



American Guild of Organists  
Chartered 1896  
European Chapter  
Chartered 1979

*Newsletter April 2021*

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*The Dean's Corner*

Dear European Chapter Members,

The AGO European Chapter online Spring Meeting is just around the corner as I write these lines.

It is now a year since we were confronted with the first corona wave. Of course no one thought then that we would still be facing the pandemic to this extent today, and although some countries are vaccinating faster than others, some are now experiencing the third wave - or however it is called. I postulated in my previous message that the end of the corona measures was gradually approaching. A time will come when we can say this era is something that's behind us, but we're not that far yet.

In any case, the current situation being what it is, I am glad that the European Chapter Board and I have managed to prepare the very first **Virtual Spring Meeting** for you. The Board has met several times via Zoom and a lot of work has been done. We've gone through a steep learning process in the past few months regarding virtual meeting tools. We've also set up closer (virtual) contacts with HQ in New York.

So let this message be a warm invitation to attend our Online Spring Meeting. Online contacts and contributions will receive attention and we're looking forward to learning more about your experiences during the past year.

The **Zoom Cocktail Kickoff** is on Easter Monday, April 5th, 2021, at 9 PM Brussels time, a more informal chat session is on Friday, April 9th, at 9 PM Brussels time.

A Spring Meeting will never be closer to home than this, and you'll never have less trouble with transportation and accommodation. So be sure to attend this meeting! I'm eagerly looking forward to meeting each of you!

Cordially,  
*Johan*

*The Secretary's Voice*

Dear Members,

In the past weeks you have received general information regarding the first ever Virtual Spring Meeting of our Chapter. Now it's time for specifics.

**The link to all of your videos and the log-in information for participating in the Virtual Spring Meeting are being sent with this Newsletter as a separate attachment.** This step is to ensure that only bona fide members of our Chapter are able to gain access. Please do not give this information to others. Those who are on our current Membership List have all received it with this Newsletter already as well.

Be sure to use this forum to get to know your Board and your fellow members. The circumstances are not ideal and we hope to be able to meet again personally next year

at this time, but if all you've got is lemons  
– it's time to make lemonade!

*Bernard*  
[bernard.sanders\(at\)web.de](mailto:bernard.sanders(at)web.de)

*PS: All of us from the Board wish all of  
you a joyous Easter celebration!*

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

## **Virtual Spring Meeting**

Tentative Program for  
Zoom Cocktail Kickoff

<u>What / Who</u>	<u>When</u>
Admission of Guests	9 PM
Dean's Opening (Johan)	
Introductions	(times only
Introducing New Members	approx.)
Membership Chair (Ludo)	
Photo-Montage	9:30 PM
Sneak Preview: Cologne 2022 (Axel)	
Positive Vibes (News from HQ)	
European News: Helsinki (Agnes)	
Photo Montage II	
Launching a European AGO	10 PM
Chapter YouTube Channel (Katelyn / Alissa)	
Open Conversation / Mingling	

**Don't forget the informal Zoom Meeting  
at the end of the week! **Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup>,  
2021, also at 9 PM. Log-in information  
will be provided in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Memo as well.****

## *The Board*

*Dean and Membership Coordinator:*  
Johan Hermans  
[j.h.o\(at\)skynet.be](mailto:j.h.o(at)skynet.be)

*Sub-Dean:* Giorgio Parolini  
[info\(at\)giorgioparolini.com](mailto:info(at)giorgioparolini.com)

*Secretary and Newsletter Editor:*  
Bernard Sanders  
[bernard.sanders\(at\)web.de](mailto:bernard.sanders(at)web.de)

*Registrar and Treasurer:*  
Ludo Vandersmissen  
[vandersmissen.ludo\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:vandersmissen.ludo(at)gmail.com)

*Web-Master:* Barry Jordan  
[principal8\(at\)barryjordan.de](mailto:principal8(at)barryjordan.de)

*Members-at-Large:* Katelyn Emerson  
[katelyn.emerson\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:katelyn.emerson(at)gmail.com)

Axel Wilberg  
[axel.wilberg\(at\)t-online.de](mailto:axel.wilberg(at)t-online.de)

Alissa Duryee  
[alissaduryee\(at\)gmail.com](mailto: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 !*

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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.1291359287568257.1073741830.912597  
592111097&type=1&l=5c5fd786b0](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:

<https://www.agoeurope.eu>

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

*Barry Jordan*

## *News from the Board*

**Betsy Mixon-Stemmler** has resigned from  
the Board as Treasurer. We thank her for  
her dedicated work for the Chapter and  
wish her all the best for the future!

