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

**Newsletter - December 2004**

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**Chapter Web Site**

[www.chvago.org](http://www.chvago.org)

**Letter from the Dean**

December, 2004

*Drop down dew from above, ye heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One.*

This ancient hymn is embedded in my mind, and once it starts going around, it won't leave. Unusual, because it is not the kind of tune that you can tap your foot to, its intervals are almost all seconds, and it is very short. So as I sit here trying to compose an inspiring message, all that my inner ear wants to do is sing over and over again the refrain of a plainchant hymn I learned over forty years ago. And if I am to be truthful, I guess that part of me wants to go back forty years, to when the liturgy was in Latin in my church, and everything was the way it was supposed to be, and life was much simpler. Except that none of the above is true. Life has always been a challenge. Making music is always a challenge. And making music for other people, at Christmas, when everyone wants to hear the same carols in the same way – and stand back when

your hymnal makes changes in the text to be politically correct – is probably an even bigger challenge. It is an undertaking of heroic proportions!

It seems to me that there are two temptations. One is to play to the pit, and just go through the motions of grinding out the same old, same old. The other is to take a road so high that no one is able to follow, or at the very least has trouble breathing in the lofty atmosphere. In fact, of course, most of us will find a very happy balance. But, and it is a serious but, the process is important; we can't cut it short or go around it. It may be uncomfortable at times. Truth searching often is. Eventually, though, after some grueling discussions and serious soul searching we come to that place where we know we are doing the right thing.

As church musicians, we have committed ourselves to serve God's people – not to cater to their preconceptions – but to truly serve. And the good news, the Gospel, is that God is with his people and that includes us. It is this knowledge that makes our efforts worthwhile. When things are not going well at rehearsal, I know I need to remind myself of some basic things: This is a privilege that few people enjoy. I have been chosen to do this and given a great gift. This Christmas season, I may perform the only live music that some people will hear. What would some folks give to be sitting at the console while the clergy and choir process to a full church singing *O come, all ye faithful*? What would it take to get me to give that up? I can't imagine.

*Drop down dew, ye heavens...* Let the Just One be with us all and enliven our hearts and tongues.

In closing, may I encourage you to look carefully at the calendar of events for the coming weeks. This is a time when I know I wish it were possible to be in three places at once. Let's try to support one another in our endeavors as much as we can, knowing, of course, that not everyone can attend everything.

A Joyous Christmas to you all and great joy in God's gift of music.

John

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Sullivan". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the name "John" in the text above.

## Membership News

- Joseph Bertolozzi's CD "The Contemplation of Bravery," a collection of three of his orchestral works is currently playing on 82 classical radio stations across the country. Locally you can request to hear it at WQXR (96.3) New York City, WMHT (89.1) Schenectady, WRHV (88.7) and WVKR (91.3), both in Poughkeepsie. The CD features "Suite Poughkeepsie," performed this past September at College Hill as part of the City of Poughkeepsie's 150th anniversary, "The Contemplation of Bravery," commissioned for the Bicentennial of West Point, and "An Age Will Come..." commissioned by Leon Botstein in performances by SEATTLEMUSIC, with Joel Eric Suben conducting. The CD is available at Amazon.com, at the Poughkeepsie Barnes & Noble store, and directly through [info@JosephBertolozzi.com](mailto:info@JosephBertolozzi.com).

- Welcome to our newest member, who found us via our web site. Her contact information is:

E. Joanne Reed  
172 Collabar Road  
Montgomery, NY 12549  
845-361-3474 / 845-361-3568 (Fax)  
e-mail: Dubinsky2@aol.com  
Organist at Grahamsville Reformed Church, Grahamsville, NY

We look forward to meeting her at an upcoming chapter event!

- We're glad to welcome Nora Strudwick as a returning member. Nora reports that she regrets being unable to attend any chapter events for several months due to her chemotherapy treatments. She says she is feeling quite well and is determined to be the "poster girl" for pancreatic cancer! Your phone calls or e-mail messages would be most appreciated. Nora's contact information is:

Nora Z. Strudwick  
45 Brothers Road  
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590  
845-297-7785  
nzstrud@cs.com

- We also welcome back the following members:

Maria Rivera-White  
35 So. Quaker Lane  
Hyde Park, NY 12538  
845-471-7681  
mdlarw@aol.com  
Organist, St. Mary's RC Church, Wappingers Falls

Eugene Rinaldi  
113 Union Street  
Montgomery, NY 12549-1317  
845-457-5041

Ruby Hyatt  
8 Laura Lane  
Hopewell Junction, NY 12533  
845-896-1475  
jhyatt@juno.com

With these renewals, our membership now stands at 68. Thanks to all of you who are standing with us!

