



Central Hudson Valley Chapter
of the
**American Guild of
Organists**

Newsletter – April 2024

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Chapter Web Site

www.chvago.org

Members' Recitals: A Retrospective - *By Susan LaGrande*

One of the great things about having served as newsletter editor for so long is that I have access to a lot of chapter history. I thought it might be instructive to look back in the records to see what Members' Recitals have been like in previous years. Maybe you'll remember some of the performers mentioned who are no longer with us.

April 1997 - Redeemer Lutheran Church, Kingston - featuring one of Don Filkins's notorious improvisations, as well as a very young Jeffrey Alban, DMA (now living in Virginia)

May 1998 - Grace Episcopal Church, Middletown - in celebration of the church's 150th anniversary. Mary Caskey was then organist.

June 2000 - St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Poughkeepsie - featuring an organ duet by Charles Callahan played by Polly Beynon James and her mother, Dorothy M. Beynon

June 2001 - United Methodist Church, Poughkeepsie - in memory of Victor Scarchilli

May 2003 - St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Poughkeepsie. Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the chapter. Announcement of AGO Region II-III Convention, to be

- hosted by CHVAGO in Poughkeepsie in 2005. Introduction of the Margaret Pecoraro Memorial Scholarship Fund.
- June 2004 - The Reformed Church, Poughkeepsie - Featuring a young Thomas Sheehan (now Organist and Associate Director of Music at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC) playing the Andante and Finale from Vierne's *Symphony Number 1*
- April 2005 - Grace Episcopal Church, Middletown - in memory of Nora Strudwick - Featuring two original songs by Alice Cann and a memorable organ duet performed by Past Deans John Sullivan and Al Reese
- May 2006 - The Reformed Church, Poughkeepsie
- June 2007 - Grace Episcopal Church, Millbrook. Marking John Sullivan's last official duty as Dean before passing the torch to new Dean Gregory Citarella.
- May 2008 - First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Poughkeepsie - In memory of William Robert "Bob" Brittenham, Mary Sherman Caskey, and Clara Pankow-Miller. Certificate of Appreciation presented to Kay Pearson, Anita Drake, and Alice Cann.
- May 2009 - Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church
- June 2010 - St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Poughkeepsie
- May 2011 - Zion Episcopal Church, Wappingers Falls - From the Dean's Letter the following month: "The musical offerings, while mostly 19th and 20th century, couldn't have been more varied. They showed off the 100 year old organ very well."
- May 2012 - Christ Episcopal Church, Poughkeepsie - featuring 20-year-old Dillon Streifeneder playing Mendelssohn's *Sonata No. 3*
- June 2013 - The Reformed Church, Poughkeepsie. To quote from the Dean's Letter in the July 2013 newsletter: "The music of Bach, Handel, Lubeck, Duruflé, Widor and others was played at a very high standard — professional concert caliber from each and every one of the players."
- March 2014 - Vassar Chapel, Poughkeepsie. To quote from Dean Craig Williams in the April 2014 newsletter: "I was privileged to play the 106 rank Gress-Miles Organ in this terrific concert. ...Thanks to Wesley Joseph, Laura Russell, Alexander Green, Janice Grace, Boyd Herforth, Patrick Walker and Eric Hepp for a very well played variety of great organ music!"
- April 2015 - United Methodist Church, Poughkeepsie - To quote from Dean Craig Williams in the May 2015 newsletter: "Let me take this opportunity however to congratulate the performers who participated in our Annual Members' Recital at Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church this past month! I was gratified by the number of you who were able to come and listen — we had a terrific audience that day."
- May 2016 - North Congregational Church, Middletown -To quote from Craig Williams in his Dean's Letter for that month: "North Congregational houses a 20 rank E.M. Skinner organ in nearly original condition. Not only does the organ have beautiful voices — noble diapasons, colorful flutes and wonderful orchestral voices — strings and reeds — but, if one of the most important stops on any organ is the room in which it plays, this organ is one of the jewels of the Hudson Valley. The sanctuary of North Congregational is a warm reverberant space accentuated by the church's unique stone structure, lending great power to the organ. I encourage all to participate. The one caveat is that the console does not have working pistons. Therefore, do not bring repertoire that requires many piston adjustments. You or your assistant will be pulling drawknobs by hand."
- June 2017 - St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Poughkeepsie - Dedicated to "eleven members of our Chapter who have died since the last memorial members' recital in 2008: Ray Corey, Robert H. Palmatier, Jack Davis, Kay Pearson, Robert F. Dorum, Don Hoger, Martha Miller, Anita Drake, Don Filkins, Pat Maimone, and Peter Hall. Each of

them made important, and unique contributions to organ and choral music in the Hudson Valley.” Concert program with biographies is available at [2017 Members Recital Pgm.pdf](#)

April 2018 - Zion Episcopal Church, Wappingers Falls - To quote from the report in the May 2018 newsletter: “Of twelve selections, four were for solo organ and eight were duets with organ and other solo instruments, which included trombone, trumpets, flutes, oboe, soprano saxophone, and cello. ... Styles ranged from baroque to romantic to jazz to contemporary praise. It should be noted that some of the instruments, especially the brasses, had difficulty tuning with the organ, which is pitched slightly lower than A 440 Hz. This is a challenge which may require some ingenuity to overcome. Where this challenge was met successfully, the collaboration resulted in beautiful and affecting music.”

