

ARS ORGANI SLOVENIAE

Orgelska umetnost na Slovenskem

To the board of the University of Göteborg.

To the international pipe organ professionals and enthusiasts.

For continuation of GOArt pipe organ center.

We hereby are fully aware that it is not in our domain to judge legal decisions of organization in a foreign state that is financially supported by their taxpayers or by other state-base sources. We aware as well that our organization or even the whole state has not played important rule in the history of pipe organ development. Therefore we would like to concede full independence to the responsible board of University of Göteborg.

With this letter of support, we would like to express opinions in the case of GOArt pipe organ center and kindly ask you to think about our concerns that follow bellow. Pivot facts that we think are important for continuation of mentioned Centre are **[1] splendid background in the past concrete results, [2] enforced international networking, and [3] extremely vague future of one of Europe's genuine heritage.**

First. Basically we are focusing our plans to the future, but there is no doubt that well designed future might exists only in case of stabile background, confirmed by competent users of our services, either scientific, artistic, economic or any other – as well as usage in the common life. Starting again and again might be exhaustible. We do not claim that all decisions and work procedures of GOArt centre was the best of possible, but from international point of view Centre made an extremely important break-through that was (perhaps with exception of German speaking lands) awaited since Albert Schweitzer published his initiative of the Orgelbewegung in 1906. The excellence we noticed the most in GOArts activities might be described as successful vertical-horizontal interdisciplinary approach, much unique in the world of music instrument discussion, otherwise characterized with strong individualism or national-oriented in many cases. In the horizontal direction, they connect many scientific fields like archaeology, history, musicology, education, metallurgy and other technical domains, database management, as well as many other academic disciplines. In the vertical directions the Centre was an example of proficient binder among science, craft and art of organbuilding, churches and municipalities, local and international organ experts and enthusiasts, not to mention organ music itself and artists that were able to broaden their musical spirit with deeper understanding of this marvellous instrument.

Second. International networking might be very complicated issue. Language barriers, historical background, economic differences. Sometimes smaller nations might reach better results in connecting others, especially in the fields where science, art and spirit are interconnected by fact. Moreover, mostly smaller and apparently marginal organizations might be much easier accepted as the greats or central. GOArt centre immanently exists in the mind of all, either central or peripheral, and is therefore perhaps the only organization on Earth that is able to proceed with webbing of the organ world. Here we have to underline the fact that organ history in Europe, before joined, was separated to Western and Eastern part for many decades. Actually, development in the East has been retarded extremely. We believe that there is no need to begging from the East, or vice versa to raise donations from the West. We believe that existing of an organization like GOArt that is able to networking us, is enough to reach again common parallel lines of European pipe organ development.

Third. One thousand or more years of pipe organ development in Europe was tightly connected with churches and religion that is at the same time a base for our civilisation. Mostly initiative for organ music and building crafts derived from liturgy and prevailing members of churches. Now we are dealing with extreme decline of organized churchgoers. Consequently, decline of organ listeners and users is resulted in critical decrease of interest for organs in some states, like Great Britain, Česká republika, España or Nederland. In some other parts, the future connected with pipe organ seems brighter, like in Polska, Hrvatska, Slovenija, perhaps Baltic states, and many parts of Deutschland. Anyhow, we are enthusiastic that organs are more and more commonly used in the concert halls and for accompaniment of events not connected with religion, but we dare to claim that the core of pipe organ future in tightly fasten to its authentic space and architecture. So, if we would like to think of pipe organ future like alive and genuine European heritage, we by all means do not need only a strong network, but beside it, a Centre, a Head, that is able to coordinate the network on a basis of life experience – or at least with its existence encourages awareness that it is worth to rise efforts for science and art of pipe organ and its music.

With all respect to decision makers,

and for the future of the GOArt centre Göteborg, Head of European pipe organ science and art,

in the name of Ars organi Sloveniae,

national centre for pipe organ knowledge in Slovenia, with kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jurij Dobravec', written in a cursive style.

Jurij Dobravec, head manager