

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

Newsletter – August 2009

Officers

Beverly Simmons – Dean
845-463-1249 – *beverlysim@verizon.net*

Laura Russell – Secretary
845-485-1648 – *lrussell@hvc.rr.com*

Nancy Harle – Board Member
845-634-1379 – *copie421@yahoo.com*

Charles Faverio – Board Member
845-897-5844

Craig Williams – Sub-Dean
845-355-6451 - *Craig.Williams@usma.edu*

Eric Hepp – Treasurer
845-790-3381 – *erhepp@us.ibm.com*

Maris Kristapsons – Board Member
845-635-8837 – *mariskr@yahoo.com*

Greg Citarella – Ex Officio (Past Dean)
845-297-7693 – *citarg@us.ibm.co*

Chapter Web Site

www.chvago.org

Letter from the Dean

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It's the middle of the summer and we have just enjoyed our AGO picnic. Many of you are off doing your own form of relaxing which is very important, although we did miss you at the picnic.

It is also the time when you need to renew your membership in the AGO. It's easy to forget such things at this time of year so why not take a moment now and send in your renewal to Eric Hepp at 24 Lor Mar Court, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590. If you have questions call him at 845-790-3381.

Laura Russell, our secretary, attended the Regional AGO convention in Boston. I asked her to describe it for those of us who didn't attend. Her report is in this newsletter.

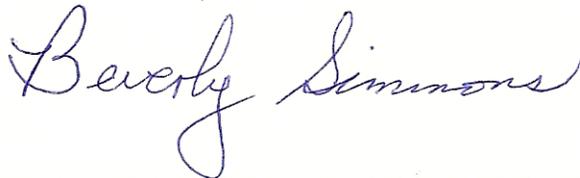
That brings me to the National AGO Convention next year, July 4 -8, in Washington, DC. NOW is the time to plan on attending. It will, I'm sure, be spectacular. I attended the National there about 30 years ago and it was marvelous. I grew up in the DC area and I can attest that there are many wonderful organs in the area. You can check out their web site at www.AGO2010.org. So that you can start saving now, the regular early registration fee will be \$340 (\$300 for Seniors). By planning now you will be ready with the cash so you won't have to pay the later fee (after February 14) of \$410.

The hotel cost is \$179 a night for a double or single. So start asking around now for a roommate to save those extra costs. (If you need help finding a roommate you can email me and I'll let you know who else is looking.)

There are several possibilities for getting to DC. The two most practical would be a car pool (or van pool?) or taking Amtrak. That part of the discussion really can wait until later. Just start thinking about it. But my point is: PLAN NOW TO ATTEND!

Enjoy the rest of the summer and don't forget to attend BachFest on the last two weekends of August, especially the St. Matthew Passion on Saturday, August 29th at 7 PM at Christ Church, Poughkeepsie. The previous night, on August 28th at 7:30, Gail Archer will be giving a Bach recital at Christ Church. Check it all out on our web site or go to www.Hudsonvalleysocietyformusic.org.

Soli Deo Gloria,



Beverly Simmons, SPC
Dean

The Landmarks Convention

*A Report on the American Guild of Organists Regions I and II Joint Convention,
July 1-4, 2009 – Boston, MA*

by Laura Russell

I attended the **pre-convention concert** given by Stuart Forster (<http://www.stuartforster.com>) who played an organ recital on the new Schoenstein Organ (<http://www.cccambridge.org>) at Christ Church Cambridge – a position E. Power Biggs once held.

The Convention's **Opening Worship Service** took place Wednesday morning at the Saint Cecilia Church. On the Smith & Gilbert, Nobscot Organ (http://www.stceciliaboston.org/organ/index_organ.htm), Balint Karosi played the Prelude and Postlude, which included Duruflé's *Prelude* from Suite Op. 5 and Vierne's *Intermezzo and Toccata* and his own "*Trumpet Toccata*". Clergy from a variety of faith traditions read scripture and reflected on the role of music in our professional and spiritual lives.

