



# The American Guild of **ORGANISTS**

*European Chapter*

\* SOLI DEO GLORIA \*

**NEWSLETTER**

Third Quarter

2023

## The Dean's Corner

Dear European Chapter Members,

Summer has begun, which has not gone unnoticed by most of you because of the weather. Indeed, the temperature was off the charts last month in many regions. The school year is done or soon will be, and life starts going slower. I hope many of you will find a little time to relax.

Recently, the poster of a new organ concert series in smaller places in the region where I live caught my eye. As the number of weekly worship services with organ music declines, a group of young organists has started a new organ concert series to ensure that the organ continues to captivate hearts and minds in their communities. Let's hope this concert series will become a gathering place for organ enthusiasts and those who have yet to discover the instrument's wonders and will foster a renewed appreciation.

As I write these lines, my thoughts go to the successful Spring Meeting in Erfurt, the capital of Thuringia, Germany. Known for its historical organs and deep-rooted musical traditions, Thuringia was the perfect spot for our first full Spring Meeting in years providing a unique backdrop that enriched the participants' experience. The exceptional job Barry did preparing the Thuringia Spring Meeting sets a new standard for the following one.

In this newsletter, you will be able to read news about our members. Enjoy the read. May it help to continue our European Chapter to grow as a community of people who share the same passion !

Cordially,

Johan - Chapter Dean

## The Board

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Contact details for office-bearers may be found on our web page (<https://www.agoeurope.eu>). Email sent to the address [board\[at\]agoeurope.eu](mailto:board[at]agoeurope.eu) will reach the entire board.

Cover photo: the Kreuzbach / Jehmlich organ in St Marien in Greiz. Photo: Barry

## From the editor

This is a fairly skimpy edition of our Newsletter; normally, we'd be in full-on "Hey, the Spring Meeting is just around the corner!" - mode - and of course it is, but unfortunately we do not yet have anything special to communicate to you. But still, it is undoubtedly important to keep things ticking over; we have a little news from some of our members, and lots of concert listings. Organ recitals are why we have summers, after all, especially here in the more northerly parts of Europe.

Two things which are partly personal, but also relevant to all:

- although I faithfully pay my subscription here in Europe, attempts to log in to the HQ web page are rewarded with the stern warning "Your AGO subscription expired on 7/1/2023!". Does anyone else have this problem? It means that there is no access to the TAO.
- There is a possibility that I may be seriously ill. I say this not to garner sympathy, but because I may not be able to get the next Newsletter out on schedule, or even at all. (There is also a possibility that it is all a false alarm). It doesn't seem very likely that anybody else would be willing to take on the task at short notice, so: if the Newsletter 4/23 does not arrive in October when you're expecting it, that could very well be the reason. Please bear with me (and a few prayers couldn't hurt.)

Best wishes to all

*Barry Jordan*

## News from Bernard Sanders

**Bernard Sanders** has been invited to spend the first two weeks of July on Rügen off the coast of northern Germany. During this time he will be responsible for the church music in Gross Zicker, Baabe and Göhren on the southeast tip of the island. In addition to regular services he will play a concert on the historic Gruneberg organ from 1860 in Gross Zicker. Gruneberg was an organ builder from Stettin (today Poland) who installed several instruments on the island in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

In a concert celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Church of St. Gallus in Tuttlingen, Germany, the new church musician there Constanze Rommel will conduct a program including the Concertino for Organ and Strings (European Premiere) of her predecessor Bernard Sanders, who will play the organ part himself. Also on the program is the second Organ Concerto of Rheinberger with Daniel Seeger, a native of the Tuttlingen area, as soloist.

Bernard's new organ work "Diversions" was premiered by the composer on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at the Protestant City Church (Stadtkirche) in Tuttlingen, Germany. It is more secular in nature and consists of four movements: The Color of Tomorrow, The Time of Opaque, A Sense of Lavender, and A Taste of Siena (Gymnodie). A week later he premiered his Organ Suite "Zacchaeus the

"Tax Collector" in the same venue. It was composed in the Fall of 2020 and consists of five movements: Entrée, Gavotte, Interlude, Sarabande, Sortie. The story was narrated by Phline Blum, minister of the church.