May 2019 - St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish, Lagrangeville - To quote from the calendar entry for the event: “The instrument is a Diane Bish signature series Allen organ (80 stop, 3 manuals); the sound space in St. Kateri is expansive and reverberant. This concert will feature music of French composers from the 16th through 20th centuries.” Five chapter members, Charles Faverio, Nancy Brown, Richard Ehlenberg, Janet Nelson Nickerson, and Margaret Small, were inducted into the League of Distinguished Service.

May 2020 - “Postponed” - originally scheduled to take place at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Poughkeepsie on Mother’s Day Weekend. The April 2020 newsletter announced that “all our Chapter programs through October have either been canceled or postponed indefinitely.”

June 2021 - Virtual. To quote from the June 2021 Dean’s Letter: “The annual Member’s Recital will take place on YouTube, and will premiere on June 20th at noon. You will be able to watch it anytime after that date at your convenience.” The link is still available at <https://youtu.be/2p368XSkQZM>.

2022 - No Members’ Recital. In the April newsletter for this year it was announced that the Members’ Recital would take place in the Fall of 2022, and would focus on organ and choral music by composers of color, but this did not materialize until February of the following year.

February 2023 - Part One. St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Poughkeepsie. Featuring music composed by people of color. To quote from the March 2023 Dean’s Letter: “We had a totally AMAZING February Members’ Recital at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Poughkeepsie, with eight of our members performing a wonderful variety of VERY diverse works by composers of color! I was also blown away by the very large multi-racial turnout of well over 100 people (we ran out of programs!) who represented both a wide geographic area as well as a wide range of AGES! What was not to love?????”

May 2023 - Joint Members Recital with Westchester Chapter. St. Philip’s in the Highlands Episcopal Church, Garrison.

April 2024 - The Reformed Church, Poughkeepsie. This recital was originally scheduled for March 2022 as part of a recital series featuring under-represented composers. Part One, in February 2023, featured music by Black composers, and Part Two (upcoming) will feature music by women composers.

If this trip down memory lane has piqued your interest, you can do some digging yourself in our online archives. From the home page of our chapter web site at www.chvago.org, click on the Newsletter page and select “Click here for the Newsletter Archive,” or click on the Calendar page and select “Click here for an Overview of Past Events.”

List of Organ Teachers

The following chapter members have indicated on their membership application that they are accepting new organ students. Please note that only CHVAGO members in good standing are eligible to be included in this list. More information about each teacher is provided on our web site at www.chvago.org. If you would like your name listed, please contact the editor using the information above.

Meredith Baker	914-261-0028	Timothy M. Lewis	914-374-2608
Gregory Citarella	845-559-4013	Michael Oosterhout	301-910-5307
Justan Foster	518-965-2389	Dillon Streifeneder	845-532-2488
Larry Hazard	845-452-0119		

List of Organ Substitutes

The following chapter members have indicated on their membership application that they will serve as substitute organists. Please contact them directly if you would like more information. Please note that only CHVAGO members in good standing are eligible to be included in this list, unless otherwise approved by the Board. More information about each substitute is provided on our web site at www.chvago.org. If you would like your name listed, or if you need to update your information, please contact the editor using the information above.

Meredith Baker	845-565-3321	Larry Hazard	845-452-0119
Joe Bertolozzi	845-337-1216	Eric Hepp	845-489-2625
Luca Cantone	703-554-5906	Wesley Joseph	845-849-0104
Greg Citarella	845-559-4013	Maris Kristapsons	845-635-0411
Richard C. Ehlenberg	845-687-6013	Timothy M. Lewis	914-374-2608
James Fitzwilliam	845-849-3606	Michael Oosterhout	301-910-5307
Justan Foster	518-965-2389	Joanne Reed	845-361-3474
Jacob Friedman	914-305-0572	Stephen Siktberg	845-702-2375
Carl J. Geiselhart	845-457-4830	Nancy Vanderlee	845-266-3858
Susan Guse	845-242-1478	Christopher Wynkoop	845-926-7389

Deadline for Next Newsletter

We are always glad to receive input for the chapter newsletter in the form of calendar items, reviews of recent concerts and events, biographies, letters, photographs, etc. In order to make sure these submissions can be processed in a timely fashion, please make sure they are received by the 23rd of each month. However, material such as calendar items may be submitted at any time; even if the material may not make it into the printed newsletter, it can be quickly posted on our web site at www.chvago.org. You may submit newsletter or web site material by mail, e-mail, fax or phone. Just contact the editor, Susan LaGrande, using the information given above. Remember, the deadline for the next printed newsletter, to be available the first week in May 2024, is April 23.