Wednesday afternoon workshops that I attended included: “Organ Music of Mendelssohn” presented by Mark Dwyer; “Hymn-playing” presented by Mark Engelhardt; and “Improvising at the Organ” presented by David Briggs. This last workshop was fabulous! He is a truly amazing improviser!

The Gala Concert Wednesday night (<http://www.foleybaker.com/SymphonyHall/index.htm>) at Symphony Hall was amazing! It featured James David Christie, organist, (<http://www.concertartists.com/JDC.html>) accompanied by the New Philharmonia Orchestra. The program opened with the *Cortège et Litanie*, Op. 19, No. 2 by Marcel Dupré, the *Concerto in G Minor* by Francis Poulenc, and Jean Langlais’ *Hymne d’Action de Grâce, Te Deum*, Op. 12b, Vierne’s *Pièce Symphonique* and Guilmant’s *Symphony I in D Minor*, Op. 42.

Thursday morning opened with a **recital** by David Briggs (<http://www.david-briggs.org.uk/>) on the Aeolian-Skinner organ at Church of the Advent (<http://www.theadvent.org/music/organ.htm>). I attended this concert where David played *Symphonie No 2 in E minor* Opus 20 by Louis Vierne and *Three Preludes and Fugues ‘en homage à Marcel Dupré’*, written in 2009 by David Briggs himself.

I attended the **Regional Leadership Luncheon** for Region II, which I found fascinating. Each Chapter gave a brief snapshot of programs and activities in their own area, and there were lots of interaction, comments, and questions. In fact it was so engaging that I missed part of the afternoon workshops! I think more time should be allotted to such meetings at future Regional Conventions. Here is an overview of the meeting:

- Some chapters actively involve local clergy in their activities, encouraging them to attend/co-sponsor musical events and music/worship workshops, and even encouraging them to join the local Chapter. One chapter had an annual Organist/Clergy banquet with a speaker, which was very popular.
- Some chapters host a Choir Festival once a year; some host a Children’s Choir Festival. A couple held scholarship recitals to help raise funds for lessons for young organists or for music school funds for students on the college level.
- Many chapters have an annual picnic and a members’ recital, as we do. Many chapters hosted Pedals, Pipes & Pizza events, seasonal Evensong services, workshops on choral techniques and on rehearsal techniques, workshops on improvisation, and organ crawls.
- Many hold anthem reading sessions a couple of times a year. Sometimes they read new anthems, provided by publishers; sometimes individual organists/choir directors open up their church anthem libraries and they read through each others’ anthem selections. This sounded quite doable!
- One chapter mentioned that each year, a Board member would call/e-mail all of their Chapter members and ask them: 1. Why did you join? 2. What do you like that we are doing? 3. What should we do differently? 4. Is there any area that you would like to get involved in? It sounded like a great way to engage members and to get feedback on programs.

Thursday afternoon workshops included “The Reformation and its Music in Church, School, and Home” presented by Christopher Brown; “Handel’s English Language Choral

Works” presented by Donald Teeters; and a workshop about “AGO Certification Exams”. I have copies of the most recent AGO guidelines which I will give to our Dean.

Thursday night’s concert at the First Church of Christ, Scientist featured Diane Meredith Belcher playing the Aeolian-Skinner Organ (<http://www.foleybaker.com/TheFirstChurchofChrist/>) for info about Belcher, go to http://www.laphil.com/music/artist_detail.cfm?id=2334. See a review of this performance at <http://classical-scene.com/2009/07/03/darkness-organist-diane-meredith-belcher-at-first-church-of-christ-scientist/>. I basically agree with the review!

