

# American Guild of Organists

Chartered 1896

## European Chapter

Chartered 1979

*Newsletter October 2021*

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### *The Dean's Corner*

Dear European Chapter Members,

Hopefully, you have had a good summer (winter in Australia), and you read this Newsletter in good health. Some of you may have experienced weather problems or a resurgence of the pandemic in the past few months. If so, I hope in the meantime that things are returning to normal.

Because our members live so spread out, autumn will probably already be felt a bit more by some than by others when you read these lines. Here in Belgium, we are enjoying a balmy Indian summer after a mediocre summer. This mild fall weather helps with the resumption of public life, especially in the cultural sector. At the beginning of August, we resumed public organ recitals in our city. The number of visitors is promising. Choirs are again allowed to rehearse live, since August turned out a success. This success is probably partly due to the opportunity to catch up over a good glass after the rehearsal.

In Belgium, the school year starts in September. At this occasion, we always try to win new candidate organ pupils for our music academy. Since we missed the traditional moment to do so (due to the given situation), we gave it a try at the

beginning of September. During the open house in our Conservatory, I noticed that a presentation with digital organ in a classroom makes a lesser impression than one given on the historic instrument in our cathedral.

The point, of course, is to also get people into the cathedral. Not easy in a time where the church is constantly losing in importance, churches are closing, etc. With increasing secularization, fewer and fewer people are familiar with the organ. The increasing pop culture in music education does not help the choice for organ lessons either.

I think organists have made a lot of progress in presenting their instrument as something 'cool' over the past years (decades). Now I am thinking about ways to reach out to people, to bring the organ to them. Let's work on this together!

These thoughts make me long for an opportunity to see you all again! I am looking forward to exchanging experiences from the past months - if possible over a good glass of course. I would love to hear how the gradual resumption of public life is proceeding in your area, and how you have kept in touch with your organ and public.

Cordially,

*Johan  
Chapter Dean*

## *The Secretary's Voice*

Dear Members,

Fall is in full-swing, the leaves are turning colors, and everyone has started thinking about and working on plans for Christmas!

Let's not get ahead of ourselves. Finally we can start making music again with others, with our choirs, with our congregations. Let us take time to enjoy this and truly celebrate Thanksgiving! Let us be thankful not only for a good harvest and for food and drink, but also for the gift of camaraderie with our fellow musicians, be they lay or professional, and with our AGO colleagues.

In this vein, I hope you all enjoy reading about some of our members and what they are up to these days – and also think about submitting information for the next Newsletter to tell us what you are up to. Have a good read!

*Bernard*

**Please submit your items for the next  
Newsletter before Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> !**

## *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 !*

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## **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

*Revised by the National Council  
May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016*

*Approved by the National Council  
June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016*

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### 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](http://www.agoeurope.eu)

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

*Barry Jordan*

### Members' News

**Dr. Michał Szostak's** new book has been published and is now available. The text is in both English and Polish.

The book is a collection of scientific and artistic research on the role of the instrument as a source of inspiration for the organist in the art of stylistic improvisation and the historically oriented practice of performing symphonic organ music from the French cultural circle of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The above-mentioned aspects have been expanded to include phenomena focused around the theory of "aesthetic situation", based on R. Ingarden's phenomenology, concerning the perception of organ music. The considerations are illustrated with a rich collection of more than 450 photos, as well as recordings (CD included) made on the largest Polish organ in the Basilica in Licheń Stary (Franck, Lemmens, Guilmant, Lefébure-Wély, improvisations).

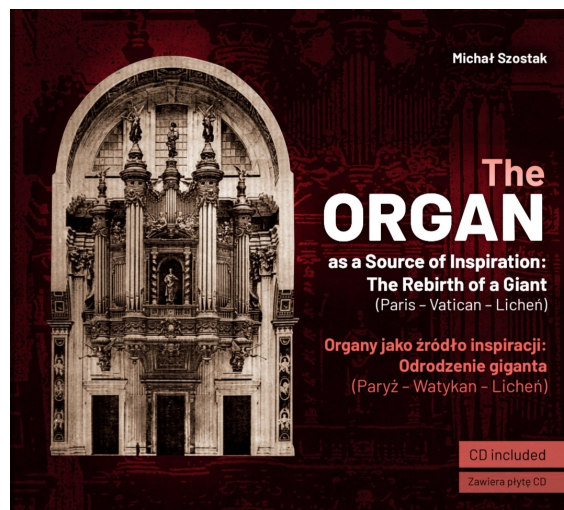
Features of the edition: 588 pages, dimensions 240 x 220 mm, chalky paper, weight 2 kgs.

