



American Guild of Organists

Chartered 1896

European Chapter

Chartered 1979

Newsletter July 2013

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The Dean's Corner

Dear European Chapter Members,

This year the beginning of July finally brought with it the warmth and sunshine that we've missed for many months here in the northern part of Europe. I wonder if the chance to throw open the windows and patio doors and breathe in that wonderfully fresh air has also given all of you, at some point this spring or summer, that "reborn" feeling? I hope so. It's great! And it's in that same spirit that I want to take this opportunity to personally congratulate our longtime European Chapter Board Member, Charles Baer and his wife, Tatiana, on the birth of their son on May 10th, 2013. What special news.

And in addition, in this newsletter you will find many articles which share highlights in the lives of several of our European Chapter and stateside AGO members. How inspiring to read about the achievements and activities of these people! I hope they will inspire YOU to send YOUR news to Bernard Sanders in August or September for inclusion in our next newsletter in October. I know that every one of our members is leading a life filled in some way with music. Please don't hesitate to share via our newsletter, whatever it is that you are busy with at the moment. If it inspires you, you never know . . . it could be just the idea or activity which will inspire a fellow AGO member! Not to mention, it is the best way for us to get to know each other, outside of

being able to meet in person at our Spring Meetings.

Speaking of Spring Meetings: Our European Chapter Spring Meeting 2014 will take place, as usual, during the week after Easter (April 21-25). Since there are still a couple of important details to work out, we can't officially announce the location yet. But as soon as everything is set, I will let you know!

Have a terrific summer!

Judy

The Secretary's Voice

Dear Members,

For some of us the summer vacation time is just starting and we can balance the books on the past school year. What a year it was for our AGO Chapter! The Spring Meeting in Magdeburg was a wonderful experience and an inspiration to keep in touch not only with our art but also with other members. So many valuable contacts can be made on these tours and it's a great opportunity to meet the people we read about in TAO and Newsletters. Like Judy said, mark your calendars now and don't miss out on this event next year! Lots of other good news and of course a healthy list of concerts pending by our active members await in the pages to come.

Wishing you all a good read !

Bernard

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**Please submit your items for the next
Newsletter before Sept. 27th !**

News from the Board

European Chapter AGO

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Thanks from the Registrar!

My sincere thanks go to the large majority of members who were able to respond promptly to my email in May requesting payment of dues for 2013/14. It's such a help to have had this level of response – THANK YOU! It has made my job so much easier!

Although at the time of writing (early July) the collection of dues is not yet quite complete, the good news is that membership looks likely to sustain at around the 100 mark, the eight new members who have joined us in 2013 almost counterbalancing those who have decided to “move on”.

It has been a great pleasure to have been in email contact with so many of you and, in many cases, to read of your musical activities and successes! Not least, it has been fascinating for me, as an Englishman, to have my first look at genuine American checks (cheques?). Full marks to the one from California with smiley faces all over it. I just couldn't imagine the Bank of England going that way! But why not? ☺

John Falkingham

Board Member **Charles Baer** and his wife Tatiana are the proud parents of a BABY BOY! Arthur Alexander Baer was born on May 10th, 2013. Nice healthy baby. Mom, dad and baby are doing well.

*What a wonderful announcement to share!
Congratulations from the entire Chapter !*

European Chapter Web Site !

The web-site can be visited at the

www.agoeurope.eu

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

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Support your Board, be an active Member!

Members' News

Tim Byram-Wigfield shall be leaving Windsor to take up the Director of Music's post at All Saints' Margaret Street in Central London. He will continue teaching at Eton College (where there are 40 organ pupils!) but the new post will allow him more flexibility to explore other playing and teaching opportunities. He further hopes to be able to welcome members of the AGO European chapter to the church, where there is a fine 4 manual Harrison and Harrison organ of 1912.

Congratulations, Tim ! Best wishes for your continued success and looking forward to hearing more from you in the future!

*Bernard
on behalf of the European Chapter*

Bernard Sanders has begun lecturing at the Staatliche Hochschule für Musik in Trossingen, Germany. Since the Fall of 2012 he teaches a class in organology (History of Organbuilding) for the students of Church Music and for Music Education majors with Organ as their primary instrument.

This opportunity precipitated his decision to step down as musical director of the Prime Time Big Band after 10 years of Swing, Jazz, Latin, Funk and Rock. [“Unfortunately there just weren’t enough hours in the day.”]

In a concert on October 12th, Sanders’ Oratorio “Canticum franciscanum” will receive a second performance by the “Sängerclub Heidenheim” which commissioned the work in celebration of their 175th jubilee and premiered it in November 2012 under the direction of Maddalena Ernst. They will be accompanied by a select ensemble made up of members of the City Bands of Tuttlingen and Bonndorf and the Music School community in Tuttlingen under the direction of Klaus Steckeler. The concert will take place in the church of St. Mary’s in Tuttlingen.

