



American Guild of Organists

Chartered 1896

European Chapter

Chartered 1979

Newsletter January 2020

1. *The Dean's Corner; The Secretary's Voice*
2. *News from the Board; Spring Meeting Announcement*
4. *Members' News; Stateside News; European News*
5. *Introducing our Members*
6. *Recitals Past & Present*

The Dean's Corner

Dear European Chapter Members,

With the rush of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany just behind us, the church musicians among you are probably breathing a sigh of relief. Even now Christmas hasn't turned as white in many places as some of us had hoped. I wish you all a prosperous year and hope that at least some of your wishes come true !

May we continue to dedicate ourselves with new energy to organ music, whether as an active player or as an indulgent listener, and with this passion also inspire our environment.

Since the last Newsletter, the board has had its first Board Meeting. Fantastic to get so much input and cooperation !

In this Newsletter we present you with the itinerary for a wonderful Spring Meeting in Cologne. The program looks absolutely fantastic. And, as every year, there will be plenty of time to meet up with old acquaintances and to make connections and new friends.

Johan

The Secretary's Voice

Dear Members,

Aside from the list of recitals and concerts that our members will be performing in the coming weeks, two events stand out in this issue of the Newsletter. Both are of

interest to our Members and we hope that many will be able to attend. Here on the European Continent is the next Chapter Spring Meeting. This will be held the week after Easter in the inimitable city of Cologne, Germany. Our Members Ricarda Kossack and Axel Wilberg have put together a knock-out program that leaves almost nothing to desire. Take a good look at it – and then register immediately! Looking forward to seeing many of you there!

The other is, of course, the National AGO Convention in Atlanta. Since this will be amply treated in TAO, the cordial invitation from the Atlanta Chapter will suffice for our Newsletter.

(Just one tip, our member and Board-Member-at-large Katelyn Emerson will be performing a Concerto there with the Atlanta Symphony. One good reason to go!)

Our new member Alessandro Licata introduces himself in this issue and we sadly take leave from our esteemed colleague Stephen Cleobury.

This and more in the pages to come! Have a good read – and then do not forget to register for the Spring Meeting!

Bernard

bernard.sanders(at)web.de

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

News from The Board

Dean and Membership Coordinator:

Johan Hermans
j.h.o(at)skynet.be

Sub-Dean:

Giorgio Parolini
info(at)giorgioparolini.com

Secretary and Newsletter Editor:

Bernard Sanders
bernard.sanders(at)web.de

Treasurer:

Betsy Mixon-Stemmler
betsymixon(at)web.de

Registrar:

Ludo Vandersmissen
vandersmissen.ludo(at)gmail.com

Web-Master:

Barry Jordan
principal8(at)barryjordan.de

Members-at-Large:

Katelyn Emerson
katelyn.emerson(at)gmail.com

Axel Wilberg
axel.wilberg(at)t-online.de

Alissa Duryee
alissaduryee(at)gmail.com

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 @ sign before adding them to your address book. Thank you !

European Chapter AGO Changes of Address

Ludo Vandersmissen has a new mobile phone number (also SMS and WhatsApp):
+32 471 72 65 14

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

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

Barry Jordan

Spring Meeting 2020 in Cologne

General Information

Local Coordination Team:

Axel Wilberg and Ricarda Kossack

axel.wilberg(at)t-online.de

ricarda.kossack(at)gmx.net

Telephone:

Home: +49 (0)2256-9567868

Wilberg Mobile: +49 (0)170-5942478

Kossack Mobile: +49 (0)1523-8257966

Purpose of the AGO European Chapter 2020 Spring Meeting

- Exploring historical or exceptional organs by demonstrations, concerts and the possibility of playing them yourselves
- Visiting Cologne and getting to know the beautiful landscape of the Rhineland
- Time for exchange with other European Chapter members

Hotel

Lindner Hotel DOM RESIDENCE
Stolkgasse/An den Dominikanern 4a
50668 Köln

Telefon: +49 (0)221 16440

Prices

Single Room: € 89,00

Double Room: € 109,00

Rooms can be booked with the code "American Guild of Organists Spring Meeting". (Some rooms are reserved at these prices for the group until eight weeks before arrival.)

After you have made your hotel reservation, **send an e-mail** to Axel Wilberg or Ricarda Kossack and to Johan

Hermans. Your name will then be added to the list of participants. The sooner you do this the better, in order to help us and the hotel in planning.

