



# The American Guild of **ORGANISTS**

*European Chapter*

**NEWSLETTER**  
First Quarter  
2024



## The Dean's Corner

Dear European Chapter Members,

With the hustle and bustle of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany now behind us, I imagine the church musicians among you exhaling a sigh of relief. Hopefully, your seamlessly unfolded musical endeavors brought the hoped-for results during this busy period. I hope you meanwhile managed to carve out some time for repose, relaxation, and time for your loved ones.

Fortunately, in a time marked by rapid change, the enduring tradition of extending wishes for a happy new year persists. May we stay committed to organs and organ music, and may our shared passion inspire us and those around us in the coming year!

The plans for the upcoming Spring Meeting, titled "Dutch Treat III," scheduled to take place in the Netherlands from April 1 to 6, 2024, appear exceptionally promising. Regular updates from Judy and Wim allow me to witness the meticulous shaping of this event - a perspective I hold in high regard. Exactly two decades ago, Dutch Treat II, also orchestrated by Judy, marked my inaugural participation in a Spring Meeting. It was an unforgettable experience, of which I still have great memories!

It is fascinating to hear from Judy and Wim how the role of church buildings and organists in the public domain has evolved over these 20 years and how this requires a different approach.

While we eagerly anticipate the prospect of meeting in person, this Newsletter serves as a means to bring us closer together. If details about your upcoming recitals are absent from this newsletter, please consider sharing them from now on. It fosters a sense of community, dispersed as we live and work across two continents.

Hope to meet you soon in person!  
Johan

## The Board

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Johan Hermans

**Sub-Dean:**

Giorgio Parolini

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**Treasurer and Membership Coordinator:**

Ludo Vandersmissen

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Bernard Sanders

Axel Wilberg

Katelyn Emerson

Contact details for office-bearers may be found on our web page (<https://www.agoeurope.eu>). Email sent to the address [board\[at\]agoeurope.eu](mailto:board[at]agoeurope.eu) will reach the entire board.

Cover photo: Over 280 years old and still the tallest organ case in the world: the Christian Müller organ in Haarlem.

## News from Chapter Members

During Lent **Bernard Sanders** will once again perform his own “Stations of the Cross” for organ solo in concerts in Trossingen (March 17th) and on Palm Sunday (March 24th) in the Abbey Church of Beuron (Baden Wuerttemberg, Germany). The cycle is a musical depiction of the 14 stations in a series of 7 Preludes and Fugues. Parallel to the music, pictures of the stained glass windows in the church of Mary Queen, Tuttlingen, designed by Wilhelm Geyer, will be projected onto a screen in the front of the church. After his premier performance in 2021 Reiner Schulte recorded the entire cycle on the Kreis organ (1997) in the catholic church of Christ the King in Backnang and put it on YouTube, where it can still be accessed:

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

The “Stations of the Cross” (2020) and Selected Organ Works Volume 2, which includes the “Magnificat Versets” (2019), “St. Clare of Assisi” (2019), “Zacchaeus the Tax Collector” (2020), and Variants on Eventide (2021), are now available from the Christoph Dohr Verlag in Cologne.

Concordia Publishing House in St. Louis, Missouri, has accepted Sanders’ “Sojourn” for publication. Commissioned by Dr. Sharon L. Hettinger in memory of her late husband, “Sojourn” is comprised of four Chorale Preludes for organ solo encompassing the span of a lifetime: Childhood (“I am Jesus’ Little Lamb” / WEIL ICH JESU SCHÄFLEIN BIN), Adulthood (“Thy Way and All Thy Sorrows” / BEFIEHL DU DEINE WEGE), Autumn of Life (“Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me” / SO NIMM DENN MEINE HÄNDE), and Resurrection (“Awake, My Heart, with Gladness” / AUF, AUF, MEIN HERZ MIT FREUDEN). The collection will be released next year.

**Helen van Abbema Rodgers** writes: “In October 2023 I retired from St James Episcopal Fairhope, Alabama where I was Music Director for 30 plus years and played the mighty Schlickerama that we purchased from Plymouth Congregational, Lincoln Nebraska in 1997. I am now music director of St Paul’s Episcopal in Foley, Al, a much smaller parish. We eagerly await Noack Opus 170 Spring 2025!”



Anders Borjesson hosted the American organist David Furniss in Sweden.