**Ludo Vandersmissen** has volunteered to  
remain Registrar and in addition to take up  
the duties of Treasurer. Since membership  
is dependent upon paying dues, these two  
offices are inherently related. We thank  
Ludo for taking on the additional  
responsibility.

## *Membership/Treasurer's Report*

At the virtual Board Meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup>, our Membership Chair and, as noted above, Treasurer Ludo Vandersmissen related much information concerning membership, dues and our financial situation.

First of all, he gave an overview of the different types of membership and what they cost. This information will be given on the forms for membership renewal so that each member can choose the appropriate category. He also mentioned that with a one-time contribution of 3,000.- US\$ one can achieve 'Special Lifetime' status!

The process of renewal now takes place as follows: The European AGO Chapter will send out a letter approximately 4 months prior to expiration date. This letter will include instructions concerning payment and an explanation about the upcoming letter from HQ, which will follow approximately 3 months prior to expiration date. As a rule, US-based members would pay in US\$ to the US Account at HQ, European members would be requested to pay in EUR to the Chapter account in Europe. Thus our Chapter would have dollar-funds in the US (at HQ) and also Euros available. He then gave information about how the dues are divided up between the Chapter, HQ, and the TAO magazine.

The status of some still needs to be clarified between HQ and our Chapter but for practical purposes we have a total of 156 members. These consist of 79 regular members, 32 chapter friends, 33 special members, 2 special life-time members and 10 young members.

Since taking on the duties of Treasurer, Ludo and Johan have arranged a bi-monthly online meeting with HQ to achieve better communication and flow of information.

In case any of our members have difficulty paying their dues due to Corona hardships, there is the possibility that the Chapter could step in and help out. In

acute cases, please contact the Membership Chair or the Dean.

The AGO is concentrating on attracting younger members and is planning a special offer: 1 year free TAO-electronic or one free year membership incl. printed TAO starting July 2021. More information at HQ.

It is possible for AGO members to receive an affiliate membership for the Royal College of Organists. Our Dean and Sub-Dean have already done this. The program is reciprocal and some members of the RCO Board are interested in doing likewise with our European AGO Chapter.

AGO HQ also has explicitly requested articles from Europe for TAO. Up until now there have been very few, almost none, from outside of the US. HQ has also put a focus on webinars and online training programs. Check the HQ Website!

## *Chapter News*

### **European Chapter AGO Changes of Address**

Member **Kathy Cooper** and her husband Chris have moved from the DC area to Niantic, Connecticut, where both of their sons also live. They can still be reached at the Email address:

kccoo9(at) yahoo.com

**Hartmut Siebmans** has moved to:

Zum Forst 7

D - 25917 Leck

New Tel.-No.: +49-4662-6144762

**Ruth Ahrend** has a new Email address:

ruthahrend45(at)gmail.com

**Martin Welzel** has moved to:

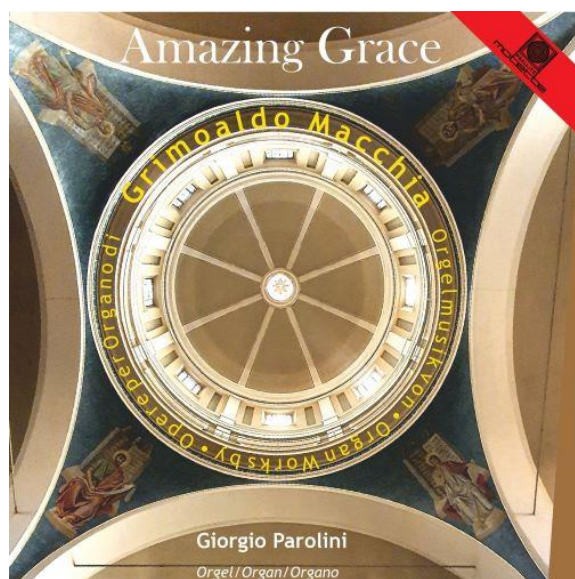
Altmühlstraße 11

D - 80638 München

## *Members' News*

**Giorgio Parolini**, Sub-Dean of the AGO European Chapter, has accepted the position of Organ Professor at the Conservatorio di Musica "Luca Marenzio" in Brescia starting immediately. He will be in this position until October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

