



# American Guild of Organists

Chartered 1896

## European Chapter

Chartered 1979

*Newsletter July 2019*

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### Final Dean's Message from Judy

Dear European Chapter Members,

You have read it correctly: After 20+ years of having had the privilege of serving as Dean and Membership Coordinator of the European Chapter, on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, I'll be passing the torch to our Sub Dean, Johan Hermans.

Brief introductions of all the European Chapter Board members who will "officially" begin their responsibilities this week at the start of the AGO year 2019-2020, are in this newsletter. Most of the names are familiar to you. We've done some rearranging of the line-up of members who have served on the Board for several years and have added new ones.

Three members of the Board are retiring: Judy (Riefel-Lindel), Dean, Charles Baer, Treasurer, and Ruth Ahrend, Member-at-Large. Your new Sub Dean will be Giorgio Parolini. Bernard Sanders and Barry Jordan will continue as Secretary/Newsletter Editor and Webmaster, respectively. Treasurer will be Betsy Mixon-Stemmler. Our four new Board Members are Ludo Vandersmissen, Katelyn Emerson, Axel Wilberg and Alissa Duryee. Ludo will take on Registrar duties, while the others are joining the Board as Members-at-Large. A warm welcome to our new Board Members!

At the same time, may I offer a final "THANK YOU" to the Board Members with whom I've had the good fortune to

serve, most of them for 10+ years. I'm positive the continuity we've been able to enjoy, as well as the wonderful "click" we experienced with each other, has helped us tremendously in leading the Chapter forward. I hope the new and remaining members of the Board will enjoy working with each other as much as we have. Respect, encouragement and support are the names of the game!

To say it was a pleasure to be allowed to be the European Chapter Dean of the American Guild of Organists for over half of the 40 years that the European Chapter has existed, would be an understatement. It was quite thrilling, in fact, to be able to meet, work and correspond with an untold number of fascinating members of this Chapter ever since it was founded in 1979 by 10 Americans who were organists in American military chapels in and around Heidelberg, Germany. I had the good fortune to get to know personally almost every one of the enthusiastic founding members in the early 1980s. Also it was delightful working with all the AGO National staff in New York who have helped and supported us with their knowledge and positive input all along the way. For me, to have been able to play a role in the growth, outreach and development of the European Chapter was tremendously fulfilling. Music has such amazing power to connect and inspire! The Chapter today totals 140 members and is truly international. Our membership consists of 19 nationalities living in 15 countries in Europe, Canada and Australia,

plus 22 States in the USA. Of the nationalities, Americans are still in the majority with 60 members in this American organization, followed by our German members numbering 30. English and French, Italians, Dutch and Belgians come next, on top of still another 12. In the end we come up with the unique melting pot that makes the European Chapter what it is: Simply Superb.

I wish you all a healthy, happy,  
and prosperous future,

*Judy*

### First Dean's Message from Johan

Dear European Chapter Members,

These are my first words in the Dean's Corner. In 2004, I became a member of the European Chapter. The first Spring Meeting I attended was that of 2004 in the Netherlands, organized by Judy. I was immediately charmed by the openness and inclusiveness, and the collegial atmosphere of friendliness. I found the mix of Americans and Europeans quite unique, as well as the informal way of interaction between the members.

In the years to come, as your new Chapter Dean, I hope to be able to safeguard all these good qualities and to further develop our European Chapter. I'm looking forward to this new challenge!

Judy, I hope that I'll be able to follow in your footsteps with dignity and I will be pleased to see you keep an eye on things from not too far away.

*Johan*

### The Secretary's Voice

Dear Members,

After you recover from the shock of reading the Deans' Messages, I hope you'll direct your attention to the other information in this issue. Not only has the new Dean introduced himself with a few well-chosen words, all of the Board Members, old and new, have made a point of telling you all something about

themselves. In future issues we hope to highlight these colleagues who do so much for our Chapter. Beyond these individuals many of our people are active and successful in the organ world, as is witnessed by Members' News and the list of Recitals Past and Present.