The Music Office of the Diocese of Bozen-Brixen in Tirolia chose the "Deutsche Messe" by Bernard Sanders to be performed at their Diocesan-Church-Music-Day. Although Tirolia is part of Italy, the region is predominantly German-speaking. The choirs prepared the Mass individually and on April 25th, 2023 Diocesan Music Director Dominik Bernhard conducted over 600 singers, two organs and a Brass Quintet for the Pontifical Mass with Bishop Ivo Muser in the Brixen Cathedral.

Picture: Bernard W. Sanders, Bishop Ivo Muser, Hans-Peter Bähr (Publisher, Butz Verlag), Friederich Hägele (Engraver, Butz Verlag)



## From Virginus Barkauskas

I am living in New York, Long Island and am a member of the European AGO. On April 16th I participated in a unique concert, which took place at the National Philharmonic Hall in Vilnius, Lithuania. I was the soloist organist for the Concerto for Organ, Harp and Strings by Howard Hanson, an American composer. Also, I was the organist for the Symphony Op. 25 in G-Minor of Marcel Dupre.



Both, rarely performed works were performed in a fully sold out event.

<https://www.filharmonija.lt/en/whats-on/events/archive/the-philharmonic-organ-fills-the-air-ii.-musica-humana-juventus-c39y.html?mibextid=Zxz2cZ>

## Jennifer Chou looks back

I first joined the AGO as a student at Northwestern University (IL). Wolfgang Rübsam said we should join, and most of us dutifully did. When I left for Paris, I told Maggie Kemper - faculty member at Northwestern who also was the North Shore Chapter Dean and the AGO President during those years, that I would like to continue my AGO membership but not sure if it would be relevant anymore. It was then she mentioned the existence of the European Chapter to me!

It took a while to work out “where” is this European Chapter, as “these people” were mostly in the Netherlands and Germany which felt irrelevant to me. Anyway, I joined so I could keep reading my TAO.

One day Judy Riefel-Lindel wrote to invite me to a “Dutch Treat”, which later became the first Spring Meeting on record. As a penniless student, I took the slow bus from Paris to Amsterdam and caught a train to Arnhem where I stayed with a friend. Each morning I packed a sandwich and took the train to Zutphen to meet the tiny group of members for the day. But this trip consolidated my long lasting relationship with the European Chapter. When I moved to Australia, I thought I’ll finally move on. I stayed as a “Chapter Friend” because I wasn’t ready to disconnect with “these lovely people” yet, but it didn’t last long and I renewed as a full member again.

Now 25 years since Paris, it is the friendship and collegueship of “these lovely people” that I treasure most highly.

Joining the Spring Meeting is my perfect excuse in the name of “Professional Development” to

travel to spend time with “these lovely people”, when both timing of Down Under school term break and international airfare permit.

It really was the highlight of the year to me that I was able to join the Spring Meeting at the last minute this year, despite the tour bus made me unusually dizzy (the sinus problem I was experiencing aggravated the situation) that I opted out 1.5 days of the visits just in case.

This summer, after some 5 recitals had been postponed from 2020 due to Covid, and one other cancelled anyway by the fire before Easter in 2019 (yes Paris it was), I travelled to Europe for a second time to perform 7 concerts, 2 of them lunchtime recitals, and one duo concert with a trumpeter in which we will perform *Okna* (Windows) by Petr Eben, a work that I love playing ever since I found a few trumpeters to have fun with me! The greatest difficulty was to get back to practice!! Two years complete closure of the Australian borders - including 266 days of full lockdown in Melbourne in 6 blocks that won Melbourne the title “the most locked down city in the world”, with the longest one that lasted over 110 days - with absolutely nothing to look forward to really killed my motivation to practice, no matter how resilience I was. When my recital dates started to loom on the horizon earlier this year, I suddenly realized how long I haven't played practiced for concerts, it took some work to wake the fingers.

To suit the various organs from the short octave in Buxtehude's church in Helsingør Sct. Mariæ to the 5-manual central console in Hamburg St Michaelis which plays 3 very different organs, I have included works by Bach, Böhm, Bruhns, Buxtehude, Eben, Heiller, Messiaen, Morricone, Mozart, Pachelbel, Præstholm, Vierne, and Wammes.