The **Friday morning concert** I attended was played by Christa Rakich (<http://www.christarakich.com/bio.htm>) at the very modern First Lutheran Church on the Richards & Fowkes organ (<http://www.flc-boston.org/music/stops.htm>). After attending concerts in many historic buildings, this was quite a change! She played a program of Buxtehude, Bach, Franz Tunder, Böhm, and Mendelssohn, as well as playing the Convention Commission piece “*Suite Breve*” written by Craig Phillips (b. 1961). This work, in five movements, showed the organ off well. Movement titles: I. Prelude (for the Foundations); II. Impromptu (for Flutes and Mutations); III. Fanfares (for the Reeds); IV. Lament (for Strings); V. Epilogue (for Full Organ). Each movement stands on its own and could be used either for concert performance or as service music.

I attended the **Regional Business Meeting** during lunch on Friday. It was not very worthwhile or very well organized, partly because Region II Councilor David Macfarlane was not present due to the sudden death of his mother. However, in my opinion there should have been a clear agenda of items to be discussed that could have been led by any number of knowledgeable people in attendance. Instead it was a waste of time for the most part.

On **Friday afternoon** I attended a series of Anthem Reading Sessions presented by GIA, Paraclete Press, Advent Press, Morningstar, and E.C. Schirmer publishers. The organization of these anthem reading sessions left a lot to be desired. Although there were a variety of conference rooms with pianos available in the hotel, the organizers chose a VERY long, narrow room and a poor electronic keyboard to present the anthems. Although conventions attendees were asked to pre-register if they wished to attend the Anthem Reading sessions (which I did), the sessions were very over-crowded, and more than half of the participants could neither hear nor see the presenter. I have attended many ACDA Choral Conventions where participants who pre-registered were given anthem packets when they registered. This was not done, and there were not enough nearly enough anthem packets to go around. This should be fixed next time around! I also thought that there were not enough anthems of really good quality presented.

Friday night I attended the **Brass & Organ Spectacular** concert at Trinity Church, Copley Square (<http://www.trinitychurchboston.org/music/organs.php>) performed by Majestic Brass and Barbara Bruns, organ (<http://www.zoominfo.com/Search/ReferencesView.aspx?PersonID=33256222>). The incredible acoustics of the Copley Square Church were used to good advantage by the brass, who played a number of antiphonal works from three different balconies around the church. The program included music by Britten, Gigout, Vaughan Williams, Gabrieli, Pinkham, Beethoven, Arnatt, Stephenson, Webster. The finale was a performance of the

Toccata from Widor's *Fifth Symphony* arranged for organ and brass. It was a very exciting concert, but in my opinion the brass stole the show from the organ.

The **final Convention Concert** was a performance by organist Peter Krasinski (<http://www.krasinski.org/>) who improvised accompaniment to the silent movie "Old Ironsides" (1926) on the ultra-orchestral Skinner Organ in Old South Church (<http://www.oldsouth.org/pubs/reporter/repsum08.html#organs>). It was a rousing performance that ended the convention on a wonderful note.

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. You may submit newsletter material by mail, e-mail, fax or phone. Just contact the editor, Susan LaGrande, using the information given below. Remember, the deadline for the next newsletter, to be available the first week in September, is August 23rd.

List of Organ Substitutes

The following chapter members have indicated that they will serve as substitute organists. Please contact them directly if you would like more information.

Denise Bassen	845-226-1564	<u>For Weddings and Funerals Only:</u>
Joe Bertolozzi	845-831-0695	Judie Brown (also Jewish svcs) 845-888-5318
Robert D. Brown	845-485-1597	Alice Cann 845-223-5344
Richard C. Ehlenberg	845-658-9746	Greg Citarella 845-297-7693
Christopher Fasulo	646-342-4836	Larry Hazard 845-452-0119
Susan LaGrande	845-226-6496	Eric Hepp (no weekday funerals)
Janet Nickerson	845-561-0763	845-489-2625
Joanne Reed	845-361-3474	Boyd Herforth 845-255-5298 / 973-783-8798
<u>No Sunday Morning Services:</u>		Charles Surber (no weddings) 845-544-2782
Maris Kristapsons		<u>Student</u>
(no weddings)	845-635-8837	Gregory S. Quaglieni 845-786-0011
Beverly Simmons	845-463-1249	

List of Organ Teachers

The following chapter members have indicated that they are accepting new organ students. We are in the process of soliciting brief biographies from each of them, which will be posted on our web site as they are received. Please contact the teachers directly if you would like more information.