## Position Openings

*Editor's Note – 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.*

ORGANIST/DIRECTOR OF MUSIC (Part Time)

### **FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH – POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK**

Starting January 2005 - One traditional Sunday service at 10:00 AM, with 3-4 hymns, prelude and postlude, with additional seasonal services as per church calendar. Sunday morning rehearsal with small adult volunteer choir for Sunday anthem. No choir in summer. Summer services begin at 9:30 AM. Extra compensation for weddings and funerals. Three-manual pipe organ, 43 ranks [Click here](#) for specifications. Friendly and supportive congregation. Salary is negotiable based on experience. Paid vacation. Please send resume to Linda Connors, Council Vice President, First Lutheran Church, 326 Mill Street, Poughkeepsie, NY, 845-452-6050 or e-mail letter of intent and resume to [Connors@msmc.edu](mailto:Connors@msmc.edu). 11/17/04

ORGANIST/COORDINATOR OF MUSIC (Part-Time)

### **REGINA COELI RC CHURCH – HYDE PARK, NY**

Available immediately. Three weekend services: Saturday 5:00 PM, Sunday 7:30 and 9:30 AM. (Contemporary music group at 11:30 AM is under separate leadership.) No choir at present; church is interested in building an adult choir for occasional liturgies, and has a vision for establishing a children's choir. Two-manual Saville electronic organ of uncertain vintage in the loft; baby grand piano in narthex. Salary \$20,000 - \$24,000 depending on experience, and benefits commensurate with archdiocesan guidelines. Weddings and funerals: additional compensation. Send resume to: Fr. Michael Palazzo, Church of Regina Coeli, 2 Harvey Street, Hyde Park, NY 12533 – Phone: 845-229-2134 Fax: 845-229-1668 E-mail: [mlpreginacoeli@aol.com](mailto:mlpreginacoeli@aol.com). 11/5/04

ORGANIST (Part-Time)

### **ST. MARGARET'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - STAATSBURG, NY**

Position available after the first of the year. Small rural church. Sunday service begins at 10:00 a.m. Choir consists of 5 men and 2 women. Rehearsals normally occur 45 minutes prior to service but additional practices are expected to take place during Advent and Lent. Service typically lasts for an hour and a half. The organ is a beautiful Chapman tracker from the 1890's to 1900; rebuilt approximately 18 years ago. Maintained and refurbished by Bozeman. Sound is excellent for a tracker organ. For more information, please contact Fr. Frank Alagna at 845-889-4181, [frfja@hvc.rr.com](mailto:frfja@hvc.rr.com) or Sue Moshier at 876-6194, [smoshier50@yahoo.com](mailto:smoshier50@yahoo.com) 11/1/04

ORGANIST (Part-Time)

### **FAIR STREET REFORM CHURCH—KINGSTON, NY**

Available January 1. One Sunday service at 10:00 AM. Choir rehearsal Thursday evenings 7:30 to 9, September through June, with an excellent choir of about 15-20. Additional seasonal services. Extra compensation for weddings and funerals. One completely free month in summer. Very appreciative, supportive and friendly congregation. Salary: \$100/wk. 3-manual Austin pipe organ. Contact Rev. Lou LaFazia at [louislafazia@aol.com](mailto:louislafazia@aol.com) or mail resume to Fair Street Reform Church, 209 Fair St, Kingston, NY 12401, 845-338-7722 or fax 845-338-7725. 10/18/2004

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR (Part-Time)

**ST. JOSEPH'S RC CHURCH - NEW PALTZ, NY**

Immediate opening. Three weekend Masses at 5:30 PM Saturday, Sundays at 11:00 AM and 12:30 PM, plus 9:30 AM during the summer months. Also Holy Days of Obligation. Mixed 15-member volunteer Festival Choir sings for special occasions at 11:00 AM, rehearses Thursday evenings. Other ensembles: contemporary ensemble and funeral choir, both under separate leadership. Organist entitled to first bid on weddings. Benefits: For every month served, a free substitute is provided for one service. Instruments: Allen 2-manual organ (1990) and Baldwin baby grand piano. Salary: negotiable. Please send resume to Father Maurice Moreau, St. Joseph's Church, 34 South Chestnut Street, New Paltz, NY 12561 or fax to 845-255-5679 or call Father Moreau at 845-255-5635. 9/17/2004