In addition, **Giorgio** has recorded a CD featuring pieces written by the Italian composer Grimoaldo Macchia entitled “**Amazing Grace**”. It has been released by Musikverlag Motette Psallite (MOT15040). The recording includes pieces on secular and sacred themes (Advent, Christmas, Easter) in various forms, styles and harmonic languages. Most of them are World Premiere Recordings. Parolini’s intention is to spread contemporary music and also to provide, with this disc, a tool for people approaching the organ and new organ music for the first time. The recording was done on the four manual, 91 stop (65 ranks) Bonato organ built in 2013 for the Chiesa Parrocchiale S. Anastasia in Villasanta (Italy). More information on the recording is available at [www.motette.org](http://www.motette.org) or by contacting Giorgio directly at his email address (see Board Members above).



**Bernard Wayne Sanders’** compositions “Introspection” and “Prelude and Harmonization on AUS TIEFER NOT” (a work commissioned by Concordia Publishing House), both for Organ Solo, and “*Iam, Christe, sol iustitiae*” for Trumpet and Organ, were premiered on March 7<sup>th</sup> at the first “Geistliche Abendmusik in der Fastenzeit” (Sacred Music Evening in Lent) on Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup> in the church of St. Gallus in Tuttlingen. The composer was at the Organ assisted by Dr. Martin Weidner on Trumpet.

Sanders’ “Stations of the Cross”, 14 musical impressions in the form of 7 Preludes and Fugues for Organ, were premiered by Reiner Schulte in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Geistliche Abendmusik in the church of Mary Queen in Tuttlingen on Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. The entire cycle was put on YouTube by the church and can be viewed at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2g0wy6x4LLk>

US Member **Rhonda Sider Edgington** was able to perform one live concert since COVID began, in October 2020 in Cincinnati, Ohio. At the invitation of Brenda Portman, Organist of Hyde Park United Methodist Church, she performed on their concert series, a program featuring Women Composers of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

This entire program featured living women composers, and mostly pieces written in this century. Works by US composers Margaret Sandresky, Pamela Decker, Brenda Portman, Marianne Kim, and Patricia Van Ness, Canadian Rachel Laurin, British Cecilia McDowall, and the European AGO's own Margaretha de Jong were performed on the Casavant there. If this unusual program is interesting to you, it was filmed and put up on Youtube by the church, and is now available to view at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UTgQVpDQJww&t=3087s>

Edgington has long been a proponent of Margaret Sandresky, who will be celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in April of 2021. In celebration, Rhonda plans to play two concerts of her works in Grand Rapids (of course, both dependent on the state of the virus and the world...).

One will be held at the Catholic Cathedral of St. Andrew, on their Letourneau, on Saturday, April 24 at 7pm, and open to the public.

The other will be livestreamed from the Calvin University Chapel where Rhonda is Instructor of Organ, played on their Dobson pipe organ, on Friday, April 9 at 7:30pm EST, and available to view here

<https://vimeo.com/event/684136>

Both programs will feature larger cycles, such as the Five Sacred Dances, Prelude, Aria, and Finale, and Mass d'homme arme, as well as shorter chorale settings, and representative works from throughout her many decades of composing.

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**Katelyn Emerson** will be performing "Heroes and Heroines: A Mother's Day Concert" on the Kotzschmar Organ at Merrill Auditorium, Portland, Maine, on May 7<sup>th</sup>. The program includes works by Rachel Laurin (Étude Héroïque), Joseph Jongen (Sonata Eroïca), Florence Price, Edward Elgar, Louis Vierne, Charles Tournemire, and César Franck. This concert will be *livestreamed* and available to watch on-demand until May 31<sup>st</sup>! Tickets are available here:

<https://boxoffice.porttix.com/kotzschmar-heroes-and-heroines-katelyn-emerson/2164>

