



**The American Guild of
ORGANISTS**

European Chapter



NEWSLETTER
First Quarter
2023

The Dean's Corner

Dear European Chapter Members,

The start of the liturgical and academic year always feels like the true beginning of the new year, much more than January does. Many of us have been immersed in rehearsing music for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. Others may have been looking at the end of a semester with all the challenges it brings. And some have been immersed in doing both.

A significant number of our members living in the U.S. experienced a historic cold snowstorm. Hopefully, the effects will soon be resolved.

Happy New Year, everyone ! What a joy it is to embark on yet another year of music-making, teaching, worship, and involvement in our European Chapter ! We've been through a few difficult years, and thankfully, this time the start of a new year looks better.

May we as members of the European Chapter continue to inspire each other and experience beautiful moments together ! The first chance to meet again in person is our upcoming Spring Meeting in Erfurt, which looks magnificent.

Awaiting a meeting in person, this Newsletter brings us a tad closer together. In case your upcoming recitals are not mentioned in this newsletter, please send in some information. It helps for us as a chapter to get a sense of community, as widely spread as we are.

Johan

Chapter Dean

The Board

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Johan Hermans

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Barry Jordan

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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\[at\]agoeeurope.eu](mailto:board[at]agoeeurope.eu) will reach the entire board.

Cover photo: the Eilert Köhler organ in the Kreuzkirche in Suhl. Photo: Barry

From the editor

Winter - now wasn't that strange? Some intense cold, followed by a lot of not-really-cold-at-all, but many churches, at least here in Germany, were not heated at all, so lots of us had very chilly places of work, leading, in some cases, to unpleasant illnesses. But Spring is around the corner, and with it, the annual Spring Meeting, which gives us the main, indeed almost the only, topic of this short Newsletter.

I have had to alter the itinerary for the last day of the meeting and decided to abandon the trips to Merseburg and Naumburg; instead we will head south-east to the town of Greiz and then further, into Saxony, where we will have the opportunity to encounter an organ by Gottfried Silbermann for the first time since the memorable Dresden meeting many years ago. So I think that is a worthy substitute. I have been asked a few times about places to visit before or after the meeting for those who feel that an expensive air-fare is not really justified by a four-day meeting and have compiled a little list, which I have added to the information about the meeting.

The recitals list is a little longer than it was last time, and I have included all recitals up until July of which I know. As usual, the recitals list on the web site will be updated whenever I hear of new events, so keep them coming!

Best wishes to all

Barry Jordan



Fraureuth, Silbermann organ

Spring Meeting 2023

As we reported in the last Newsletter, 3/22, next year's Spring Meeting will be held in Germany once more, this time in the East, in the State of Thuringia, home turf of Johann Sebastian Bach and, along with East Frisia, perhaps the area of Germany offering the highest concentration of truly spectacular organs of all epochs up to 1939. Nearly all stations of the Bach biography until his move to Köthen lie within its borders, from his birthplace in Eisenach to the place of his ducal service in Weimar, including Ohrdruf, where he was sent to live with his oldest brother Johann Christoph after the death of their father (he was 11); Arnstadt, where he obtained his first appointment, Mühlhausen and Weimar. Erfurt, the exceptionally pleasant state capital which will be our base for the week, was also home to a branch of the Bach family; Johann Bach was the Organist of the Predigerkirche for nearly 40 years and together with his brother Christoph he was in control of the musicians guild in the city; Johann Sebastian's father Ambrosius was a member of the town band from 1667 until he moved to Eisenach.

Important information

Dates:

as mentioned above, this will be a full Spring Meeting as we used to know it. We will begin with the opening dinner on **Monday, 10th April** at 7.00 pm. The meeting continues until the evening of **Friday, 14th April** with the closing dinner that evening, departure on Saturday after breakfast.

Accommodation etc:

We have asked potential participants to make their own hotel arrangements this year and this seems to have worked out quite well. Most have chosen either the Radisson Blu or the Mercure. These are 220 metres apart, 3 - 5 minutes on foot.

Registration and costs:

CHAPTER MEMBERS: Registration will be informal, as usual. Once you have definitely decided to join the meeting, find yourself a place to stay and then write a mail to us to say that you have done so. We would ask you to finalise your decision by the 15th February (note: this is a little earlier than previously notified!), as we obviously need numbers for restaurant bookings, buses etc. Please use the Email address springmeeting@agoeurope.eu for this.

NON-MEMBERS may join us for the meeting on payment of a supplement of € 25, provided that we have spare places.