Editor's Corner

This newsletter is published by the Central Hudson Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. The editor is:

Susan LaGrande

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Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

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Position Openings

Editor's Notes

- The AGO, and by extension the Central Hudson Valley chapter, now requires all posted jobs in our Career Center include salary information. This change improves transparency for applicants and complies with applicable New York State laws, where the AGO is headquartered. We believe this change will encourage a more positive experience for our members seeking employment.
- *Hiring institutions are encouraged to check references from applicants' previous employers, and applicants should expect that prospective employers may require background checks. It should not be assumed that applicants who learn of position openings via these listings are endorsed by the Central Hudson Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Position openings are listed without charge for three months unless an extension is requested. If you would like to place a listing, please contact the editor, Susan LaGrande at 845-235-7203 or email chvagoboard@gmail.com.*
- ***View the complete listings online at http://www.chvago.org/CHVAGO_Positions.php. If you need help accessing the online information, please call Susan LaGrande at 845-235-7203.***

ORGANIST - (Part-Time)

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH - NEWBURGH, NY

2/1/2024

ORGANIST - (Part-Time)

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY - POUGHKEEPSIE, NY

12/1/2023

ORGANIST - (Part-Time)

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SPRING VALLEY - SPRING VALLEY, NY

9/19/2023

PARISH DIRECTOR OF MUSIC - Part-Time

THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-ST. JOSEPH AND OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL - POUGHKEEPSIE, NY

Revised 1/12/2024

CHORAL DIRECTOR - (Part-Time)

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH - POUGHKEEPSIE, NY

Renewed 4/20/2023

Calendar of Events

If you are interested in having an event posted on this calendar, please contact the web site administrator, [Susan LaGrande](#). Events are selected for inclusion based on their relevance and interest to the members of the Central Hudson Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. The chapter reserves the right to decline or withdraw listings at any time.

Tuesdays at 12:15 PM
[TEMPORARILY
SUSPENDED]

Noontime Organ Recitals at Goshen Presbyterian Church
Temporarily Suspended through Easter 2024
Info: 845-294-7991.

Sunday, April 14, 2024
2:00 PM

West Point Cadet Chapel Organ Recital by Katelyn Emerson
Katelyn Emerson, Concert Organist. Program to be determined.
Venue: Cadet Chapel, USMA, West Point, NY.
All recitals require a Department of Defense ID or Visitors' Pass from the Visitor Control Center to enter West Point. Entry to the Cadet Chapel and recital are free to the public. All Cadet Chapel organ recitals and concerts are free to the general public.
Info: craig.s.williams58.civ@army.mil

Sunday, April 14, 2024
3:00 PM

Concert by the American String Quartet
Join the American String Quartet for an afternoon of chamber music on April 14. The concert begins at 3:00 PM at Kol Yisrael, 290 North Street, Newburgh, NY. Kol Yisrael is a new and larger venue for Newburgh Chamber Music, the concert's sponsor, which traditionally has staged performances at St. George's Church. The concert will mark the 13th appearance by the quartet for Newburgh Chamber Music. The program will feature Beethoven's Quartet in F Major, Op. 135, Shostakovich's Quartet No. 13 in B-flat Minor Op. 13, and the Brahms Quintet in G Major, Op. 111, which the composer intended to be his last work. Joining the ensemble for the Brahms performance will be guest violist Matthias Buchholz. Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$30 for seniors, and \$10 for students. They are available at the door (cash or check only), or online at newburghchambermusic.org.
Info: mamcenery@verizon.net or 845-662-4406.

Sunday, April 21, 2024
3:00 PM

Annual Members' Recital
A recital of Organ Music by women composers performed by members of CHVAGO. Free will donation will help support our chapter's many programs, including the Scholarship Fund. If you are interested in playing a piece in this recital, please contact Acting-Dean Laura Russell at laurarus629@gmail.com or 845-232-8601. [The Reformed Church of Poughkeepsie](#), 70 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

**CENTRAL HUDSON VALLEY CHAPTER
OF THE
AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS**

**MEMBERS' RECITAL
THEME: WOMEN COMPOSERS**



SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024 — 3:00 PM

**THE REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH
70 HOOKER AVENUE
POUGHKEEPSIE, NY 12601**

FREE-WILL OFFERING — INFO: 845-232-8601



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Soli Deo Gloria