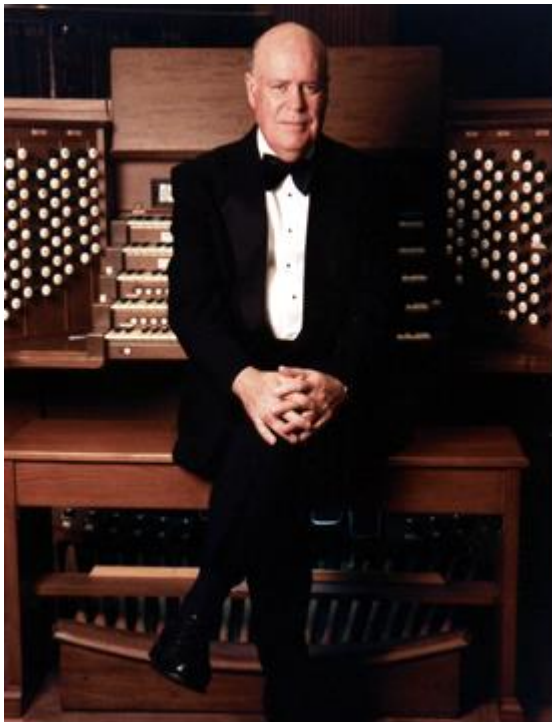
## Stateside News

### Obituary

#### John Weaver

(Apr. 27<sup>th</sup>, 1937 - Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021)

#### *In memoriam*



Dr. John Weaver was Director of Music at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church from 1970 to 2005. He was Head of the

Organ Department at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia from 1972 to 2003 and Chair of the Organ Department at The Juilliard School from 1987 to 2004. After retirement, he lived in Vermont and continued to concertize and lead workshops and master classes around the world.

Born in the eastern Pennsylvania town of Mauch Chunk (now called Jim Thorpe), John was introduced to the organ at the First Presbyterian Church where his father was the pastor. His formal musical studies began at the age of six in Baltimore's Peabody Conservatory. At 14 he began organ study with Richard Ross and George Markey, and the same year he also became organist of a Baltimore church and played his first organ recital.

John Weaver's undergraduate study was at the Curtis Institute of Music from which he was graduated in 1959 as a student of Alexander McCurdy. That year he was appointed Director of Music at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church on Central Park West, a post he held for eleven years. During this time he spent two years in the U.S. Army as organist/choir director of the Post Chapel at the United States Military Academy at West Point, and earned a Master of Sacred Music degree from Union Theological Seminary, studying with Robert Baker. In 1968 he founded the highly successful Bach Cantata Series at Holy Trinity, conducting his choir and orchestra in two seasons of these works.

While at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, he conducted a large concert choir, the Saint Andrew Chorale, in several major works with orchestra annually. In addition to his teaching at Curtis and Juilliard, he served Westminster Choir College, Union Theological Seminary, and the Manhattan School of Music. He wrote numerous articles for organ and church music magazines and served as President of the Presbyterian Association of Musicians.

Dr. Weaver was active as a concert organist since coming under management in 1959. He has played throughout the U.S.A., Canada, Western Europe, the United Kingdom, and Brazil. His wife, Marianne,

an excellent flautist, frequently performed with him. John appeared on national television and radio network programs in the U.S. and Germany. He made several concerto appearances with the Portland Symphony (Maine), the Musica Sacra Orchestra, and the Harrisburg Symphony. John played solo recitals at numerous regional and national conventions of the American Guild of Organists as well as the 1987 International Congress of Organists in Cambridge, England. He was a guest artist with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center at Alice Tully Hall and the Kennedy Center, and played solo recitals at Boston Symphony Hall, Alice Tully Hall, the Philadelphia Academy of Music, Chicago's Orchestra Hall, and Cleveland's Severance Hall, as well as colleges, cathedrals and churches through the United States.

John made recordings for Aeolian-Skinner, Wicks Organ Company, Klais Orgelbau of Germany, the Schantz Organ Company, and the Pro Organo label. His most recent recording release, *The Organ and Choral music of John Weaver*, is available on the JAV label and features a program of his own organ and choral compositions. His published compositions for organ, chorus/organ and flute/organ are widely performed. In 1989 Dr. Weaver was honored by Peabody when he was presented with its Distinguished Alumni Award. He received honorary Doctor of Music degrees from Westminster College, New Wilmington, Pennsylvania, and from

Curtis. In October 2008 he was the recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award from Union Theological Seminary, and he was also elected to the Hall of Fame of his high school, Baltimore City College, the first classical musician to be so honored. The NYCAGO Chapter named him the International Performer of the Year in 2005.