For colleagues from outside of Poland, he can offer a discount and send the book at cost for \$10 US plus postage for delivery.

Dr. Michał Szostak, Associate Professor

Website: [www.michalszostak.org](http://www.michalszostak.org)

Tel.: +48 503 156 316



**Gabriel Dessauer** retires from his position as Music Director at the Church of St. Boniface in Wiesbaden in October of 2021. He has held this position since May of 1981, over 40 years!

He bids farewell to the position with an Organ Marathon at the church on Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup> from 1 until 5:40 PM. The program contains highlights from the organ repertoire which sound especially well in the church and on the instrument in St. Boniface. Each section of the program begins on the hour and lasts approx. 40-45 minutes.

Since the German federal election also takes place on this day, the first piece on the program is a transcription of the Overture to the Ratswahlkantate (Council Election Cantata) by J. S. Bach. After the "Organ Fireworks" program with many well-known and well-loved pieces, the "Family Concert" at 3 PM includes the German Premiere of the "Mr. Mistoffelees Overture, Op. 94" by the Canadian composer Rachel Laurin. At 4 PM the program is more introverted before the conclusion with two masterworks of the German Romantic.

*For the entire Program please see the Recitals Past and Present Column.*

**Bernard Wayne Sanders** has completed a Partita for Organ solo entitled "**Variants on EVENTIDE**". It was commissioned by Silke Lang of Stetten, Germany. The composer will play the premier performance in Tuttlingen on November 6<sup>th</sup> in St. Mary's. Also to be premiered on this program is his

“Dreamcatcher”, a suite of 4 movements for Flute and Organ (or Piano). [see Recitals Past and Present, page 7]

The publishing company Christoph Dohr Verlag in Cologne has accepted more of Sanders’ compositions for publication in a collection. These include “Dirges in the Dark”, “des étoiles et des oiseaux” (Hommage à Joan Miro), “in quietness and trust”, “Chaconne and Fugue in C” (*Salve Regina*), “Prelude and Fugue in B-flat”, “Elegie in memoriam D.H.”, and two pieces for Organ with optional narrator, “Beten heißt” and “Wir bitten Dich”.

In July 2021 **Giorgio Parolini** was appointed Titled Organist (Hauptorganist) at the Corpus Domini Basilica in Milan (See the July issue). He has supplied more information about the organ.



The Tamburini organ in the Basilica Corpus Domini in Milan was built in the 1960s. It has 3 manuals (61 notes) and a pedalboard with 32 notes. The key and stop action is electric. There are 2 swell pedals for the Positivo (I) and Recitativo (III) divisions and a balanced Crescendo pedal. There are toe studs and pistons above the manuals for five free combinations. Below each manual there are pistons for 5 fixed combinations for each manual and for all couplers and Automatic Pedal (Piano Pedale). Above the pedalboard there are toe studs for all couplers, Ripieno I, Ripieno II, Ripieno III, Forte, Ance (Reeds), Tutti. There is also a Transposer for +/- 2 semitones.

Giorgio likes the Flute 8' very much, says that it is unusual to find two celeste stops (Sw. and Gt.) on this instrument and that,

“the Great Trumpet is commanding and ... very effective with super and suboctave couplers”.