Dr. Jens Korndörfer made a two-week concert tour through Russia in May. He posted pictures and stories from the trip on his blog. If you are interested in following his travels to Moscow, Ekaterinburg, Perm, Omsk, Khabarovsk and Chelyabinsk, then take a look at:

<http://www.jenskorndoerfer.com/blog.html>

Introducing Our Members

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

News from HQ

AGO President Eileen Guenther Promoted to Professor at Wesley Theological Seminary.

New York City — The AGO celebrates the promotion of Guild President **Eileen Guenther** to Professor of Church Music at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., where she has been Associate Professor. Her promotion was approved by the seminary’s Board of Governors on Friday, May 17, in Washington. Wesley is a teaching seminary and a service-oriented community with a student body of approximately 1,000 members. Her responsibilities include directing Chapel Music and the Wesley Chapel Choir, chairing the Chapel Committee, and supervising worship planning teams and teaching courses in music and worship. The mission of Wesley Theological Seminary is to equip Christians for leadership in the church and the world, to advance theological scholarship, and to model a prophetic voice in the public square.

Also on May 17, Eileen Guenther was honored with the presentation of the 2013 Inspiration Ribbon from the Concert for Life Committee at Foundry United Methodist Church in Washington. The occasion marked the 20th annual Concert for Life, which Dr. Guenther established to raise awareness and support for individuals living with HIV/AIDS in Washington and Africa. During her tenure at Foundry, the Concert for Life raised more than \$600,000 for this cause; this year’s anniversary concert brought the cumulative total to over \$1 million. Dr. Guenther was presented a plaque citing her for “blending the healing power of music with mission in a labor of love that saves lives” and given funds to take to South Africa to present to the beneficiary of her choice.

In February, Eileen Guenther was named Director of Music at First Congregational United Church of Christ in

Washington, D.C.—an historic downtown church with commitments to racial justice, women’s issues, peace advocacy, sexual equality, and concern for the homeless. Dr. Guenther plays the organ, directs the choir, participates in worship planning and helps to shape a monthly First Thursdays Concert Series.

Eileen Guenther is presently serving her third term as president of the American Guild of Organists. During her tenure, she has overseen the development and implementation of a comprehensive membership survey, the preparation of a long-range plan, and the adoption of major changes to the organization’s bylaws and governance structure. She is the author of *Rivals or a Team? Clergy-Musician Relationships in the Twenty-First Century* (MorningStar, 2012) and is currently completing another book that is projected for publication in 2014. *The Power of Spirituals: In their Own Words* will trace the origin of the Spiritual and context in which it grew using text from the slaves themselves as contained in their writings and interviews.

Marilyn Keiser Honored by AGO at New York City Gala. Celebration of Brilliant Performer, Church Musician, Teacher, and Friend Raised \$40,000 Benefitting the AGO Endowment Fund

New York City — The AGO presented its tenth annual Recital and Gala Benefit Reception on Friday, April 5, at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine in New York City. An estimated audience of 300 colleagues, students, and friends came together to celebrate the lifetime achievements of Marilyn Keiser at her New York recital. Dr. Keiser was given the AGO Endowment Fund Distinguished Artist Award.

The gala was sponsored by the AGO National Council and its Development Committee. Major funding was provided by Mr. and Mrs. Bruce P. Bengtson, AAGO; and Pemcor Inc. of Lancaster, Pa., printer of *The American Organist*. Additional support was provided by the

Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine. The event raised approximately \$40,000 to be invested in the AGO Endowment Fund in Marilyn Keiser’s honor.

The recital, which was played by Marilyn Keiser on the Cathedral’s Great Organ, was introduced by AGO President Eileen Guenther. Dr. Keiser’s program included works by Alec Wyton, Herbert Howells, Josef Rheinberger, Dan Locklair, Mark Jones, Robert Powell, Margaret Vardell Sandresky, Olivier Messiaen, and Louis Vierne. Composers Locklair and Jones were in attendance at the recital, as well as representatives of the Wyton and Sandresky families. One hundred sixty-five individuals attended the gala reception following.

Established in 1994, the AGO Endowment Fund provides income to expand programs for leadership development among AGO members; educate new organists; and cultivate new audiences for organ and choral music. Tax-deductible contributions to the Endowment Fund are invested in perpetuity to produce continuing income for essential Guild programs and educational projects.

European News

A Royal Occasion

John Falkingham

Life is full of highlights! One such, for my wife and I, will remain the occasion in May when we had the privilege of representing our Chapter and Dean at an Evensong and Reception to celebrate the restoration of the organ in the Temple Church, London. (Our Chapter donated to the Appeal, having held the last Quimby competition here.) Undoubtedly the presence of HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh added a great sense of occasion to the proceedings!

The Temple Church, built by the Knights Templar, is among the oldest in London. Its most ancient part, the Round Church, was consecrated in 1185, being the first Gothic building in England. To

this was added a chancel in 1236-40 which is in soaring Early English Gothic style. Having been at the heart of English political life in the Middle Ages, the Temple has had a long and close association with the Crown. Following the suppression of the Knights Templar, lawyers occupied the land and buildings of the Temple, with its church at the centre. Two Inns of Court were granted by the King on condition that the church and its services were maintained, a tradition which has been amply sustained right through to this day.