Gregory Citarella	845-297-7693	Janet Nelson Nickerson	845-561-0763
Donald Filkins	845-518-2991	Beverly Simmons	845-463-1249
Peter Hall	845-343-4995	Charles Surber	845-544-2782
Boyd Herforth	845-255-5298		

Editor's Corner

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

Susan LaGrande
12 Montrose Lane
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590
Phone: 845-226-6496 (home) - Fax: 845-226-1035
e-mail: SUSANEL2@HOTMAIL.COM

Position Openings - Summary

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 845-226-6496.

Editor's Note – Due to space considerations, the following list of position openings includes only the type of position and hiring institution. Complete information about positions is available on our web site at www.chvago.org, or contact the editor, Susan LaGrande, at 845-226-6496.

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR (Part-Time)
ST. JAMES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - KINGSTON, NY Updated 4-2-2009

DIRECTOR OF LITURGICAL MUSIC/ORGANIST - Part-Time
ST. BONIFACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, GUILDERLAND, NY 5/12/2008

ORGANIST/ACCOMPANIST (Part-Time)
FIRST REFORMED CHURCH - WALDEN, NY Renewed 5/28/2008

Calendar of Events

Please note: Due to space considerations, this Calendar of Events may exclude the following:

- Events taking place outside the area served by the Central Hudson Valley Chapter
- Events which conflict directly with chapter sponsored events

Such events may be listed on the Local Events page of our chapter web site at www.chvago.org.

Events listed in the calendar are not necessarily endorsed by CHVAGO.

Please contact the editor if you have an event to be publicized.

Boxed items are Central Hudson Valley AGO Chapter events. Names listed in bold face are chapter members.

Thursday, July 30, 2009
12:15 to 12:45 PM

Uptown Organ Recital Series presents **Eric Hepp**
Old Dutch Church, 272 Wall Street, Kingston. Old Dutch Church is located on Main Street between Fair and Wall Streets in Uptown Kingston. The Series features local artists and all concerts are free and open to the public. The Church is handicapped accessible. For more information call the Church office at 845-338-6759.

Thursday, August 6, 2009
12:15 to 12:45 PM

Uptown Organ Recital Series presents Clarence H. Chaisson
Old Dutch Church, 272 Wall Street, Kingston. Old Dutch
Church is located on Main Street between Fair and Wall Streets
in Uptown Kingston. The Series features local artists and all
concerts are free and open to the public. The Church is
handicapped accessible. For more information call the Church
office at 845-338-6759.

Thursday, August 13, 2009
12:15 to 12:45 PM

Uptown Organ Recital Series presents **Boyd Herforth**
Old Dutch Church, 272 Wall Street, Kingston. Old Dutch
Church is located on Main Street between Fair and Wall Streets
in Uptown Kingston. The Series features local artists and all
concerts are free and open to the public. The Church is
handicapped accessible. For more information call the Church
office at 845-338-6759.

Thursday, August 20, 2009
12:15 to 12:45 PM

Uptown Organ Recital Series presents Anthony Rispo
Old Dutch Church, 272 Wall Street, Kingston. Old Dutch
Church is located on Main Street between Fair and Wall Streets
in Uptown Kingston. The Series features local artists and all
concerts are free and open to the public. The Church is
handicapped accessible. For more information call the Church
office at 845-338-6759.

Thursday, August 27, 2009
12:15 to 12:45 PM

Uptown Organ Recital Series presents The Rev. Kenneth Walsh
Old Dutch Church, 272 Wall Street, Kingston. Old Dutch
Church is located on Main Street between Fair and Wall Streets
in Uptown Kingston. The Series features local artists and all
concerts are free and open to the public. The Church is
handicapped accessible. For more information call the Church
office at 845-338-6759.