Transport during the Spring Meeting

- Tour Coach for trips during the week
- Walk to organs in the city centre

Nearby train station: Köln Hbf (Cologne Main Station)

Nearby airports: Köln/Bonn (CGN) and Düsseldorf (DUS)

Tentative Itinerary

Monday, 13th April 2020:

A warm welcome

12.00-17.00

Participants arrive in Cologne.

starting 16.00 Registration with the Local Coordination Team

19.00-22.00 Opening Dinner

Brauhaus Sion (Sion Brewery)

Tuesday, 14th April 2020:

Cologne and vicinity

We will visit organs in some suburbs of Cologne, among them an American organ by Turner & Steere in Köln-Rodenkirchen.

Wednesday, 15th April 2020:

Cologne City Centre

There is a wide variety of modern organs in the city centre of Cologne. We will visit the Ursulinenkirche (Ahrend), St. Kunibert (Kuhn), St. Ursula (Schiegnitz) and St. Agnes (Rieger). There will also be some time to explore the City of Cologne on your own. After dinner, we will meet at the Cologne Cathedral to try out the Klais organ. It is impossible not to enjoy the unique atmosphere in Cologne Cathedral after closing when peace and silence have set in there.

Thursday, 16th April 2020:

A day in the Eifel

Thursday is the day of historic organs in the idyllic rural area of the Eifel. The oldest organ we will see there is the König organ in Steinfeld from 1727 including several ranks of the former organ, probably

built around 1600. In Euskirchen-Kuchenheim there is Schorn's masterpiece. Schorn was a local organ builder in the late 19th century. Before dinner, we will have a chance to operate the bellows of the oldest playable organ in Rhineland-Palatinate.

Friday, 17th April 2020:

Maria Laach and Rhein-Erft-Kreis

The day will start in the famous Benedictine Abbey of Maria Laach, which is located in the volcanic area of the Eifel. Besides the volcanic bubbles in the Laacher See (lake of Maria Laach) and the overwhelming Romanesque Abbey Church, we can explore the abbey organs by Klais (1998) and Stahlhuth (1910). Afterwards we move on to the Rhein-Erft-Kreis, where we will visit another organ before having our Closing Dinner (19.00-22.00) in Haus Wilkens, a great restaurant with a long tradition in its town.

Concert recommendation:

On Sunday, April 19th, 2020, our board member Giorgio Parolini is going to play a half-hour concert in St. Aposteln in Cologne at 4 PM.

We very much look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones!

Axel & Ricarda

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.*

Stateside News



AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
2020 NATIONAL CONVENTION
July 6–10, 2020 — ATLANTA, GA
www.agoatlanta2020.com

We are excited to announce that registration for the American Guild of Organists Convention for 2020 opens on Monday, November 11th. There are discounted rates for those that register prior to November 30th so register soon to save!

You can visit 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!

Members' News

Member **Axel Wilberg** makes it known that a long-time friend of his from Montreal, Canada, Philip Crozier, will be visiting Europe in 2020, end of June/beginning of July. Philip is an outstanding organist and would be happy to concertize while he is here. If anyone would like to give him the opportunity, please contact Axel for more information. More information on Philip can be found at

http://www.nikolaikirche-flensburg.de/Orgelsommer_2018_Crozier.html

Concordia Publishing House (CPH) of St. Louis, Missouri, has accepted for publication a “Silent Night Celebration” for organ by **Bernard Wayne Sanders**. The collection includes Three Nocturnes, a Ciacona, and a Pastorale on the Hymn-Tune STILLE NACHT. The volume is scheduled for release next year. On a New Year’s Eve concert (Dec.31st 1919) at St. Mary’s in Tuttligen, Germany, **Sanders** premiered his new organ suite “St. Clara of Assisi” and Chorale Preludes on HERR CHRIST DER EINIG GOTTS SOHN, O DURCHBRECHER, LOBT GOTT IHR CHRISTEN, W ŻŁOBIE ŁEZY, ERMUNTRE DICH, and SUSSEX CAROL. (Chorale Preludes in prep. at Sacred Music Press.)

European News



Sir Stephen Cleobury (1948–2019)

Obituary

It is with great sadness that King's College has learned of the death of **Sir Stephen Cleobury**. Stephen died in his hometown of York on November 22nd, after a long illness. He died peacefully in the late hours of Saint Cecilia's Day.

A book of condolence is available in King's College Chapel during normal opening hours until the end of the term, and an online book of condolence is available on the College website. The College will host a memorial service later this academic year.

Stephen was Director of Music at King's for 37 years and was perhaps best known for his direction of one of the world's most famous choirs. He was nevertheless influential in the music world far beyond the Choir, through his long association with the BBC Singers and the Cambridge University Musical Society. He founded the tradition of the annual commissioned carol for Christmas Eve which, since 1984, has made an invaluable contribution to contemporary choral writing. He introduced the highly successful annual festival, Easter at King's, from which the BBC regularly broadcasts, and, in its wake, a series of high-profile performances throughout the year, Concerts at King's.

