



American Guild of Organists

Chartered 1896

European Chapter

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Newsletter January 2021

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The Dean's Corner

Dear European Chapter Members,

Despite the times we live in, I wish you all the best for the New Year 2021 !

Maybe many of you had hoped that this spring would gradually evolve towards 'normal'. Fortunately, the end of the corona measures is gradually approaching, but at the same time it is becoming clear that we are not at that point yet. Fortunately, the first vaccines have arrived sooner than expected, but the logistical implications of their use are what they are.

The past few months certainly have been politically tense for some of our members, and I'm sure the rest has been following from afar.

We hope all the more for a better 2021 ! Just before the sun rises, it can be very dark. But we will get through this, in the end it will all turn out fine.

Many of you will be eager to know what the next Spring Meeting will look like. Initially we had hoped that somehow we would be able to continue where we had stopped last time, that it would just look like a year's break and then move on. As awareness grew that the pandemic would last longer than initially thought, we thought of a shorter version of the Spring Meeting, with fewer participants but still with a few people together.

Now, by the beginning of the New Year, we are convinced that by April we will still be bound by many travel restrictions (quarantine obligations on arrival or return, limited air traffic,

maximum one passenger from outside the family in the car etc.). Furthermore, at that time the restaurants may still be closed or may have just reopened and may only let a few people in at a time. And maybe very few people will still be allowed to be in the same room at the same time.

In short, for all these reasons, we are considering a digital alternative to our Spring Meeting in which online contacts and contributions receive attention.

I am very curious about the way you have experienced the past year, and about the solutions you had to come up with. For example, how did you deal with the suddenly available time?

How did you maintain contact with friends / family ? For example, I drive to my mother's to make video calls with my kids so she can see her grandchildren.

And how do you solve the problems with church services and playing concerts? Almost every day I play a church service with video stream / regional TV. On weekdays it's a short church service, on the weekends a longer one. We try to solve the 'grayness' by programming as beautiful music as possible. Because of the often changing corona-measures those plans often have to be adjusted (no choir, no trumpets or oboe, string quartet instead; then again limitation in the number of people that may be present, so string quartet reduced to string duo, eventually reduced to one cellist). People then see you perform a few things online or on TV, but don't realize that you first prepared /

negotiated / organized four other plans that also took a lot of time.

Do you also have to deal with choir rehearsals, and how to keep the members together?

In the music school, I experience the management's concern to keep as many students as possible on board. One of the subjects I teach is Ensemble Playing. As pupils haven't been allowed yet to play piano 4-hand, I had to deploy DJ-skills with the missing part on computer. But first getting all those parts into the computer . . .

The most important question that worries me, of course, is: what are you doing to maintain the organ culture in these times?

As you read, there are plenty of things to talk about. We hope to be able to offer you a podium to be able to exchange these fascinating experiences soon.

Cordially,
Johan

The Secretary's Voice

Dear Members,

Our Dean has indeed given us much to think about! As we only gradually recover from months, almost a year, of hardships on many fronts (health, economic, artistic) we must slowly but surely acknowledge that the "normal" of the months to come will certainly be much different from the pre-covid version of "normal". All the skills we have honed to manage the roller coaster we've been on up until now will have to develop further to meet the ever changing rules and regulations and at some point be adapted to the new version of society. Will there be live organ concerts? I, for one, certainly hope so and would consider it a tragic loss if not. But most likely, many more concerts will be live-streamed – which probably would not have been the case if the necessity for it had not arisen. Most likely we will have to opt for a Spring Meeting on-line (keep tuned for updates on this). With a bit of luck and perseverance, we can see each other in person next year! Until then, let's take advantage of the possibilities open to us now!

You know, . . . the Newsletter is also a forum to spread information. If you haven't done so yet, how about submitting something yourself. This can be about concerts (also live-streams), Introducing Our Members, or even tried and tested covid-strategies for our musical activities. Most important: let's stay in contact!

Bernard

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

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 !

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

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 *TAO*
- 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.*

Members' News

Fabrice Muller and his wife Salve are proud to announce a new addition to their family. Their daughter Annie was born on Nov. 21st and baptized on Dec. 5th, 2020. Along with their other children Peter, Daniel, and Paul they want to share their joy!

Note from the editor: Congratulations and best wishes for the future!

Bernard Wayne Sanders' Partita on Lourdes has been released by the Dr. J. Butz Verlag of Bonn, Germany. It was commissioned by his home parish "Our Lady of Lourdes" in De Pere, Wisconsin, for the dedication of their new organ. The five movements can be played individually for services but the entire Partita can also be performed on concert programs, especially for Marian occasions.

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". (See the October 2020 issue). To increase awareness the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart, Germany, has declared a

Diocesan Organ Day May 8th / 9th 2021

and is sponsoring workshops in order to prepare for this event. Topics include: what kind of events can one hold, how to present your organ, how to demonstrate an instrument (methods and literature), how to encourage participation, and handling public relations (press coverage). The Workshops take place in March and April.

By the way: In addition, the "Day of the Organ", which takes place every year, will take place on **September 12th, 2021.**

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 !

March 6 th	12 MM	Martin Welzel, Organ	Cathedral, Paderborn (D)
		Widor (Final Symphony VII), Langlais, Baker (Deux Miniatures, 2020), and Duruflé (Toccata)	
March 7 th	4:30PM	Bernard Sanders, Organ Dr. Martin Weidner, Trumpet	St. Gallus, Tuttlingen (D)
		Works by Bernard Sanders (World Premier: "Iam, Christe, sol iustitiae" for Trumpet & Organ), Georg Philipp Telemann, Johann Sebastian Bach (Prelude and Fugue in f-minor), etc.	
March 7 th	4:30PM	Martin Welzel, Organ	St. Johannes Baptist, Paderborn-Wewer (D)
		Bach (BWV542), Whitlock, Liszt/Guillou, W. Lloyd Webber, and Baker (Deux Evocations).	
March 21 st	4:30PM	Reiner Schulte, Organ	Maria Königin, Tuttlingen (D)
		Bernard Sanders: "The Stations of the Cross" (World Premier)	
Apr. 11 th		Katelyn Emerson, Organ	Cathedral, Fréjus (F)
Apr. 24 th	11:30 AM	Martin Welzel, Organ	St. Margaret, Munich (D)
		Duruflé (Toccata), Whitlock, and Baker (Deux Evocations)	
May 2 nd	6 PM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ	Olaus Petri Kyrka, Orebro (Sweden)
May 16 th		Katelyn Emerson, Organ	St. Peter's Catholic Church & Basilica of St. John the Baptist, Canton, Ohio (USA)
July 4 th	5 PM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ	Dreifaltigkeitskirche, Gräfenhain (D)
Every Saturday (11:30)		Organ Music at Market Time	Marktkirche, Wiesbaden (D)
		Hans Uwe Hielscher and guest organists from around the world	

