JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

• Enjoy one of Europe’s most scenic and charming destinations
• Explore the incredibly rich and important French organ culture
• Visit instrumental masterpieces in their exquisite architectural settings
• Experience the transformation of French organ music from Baroque to Modern
• Delight in hands-on opportunities with instruments totally unlike any in the United States
• Interact with recitalists, teachers, curators, historians and organ students
• Savor delicious cuisine and fine wines

A SPRINGTIME ORGAN TOUR IN FRANCE

with Minnesota Public Radio’s PIPEDREAMS® host J. Michael Barone and Dr. Jesse Eschbach (North Texas University, Denton)

May 9-21 2004
The French Organ Art is both marvelous and mysterious. Marvelous are the poetic pages of Couperin, the sonorous symphonies by Widor, or the fantastic evocations of Tournemire. Mysterious is the impact of French music and instruments in rooms rich with resonance.

Join me and my colleague, Dr. Jesse Eschbach, a noted French Organ specialist, for intimate visits to incredible pipe organs from the 17th through 20th centuries built by Clicquot, Cavaillé-Coll, Mutin, Quoirin, Gonzalez, Kern, Lefevre and others. Hear and play works by Grigny, Franck, Guilmant, Messiaen and Langlais on organs which "speak the language." Visit with local musicians, enjoy historic spaces, and absorb French culture and cuisine.

Master builder Aristide Cavaillé-Coll (1811-1899) established his reputation in 1841 with his very first installation at the Basilica of St. Denis. He went on to dominate the French organ scene, making organs for many of France's most famous cathedrals and concert rooms, but he also built modest instruments for parish churches and choral accompaniment. Cavaillé-Coll organs differed from, yet still honored, the work of previous generations, a point made clear when we listen to 18th and 19th century instruments by Villers, Deslandes, Clicquot and Leverasse. How later French builders grappled with 'internationalism' and evolved their own attitudes towards contemporary style will be evident in 20th century instruments by Gonzales, Kern, Quoirin, Aubertin and Boisseau.

Many French churches are important destinations, but while most tourists in Beauvais or Chartres or Soissons see mute organ pipes as visual artifacts in an architectural setting, for us those pipes will speak and those ornate cases…and rooms…will come alive.

A sampler of instruments we'll visit during this tour is available online at www.pipedreams.org. Don't stop there. A picture, or even a sound bite, may be worth a thousand words, but seeing and hearing the real thing will leave you speechless. Save your voice by joining us for a memorable experience. Worry over how to tell your friends about it later!

Michael Barone

DAILY ITINERARY

May 9, Saturday Depart U.S.
We depart the United States this evening for our overnight flight to Paris. Meals and beverages are served in-flight. (D in-flight)

May 10, Monday Arrive Paris/Reims
After meeting our French guide and boarding our coach, we'll travel to the historic Cathédrale St-Gervais et St-Protais de Soissons, an imposing 12th and 13th century building, home to one of the more important neo-classical French pipe organs, a 1956 Gonzalez, the favorite instrument of Maurice Duruflé upon which he and his wife recorded the complete works of Bach. Youthful cathedral organist Olivier Vernet will demonstrate the instrument, and then join us for a visit to the 19th century Didier organ of 55 stops at the ornate Cathédrale Notre Dame de Laon, 'flagship' of the northern early gothic style. Afterwards, we continue on to the Hôtel Mercure Tour Eiffel Suffren in Paris. We are exploring the possibility of an evening at the Opéra…Verdi’s Il Trovatore…this one’s Dutch treat, or you may have the evening to yourself. (B)

May 11, Tuesday Reims
A full day of adventure south of Reims will take us to two fine examples of recent French organ-building (the 1991 Westenfelder organ of 33 stops at the Eglise Ste Macre in Fère-en-Tardenois, and the 1996 Aubertin of 33 stops at l'Eglise St. Martin in Vertus), as well as some important recent restorations of 17th and 18th century organs in Juvingy and Vraux. We round out the day at the 34-stop 1869 Cavaillé-Coll organ in Eglise Notre Dame d'Epemay. Since this is wine country, along the way we'll sample the wines of a local champagne vineyard. Our local hosts will suggest some excellent restaurants for your individual evening dining. (B)