I sometimes want to stop making these expensive long haul “concert trips” to and fro Europe that rarely even cover my expense, but whenever I think of my students in Melbourne, I reiterated to myself, “I need to keep doing this for them.” Aspire to inspire before I expire.

**Francine Maté** informs us of their upcoming Bach Festival (August 2023) and writes:

“Our 2021 Bach Festival was all Virtual. Our last live Bach Festival was our 26th Bach Festival in July, 2019. Bernie Sanders' outstanding recital closed that series.”

Their poster is on the next page.



# 28th Bach Festival

Grace Episcopal Church, Georgetown DC  
1041 Wisconsin Ave NW | [gracedc.org](http://gracedc.org) | (202) 333-7100

Admission: \$35

Under 18: \$15

Purchase tickets here



## Friday, August 11, 2023 at 7:30 PM

“Con Brio!” featuring Shaughn Dowd, Flute, and Larry Molinaro, Organ, Keyboard, and Founder of the Bach Festival at Grace Church, with Con Brio: Sheng Wang, Violin, Chaerim Smith, Violin, Chris Shieh, Viola, Ben Wensel, Cello, Eric Sabo, Bass. Works include:  
*Part 1 - Sinfonias from Bach Cantatas*  
*Part 2 - B minor overture (suite)*



## Sunday, August 13, 2023 at 1:30 PM

Polish Concert Organist, Dr. Michał Szostak has been a friend of Grace Church since he performed a solo organ recital in the Bach Festival July 2018 series. We welcome Dr. Szostak back to our Bach Festival. Works include:  
*JS Bach's Fantasia in G Major (Pièce d'orgue), BWV 572,*  
*The Canzona d-moll, BWV 588,*  
*Antonio Vivaldi's Spring from "Four Seasons," RV 269,*  
*and an Improvisation.*



## Friday, August 18, 2023, 7:30 pm

Dr. David Bond, Organ, Organist/Choirmaster at First Presbyterian Church, Buffalo, New York. Dr. Bond performed a solo recital in our 2012 Bach Festival, and we welcome him back to our 2023 Festival. This all JS Bach program includes:  
*Fantasia in c minor, BWV 562, and*  
*Prelude & Fugue in E-flat Major, BWV 552 "St. Anne."*

For more information scan the QR code or contact **Francine Máté**, Director of the Bach Festival, at [bach@gracedc.org](mailto:bach@gracedc.org)

## Recitals by Chapter Members

- Monday July 3, 12:00 noon            Jennifer Chou  
Propsteikirche, Recklinghausen, Germany
- Thursday July 6, nT                    Barry Jordan  
Kuopio, Finland, Cathedral: Reubke, Klatzow, Schmidt
- Saturday July 9, 12:00 noon          Jennifer Chou  
Hamburg, Germany, St. Michaelis
- Sunday July 9, 5:00 pm                Katelyn Emerson  
Rejkjavik, Iceland, Hallgrímskirka: Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Percy Whitlock, Leo Sowerby, Horatio Parker, and Joseph Jongen
- Tuesday July 11, 8:00 pm             Barry Jordan  
Turku, Finland, Cathedral: Schmidt, Bach, Jordan, Jongen
- Wednesday July 12, 8:00 pm         Katelyn Emerson  
Lübeck, Germany, Propsteikirche Herz Jesu: Rachel Laurin, Hugo Distler, Percy Whitlock, Johann Sebastian Bach, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
- Thursday July 13, 7:30 pm            Jennifer Chou  
Stege, Denmark
- Saturday 15 July, 4:00 pm             Katelyn Emerson  
Berlin, Germany, Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedächtnis-Kirche: Nikolaus Bruhns, Marco Enrico Bossi, Rachel Laurin, and Max Reger
- Tuesday July 18, 7.30 pm             Jennifer Chou  
Randers, Denmark, Sct. Mortens
- Wednesday July 19, 8:00 pm         Jennifer Chou  
Helsingør, Denmark, Sct. Mariae
- Thursday 20 July, 7:30 pm             Katelyn Emerson  
Hamburg, Germany, St. Marien-Dom: Rachel Laurin, Juan Cabanilles, Johann Sebastian Bach, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Hugo Distler, Percy Whitlock, and Joseph Jongen
- Thursday July 20, 20:00 pm          Barry Jordan  
Heiligenhafen, Germany, ev Stadtkirche: Ritter, Bach, Mendelssohn, Kee
- Saturday July 22, 6:30 pm             Judith Trifellner-Spalt & Philipp Pelster,  
SalzburgCathedral, Salzburg, Austria
- Sunday, 23 July, 4:00 pm              Katelyn Emerson  
Uppsala, Sweden, Uppsala domkyrka: Johann Sebastian Bach, Robert Schumann, César Franck, Max Reger, Alexandre-Pierre-François Boëly, Rachel Laurin, Marco Enrico Bossi, and Joseph Jongen