All of this will not by any means diminish the love and respect we owe our passing Dean, who has shown her love and respect for all of us these many years with her incredible commitment and perseverance way above and beyond the call of duty.

Judy, we can't thank you enough and we will all miss you! Wishing you all the best for many future years in retirement!

Very sincerely and in the name of all of our members,

*Bernard*

bernard.sanders(at)web.de

**Please submit your items for the next  
Newsletter before Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> !**

### The New 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 @ before adding them to your address book. Thank you !*

### **Dean and Membership Coordinator**

#### **Johan Hermans**

Born in Hasselt, Belgium in 1962, I studied in Leuven and Liège (equivalents of M.Mus. in music theory and keyboard harmony, and Doctor of Musical Arts in organ performance). I live in the city of my birth where I teach organ, keyboard harmony and chamber music at the conservatory. I also teach the same subjects in the neighboring city of Genk. I've been organist in Genk and Hasselt (on the Cavaillé-Coll organ) and since 2006 am the organist of St Quintinus Cathedral, where the city council also made me civic organist in 2009.

As a concert organist I've performed all over the world except in Africa. I've been a board member of the European Chapter since 2005 and am now ready to follow in Judy's footsteps as your Chapter's Dean. I have 2 grown children (ages 23 and 26) and live now in a newly composed family with my wife and her 2 boys (ages 10 and 13). For me, summer means living at a slower pace without teaching, with more time for my family.

#### **Sub Dean**

#### **Giorgio Parolini**

I joined the European Chapter more than 15 years ago, as I was interested in the "organ world" on the other side of the globe. I had the pleasure of organizing two Spring Meetings (Milan and Turin, the last one with Edgardo Pocarobba) and with my wife - one of our Chapter Friends. I enjoy meeting old and new friends at the annual Spring Meetings.

Professionally I am an Organ Teacher at ISSM "V. Bellini" in Catania, Concert Organist and Organist Emeritus of the Musical Chapel, Cathedral of Monza. As the only Italian Member of the Board I invite you to visit Milan, Lombardy (my

Region) and/or other parts of beautiful Italy. We have a lot to offer: Monuments, landscapes, good food and wine and much more!!! Do come!!!

### **Secretary and Newsletter Editor**

#### **Bernard Sanders**

Growing up in De Pere, Wisconsin, went on for quite awhile since I attended Catholic Grade School, High School and (St. Norbert) College there. After finishing my BMEd. I actively decided not to go into teaching and went to Wichita State Univ. for my MM in Organ Performance. A year in Germany also went on for quite awhile because I discovered that church music here was just the right job for me and I've been doing it ever since then. Alongside of my church work I am an organ consultant for the Diocese and pursue composition as much as my time allows. After attending a Meeting of the European Chapter over 20 years ago I first consented to edit the Newsletter and shortly thereafter became Chapter Secretary. You can easily make me very happy by submitting information for the Newsletters! Looking forward to hearing from you!

#### **Treasurer**

#### **Betsy Mixon-Stemmler**

I'm an American who has lived half of her life in the States and the other half in Germany. I attended Florida State University where I received a Bachelor of Music Education (Choral) and a Master of Music in Organ Performance. After living in Palm Beach, Florida, where I substituted for the organist of Bethesda-By-The-Sea who was on a six-month sabbatical, I moved to Germany and spent the next 27 years of my life there. The first year I studied at the North German Organ Academy with Harald Vogel, after which I worked for the next three years at the "Musikschule des Emslandes" as a piano and organ teacher. During the third year I met my future husband and moved to the vicinity of Göttingen. We married and have two grown daughters. My husband is a jazz pianist, my oldest daughter is a professional clarinetist and my youngest

daughter is a professional dancer. During my time in Göttingen I taught piano and organ at the “Musikalische Jugendförderung Northeim”. Also I had several church jobs at one of which I started a church choir which still exists today. I also completed the B-organist exam for the “Evangelisch-Lutherische Landeskirche” in Hannover. In 2005 I returned to the United States and worked on the faculty of the Preparatory Department at Palm Beach Atlantic University. In addition, I worked as organist/choir master at several Episcopal churches, the last of which was “All Saints Episcopal” in Jensen Beach, Florida where I worked for ten years. I’ve been a member of the European Chapter of the American Guild of Organists for more than 20 years. I retired in October 2018 and came back to live in Germany.

