema and theatre organists, or focused on young organists. The Grand Finale was InterNational Organ Day on April 24th with contributions by organists from all around the world. The AGO and the European Chapter also participated in this event. There followed a short talk about the recent partnership signed by RCO and AGO. AGO Members in good standing can join the RCO with the Affiliate AGO Membership. For just £25 one can have access to a series of benefits, the most important and valuable being iRCO, a platform containing a vast array of learning, professional, scholarly and more general information useful to organists and choir directors.

The last portion scheduled for this Social Hour was an open conversation where participants could raise their hand and talk. Obviously the most discussed topic was the impact of the CoronaVirus pandemic on our work as organists and teachers. Everyone talked about his/her experiences during this difficult period, what could be done with services, choirs, lessons etc.

James Thomashower raised an interesting point: after one year of streaming services, will people be eager to come back to church in person when the pandemic is over? Will we really go back to our old habits? This topic is also the focus of a webinar organized by Headquarters on April 19th, 2021.

Following this interesting moment of sharing, the event closed with a reminder

about the Informal Chat Session on the following Friday, April 5th, at the same time.

AGO EUROPEAN CHAPTER CLOSING INFORMAL CHAT SESSION

Every Spring Meeting comes to a close on Friday evening with the Final Dinner. This year an online Informal Chat Session with 23 participants from Europe, U.S., and Australia took place on Friday, April 5th at 9 PM Brussels time.

After a brief welcome, Sir Andrew Palmer (Chief Executive of the Royal College of Organists) was introduced to those in attendance. Our Special Guest talked about the history of the Royal College of Organists, founded in 1864 when a group of London-based organists joined to form a body for "elevating and advancing our professional status". A Royal Charter was obtained in 1893 and the College concentrated on raising standards in the profession. Sir Andrew then addressed a topic arising in the U.K. at the present time: a dramatic decrease in church attendance with the related lack of exposure to organ and organ music mainly for the young people. With this problem in mind the College is currently working on a program to provide funds for sending organs into Secondary Schools in order to make our instrument more visible and to awaken interest within the younger generation. In the last part of his speech, he broached the subject of the partnership between AGO and RCO: purpose being to create a "global community" of organists in order to grow together. Since Sir Andrew Parmley had not been able to attend the meeting on the previous Monday evening, each participant introduced himself and exchanged information with Sir Andrew, who then also shared his experience and vast knowledge of the different parts of Europe and beyond. Michael Koenig then shared information about the InterNational Organ week, sharing the format and spirit of this event: to reach as many people around the world

as possible, showing how much activity there is around and how many interesting events focus on our instrument

AGO European Chapter Dean Johan Hermans looks forward to continuing and developing the interesting partnership between our Chapter and the RCO, and we hope and look forward to having Sir Andrew and other RCO Members at our next Spring Meeting in Cologne!

To this purpose, a short preview of that Meeting was presented from organizers Axel and Ricarda to our special guest who, in turn, invited our Chapter to visit London between the first two Saturdays in March. Two major events will take place then: the “London Organ Day” on the first Saturday in March and the RCO award ceremony on the second Saturday in March 2022. Reciprocal attendance would foster the developing friendship between our organizations.

For the remaining time our Dean moderated a discussion with comments on the videos posted on our YouTube video channel. The idea of a video channel and the videos posted up until now are greatly appreciated by everyone. It is especially interesting to see friends, where they live, the instruments they usually play, and to go from the U.S. to Australia passing through Europe in just minutes! The idea of continuing to post videos until early Autumn and to eventually organize another online event during the Fall season (a kind of Fall Meeting, which is usually held every two to three years) was discussed among the participants. Using our video channel in the future when Spring Meetings will resume in person will be considered later on, too. During this long and pleasant conversation John Falkingham, longtime active member of our Chapter and Membership Coordinator, was fondly remembered. John passed away unexpectedly and much too early in 2018.

The Informal Chat Session at the closing of the very first Virtual Spring Meeting ended with participants saying “Goodbye” to each other with the idea and

hope to organize more chats and moments of gathering with Zoom in the future!

Members' News

Bernard Wayne Sanders has completed a commissioned work for Organ solo entitled “**Sojourn: Four Chorale Preludes from Childhood to Resurrection**”. The four movements are based on different Chorale melodies corresponding to Childhood (I Am Jesus' Little Lamb / Weil ich Jesu Schäflein bin), Adulthood (Thy Way and All Thy Sorrows / Befiehl Du Deine Wege), Autumn of Life (Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me / So nimm denn meine Hände) and Resurrection (Awake, My Heart, With Gladness / Auf, auf, mein Herz mit Freuden). It was commissioned by Dr. Sharon L. Hettinger of Lawrence, Kansas, in memory of her late husband Lyle D. Hettinger. The premier performance is tentatively scheduled for Fall 2021.