Saturday July 29, 6:00 pm            Gabriel Dessauer  
Meißen, Germany, Cathedral

Saturday July 29, 7:00 pm            Johan Hermans  
Brussels, Nôtre Dame de la Chapelle; with Kathleen Beliën, Soprano

Sunday July 30, 5:00 pm            Giorgio Parolini  
Gräfenhain, Germany, Dreifaltigkeitskirche

Thursday August 3, 12:00 noon      Cheryl van Ornam  
Boardwalk Hall, Atlantic City, NJ: Patriotic, Classical, African-American

Thursday August 3, 7:00 pm            Rosalind Mohnsen  
Bangor, Maine, St. John's Catholic Church

Tuesday August 8, nT                Barry Jordan  
Brussels, Belgium, Cathedral St Gudule: "Lovers in Music" - Mendelssohn, Fauré, Jongen, Wagner, Milhaud -- *cancelled because of health concerns!*

Tuesday August 15, 11:00 am        Johan Hermans  
Hasselt, Belgium, St. Quintinus Cathedral: concert mass with the cooperation of vocal ensemble Quintina

Wednesday August 23, 7:30 pm      Gabriel Dessauer  
Meinigen, Germany, Stadtkirche

Sunday August 27, 11:00 am        Johan Hermans  
Hasselt, Belgium, St. Quintinus Cathedral: concert mass with the cooperation of Danny Aerden (trumpet)

Thursday August 31, 8:00 pm        Cheryl van Ornam  
Colonial Williamsburg, Bruton Episcopal Parish Church: Flute and Oboe solos with organ

Monday September 4, 9:15 pm        Giorgio Parolini  
Ravenna, Italy, Basilica di San Vitale: 62nd annual festival

Sunday September 10, nT            Cheryl van Ornam  
Richmond, VA, St Giles Presbyterian Church: "A Bach Creation" will feature works by composers that influenced Johann Sebastian Bach, followed by a work reflects that influence.

Saturday September 16, 6:30 pm      Gabriel Dessauer  
Görlitz, Germany, St. Peter

Saturday, 16 September, 10:00 am    Katelyn Emerson  
Masterclass, St. Anne's Catholic Church, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, USA

Sunday, 17 September, 4:00 pm      Katelyn Emerson  
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, St. Anne's Catholic Church.

Wednesday September 20, 7:30 pm   Barry Jordan  
Essen, Germany, Cathedral: Jongen, Klatzow, Jordan, Widor

Tuesday, 26 September, 7:00 pm     Katelyn Emerson  
Worcester, Massachusetts, St. Joseph Memorial Chapel, College of the Holy Cross

Thursday September 28, 7:00 pm     Barry Jordan  
Magdeburg, Germany, Cathedral: Orgelnacht with Markku Hietaharju and Francesco Di Lernia

Saturday October 7, 5:00 pm             Barry Jordan  
Tangermünde, Germany, St Stephani: Scheidt, Sweelinck, Scheidemann

Saturday October 14, 11.30 am         Giorgio Parolini  
Bad Säckingen, Germany, Fridolinsmünster

Thursday October 19, 7:30 pm         Barry Jordan  
Magdeburg, Germany, Cathedral: Messiaen Livre du Saint Sacrament

Friday October 20, 8:00 pm             Giorgio Parolini  
Milan, Italy, Basilica di San Babila

Saturday November 4, 3:00 pm         Karel Baeten  
Hasselt, Belgium, Cathedral

Saturday November 19, 6:00 pm         Barry Jordan  
Magdeburg, Germany, Cathedral: Farewell recital

Saturday December 2, 3:00 pm         Johan Hermans  
Hasselt, Belgium, Cathedral

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[www.agoeurope.eu](http://www.agoeurope.eu) !