### **Basilica Corpus Domini – Milan**

**Positivo (I)**  
 Unione I – Ped.  
 Principale 8’  
 Unione II – Ped.  
 Ottava 4’  
 Unione III – Ped.  
 Decimaquinta 2’  
 Sopra I – Ped.  
 Ripieno 3 F.  
 Sopra II – Ped.  
 Bordone 8’  
 Sopra III – Ped.  
 Salicionale 8’  
 Unione III – I  
 Flauto 4’  
 Grave III – I  
 Salicet 4’  
 Grave I  
 Nazardo 2 2/3’  
 Sopra III – I  
 Flautino 2’  
 Sopra I  
 Decimanona 1 1/3’  
 Unione I – II  
 Clarino 8’  
 Unione III – II  
 Tremolo  
 Grave I – II  
 Grave III – II

### **Grande Organo (II)**

Sopra I – II  
 Principale 16’  
 Sopra III – II  
 Principale 8’  
 Sopra II  
 Flauto a cuspidate 8’  
 Grave III  
 Ottava 4’  
 Sopra III  
 Flauto 4’  
 Decimaquinta 2’  
 XIX – XXII  
 Grande ripieno 7 F.  
 Tromba squillo 8’  
 Voce Umana 8’

### **Recitativo (III)**

Corno di notte 8’  
 Viola d’amore 8’  
 Principalino 4’  
 Flauto ottaviante 4’  
 Flauto in XII 2 2/3’  
 Flautino 2’  
 Terza 1 3/5’  
 Pienino 5 F.  
 Oboe 8’  
 Viola celeste 8’  
 Tremolo  
 Unione espressione

### **Pedale**

Bordone 16’  
 Bordone 8’  
 Dolce

### **Annulatori**

Ance I  
 Ance II  
 Ance III  
 Ance pedale  
 Ripieno I  
 Ripieno II  
 Ripieno III  
 Ottave sopra  
 Ottave grave

### **Pedale**

Acustico 32’  
 Contrabbasso 16’  
 Subbasso 16’  
 Basso 8’  
 Bordone 8’  
 Corno 4’  
 Bombarda 16’  
 Bombardino 8’  
 Clarone 4’

## *European News*

**Gabriel Dessauer** (see Members' News) recommends a video with Fraser Gartshore on the organ at St. Bonifatius in Wiesbaden.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ywxFfTHLFS>

It has already had 835,000 clicks in English and meanwhile over half a million in German. Quite astounding for an organ video!

## *Introducing Our Members*

**Virginis Barkauskas** is a Lithuanian concert organist, church musician and pedagogue, a member of the American Guild of Organists, living in Long Island, New York. Currently he serves as the Director of Music at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Roman Catholic Church in Melville, NY.

Mr. Barkauskas completed Master of Arts in Music and Liturgy with emphasis on organ at St. Joseph College in Rensselaer, Indiana, where he had received a full scholarship from a full scholarship from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and studied under the renowned organist and composer Dr. Phillip Gehring. He also studied at the Lithuanian National Academy of Music in Vilnius, majoring in organ with Prof. Leopoldas Digrys and piano performance with Liana Baronaite. Additional studies with acclaimed organist and pianist Eduard Oganessian.

As an organ soloist, Mr. Barkauskas has performed at Alice Tully Hall – Lincoln Center, New York, the National Philharmonic Hall in Vilnius, Lithuania, the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen in Baltimore, MD, St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco, CA, the Cathedral of Saint Joseph, in Hartford, CT, St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer, IN, Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, IN, the Riga Dome in Riga, Latvia and others. In 2010,

2015, 2016 and 2019, Mr. Barkauskas participated at the international festivals in Lithuania, performing at the Arch-Cathedral Basilica in Vilnius and the St. Michael the Archangel Church in Kaunas and throughout the country, where he performed as a soloist and in ensemble with the leading artists.

In 2018 and 2019, Mr. Barkauskas participated in Organ Concert series throughout the Cathedrals of the USA and Canada. The venues included St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York, NY, St. Paul Cathedral in Pittsburgh, PA, the Incarnation Cathedral in Garden City, NY, St. Joseph's Cathedral in Hartford, CT, on the Midmer-Losh organ, the largest instrument in the world, at The Boardwalk Hall Auditorium Atlantic City, NJ, St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal, Canada, and his return performances at the Washington National Cathedral and the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC.

In 2020 some of the engagements included a concert at the Lithuanian National Philharmonic Hall in Vilnius, where Mr. Barkauskas performed as the soloist of Poulenc's Organ Concerto with the "Musica Humana", Chamber Ensemble of the Lithuanian National Philharmonic Society. In July he completed a three-recital concert tour in Germany, where he performed at the Frauenkirche Dresden, Cathedral of St. Petri in Bautzen and St. Petri church in Rochlitz.