May 12, Wednesday Reims/Rouen
We head west in the direction of the Normand city of Rouen, visiting the immense Cathédrale St. Pierre de Beauvais with its famous 1979 Danion-Gonzalez organ of 77 stops (featured in many recordings by Susan Landale). We continue on to Rouen for overnight; first exploring the modest 15-stop Cavaillé-Coll organ at l'Eglise St. Gervais. Olivier Latry is the resident musician, and we will attend one of his concerts. In a nearby restaurant, we'll eat dinner as a group this evening. (B, D)

May 13, Thursday Rouen/Caen
Our morning destination is the 64-stop Cavaillé-Coll instrument at l'Eglise St. Ouen in Rouen, termed the Michelangelo of organs for reasons which will be quite clear. Its incredible, monumental iconic and sonic presence in this immense former abbey church will lodge irreducibly in your memory. Resident musician Mme Marie-Andrée Morisset-Balier will demonstrate the instrument and a select few lucky people may be able to play it, too. After St. Ouen, we explore some additional organs in the city, including a recent historic rebuild. In Poitiers, we hope to visit the 1997 Boisseau-Caballiaux at l'Eglise Ste. Radegonde, the 1994 Severe at St-Hilaire le Grand, and, after supper, spend an evening with the breath-taking 1790 Clicquot in the Cathedral, one of the landmark instruments of the French High Baroque. We overnight at the Hôtel Best Western le Bois de la Marche. (B, D)

May 14, Friday Caen/Poitiers
We drive the direction of Poitiers, visiting briefly in Le Mans (sorry, no races scheduled) and the Pryzma bey Mila in La Flèche, where the 1640 Lavasseur organ has enjoyed a recent historic rebuild. In Poitiers, we hope to visit the 1997 Boisseau-Caballiaux at l'Eglise Ste. Radegonde, the 1994 Severe at St-Hilaire le Grand, and, after supper, spend an evening with the breath-taking 1790 Clicquot in the Cathedral, one of the landmark instruments of the French High Baroque. We overnight at the Hôtel Best Western le Bois de la Marche. (B, D)

May 15, Saturday Poitiers/Paris
Our busy day takes us to Tours, where Olivier Vernet will demonstrate the 1997 Kern organ at Cathédrale Saint-Gatien. Then onward to la Cathédrale du Ste-Croix in Orléans (1880 Cavaillé-Coll), and the successful mongrel instrument (with components from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries) at l’Eglise St-Salomon-St Grégoire in Pithiviers, with our evening destination the Hôtel Mercure Tour Eiffel Suffren in Paris. We are exploring the possibility of an evening at the Opéra…Verdi’s Il Trovatore…this one’s Dutch treat, or you may have the evening to yourself. (B)

May 16, Sunday Paris
Today is a mostly ‘free day’ in Paris, so that you may explore museums and gardens and general sights to your heart’s content. We’ll provide you with suggestions and a day-long pass for the Metro. Morning church services are recommended (we’ll have a list, and directions), as well as various afternoon concerts. Though some of us have some ideas where we’ll end up, we didn’t want to cramp your style (but you can tag along, if you wish). Again, lunch and dinner are on your own. (B)

May 17, Monday Paris
This morning, via Metro, we visit the Cathédrale Notre Dame for a private introduction to the very famous organ by one of its three ‘resident musicians,’ Olivier Latry. I believe that the Notre Dame organ now
May 18, Tuesday  Paris
Again in the company of Olivier Labry, and using our trusty Métro passes, we visit an Organ Class at the Paris Conservatory, hear a student performance and talk with some of the "hot young talents" whose names may soon be connected with important prizes, positions and international recital careers. In the afternoon, Daniel Roth will introduce us to the 5-manual, 102-stop Cavaillé-Coll organ at l'Eglise St Sulpice (where Widor and Dupré presided, between them, for a centu-

YOUR TOUR HOSTS

JESSE ESCHBACH (specialist guide) is chair for keyboard studies at the University of North Texas in Denton, where he has been a faculty member since 1986. Eschbach earned a DMA from the University of Michigan as a student of Robert Glasgow. His bachelor's and master's degrees are from Indiana University where he was a student of Oswald Ragatz.

Eschbach studied early French music and the works of Jehan Alain with Marie-Claire Alain at the Conservatoire de Rueil-Malmaison, and received the "Prix d'Excellence" and the "Prix de Virtuosité" by unanimous jury. Following doctoral studies, Eschbach returned to France to study organ with Marie-Madeleine Duruflé and piano with Christiane Devos and to serve as organist/choirmaster at St. Michael’s English Church, Paris.