**Webmaster/Chapter Facebook Page**

**Barry Jordan**

Born in South Africa in 1957, I studied in Cape Town (M.Mus. in composition), Vienna and Lübeck with Martin Haselböck. I have been a clarinet player in a military band, a school teacher and an organist in Kiel and, for the last 24-odd years (25 in August), at the cathedral in Magdeburg, Germany. I am married and have three children.

**Registrar**

**Ludo Vandersmissen**

Due to our good friendship with Johan Hermans, my spouse Chris and I rolled into organ music as a host family for organists performing in Hasselt. During the cathedral concerts, I ‘operate’ as the cameraman. In 2017, Johan accepted the organization of the 2018 European Chapter Spring Meeting in Hasselt and he asked (challenged) me to support him with the logistical side of it. This experience left me with fantastic memories of a group of ‘friends’ all addicted to organs or the music, leading me to join AGO and the European Chapter as a full member. And now, having accepted this latest challenge of becoming the new Registrar of the European Chapter, I certainly will not worry about having nothing to do anymore

when I retire! In addition, being a great admirer of organs and an electro-mechanical engineer, I hope sometime to enroll in organ building courses. Convinced, as well, of the need of a management office for organists, I am considering to ‘offer’ my organizational skills in establishing such activities. Maybe this will be an opportunity for you! Just let me know!

**Member-at-Large**

**Axel Wilberg**

Axel was born in Mechernich (Germany) in 1976. During his youth he took lessons in organ, piano, oboe and composition at the Euskirchen Music-School. After completing school he studied church music, organ (with Karl Maureen), harpsichord (with Andreas Maisch and Oscar Milani) and music pedagogy. He received diplomas as a church musician, music teacher and concert organist. Masterclasses with H. Schoonbroodt, G. Zacher, J.-C. Zehnder, H. Wunderlich, G. Bovet, Ton Koopmann, J. Laukvik, S. Engels, H. Vogel, Bob van Asperen and training as an organ consultant rounded off his training. Serving as a church organist since 1991, Axel Wilberg was director of music at St. Michael’s, Mering, and St. Nikolaus, Bonn. In addition he taught organ and music theory for the diocese of Augsburg and wrote numerous articles and reviews for magazines. Currently he works as a teacher (music and physics) at the Gymnasium Kerpen and teaches organ at Koblenz University.

**Member-at-Large**

**Katelyn Emerson**

Born in Maine, USA, I studied at Oberlin College & Conservatory (BA & BMus) before receiving a Fulbright Scholarship to study *en perfectionnement* in Toulouse, France (during which time I became acquainted with the European AGO Chapter!). From 2016-2018, I coupled concertizing in the States, Europe, and Asia with working as Associate Organist & Choirmaster at the Church of the Advent in Boston. Grateful for a DAAD Scholarship, I returned to school in Germany in October

2018, pursuing a Master Organ degree with Ludger Lohmann at the Stuttgart Musikhochschule, whilst performing concerts, teaching, and conducting personal research into musical linguistics. This September, I'm marrying an organ builder from Australia (who currently works in Illinois) and I have somehow convinced him to relocate to Europe with me for the second year of my studies. Hopefully he'll be able to attend at least part of the spring meeting with us all in 2020!

#### Member-at-Large

##### Alissa Duryee

Alissa Duryee is a Franco-American musician living in Senonches, France. She has a teaching position at the conservatory in Dreux, France and enjoys a varied performing career on multiple keyboard instruments. She is also the mother of two young children who have been known to haunt the AGO European Chapter Spring Meetings. During the "lengthy" stretches of spare time these responsibilities afford her, she can be found writing music, hunting for mushrooms, or gardening.