He reports:



“During his late summer tour to Ireland, Sweden, and Spain, American organist David Furniss played a concert at the Mariestad Domkyrka in Mariestad, Sweden. His program included a variety of music from several countries, including works by Mexican and American composers. Host organist Anders Börjesson is shown in the photo with Mr. Furniss at the organ console. While in Gothenburg, he had the privilege of playing several different organs, including the relatively new organ at the Gothenburg Concert Hall, as shown in the photo. In addition to attending several organ concerts at the Organ Festival in Granada, Spain, he played in a master class with instructor Pieter Dirksen. Mr. Furniss has returned to his second home in Oaxaca, Mexico, where he occasionally plays concerts on historic pipe organs.”

**Gabriel Dessauer** will attend the National Convention in San Francisco in July / August and give a recital in St Mary’s cathedral a few days later.

**Judy Riefel-Lindel** will rejoin the board, at least for a while. Both our Dean Johan Hermans and Membership Coordinator Ludo Vandersmissen are considerably occupied with the health issues of their wives. Judy will help to keep things on an even keel in this difficult time.

**Christa Rakich** has 4 chorale preludes recently published by Oxford University Press. They are based on hymn tunes Melita, Faithfulness, Hendon, and O Quanta Qualia (dedicated to fellow chapter member Tom Bailey). They will appear in the series "Oxford Hymn Settings for Organists."

After two years of teaching at the conservatoire in Udine, **Giorgio Parolini** has taken up a new position as Professor at the *Conservatorio "Niccolò Paganini"* in Genua. He is glad to be closer to home and excited about the challenges posed by teaching a very young class, many of whom are quite new to the organ! Giorgio’s new CD with music by Grimoaldo Macchia has been well received internationally. Read the *American Organist’s* review of it here:

<https://www.giorgioparolini.com/2023/08/31/recensione-del-cd-amazing-grace-the-american-organist-agosto-2023/?lang=en>

The next Newsletter will appear at the end of April and will include the report on the Spring Meeting. Please submit all information, concert listings etc by 15th April.

## Spring Meeting - last call!

There are still a few days left to run before the deadline for registration for the event of the year! If you haven't registered yet, be sure to do so by the 31st January.

We have circulated all the necessary information a few times now, but would like to reiterate at least some of the most important points.

The city of Leeuwarden in the Province of Friesland, will be our central gathering point for the Spring Meeting. Our designated Spring Meeting Hotel is in the city center of Leeuwarden -- Fletcher Hotel-Palais Stadhouders Hof. Registration and our Opening Dinner will take place at this hotel on Easter Monday, April 1st. Hotel details can be found at the end of this itinerary overview. Also, our tour bus will depart from this hotel every morning, Tuesday-Friday, to take us to our destinations.

### **ITINERARY** *slightly updated!*

#### Monday, April 1, 2024: Leeuwarden, Friesland

Registration: 4:00-6:00 pm Fletcher Hotel-Palais Stadhouders Hof;

Opening Dinner: 7:00 pm at the same hotel

#### Tuesday, April 2, 2024: Province of Friesland

Harlingen, Grote Kerk (Great Church): 1776 organ by Albertus Antoni Hinsz, two manuals, pedal, 14 stops

Leeuwarden: Grote of Jacobijner Kerk (Great or Jacobinus Church): 1724/1727 organ by Christian Müller, three manuals, pedal, 37 stops

Waalse Kerk: 1740 organ by Johann Michael Schwartzburg, two manuals, attached pedal  
Organ demonstrations by Peter van der Zwaag

#### Wednesday, April 3, 2024: Loppersum and Groningen, Province of Groningen

Loppersum, Petrus en Pauluskerk: 1735 organ by Hinsz, 1803 Rückpositiv added by Freytag, 2018/2019 restoration by Bakker & Timmega, 2 manuals, attached pedal. Demonstration by Stef Tuinstra.

Groningen: Martini Church: 1691/1730 organ by Arp Schnitger/Hinsz, 3 manuals, pedal, 53 stops. Organ demonstration by Sietze de Vries

Aa-Kerk: 1700/1815 organ by Arp Schnitger and Timpe, 3 manuals, Pedal, 33 stops. Organ demonstration by Peter Westerbrink

#### Thursday, April 4, 2024: Haarlem and Alkmaar, Province of North Holland

Haarlem, Grote of St. Bavokerk (Great or St. Bavo Church): 1738 organ by Christian Müller, 3

manuals, pedal, 64 stops. Organ demonstration by Anton Pauw

Alkmaar, Grote Sint Laurenskerk: 1645 organ by Hagebeer/Schnitger, 3 manuals, pedal, 55 stops