He has appeared as recitalist and lecturer throughout Europe and the United States. His CD of Franck and Guilmain is available on the Centaur label (www.centaurrecords.com), and a new CD, on the Cavaillé-Coll organ at Perpignan, has been issued by Raven Records (www.ravencd.com). With organbuilder Gene Bedient, Eschbach co-founded a Summer Institute for French Organ Studies which meets for two weeks in Souvigny and Lyon.

MICHAEL BARONE (tour host) is well known on the national public radio scene as host of Pipedreams and Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra broadcasts. In 2003 he celebrated his 35th anniversary with Minnesota Public Radio. He served as the system’s Music Director from 1968 through 1993 and continues as a Senior Executive Producer. His local Thursday night MPR broadcasts of The New Releases continue to delight listeners with the odd-ball repertoire and candid commentary.

Barone is a Pennsylvania native, a graduate (B.M. in Music History) of the Oberlin Conservatory in Ohio, and a nationally-known advocate for the pipe organ and its music. He has received special honors from the American Guild of Organists (AGO), the Organ Historical Society (OHS), the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP), and the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame for his contributions to the musical community at large and to organ music in particular.

RESERVATION APPLICATION

Dr. Mr. Mrs. Ms. ____________________________________________

Address___________________________________________________________

City__________________________________ State____ Zip ____________

Phone Day ( ) __________________ Evening ( ) __________

Roommate_________________________ Email __________________________

I/we have read and understand the conditions of this brochure.

Signature __________________________________________ Date __________

Signature __________________________________________ Date __________

COST SUMMARY

$3779

from Minneapolis/St Paul

Airport & departure taxes ($111) . . . . . . . . . . . . . Included

Tour gratuities ($50) . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Included

Single room supplement . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $829

very limited availability on request basis

A portion of your tour costs goes to support Pipedreams® and Minnesota Public Radio

The tour cost is per person based on current airfare from Minneapolis/St. Paul (other cities available), double occupancy, tariffs and currency valuations as of December 2003, a minimum of 25 travelers, and subject to confirmation. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed price and/or itinerary, they are subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. Single room supplements may have limited availability and are on a request basis only.

-May 19, Wednesday  Paris

We leave town to visit the Royal Chapel at Versailles, where the Clicquot organ has been reconstructed according to historic principals. You’ll have time to explore just a bit, and lunch on the grounds before we regroup with our coach to drive to the parish church in Houdon, where the modest 22-stop Clicquot instrument was ignored for many years and, amazingly, has come down to us in virtually original condition. What a sound it makes.

We’ll also enjoy a guided tour of the Cathédrale de Notre Dame at Chartres, famous for its architecture and windows and also site of an important organ competition. We’ll visit the cathedral’s modern instrument in its wonderful bat-wing Gothic case that clings to the side wall. Dinner is on your own (perhaps in Chartres). (B)
May 20, Thursday
Paris

Another variety-packed day, which includes playing the 1995 Quoirin organ at the Eglise St. Ferdinand in Ternes, the 1724 Deslandes organ in the quaint village of Rozay-en-Brie, and an amazing mighty-mite of an organ, the 12-stop Cavaillé-Coll-Mutin instrument at the Eglise de St. Esprit in Paris, where American organophile Kurt Lueders presides (this is an English-speaking church). We hope Kurt can join us for most of the day, and some additional surprises may be possible. We conclude with a festival group ‘farewell’ dinner at the Hôtel Mercure Tour Effel Suffren. (B, D)

May 21, Friday
Return to U.S.

All’s well that ends well, so prior to our afternoon flights home we’ll take an easy detour on our way to the airport to visit the very first organ built by Aristide Cavaillé-Coll in 1841 for the Basilique de St Denis, north of Paris. Cavaillé-Coll’s success with this installation guaranteed him important contracts, and he grew to become the most important organ builder of 19th century Europe. Titulaire Pierre Pincemaille will improvise an impressive demonstration so that our last memory of this tour will be authentic in every way. We depart St. Denis and proceed to Charles de Gaulle Airport for our return flight to the United States, arriving home the same day. (B, Meals in-flight)

TOUR INCLUSIONS
• Round-trip economy class airfare from Minneapolis/St. Paul via Northwest/KLM or other ARC/ATA approved scheduled carrier.
• Eleven nights accommodation in three and four star hotels, double occupancy, with private facilities. Hotels as listed or similar.
• Breakfast daily and seven dinners as outlined in the itinerary.
• Transfers and transportation by deluxe motorcoach throughout with the exception of May 16-18 when a Paris Métro Pass will be used and is included in the cost.
• Extensive sightseeing throughout; entrance fees included.
• Luggage handling of one piece per person.
• An experienced English-speaking tour guide from arrival in Paris through departure from Paris with the exception of May 16-18.
• Gratuités to drivers and guides (for your convenience, $50 per person has been included).
• Airport/foreign departure taxes (currently $111 per person).
• Comprehensive organ documentation plus flight bag, tag bag, name tags, flight and land itineraries, destination literature, customs information, travel tips and more.