The **cost** for members will be € 140 per person, including buses and BOTH dinners. Please notify me **very soon** if you are planning not to participate in one or both of the dinners, because we have very little room to manoeuvre here!

Flying in:

Erfurt is fairly central but has no real airport of its own (it does have one, but it really only offers charter or goods flights). The nearest airport is Leipzig-Halle, but flying there is not really an option; people on international flights should simply use Frankfurt and take a train from there. The journey takes 2 1/2 to 3 hours and trains leave approximately every 30 minutes. Hotels in the inner city are about 10 - 15 minutes on foot from the railway station; the trams 2, 3, 5 and 6 will take you there and leave approx. every 3 minutes.

Itinerary - this is "final", but of course things can always come up at the last minute!

Monday: Opening dinner: Radisson Blu Hotel

Tuesday:

Erfurt - all walking distance, public transport is available

St. Severi (Klais 1930, III/34)

Dom (Schuke 1993 III/63) – *only demonstration and visit to the church, no playing (it is right next to St Severi)*

St Crucis (Volckland, c. 1737, II/29)

Predigerkirche (Schuke 1977, III/60; case H. Compenius d.Ä 1572 and Winterhalter 2022, II/15 plus extensions and 5 "either-or" stops in the Refectory)

not yet confirmed: Carillon concert / tour (max 10 px) Bartholomew-Tower (Anger)

Wednesday:

Gräfenhain: Thielemann 1728 II/22

Waltershausen: Trost 1724 - 1755, III/47

Mechterstädt: Carl Christian Hoffmann, 1770. II/25

Eisenach: Georgenkirche (Bachs baptismal church) Visits to the Bach House museum and Wartburg castle. *Note: unfortunately there is a Golden Wedding in the Georgenkirche at 2 pm, so there will little time to visit it. It is just a few minutes walk from there to the Bachhaus, so perhaps it will be possible to see it quickly. At the Bachhaus we can hear the instruments in a short concert. The bus will take us to the Wartburg. It is a 15 minute climb from the parking place to the Wartburg, but those who need it can use the shuttle bus service! This costs € 2.50.*

Thursday:

Büßleben: Stertzing, 1702, II/28

Suhl, Kreuzkirche: Eilert Köhler, 1738 - 1740, II / 39

Arnstadt, Bachkirche: Rekonstruktion of the Wender Organ of 1703 by Otto Hoffmann (1999), II / 21;

Steinmeyer / Hoffmann, III / 55.

Visits to the Bach sites, original console of Bach's organ in the museum are possible while others play.

Friday:

Kahla: the first phase of a new organ in this little town, the birthplace of the "first protestant cantor", Johann Walter. It is only a little Positif now, but with changeable temperaments, quite interesting. Späth, 2021 (Some info: <https://www.freiburgerorgelbau.de/en/organ-works/new-buildings/kahla/>)

Greiz: Richard Kreuzbach 1881, enlarged to III / 58 by the Jehmlich brothers 1919. Later changes reversed and full restoration by Späth, completed December 2022

Fraureuth: Silbermann, 1742, II/20

Closing dinner (currently *Zum Wenigemarkt 13*)



What to do...

... if you have time to kill! Visit:

Halle / Saale: Handel museum in the house in which he grew up with collection of instruments; Marktkirche with the organ by Reichelt on which he had lessons with Zachow and the main organ with a case by Contius. Train 30 minutes.

Weimar, famous town of the classicists (Goethe and Schiller, and of course Franz Liszt) Train 15 minutes

Leipzig, Nikolaikirche, Thomaskirche, Mendelssohn house (highly recommended!), Bach museum, musical instrument collection (in the Grassimuseum) and much more! 40 minutes.

Merseburg: Cathedral with organ by Ladegast (in a case by Zacharias Thaysner). There are noon recitals every second Saturday. About 1 hour.

Naumburg: St Wenzel with the famous Hildebrandt organ, and the Romanesque cathedral. About 50 min.

Mühlhausen, where Bach had his second position. 50 min.

And as the third wise man said "There's myrrh! Much myrrh!"