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### Membership Report

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by Judy Riefel-Lindel,

Thank you, European Chapter members, for renewing your membership in our Chapter and in the AGO for another year. There are only a very few of you who have a July 1<sup>st</sup> renewal date who have not yet renewed. Please do that! And if this happens after you receive this newsletter, you will be welcomed back for another year, (or sent a little reminder), by Johan Hermans, your new Dean and Membership Coordinator! Ludo Vandersmissen, the new Registrar, is also going to become a "family" name you'll start to recognize, as he begins correspondence with you during the next months.

But before I slide into the background, let me give a warm welcome to our newest European Chapter members: **Christian Schaefer**, Wiesloch, Germany; **Mitch Miller**, studying in Stuttgart, Germany,

**Klaus Goerke**, living in Espoo, Finland; **Allesandro Licata**, Rome, Italy; **Peggy Snizek**, Owego, New York; **Theo Meurs**, Warnsveld, Netherlands; and **Miriam Zach**, Ames, Iowa. We hope you all will enjoy being members of the European Chapter.

*Judy Riefel-Lindel*

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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*

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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

*Approved by the National Council  
May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016; revised by the  
National Council June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016.*

## Members' News

**Cheryl Duerr** presented a workshop on “**Digital Music 2019 - Apps, e Readers, Scanners – and YOU!**” at the Buffalo Regional Convention in July. Her workshop was sponsored by a donation from the European Chapter. Members **Katelyn Emerson** and **Chelsea Chen** also presented recitals at the Convention.

**John Bertalot** has published his fifth book for church musicians online.

<https://bertalot.org/book5>

Contents include “How not to quarrel with your Vicar”, “How to raise money”, “What to do when you don’t know what to do”, “Help, I have to lead a choir” and much more. He also has a music blog at [bertalot.org](http://bertalot.org) which includes over 30 articles on practical choir-training and Bach number symbolism.

**Giorgio Parolini** announces his internet presence with a new website

[www.giorgioparolini.com](http://www.giorgioparolini.com)

going online about mid-July. It will be in 4 languages (Italian, English, French and German). Content (especially in the French and German versions) will be added little by little as material becomes available and is translated.

“An Array of Voluntaries” by **Bernard Wayne Sanders** has been accepted for publication by Sacred Music Press of Dayton, Ohio. The collection includes five occasional voluntaries for manuals only (Chant, Fughetta, Soliloquy, Recitative,

Scherzetto) and five voluntaries for festive occasions (A Processional Voluntary, A Rhapsodic Voluntary, A Quiet Voluntary, A Reflective Voluntary, A Fanfare Voluntary) for multiple manuals and pedal.

Pastor John Graham and the Vestry of Grace Church, Georgetown, have named Sanders “Artist in Residence” for their 26<sup>th</sup> Bach Festival. Not only will he play a concert on July 12<sup>th</sup> including the world premiere of his “Magnificat Versets”, but Festival Director **Dr. Francine Maté** will also be doing the world premiere of his “Pavane” for organ and strings on her program a week earlier. For more information visit the website at [www.gracedc.org](http://www.gracedc.org).

## Introducing Our Members

**Theo Meurs** was born and raised in The Netherlands. At the Arnhem Conservatory he studied Organ (with Johan van Dommele), Church Music, Music Theory and Music Education. He now lives in Warnsveld (only a minute’s walk away from the home of Judy and Wim Riefel on the same street) and works as a music teacher at a high school in the nearby town of Lochem. He attended his first Spring Meeting this year in Poland where participating members were already able to meet him. Since 1978 he has been organist at the Protestant Church in Brummen where he plays a recently restored two-manual Holtgräve organ from 1846.