Following the Great Fire of London in 1666, a “Battle of the Organs” ensued at Temple Church. Bernhard Smith and Renatus Harris were commissioned respectively by the two Inns of Court, to install instruments in the church. Both were used for a period, after which Smith’s was selected to remain, at an installation cost of £1,000, being the first three manual instrument in England.

The Inns and their organ attracted some of the most famous organists in England including John Stanley, Edward Hopkins (the father of modern Anglican psalmody) and, more recently, Walford Davies and Sir George Thalben-Ball. In 1840 the Smith organ was moved to the Chancel’s north wall and enlarged; the first pedal stop being ‘so tremendous in its effect that it used to shake the spectacles on the noses of the Benchers’ (lawyers)!

Tragedy struck on 10 May 1941 when, during an air-raid, the church was reduced

to a shell, the famous organ being completely destroyed. But a phoenix rose from the ashes. A large and beautiful Harrison & Harrison organ built in 1927 was offered by Lord Glentanar. It was moved to the Temple Church in 1953/4, has served the church magnificently since then and has now been fully restored by its original builders, with a few additions.

This is the instrument we had the joy of hearing in May! Following modestly registered Preludes by Elgar, Stanley, Bach and Handel we rose to sing the Processional Hymn “O praise ye the Lord” to the resounding tune by Parry, as we witnessed the arrival of our monarch. The Magnificat, sung superbly by the choir to Stanford’s setting from the Evening Service in A, was preceded and followed by the first and second lessons. Prayers were then followed by a beautiful Anthem based on John Milton’s poem “But let my due feet” sung to a setting by Gabriel Jackson commissioned especially for the service. The organ was then rededicated, after which the splendour of the Temple Brass majestically introduced singing of The National Anthem (which gains a special significance when sung in the presence of Her Majesty).

A reception then took place in the medieval magnificence of the Middle Temple Hall, celebrating what the organ historian Stephen Smith writing shortly in *Organists’ Review* glowingly describes as ‘one of the finest organs in all of London’.

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 !***

Dr. Jens Korndoerfer, Organ Concert Tour of Russia			
May 20 th			Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Moscow
May 22 nd			Concert Hall, Khabarovsk
May 24 th			Concert Hall, Ekaterinburg
May 27 th			Concert Hall, Perm
May 29 th			Concert Hall, Omsk
May 31 st			Organ Hall, Chelyabinsk
June 30 th	7 PM	Jens Korndoerfer, Organ	1 st Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, GA (USA)

July 3 rd	8:30 PM	Martin Bambauer, Organ	Basilica of St. Constantin, Trier (D)
		Works by J.S. Bach, A. Guilmant, C. Franck, Ch. M. Widor, D. Roth, Bambauer	
		Opening concert of the International Organ Summer Concert Series.	
		Every Wednesday from July 3 rd until Aug. 21 st	
July 25 th	8:30 PM	Jens Korndoerfer, Organ	Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis, MO (USA)
Aug. 3 rd	4 PM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ	Cathedral, Limburg (D)
Aug. 4 th	4:15 PM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ	St. Elisabeth, Marburg (D)
Aug. 7 th	6 PM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ	St. Stephan, Würzburg (D)
Aug. 9 th	7 PM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ	Laurentiuskirche, Elsterberg (D)
Aug. 11 th		Giorgio Parolini, Organ	St. Boniface Abbey, Munich (D)
Aug. 7 th	8 PM	Martin Welzel, Organ	Cathedral, Schleswig (D)
Aug. 14 th	6:30 PM	Jens Korndoerfer, Organ	Sainte Croix, Bordeaux (F)
Aug. 15 th	6:30 PM	Jens Korndoerfer, Organ	Saint Michel (F)
Aug. 18 th	8:15 PM	Martin Welzel, Organ	Cathedral, Ulm (D)
		Works by Gigout, Roth, Bach, and Baker	
Aug. 19 th		Jens Korndoerfer, Organ	Dom, Magdeburg (D)
Aug. 25 th	7:30 PM	Martin Welzel, Organ	St. Stefan, Amriswil (CH)
		Works by Gigout, Demessieux, Bach, Rheinberger, Vierne, and Baker	
Aug. 31 st		Jens Korndoerfer, Organ	St. Wendel (D)
Sept. 1 st	6 PM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ	Chiesa S. Anna, Sant'Anna di Stazzema (I)
Sept. 14 th	7 PM	Martin Welzel, Organ	Theatinerkirche, Munich (D)
Sept. 22 nd	5 PM	Martin Welzel, Organ	St. Johannes, Kitzingen (D)
Every Saturday (11:30)		Organ Music at Market Time	Marktkirche, Wiesbaden (D)
		Hans Uwe Hielscher and guest organists from around the world	

