Bonjour!
Hi everyone. Spring is about to appear in my neck of the woods, which means that France can’t be far behind!

Here is the next installment of news.

Business

(1) Payments
A final reminder that your last payment is now due. If you haven’t yet sent in your final check to Dave Rhodes, please do so as soon as possible. The total cost for the three different categories of tour members is as follows:

Friends: $3100
Alumni: $2500
Students: $1447

(2) Please be sure to send me your travel itinerary. I’d like to have all itineraries in hand by April 15 if at all possible. Please put “travel itinerary” in the subject line of your email. Although both I and Dave have several in
hand, I actually wouldn’t mind if everyone could do this with this subject line – it would make it easy to locate all of them – thanks.

(3) Early Arrivals

It sounds like quite a few of you are planning to arrive in Lyon the day before the tour begins. The Mercure Hotel seems to be giving people the tour rate the previous night if they let them know that they are with the R&R travel group. I have an invitation for you. I will be in the lobby of the Mercure Hotel at 7:00 on Tuesday evening, May 20th. Feel free to join me there and we can find a place to go and share a meal together to begin to get to know one another. This is not a requirement, just an opportunity.

Some opportunities you might like to take advantage of if you arrive early:

- Visit the Cathédrale Saint Jean-Baptiste – the two organs you will see there are an old Daublaine and Callinet installed in 1841 rebuilt in 1875 by Merklin; and a 1974 Ahrend that was originally at Taizé (where I have heard it in the past)
- Visit the Musee de Confluences – this should be a real winner – it just opened this winter – fantastic architecture, at the juncture of the Rhône and the Saône rivers
- Visit the Textile Museum: MUSEE DES TISSUS ET MUSEE DES ARTS DECORATIFS 34 rue de la Charité F-69002 Lyon
- Visit the Printing Museum to learn about the history of kindle – sorry, book-making

(4) Day One – May 21st

On the 21st we will plan to visit the Musee Gallo-Romains to get a taste of the Roman culture that was such a prominent part of the history of Southeastern France. We will also stop by the Basilica Notre-Dame de Fourvière. Knowing these details may help you to plan your personal time in Lyon if you are arriving early. I’ll have more details about when and where to meet and our schedule in a later newsletter.

(5) Organ Repertoire

One additional thought regarding repertoire: Movements from the Langlais Suites would be excellent choices for the French symphonic organs.

(6) I will be sending out medical release forms to everyone soon. These are required by KU. Please return them to me by May 1st.
(7) Language
   You may want to bring a phrase book for simple French phrases. Occasionally a French person will appreciate you making an effort, others will respond directly in English as soon as you attempt any French, and some don't want you to do it unless you can do better than butchering the language. As in any country, you will run into all kinds of reactions.

(8) Photography
   We would like to create a collection of photographs featuring the organs, churches, and cities we will visit. This is partly for personal enjoyment and partly for future use in classroom instruction and other professional purposes. We will post some pictures on our web site as they become available for people to download after the tour. We will also have a chance to share pictures at the post-tour party at the Bauer party house!

(9) Recording
   I would encourage you to take along audio or video recording devices if at all possible. These will enhance your memories of particular instruments substantially.

(10) Tour Handout
   As those of you who have been on past tours will remember, I always produce a fairly substantial tour handout for your use while you are there. I am working on this again this year. It will include a day-to-day schedule with organ specs, registration guides, information about the history of the cities, churches, and instruments we will see. Sometimes in the past I have packed hard copies of all of these and taken them with me to distribute at our opening meeting. That was when I was young and stupid. Now that I am older and wiser, I will get this to you in an electronic format and have you download and print your own copy to take with you. This, however, will undoubtedly overwhelm many of your email accounts, so I may end up sending it to you on a disc. I’m still working through this issue. I’ll keep you posted on this.

Featured Tour Members of the Day

Dean and Orene Schoenfeld
Dean and Orene Schoenfeld have been church and civic choral members for over 40 years. Dean is a professional engineer, retired from the University of Florida, but still consulting part time. Orene is retired from 31 years as an obstetrician-gynecologist, and her retirement interest has been the study of the pipe organ. Both were involved in the planning and installation of the Opus 119 Fisk organ 11 years ago. Our recent interest in KU is through Shawn Thomas who spent many hours in our home while he was obtaining his masters degree in organ at UF. Our strong interest and appreciation of the music of our heritage makes us eagerly looking forward to hearing and seeing the French historic organs.

Mary Ellen Sutton

Mary Ellen Sutton received her DMA from KU in 1975 with Dr. James Moeser as major professor. Her document for the degree was on Iberian Organ Batallas which some grad students may have encountered during their studies at KU.

She taught at Missouri Valley College from 1968 to 1973, was in residency at KU 73-74, and joined the music faculty of Kansas State University in 1974, retiring as Professor of Organ in 2010. She was a staff organist at the Community of Christ Auditorium (formerly RLDS) for nine years, giving weekly half hour organ recitals for six of those years. In Manhattan, she is currently sharing the organist position at First Congregational Church of Christ. She was organist at First United Methodist Church (1977-2013) and First Presbyterian Church for two years.

Interests outside of music includes sports, following the teams of the BIG XII, KC Chiefs, KC Royals, and the Oklahoma City Thunder. Her musical interests include harpsichord and clavichord repertoire, church music, and the music of Max Reger. After being on the KU Organ Study Tour of North Germany, I am looking forward to this tour of Southern France.
Valerie Hess
This is my third organ tour with KU and I am very much looking forward to it. I work as Coordinator of Music Ministries at Trinity Lutheran Church in Boulder, Colorado. I also teach an online course in the Master of Arts in Spiritual Formation and Leadership at Spring Arbor University. In addition, I write books and do workshops/retreats based on the spiritual disciplines. I am an avid American-style Mah Jongg player. John and I live in his childhood home located in a National Landmark Historic district, the only remaining Chautauqua west of the Mississippi. We have two daughters, one in Fairbanks, Alaska and one in Missoula, Montana.

John Hess
Missed the German trip, still savoring the Italy trip, and looking forward to this trip. Husband of Valerie, appreciative of organ music, always content when wandering and even getting lost in neighborhoods, attentive to historic preservation, and a pastor on staff at First Pres, Boulder.

Walking
Yea, yea, yea – I know you’ve heard it all before, but I’ll keep up the reminder – especially as the weather gets nicer, take yourself out for a walk as often as you can. You won’t be sorry.

French word or phrase of the day:
Où est la toilette? Self-explanatory - This is always a critically important phrase when you get off the bus.

Featured Web Sites of the Day
The great Cavaillé-Coll at St. Sernin, Toulouse will be one of the highlights of our trip. In this case the church and the organ are both equally important in their own right. The church is one of the renowned Romanesque churches in the world, while the organ is widely regarded as one of Cavaillé-Coll’s finest instruments.

For web sites about the church, see:
http://www.sacred-destinations.com/france/toulouse-st-sernin
https://www.bluffton.edu/~sullivanm/france/toulouse/saintserninext/saintsernin.html
http://www.fischerarthistory.com/st-sernin.html

For web sites featuring the organ, see http://www.basilique-saint-sernin.fr/site/grandes-orgues/saint-sernin/orgue.htm - although the text is in French, this is a wonderful video with Michel Bouvard at the console of St. Sernin, I think you’ll really enjoy it. He will be with us for our evening visit when we arrive at the church.

Also – see Kimberly Marshall playing the first movement of the Widow 6th Symphony at St. Sernin in this video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ypY4dL7PZXk

Happy viewing.

**Days Until We Depart: 54**

Until next time…

Au revoir,
Michael Bauer