In 2013 a new hymnal was introduced in some churches in The Netherlands. Since then Theo has been writing alternative, easily playable settings, chorale partitas, and organ pieces for use during church services. These pieces can be downloaded free of charge from his homepage:

[www.theomeurs.nl](http://www.theomeurs.nl)

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

## 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 !***

July 6 <sup>th</sup>		Bernard Sanders, Organ Works by J. S. Bach and Bernard Sanders	St. Nikolaus Minster, Überlingen (D)
July 6 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 PM	Dr. Francine Maté, Organ Works by J. S. Bach, W. A. Mozart, and Bernard Sanders	Grace Episcopal, Washington, D.C. (USA)
July 7 <sup>th</sup>	5 PM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ	Dreifaltigkeitskirche, Gräfenhein (D)
July 12 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 PM	Bernard Sanders, Organ Works by J. S. Bach and Bernard Sanders	Grace Episcopal, Washington, D.C. (USA)
July 14 <sup>th</sup>	11:15 AM	Johan Hermans, Organ Recital at the International Stuttgart Organ Festival	St. Nikolauskirche, Stuttgart (D)
July 14 <sup>th</sup>	11:30 AM	Martin Welzel, Organ Works by Widor, Langlais, Dupré, Vierne, and Baker (Deux Evocations)	Minster, Ulm (D)
July 24 <sup>th</sup>	8 PM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ	Stadtkirche, Meiningen (D)
July 28 <sup>th</sup>	11 AM	Johan Hermans, Organ; Kurt Bertels, Saxophone	Cathedral, Hasselt (B)
July 28 <sup>th</sup>		Jens Korndörfer, Organ	Bad Cannstadt (D)
July 29 <sup>th</sup>	8:15 PM	Johan Hermans, Organ	Church of St. John the Baptist, Mechelen-Gulpen (NL)
July 31 <sup>st</sup>	7 PM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ	Johanneksenkirkkko, Helsinki (Finland)
Aug. 1 <sup>st</sup>	8 PM	Johan Hermans, Organ	Dom, Altenberg (D)
Aug. 4 <sup>th</sup>	4 PM	Johan Hermans, Organ	Church 'De duif', Amsterdam (NL)
Aug. 15 <sup>th</sup>	11 AM	Johan Hermans, Organ Concert Mass with female vocal ensemble "Quintina", Isabella Bikkemeborgs, Director Works by Bernard Wayne Sanders: ". . . in quietness and trust . . ." for organ (dedicated to Johan Hermans) and 'O magnum mysterium' for womens voices and organ (world premier),	Cathedral, Hasselt (B)
Aug. 16 <sup>th</sup>	7 PM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ	Klosterkirche, Riesa (D)
Aug. 18 <sup>th</sup>	6 PM	Bernard Sanders, Organ Works by J. S. Bach, Jean Baptiste Loeillet, and Bernard Sanders	Ev. Stadtkirche, Balingen (D)
Aug. 24 <sup>th</sup>	8 PM	Bernard Sanders, Organ Works by J. S. Bach and Bernard Sanders	St. Mary's, Tuttlingen (D)
Aug. 25 <sup>th</sup>	11:30 AM	Bernard Sanders, Organ Sunday Matinée: Works by J. S. Bach and Bernard Sanders	Cathedral of St. Martin, Rottenburg (D)
Sept. 7 <sup>th</sup>		Jens Korndörfer, Organ	Tübingen (D)
Sept. 8 <sup>th</sup>	5 PM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ	Florinskirche, Koblenz (D)
Sept. 9 <sup>th</sup>	7 PM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ	Marktkirche, Neuwied (D)
Sep. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	4 PM	Johan Hermans, Organ	St. Petruskerk, Oirschot (NL)
Sep. 28 <sup>th</sup>	12 MM	Johan Hermans, Organ	Dom, Trier (D)
Oct. 13 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 PM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ	St. Georgenkirche, Glauchau (D)

Every Saturday (11:30) Organ Music at Market Time

Marktkirche, Wiesbaden (D)

Hans Uwe Hielscher and guest organists from around the world