During his long tenure, Stephen enhanced the reputation of the Choir and extended its reach by developing its activities in broadcasting, recording and touring. His influence as a teacher and role model to young musicians has been felt by thousands of singers and organists who have been Choristers, Choral Scholars and Organ Scholars at King's.

In December 2018, Stephen conducted the Choir in the 100th anniversary of A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, broadcast live from King's to millions of listeners around the world. Six months later he was knighted in the Queen's Birthday Honours for services to choral music, bringing tremendous pleasure to both the Choir and the College, and many more around the world whose hearts have been touched by Stephen's work.

Introducing Our Members

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

Alessandro Licata was born in Rome in 1952. He studied organ and composition for organ with Fernando Germani at the Santa Cecilia Conservatory of Music, graduating in 1974.

In 1977 he was awarded first prize at the Masterplayers International Music Competition in Orvieto, Italy, and made his début as organist with the Teatromusica Ensemble at International Festivals of Contemporary Music in Warsaw (1975), Lisbon, Barcelona and Rome (1977). Since then he has given concerts in Italy, Spain, Portugal, Poland, Canada, China, Sweden and Jordanien. Some of his achievements include: the first Italian performance of Rued Langgaard's *In tenebras exteriores*, given in Rome in 2010; a concert and lectures at *Interpret Baroque* in Beijing in 2011; the inaugural concert of the restored great organ at the Santa Cecilia Conservatory of Music in Rome in 2011; and masterclasses and concerts at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm.

Getting to know Giancarlo Bizzi and enjoying fruitful discussions with him encouraged him to broaden his repertoire and to include some of Bach's late masterpieces (the *Goldberg Variations*, the second and third books of the *Klavierübung*, the *Trio Sonatas* and the *Musical Offering*).

He has taught organ and composition for organ at the Conservatories in Sassari (1975/76), L'Aquila (1976-2008) and at the Santa Cecilia Conservatory in Rome (2008-2018). He has also given masterclasses and lectures in Italy and abroad.



The day I first heard Bach's *Passacaglia* was the day I decided I would be an organist.

The centre of my musical world is Johann Sebastian Bach. His work is a magnificent universe and one still in part unknown: Giancarlo Bizzi's books tell us of the complex mathematical structures, symbolical systems and cosmological references hidden in his music.

Alessandro Licata

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 !*

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| Dec. 7 th | 3 PM | Johan Hermans, Organ | St Quintinus Cathedral, Hasselt (B) |
| Saturday Afternoon Recital Series | | | |
| Works by J.S. Bach, Bernard Sanders, Dale Wood, Emil Weidenhagen and G.F. Händel. | | | |
| Jan. 5 th | 9:30 AM | Johan Hermans, Organ, with Vocal Ensemble | Herz Jesukirche, Bottrop (D) |
| OrgelPlus Festival; Works by J.S. Bach, H.-A. Stamm, H. Oxley, G. Martin and K. Bikkembergs (premiere of 'In Epiphania Domini' by Kurt Bikkembergs, commissioned by the Festival). | | | |
| Dec. 31 st | 10 PM | Bernard Sanders, Organ | Maria Königin, Tuttlingen (D) |
| New Year's Eve Concert; Works by J. S. Bach, Pietro Yon, Bernard Sanders | | | |
| Jan. 6 th | 5 PM | Katelyn Emerson, Organ | St. Karl Borromäus, Winnenden (D) |
| Feb. 16 th | 4 PM | Katelyn Emerson, Organ | Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA |
| Feb. 23 rd | 3 PM | Katelyn Emerson, Organ | Lee Chapel, Elizabeth Hall, Stetson University, DeLand, Florida, USA |
| "Great Organists at Stetson" Series | | | |
| March 1 st | 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 th | 7:45 PM | Martin Welzel, Organ | Wiederkunft Christi, Kolbermoor (D) |
| Works by Bach, Demessieux, and Baker | | | |
| March 21 st | 12 MM | Martin Welzel, Organ | Paderborn Cathedral (D) |
| Works by William Lloyd Webber, Gerard Bunk, and Percy Whitlock. | | | |
| March 22 nd | 4:30PM | Martin Welzel, Organ | St. Johannes Baptist, Paderborn-Wewer (D) |
| Works by Scheidemann, Pachelbel, W. Lloyd Webber, Whitlock, Liszt/Guillou, and Vierne | | | |
| Apr. 19 th | 4 PM | Giorgio Parolini, Organ | St. Aposteln Basilica, Cologne (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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