***Requiescat in pace***

*(The above was adapted from the biographical information from Karen McFarlane Artists, Inc.)*

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***News from HQ***

**AGO National Convention in Seattle**

The Seattle 2022 Workshops Committee invites applications for presentations at the AGO National Convention in Seattle, "The Well-Tempered Future," July 3–7, 2022. Proposals should consist of a single-page 250-word abstract summarizing the topic and the particular contribution the presenter plans to offer, including what audio-visual and/or musical equipment will be required.

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***Introducing Our Members***

***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 !***

- |                       |          |  |   |
|-----------------------|----------|--|---|
| Apr. 24 <sup>th</sup> | 11:30 AM | Martin Welzel, Organ   | St. Margaret, Munich (D)                  |
|                       |          | Durufié (Toccata), Whitlock, and Baker (Deux Evocations)   |   |
| May 7 <sup>th</sup>   |          | Katelyn Emerson, Organ   | Merrill Auditorium, Portland, Maine (USA) |
|                       |          | "Heroes and Heroines: A Mother's Day Concert"  |   |
|                       |          | Works by R. Laurin (Étude Héroïque), Joseph Jongen (Sonata Eroïca), Florence Price, Edward Elgar, Louis Vierne, Charles Tournemire, and César Franck (See Members' News) |   |

May 16 <sup>th</sup>		Katelyn Emerson, Organ	St. Peter's Catholic Church & Basilica of St. John the Baptist, Canton, Ohio (USA)
June 10 <sup>th</sup>	8 PM	Axel Wilberg, Organ	Basilica, Steinfeld (D)
July 4 <sup>th</sup>		Alissa Duryee, Organ	Conches sur Ouche, Normandy (F)
July 10 <sup>th</sup>	8 PM	Bernard Sanders, Organ	St. Peter & St. James the Great, Nendingen (D)
		CD-Presentation Concert "Intrada" / 10 <sup>th</sup> Birthday of the Jäger & Brommer Organ	
July 11 <sup>th</sup>	4 PM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ	Basilika St. Aposteln, Köln (D)
July 23 <sup>rd</sup>	6 PM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ	St. Franziskus, Muenchen (D)
July 25 <sup>th</sup>	4 PM	Katelyn Emerson, Organ	Cathedral, Uppsala (Sweden)
July 26 <sup>th</sup>	5 PM	Martin Welzel, Organ	Cathedral, Munich (D)
		Demessieux (Te Deum op. 11), Baker, Whitlock, and Duruflé (Suite op. 5)	
July 31 <sup>st</sup>	7 PM	Katelyn Emerson, Organ	Church of St John the Evangelist, London (UK)
Aug. 1 <sup>st</sup>	7 PM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ	Mariakyrkan, Helsingborg (Sweden)
Aug. 2-6		Katelyn Emerson, Organ	Portland, Maine (USA)
		"Bach Virtuosi Festival"	
Aug. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	8 PM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ	Vor Frelsers Kirke, Copenaghen (DK)
Aug. 8 <sup>th</sup>	7 PM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ	Kirke, Lillehammer (Norway)
Aug. 21 <sup>st</sup>	11:30 AM	Axel Wilberg, Organ	St. Joseph, Wuppertal (D)
Sept. 19 <sup>th</sup>	5 PM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ	Dreifaltigkeitskirche, Gräfenhain (D)
Sept. 19 <sup>th</sup>	4 PM	Katelyn Emerson, Organ	Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, NJ (USA)
Sept. 26 <sup>th</sup>	7 PM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ	St. Petrus Kirche, Gau-Bischofsheim (D)
Oct. 1 <sup>st</sup>		Katelyn Emerson, Organ	St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, Chatham, MA (USA)
Oct. 9 <sup>th</sup>	11 AM	Giorgio Parolini, Organ	Cathedral, Luxembourg (Lux)
		The Influence of Italian Music on J. S. Bach	
Dec. 18 <sup>th</sup>	11:30 AM	Axel Wilberg, Organ	St. Lambertus, Erkelenz (D)

Every Saturday (11:30)	Organ Music at Market Time	Marktkirche, Wiesbaden (D)
	Hans Uwe Hielscher and guest organists from around the world	