1511 organ by van Covelen, 2 manuals, pedal, 13 stops (oldest organ in the Netherlands). Organ demonstrations by Pieter van Dijk

Friday, April 5, 2024: Zutphen and Doesburg, Province of Gelderland

Zutphen, Sint Walburgis Kerk: 1643/1815, organ by Bader/Timpe, 3 manuals, pedal, 38 stops

Doesburg, Grote Martini Kerk: 1916 organ by Walcker, 4 manuals, pedal, 75 stops. Organ demonstration by Wilbert Berendsen

Carillon concert by our members Georg Wagner and Ariane Toffel

Closing Dinner

Our Spring Meeting Hotel is the

Fletcher Hotel-Paleis Stadhoudershof,  
Hofplein 29, 8911 HJ Leeuwarden, Netherlands.

Tel: +31 (0) 58 216 2180, email: [sales@hotelstadhouderlijkhof.nl](mailto:sales@hotelstadhouderlijkhof.nl)

We hope you will be pleased to stay in this former 18th century palace of the Dutch royal family, which has retained the allure of a palace while offering its guests recently renovated hotel rooms as well as traditional accommodations, not yet renovated, such as the Royal Suite and Imperial Suite.

Important Hotel reservation information

Each participant will be expected to make his/her own reservation at the hotel for the Spring Meeting, 1-6 April 2024. The hotel staff has shown a friendly, helpful and accommodating attitude toward making our visit as pleasant as possible. The hotel has offered us a group rate for selected rooms that are often reserved for groups for an extended stay. These rooms are located on 3-4 floors in what used to be the "Hofschool" of the palace and were totally renovated four years ago.

Please note that the email address to be used for making bookings has been amended (this was also communicated in an email to the membership some weeks ago). You may also make bookings by telephone. Please do *not* use internet booking engines!

Two types of rooms are being offered with a group discount:

Comfort Double room with private bathroom/shower

Comfort Double room with private bathroom with bathtub/ shower

Price for a Single room (one of the Comfort Double rooms) on the basis of 1 adult per room is 90 Euros per night. Price for a Double room on the basis of 2 adults per room is 100 Euros per night.

These rates include a full buffet breakfast and exclude a tax and handling fee of 3 Euros per per-

son per night.

Also, there is a 3rd category of rooms in the former Hofschool that are not included in the group rate above:

The Double Comfort Deluxe room. This room is what the hotel describes as a large, authentic “attic” room on the 4th floor of the former Hofschool. There is definitely room for another bed to be placed in the room for an additional fee. Four occupants would be allowed to stay in this room. The hotel has said it would also give a discount (smaller than the group discount due to the larger size of the room) to our participants for this type of room. If you are interested in this room you should ask the hotel upon booking what rate they are willing to offer, being sure to mention that you are part of the American Guild of Organists group.

Useful information: There are several elevators in the hotel, so all of the rooms are accessible to everyone. On the ground floor, there are some steps (3-4) now and then in the hallways.

Feel free to communicate any particular needs/wishes

Group rate extension: If you want to reserve more nights before or after our Spring Meeting, 1-6 April, our contact person at the hotel, Laura de Groot (Banquet sales/Fletcher Hotels,) has told us that the group rate may be applied. Also, hotel reservations may cancelled up to one week before the Meeting. Please check on this when you make your reservation.

As several factors influence the cost of attendance at the Spring Meeting, which are largely dependant on the number of participants, we can only communicate this in March.

PLEASE, if you have any questions concerning the Spring Meeting “Dutch Treat III” in the Netherlands, don’t hesitate to write to organizer Judy Riefel-Lindel at [Judith.riefel-lindel@outlook.com](mailto:Judith.riefel-lindel@outlook.com).