In 2021 recital venues included the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC and St. Elizabeth of Hungary church in Melville, NY.

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

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## *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 !*

**Sonntag, 26. September 2021, 13:00 bis 17:40 Uhr**

**Gabriel Dessauer, Organ**

**St. Bonifatius, Wiesbaden, Luisenplatz,**

### **Abschieds-Orgelmarathon**

#### **13:00 Uhr: Best of Bach:**

- Ouverture zur Ratswahlkantate BWV 29
- Passacaglia c-moll
- Partita „Sei begrüßet, Jesu gütig“

#### **14:00 Uhr: Orgel-Feuerwerk:**

- Widor: Toccata F-Dur
- Boëllmann: Suite gothique
- Gershwin: Rhapsody in Blue
- Eben: Moto ostinato
- Holzmann: Blaze away

#### **15:00 Uhr: Familienkonzert „Tiere auf der Orgel“**

- Ogden: Scherzo for the white Rabbit
- Ogden: Penguins Playtime
- Bédard: Cat Suite
- Laurin: Mr. Mistoffelees Overture, Op. 94
- Anderson: The waltzing cat
- Bratton: Teddybärs Picknick

#### **16:00 Uhr: Ruhepunkte:**

- Höller: Choral-Passacaglia op. 61
- Strauss: Im Abendrot
- Duruflé: Prelude et fugue sur le nom de Alain op. 7
- Latry: aus „Salve Regina“

#### **17:00 Uhr: Höhepunkte der Romantik**

- Liszt: B-A-C-H
- Reubke: 94. Psalm

Sept. 30 <sup>th</sup>		Barry Jordan, Organ Works by César Franck (Complete organ works part 2)	Dom, Magdeburg (D)
Oct. 9 <sup>th</sup>	11 AM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ The Influence of Italian Music on J. S. Bach	Cathedral, Luxembourg (Lux)
Oct. 10 <sup>th</sup>		Barry Jordan, Organ Works include Louis Vièrne 5 <sup>th</sup> Symphony	Eberbach / Neckar (D)
Oct. 21 <sup>st</sup>		Barry Jordan, Organ Works by César Franck (Complete organ works part 3)	Dom, Magdeburg (D)
Nov. 6 <sup>th</sup>	7 PM	Bernard Sanders, Organ Maria Dresen, Flute; Dr. Cornelia Seiterich-Stegmann, Narrator Works by Jehan Alain, Joh. Seb. Bach, Bernard Sanders: Chorale Prelude on ST CLEMENT, “Variants on EVENTIDE” ( <i>premier</i> ), “Dreamcatcher” ( <i>premier</i> )	Maria Königin, Tuttlingen (D)
Nov. 7 <sup>th</sup>	4 PM	Katelyn Emerson, Organ	St. Dominic’s, Wyoming, IL (USA)
Nov. 13 <sup>th</sup>	7 PM	Katelyn Emerson, Organ	Abingdon Episcopal Church, White Marsh Gloucester County, VA (USA)
Nov. 21 <sup>st</sup>		Katelyn Emerson, Organ Masterclass: "Ergonomic Technique and Healthy Practice Methods"	Chicago, IL (USA)
Nov. 28 <sup>th</sup>	4 PM	Katelyn Emerson, Organ	Independent Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, AL (USA)
Dec. 18 <sup>th</sup>	11:30 AM	Axel Wilberg, Organ	St. Lambertus, Erkelenz (D)
Dec. 31 <sup>st</sup>	8 PM	Bernard Sanders, Organ Sacred Music (Geistliche Abendmusik) on New Year’s Eve	Maria Königin, Tuttlingen (D)

## 2022

Jan. 15 <sup>th</sup>	11 AM	Axel Wilberg, Organ Works by Kerkhoven, du Mont and Babou	Luxemburg Cathedral (Lux)
Jan. 16 <sup>th</sup>	3 PM	Katelyn Emerson, Organ	Grace and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Colorado Springs, CO (USA)

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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