Sanders' composition “*Iam, Christe, sol iustitiae*” for Trumpet and Organ has been accepted for publication by Martin Schmid Musikverlag, which specializes in works for brass instruments. The piece is based on a Gregorian melody from the 12th Century. The Latin Hymnus text associated with it dates from the 6th Century.

Michael J. Barone has chosen Sanders' “**Sonata da camera**” to be included in “a colorful collection of works by American composers and performers, past and present.” These will be broadcast on the Pipedreams Program 2126 on June 28th, 2021. This will be the 10th composition by Sanders to be featured in the series. (One of them twice!)

Pipedreams began in 1982, and it remains the only nationally distributed weekly radio program treating the art of the pipe organ. Celebrating almost 40 years on the air, Pipedreams explores the full range of the art and potential of the pipe organ, often including interviews with composers, organists, organ builders, and restorers, featuring brand new instruments in churches and concert halls, plus historic pipe organs recorded in locations around

the world. All of the Pipedreams programs can be listened to at their web site!

Sanders' composition for Organ solo "**Elegie in memoriam D.H.**" was premiered by the composer in a concert on July 10th in the church of St. Peter and James the Great in Nendingen, Germany.

information about the Organ and the church in the next newsletter.



Introducing Our Members

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

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 !

June 10 th	8 PM	Axel Wilberg, Organ	Steinfeld Abbey (D)
July 4 th	5 PM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ	Dreifaltigkeitskirche, Gräfenhain (D)
July 4 th	4 PM	Joby Bell, Organ	Church of the Assumption, Cazères (F)
July 7 th	7:30 PM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ Festival "Meininger Orgelsommer"	Stadtkirche, Meiningen (D)
July 10 th	8 PM	Bernard Sanders, Organ 10 Years Jäger & Brommer Organ, CD-Presentation "Intrada"	St. Petrus & Jakobus major, Nendingen (D)
July 11 th	4 PM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ	Basilika St. Aposteln, Cologne (D)
July 13 th		Barry Jordan, Organ Works by Scheidt, Tunder, Ritter, Volans, Reincken, Buxtehude	St. Jacobi, Hamburg (D)
July 18 th	6 PM	Virgil Barkauskas, Organ	National Shrine, Washington D.C. (USA)
July 18 th	7:30 PM	Katelyn Emerson, Chelsea Chen, Stephen Tharp, Organ Virtual performance for the Opening Celebration the Virtual Pipe Organ Encounter of the American Guild of Organists – accessible: https://agovirtualpoe.org/#sunday-concert	
July 22 nd		Barry Jordan, Organ Works by Buxtehude, Reincken, Volans, Nowowiejski	Dom, Bremen (D)
July 23 rd	6 PM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ	St. Franziskus, Munich (D)
July 25 th	5 PM	Martin Welzel, Organ Demessieux (Te Deum op. 11), Baker, Whitlock, and Duruflé (Suite op. 5).	Cathedral, Munich (D)
July 29 th	8 PM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ	Cathedral, Kuopio (Finland)