Friday, August 28 at 7:00 PM
through Sunday, August 30 at
10:00 AM

Church Music Lover's Retreat
Mount St. Alphonsus, Esopus, NY. The retreat is directed by
Michael Sweeney, a member of the retreat team and
accomplished choral director. Cost is \$160, which includes
music, accommodations and meals. Reservation and \$25 deposit
required. Info: 845-384-8000.

Friday, August 28, 2009
7:30 PM

Bach Organ Recital by Gail Archer
Christ Episcopal Church, 20 Carroll Street, Poughkeepsie, NY.
Program: *Prelude and Fugue in Eb* (BWV 552 1/2 - "St.
Anne"); *Sei gegrusset, Jesu gutig* (BWV 768); *An
Wasserflussen Babylon* (BWV 653); *Komm Heiliger Geist*
(BWV 651); *Concerto in a minor* (BWV 593); *Prelude and
Fugue in C major* (BWV 547). Part of 2009 Hudson Valley
BachFest. Tickets: \$15 general admission; \$12 seniors/students.
Info: 845-485-1648.

Saturday, August 29, 2009
7:00 PM

Bach's "Passion according to St. Matthew" (BWV 244) with choir and orchestra
Christ Episcopal Church, 20 Carroll Street, Poughkeepsie, NY.
Laura Ramsey Russell, conductor; **Craig Williams**, organist; James Ruff as Evangelist; Kent Smith as Jesus. Part of Hudson Valley BachFest. Tickets: \$15 general admission; \$12 seniors/students. Info: 845-485-1648.

Sunday, September 13, 2009
3:00 PM

Organ Recital by Brian Hoffman
Organist and Music Director, St. George's, Schenectady, NY (Class of 1964 Recital Series)
Cadet Chapel, USMA, West Point, NY. Free. Info: 845-938-7352 or craig.williams@usma.edu

Saturday, September 19, 2009
2:00 to 4:00 PM

Choral Technique for the Church Choir Director presented by Christine Howlett, Director of Choral Activities at Vassar College. Location: Skinner Hall, Vassar College, Raymond Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY.

Sunday, September 20, 2009
3:30 PM

Summer's End Concert
Donald Filkins, organist; Douglas Coates, pianist/baritone; Carol Osgood, pianist. First Presbyterian Church, 50 Liberty Street, Beacon, NY. Free will offering. Reception to follow. Info: 845-831-5322.

Sunday, October 18, 2009
3:00 PM

Hymn Festival
Presented by Rick Erickson. Cadet Chapel, USMA, West Point, NY. Let's get not only our choirs but our congregations to participate. Info: Call **Beverly Simmons** at 845-463-1249.

Sunday, October 25, 2009
3:30 PM

Tower Music Series Presents Gail Archer in Concert
The Reformed Church, 70 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY. Details to follow.

Sunday, November 15, 2009
3:00 PM

Organ Recital by Craig Cramer
Organist, University of Notre Dame (Class of 1936 Distinguished Organists Recital Series). Cadet Chapel, USMA, West Point, NY. Free. Info: 845-938-7352 or craig.williams@usma.edu

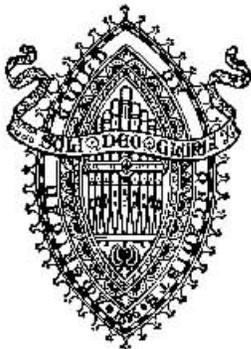
Sunday, November 15, 2009
3:00 PM

Organ, Trumpet, Voice and Violin Recital
Voice: Paulette Sibert; Violin: Julie Berman; Trumpet: Jim Paradies; Organ: **Gregory Citarella**. All are Welcome!
Refreshments following. St. Nicholas-on-the-Hudson Church - Episcopal, 37 Point Street, New Hamburg, NY 12590. Info: 845-297-2010 or 845-297-7693

Don't
Forget to
Pay
Your
Dues!



Central Hudson Valley Chapter – AGO
Susan LaGrande, Newsletter Editor
12 Montrose Lane
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590
www.chvago.org



SOLI DEO GLORIA