## Recitals by Chapter Members

- Sun. 7<sup>th</sup> January, 4 pm  
Katelyn Emerson  
Christ Church Episcopal, Las Vegas  
*Charles-Marie Widor, Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck, Leo Sowerby, Rachel Laurin, Edward Bairstow, and Maurice Duruflé*
- Mon. 15<sup>th</sup> January, 1 pm  
Katelyn Emerson  
Huddersfield Town Hall, UK  
*Alexandre-Pierre-François Boëly, Leo Sowerby, Marco Enrico Bossi, Rachel Laurin, and Charles-Marie Widor*
- Sat. 20<sup>th</sup> January, 5 pm  
Giorgio Parolini  
Duomo, Monza, Italy
- Sun. 21<sup>st</sup> January, 3:30 pm  
Katelyn Emerson  
Christ Church Cathedral, Nashville, Tennessee  
*Nicolas de Grigny, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Max Reger, Walter Alcock, Rachel Laurin, Leo Sowerby, and Maurice Duruflé*
- Sat. 27<sup>th</sup> January, 6 pm  
Katelyn Emerson  
Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, London, UK  
*Walter Alcock, Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Alexandre-Pierre-François Boëly, Rachel Laurin, Camille Saint-Saëns, Leo Sowerby, and Max Reger*
- Sat. 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 6 pm  
Katelyn Emerson  
Peterhouse Chapel, Cambridge, UK  
*Dieterich Buxtehude, Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck, John Stanley, Franz Danksagmüller, Josef Rheinberger, Juan Cabanilles, and Johann Sebastian Bach*
- Sun. 11<sup>th</sup> February, 6 pm  
Katelyn Emerson  
St John's College Chapel, Cambridge, UK  
*Walter Alcock, Jean Langlais, and Edward Bairstow*
- Wed. 21<sup>st</sup> February, 12:30 pm  
Katelyn Emerson  
Trinity College Chapel, Cambridge, UK  
*Nicolas de Grigny, Johann Sebastian Bach, Jean Langlais, and Josef Rheinberger*
- Mon. 26<sup>th</sup> February, 5:30 pm  
Katelyn Emerson  
Magdalen College Chapel, Oxford, UK  
*Rachel Laurin, Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck, Juan Cabanilles, Charles Tournemire, Edward Bairstow, and Franz Liszt*
- Mon. 4<sup>th</sup> March, 1 pm  
Katelyn Emerson  
Reading Town Hall, UK  
*Charles-Marie Widor, Leo Sowerby, Rachel Laurin, and Percy Whitlock*
- Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> March, 5 pm  
Barry Jordan  
Abtei Marienberg, Helmstedt, Germany  
*Bach, Brahms, Forchhammer, Sanders, Reger*
- Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> April, 7 pm  
Katelyn Emerson  
St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Evanston, Illinois
- Sun. 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2 pm  
Katelyn Emerson  
Cadet Chapel, West Point, New York
- Sun. 21<sup>st</sup> April, 7:30 pm  
Katelyn Emerson  
First United Lutheran Church, Dallas, Texas
- Sun. 28<sup>th</sup> April, 5 pm  
Gabriel Dessauer  
Pfarrkirche St. Joseph, Tutzing, Germany

Sun. 28th April, 7 pm	Katelyn Emerson St. Reinoldi, Dortmund, Germany
Sun. 5th May, 5 pm	Barry Jordan Klosterkirche, Hillersleben, Germany
Sun. 5th May, 6 pm	Giorgio Parolini Olaus Petri Kyrka, Örebro, Sweden
Sat. 11th May, 6 pm	Gabriel Dessauer Lutherische Pfarrkirche, Marburg, Germany
Sun. 12th May, 5 pm	Barry Jordan St Laurentiuskirche, Loburg, Germany
Wed. 22nd May, 7 pm	Barry Jordan St Jakobikirche, Stralsund, Germany
Mon. 10th June, 8 pm	Giorgio Parolini Evangelische Kirche, Pfungstadt, Germany
Sun. 7th July, 4 pm	Gabriel Dessauer St. Mary's Cathedral, San Francisco
Sat. 27th July, 12.05 pm	Gabriel Dessauer Dreifaltigkeitskirche, Worms, Germany
Sun. 18th August, 6 pm	Barry Jordan Kirche St. Peter Paul, Niederndodeleben, Germany
Sat. 24th August, 12 noon	Gabriel Dessauer St. Michaelis, Hamburg, Germany
Sat. 7th September, 12.05 pm	Gabriel Dessauer Dom, Mainz, Germany English organ music
Sat. 24th August, 5 pm	Barry Jordan St Annen, Annaberg-Buchholz, Germany
Sun. 1st September, 11 am	Barry Jordan St Engelbert, St Ingbert, Germany
Sun. 15th September, nT	Gabriel Dessauer St. Nikolaus, Bergen-Enkheim
Sun. 22nd September, 5 pm	Barry Jordan Gräfenhain, Germany
Sun. 6th October, 4pm	Barry Jordan Cathedral St Sebastian, Magdeburg, Germany
Sat. 14th December, nT	Barry Jordan Cathedral, Turku, Finland Messiaen, Livre du Saint Sacrament

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