News in Brief

Barry Jordan (your newsletter editor and webmaster) will retire from Magdeburg Cathedral at the end of November after over 29 years as Director of Music, during which time two new organs were built and a third fundamentally rejuvenated (three new reed stops will be installed during the course of this year), and the choir performed works ranging from the Bach Passions and the b minor Mass to Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius* and *The Apostles* by way of Poulenc's *Stabat Mater* or Stravinsky's *Symphony of Psalms*. There were also performances of his own works *Last Things* and *Die Eiche im Dom* (both can be heard here: <https://soundcloud.com/user-300924996>). He will take his leave with a series of concerts entitled *The long Goodbye* during the first half of the year, Messiaen's *Livre du Saint Sacrement* in October, a final recital in November and a last *Messiah* with the choir on November 25th. His last service will be on the following morning. All relevant dates: <https://www.magdeburgerdommusik.de/Konzertprogramm23.html>

Also on the calendar in the cathedral this year: David Briggs plays his own transcriptions of Mahler's 5th symphony on 1st June, and Kevin Bowyer is featured on August 24th.



Recitals by Chapter Members

Saturday February 18, nT Rhonda Sider Edgington
Lancaster PA, USA, Westminster Presbyterian: Great Lakes Duo (with Dr Brian Reichenbach, trumpet)

Sunday February 26, 4:00 pm Gabriel Dessauer
Wiesbaden, Germany, St Bonifatius: Reger op 127 i.a. Saturday

February 18, nT Rhonda Sider Edgington
Lancaster PA, USA, Westminster Presbyterian: Great Lakes Duo (with Dr Brian Reichenbach, trumpet)

Sunday February 26, 4:00 pm Gabriel Dessauer
Wiesbaden, Germany, St Bonifatius: Reger op 127 i.a.

Thursday March 2, 7:30 pm Barry Jordan
Magdeburg, Germany, Cathedral (Paradise organ): Lieblings-Bach, part I

Sunday March 5, nT Rhonda Sider Edgington
Harrisburg PA, USA, Market Square Presbyterian: works by women composers

Thursday March 9, 8.45 pm Giorgio Parolini
Udine, Italy, Chiesa di S. Quirino

Tuesday March 21, 7:00 pm Heather Hernandez
Phoenix, AZ, USA, St Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church: Duruflé Requiem, conductor G. Hebert

Thursday March 30, 7:30 pm Barry Jordan
Magdeburg, Germany, Cathedral (Paradise organ): Lieblings-Bach, part II

Saturday April 22, 7:00 pm Barry Jordan
Warsaw - Anin, Poland: Bach

Sunday April 23, 7:00 pm Barry Jordan
Warsaw, Poland, Reformed church: Ritter, Hindemith, Brahms, Kee

Tuesday April 25, nT Rhonda Sider Edgington
Detroit, MI, USA, Jefferson Ave. Presbyterian: Battle of the Organs with Tony Monaco (Hammond)

Saturday April 29, nT Rhonda Sider Edgington
Cedar Falls, IA, Northern Iowa University: Music of Japan with Carolyn Koebel (percussion)

Sunday May 7, nT Rhonda Sider Edgington
Holland, MI, USA, Hope Church: Tulip Time concert with Dutch music

Sunday May 7, 11.30 am Barry Jordan
Saarbrücken, Germany, Stiftskirche St Arnual: Ritter, Klatzow, Kee

Sunday May 14, 5:00 pm Gabriel Dessauer
Munich, Germany, St Margaret

We can only report news and list recitals of which we are aware! Be an active member and report news and concert dates which you would like to see in print!

Our internet site is at <https://www.agoeurope.eu/index.html>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/agoeurope>

Saturday May 20, nT Rhonda Sider Edgington
Wheaton IL, St Michael's Catholic Church: Great Lakes Duo

Sunday May 21, nT Rhonda Sider Edgington
East Lansing, MI, All Saints Episcopal: Great Lakes Duo

Tuesday May 23, nT Rhonda Sider Edgington
New Albany, IN, USA, St John Presbyterian: Great Lakes Duo

Thursday May 25, 6:00 pm Barry Jordan
Magdeburg, Germany, Cathedral: Duruflé, Vierne

Saturday May 27, 3:00 pm Johan Hermans
Eindhoven, Netherlands, St Cathrien's Church

Monday May 29, 5:00 pm Giorgio Parolini
Lengefeld/Sa, Germany, Kirche zum heiligen Kreuz

Tuesday June 20, 8:00 pm Gabriel Dessauer
Mainz, Germany, St Stephan

Saturday June 24, 11.00 am Alexia Tye
Cathedral Notre Dame, Luxemburg: Rachmaninov, Vierne, Liszt

Thursday June 29, 6:00 pm Barry Jordan
Magdeburg, Germany, Cathedral: Schmidt, Klatzow, Reger