Items Not Included
• Beverages other than coffee/tea at breakfast.
• Any meal or sightseeing item not listed in the itinerary.
• Items of a personal nature.
• Optional insurance for health, baggage, and trip cancellation/interruption is not included and highly recommended. GTD offers a competitive policy from an independent company.
• Passport fees. A passport valid six months beyond date of reentry to the U.S. is required.
• No visa is required for U.S. citizens; non-U.S. citizens may require a visa.

TOUR CONDITIONS

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: A deposit of $400 per person is required with reservation. Space is limited and early reservations are encouraged to secure a tour place. Final payment is due March 5, 2004.

REFUND POLICY: All cancellations must be in writing. There is no refund for partial or unused land arrangements. Note: Airline tickets will be issued well in advance prior to departure and may be nonrefundable. The following penalties will apply: Up to March 4, 2004 - $75 per person handling fee plus any unrecoverable deposits; March 5 - May 1, 2004 – Deposit plus any unrecoverable payments to hotels, tour operators or airlines; May 2, 2004 or after – No refund.

EXTENDING YOUR RETURN DATE TO THE USA: Some group airfares allow travelers to extend their return date beyond the group’s scheduled return, while other airfares are more restrictive. GTD will assist travelers wishing to extend their return within the restrictions of the airfares. Requests must be submitted in writing by January 30, 2004. A $50 per person change fee is applicable in addition to airline fees.

LATE BOOKINGS: Passengers registering within thirty days of tour departure will be charged a $50 per person fee. Tour payment in full is required before we can request and confirm space. This fee does not cover any additional airline or ground service charges.

For further information, contact

J. Michael Barone
Minnesota Public Radio
45 East 7th Street
St. Paul, MN 55101
Tel: 800-228-7123 or 651-290-1212
Email: mail@mpr.org
Website: www.mpr.org

Or
Group Travel Directors
2000 West 98th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55413-2593
Tel: 952-881-7811 or 800-747-2255
Fax: 952-881-6276
Email: groups@gtd.org
Website: www.gtd.org

CONDITIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Group Travel Directors (GTD) provides customized travel planning throughout the world for group travelers who have a variety of reasons and goals for travel. The goals and/or opinions of these groups do not reflect or imply the position of GTD in any matter. Brochure contents may not be duplicated without permission from GTD. Photo credits to James Cook, Birmingham-Southern College and www.concertorganists.com. In offering these travel arrangements, Group Travel Directors (GTD) provides no control over the personnel, equipment or operations of any entity furnishing services, products or accommodations. GTD assumes no responsibility or liability for, and shall not be expected, asked or required to pay for any injury, damage, expense, personal injury, property damage, inconvenience or any other loss experienced by reason of: (1) any intentional, wrongful, negligent or unauthorized act or omission on the part of any supplier, its agents or employees; (2) any defect, breakdown or other failure of any vehicle, equipment, service, product or other instrumentality which is owned, operated or otherwise used by a supplier; (3) any intentional, wrongful, negligent, or unauthorized act or omission on the part of any other party not under the direct control of GTD; (4) financial problems causing nonperformance by any supplier; or (5) any other cause, condition or event whatsoever beyond the direct control of GTD. GTD cannot guarantee any rates, bookings or reservations of any supplier. Your retention of tickets, reservations or bookings after issuance shall constitute a consent to the foregoing provisions. All prices quoted are subject to change if airlines or ground operators increase their prices, the U.S. dollar is devalued significantly against foreign currencies, the group falls below minimum numbers, or a fuel surcharge, government tax or user’s fee is imposed. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. GTD reserves the right to withdraw from any tour any tour member whose conduct is incompatible with the interests of the group as a whole. The above Conditions and Responsibility also includes Minnesota Public Radio and J. Michael Barone.