July 31 st	12 MM	Axel Wilberg, Organ	Maria Laach Abbey (D)
July 31 st	7:30 PM	Katelyn Emerson, Organ	St. John the Evangelist, London (UK)
Aug. 1 st	7 PM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ	Mariakyrkan, Helsingborg (Sweden)
Aug. 3 rd	8 PM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ	Vor Frelzers Kirke, Copenhagen (DK)
Aug. 6 th		Barry Jordan, Organ Works by Bach, Tunder, Volans, Nielsen	Dom, Magdeburg (D)
Aug. 7 th	7:30 PM	Katelyn Emerson, Organ	St. Luke's Cathedral, Portland, Maine (USA) Closing Concert for the Bach Virtuosi Festival (with other Bach Virtuosi Festival performers)
Aug. 7 th	11:30 AM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ	Kirke, Hønefoss (Norway)
Aug. 8 th	7 PM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ	Kirke, Lillehammer (Norway)
Aug. 18 th	7:30 PM	Rosalind Mohnsen, Organ	Methuen Memorial Music Hall, Methuen, MA (USA) Works by Dupre, Schumann, Mendelssohn, Cochereau, Vierne, James and Saint-Saens. Live-streamed and archived at Methuen Memorial Music Hall - YouTube
Aug. 21 st	11:30 AM	Axel Wilberg, Organ	St. Joseph, Wuppertal (D)
Sept. 9 th		Barry Jordan, Organ Works by César Franck (Complete organ works part 1)	Dom, Magdeburg (D)
Sept. 10 th	7:30 PM	Martin Welzel, Organ	Marienstatt Abbey (D) Orgeltridium 2021: Bach (BWV 542), Whitlock, Demessieux (Te Deum op. 11), W. Lloyd Webber, Dupré (Choral et Fugue op. 57), and Baker (Deux Evocations)
Sept. 16 th		Barry Jordan, Organ Midday concert including Ritter 1st and 3rd sonatas (Merseburger Orgeltage)	Dom, Merseburg (D)
Sept. 19 th	4 PM	Katelyn Emerson, Organ	Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, New Jersey (USA)
Sept. 26 th	7 PM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ	St. Petrus Kirche, Gau-Bischofsheim (D)
Sept. 30 th		Barry Jordan, Organ Works by César Franck (Complete organ works part 2)	Dom, Magdeburg (D)
October 3 rd	4 PM	Katelyn Emerson, Organ	St. Dominic's, Wyoming, IL (USA)
Oct. 9 th	11 AM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ The Influence of Italian Music on J. S. Bach	Cathedral, Luxembourg (Lux)
Oct. 10 th		Katelyn Emerson, Organ	Central Union Church, Honolulu, Hawaii (USA)
Oct. 10 th		Barry Jordan, Organ Works include Louis Vièrne 5 th Symphony	Eberbach / Neckar (D)
Oct. 17 th		Katelyn Emerson, Organ	All Saints' Episcopal, Kapa'a, Hawaii (USA)
Oct. 21 st		Barry Jordan, Organ Works by César Franck (Complete organ works part 3)	Dom, Magdeburg (D)
Oct. 22 nd	7 PM	Katelyn Emerson, Organ,	St. Christopher, Chatham, MA (USA)

Every Saturday (11:30) Organ Music at Market Time

Marktkirche, Wiesbaden (D)

Hans Uwe Hielscher and guest organists from around the world.



27th Bach Festival at Grace Church Georgetown (Virtual)

www.gracedc.org

In July, 2021, Grace Church, Georgetown, Washington, D.C. will be hosting its first Virtual Bach Festival on their website www.gracedc.org. The concerts will be available for future viewings on the website after the initial launches.

1. Saturday, July 17 at 7:30 pm - Grace Church's Organist/Choirmaster and Director of the Bach Festival at Grace Church, **Dr. Francine Maté**, performs works by JS Bach, Nicolaus Bruhns, and Dietrich Buxtehude on the Grace Church A. David Moore organ. The program concludes with the famous JS Bach Toccata and Fugue in d minor, BWV 565.
2. Sunday, July 18 at 1:30 pm - Organist **Dr. Michal Szoskak** plays works by JS Bach and Dietrich Buxtehude on various organs in Europe including Saint-Eustache, Paris, France, and Legnica, Poland.
3. Friday, July 23 at 7:30 pm - Organist **Salvatore Pronesti** presents a program of his improvisations titled "An Italian Concert Organist/Organ Builder from Leipzig to Atlantic City: Improvisations from Both Sides of the Pond."
4. Saturday, July 24 at 7:30 pm - **Shaughn Dowd** and **Martha Molinaro**, Flutes, **Erika Sato**, Violin, **Grace Molinaro**, Cello, and **Larry Molinaro**, Harpsichord perform a program featuring trio sonatas by Quantz and J.S. Bach as well as Bach's sublime Sonata in E minor, BWV 1034 for Flute and continuo.
5. Sunday, July 25 at 1:30pm - Organist **Michael Koenig** performs an all JS Bach recital on the St. George's Hannover Square, London, England, American organ built by Richards, Fowkes, & Co.
6. Friday, July 30 at 7:30 pm - **Soo Young Chrisfield**, Soprano, **Regino Madrid**, Violin, **Fatma Daglar**, Oboe D'Amore, **Charlie Powers**, Cello, and **Larry Molinaro**, Harpsichord, perform movements from Bach cantata, BWV 210, and organ music performed by Larry Molinaro on the Grace Church A. David Moore Organ.

The Festival concerts are free, however, donations will be gratefully accepted through our website at www.gracedc.org or by check. Please make your check payable to Grace Church, and include "2021 Bach Festival" on your check memo line." Mail your donation to:

Grace Episcopal Church
1041 Wisconsin Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20007

Please watch the website, www.gracedc.org for further details, or contact the Bach Festival Director, Francine Maté at bach@gracedc.org