

ORGAN COURSE

ORGUES ET CIMES 2010

from July 25 th to August 1st 2010

Located on the French-Swiss border, the sunny and picturesque village of Finhaut (Valais) will welcome organists coming on their own or with their families. Situated equidistantly from Chamonix (France) and Martigny (Swiss), the village on the steep mountainside offers a wide variety of leisure activities. It will also allow you to discover the wealth of the cultural and touristic facilities of the Trient High Valley villages.

The Trient Valley is a sunny mountainous area that is ideal for trekking and climbing. The organisers can introduce participants to mountain guides.

Access to Finhaut and accommodation are easy :

-by car : 25 mn from Martigny or Chamonix

-by train : the Mont-Blanc Express (TMR) has a regular schedule between Martigny or Chamonix.

Possible activities :

Dinosaur site / Swimming pools / Chatelard attraction park / Museum CFF / Museum Marconi / Gianadda Foundation ...

Information available from the following tourist office :

www.finhaut.ch / www.marecottes.ch / www.salvan.ch / www.martigny.ch

Trainees will play organs in Martigny, Vernayaz, Salvan and Finhaut, and they will be invited to be members of the jury attributing the « Lonfat-Stalder » composition prize. A timetable for practice will be available .

See the description of organs by the Kuhn Manufacture : www.orgelbau.ch

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Tuition will take place in the morning from 9 to 12, alternately in Finhaut or Vernayaz; the participants will be split into two groups.

Teachers : Yves-G. PREFONTAINE, from Montréal, Canada
 Betty MAISONNAT, from Lyon, France

Afternoons will be free so that participants can have individual practice on one of the organs of the course. The Mont-Blanc Express, a little mountain train running in a unique, breathtaking panorama, provides a quick access to the organs.

Note that one afternoon will be devoted to a visit of the oldest playable organ in the world, in the Valère Basilica in Sion.

Two evening recitals will be given for the benefit of the participants and the local audiences.

Participants are encouraged to bring their own music, the pieces they want to improve; the teachers will introduce new pieces of all styles and periods to broaden their repertoire.

Do not forget your organ shoes !

Participants proficient on the piano who are beginning to study the organ, are requested to bring a piece (preferably of baroque music) so that the teachers can assess their competence before introducing the practice of the organ.

THE LONFAT-STALDER COMPOSITION PRIZE

As part of the activities of the Summer Course of the Orgue et Cimes Association in the Trient Valley (July 25th to August 1st 2010) , is opening a competition for a composition prize (2000 CHF).

Composers are invited to present an original and unpublished organ work, composed of one or several pieces

- Duration : 3 to 12 minutes maximum
- It should be not too difficult and suitable for the type of organ of the Trient Valley like the Kuhn organ in Finhaut (2 keyboards, mechanical traction ...) ; see the flyer in French.

2 copies of the noted music are required. A recording of the piece should also be sent to the Office of the Association before the deadline of June 15 th 2010.

To ensure complete confidentiality during the selection, the pieces should not be indentified by the composer's name, but the latter is expected to provide a pseudonyme of his choice, mentioned on the inscription form; only after the vote of the jury will the indentification of the composers be made.

The jury comprises all the course participants and the two teachers : Yves-G. Préfontaine and Betty Maisonnat, and will sit and deliberate on Thursday 29 July 2010 and it will be presided by Professor RUDOLF MEYER from Winterthur.

The president's voice will be decisive in case of ex-aequo. The vote of the jury is definitive and the winner will be immediately notified and invited to collect his prize at a later date to be decided between himself and the organisers. On that occasion, the composer will be invited to play his piece on the Finhaut organ, or as the case may be have it performed by a competent organist.

THE PRIZE FOR THE COMPETITION IS 2000 CHF

Deadline for submission of the pieces : June 15 TH 2010