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR (Part-Time)

**ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - POUGHKEEPSIE, NY**

Position available October 3, 2004. One Sunday service at 10:00 AM. Volunteer choir. 1906 Wicks 2-manual organ, playable but needs work. For further information, contact Bobbie Gordon, Warden, St. Paul's Church, 161 Mansion Street, Poughkeepsie, 12601, 845-452-8440. 9/1/2004

ORGANIST (Part-Time)

**THE REFORMED CHURCH OF BEACON - BEACON, NY**

One Sunday service at 11:00 AM. Traditional service with 3 hymns, prelude, offertory, postlude, Gloria Patri and Doxology. No choir. Ryder 2-manual tracker organ in mostly good condition (work on pedal division expected shortly). Compensation negotiable. Contact: Ed Hawkins, V.P. of Consistory, at 418 Rock Cut Rd, Walden, NY 12586 Tel: 845-566-1488 6/30/2004

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR (Part-Time)

**CHRIST CHURCH UNITED METHODIST - BEACON, NY**

One Sunday service at 10:00 AM. Traditional service with 3 hymns, prelude, postlude, and offertory. Small (5 adults) volunteer choir. Anthem most Sundays. Choir rehearsal Thursdays at 7:30 PM. May consider having one anthem per month to get more participation. Instruments: Electronic organ and a piano. We occasionally welcome different instruments to add variety to service. Salary: \$6,200 per year; 3 weeks off with pay; no benefits; paid semi-monthly. Contact: Pastor Tony Beck, Christ Church United Methodist, Beacon, NY, 845-831-2068, or email or email [tonybck@aol.com](mailto:tonybck@aol.com). Renewed 9/1/2004

MINISTER OF MUSIC (Part Time)

**ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH - HYDE PARK**

Position available January 2005. One Sunday service at 10:00 AM, Thursday evening choir rehearsal (except in summer). Additional seasonal services. Familiarity with Episcopal liturgy a plus. Adult choir and potential for youth choir. Several instrumentalists in parish to call on. 3-manual, 22 rank Bozeman tracker pipe organ (built 1990). Salary is negotiable. Extra compensation for weddings and funerals. Contact Fr. Chuck Kramer at 4526 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park, New York 12538. Tel: 845-229-2820, Fax: 845-229-5293, e-mail: [stjames@bestweb.net](mailto:stjames@bestweb.net). Renewed 8/2004

## List of Organ Substitutes

Jeffrey Alban	845-226-6482	<u>For Weddings and Funerals Only:</u>	
Elena Belyayeva	845-452-2069	Joe Bertolozzi	845-831-0695
Richard C. Ehlenberg	845-658-9746	Judie Brown	845-888-5318
Lois Hoger	845-229-7404	Alice Cann	845-223-5344
Maris Kristapsons (no weddings)	845-635-8837	Greg Citarella	845-297-7693
Jimrae K. Lenser	845-427-5884/914-388-6641	Jennifer Geibel	845-658-3218/973-769-1462
Janet Nickerson	845-561-0763	Larry Hazard	845-452-0119
Jeff Parries	845-297-6870	Boyd Herforth	845-255-5298/973-783-8798
<u>No Sunday Morning Services:</u>		Erna Loerch	845-226-8094
Pat Maimone	845-446-2395		
Beverly Simmons	845-463-1249		

## 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](http://www.chvago.org).

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.*

Friday, December 3, 2004 7:30 PM	15th Advent-Christmas Concert featuring The TreasureHouse Chorale and Chamber Orchestra, Soloists and Chorus under the direction of Mr. Joseph J. Nigro. Performing Antonio Vivaldi's Gloria in D Major. Soprano Ellen MacDonald, Mezzo-Soprano Mary Clare Kent. Also a Festival of Carols. St. Francis of Assisi Church, 2 Green Street, Mount Kisco, NY. Tickets \$20 at the door. Info: 914-318-3268 or visit the web site at <a href="http://www.treasurehousemusic.org">http://www.treasurehousemusic.org</a>
Saturday, December 4, 2004 4:00 PM	Organ Recital by <b>John Sullivan</b> , Dean, Central Hudson Valley Chapter, AGO Christ Episcopal Church, Academy and Barclay Streets, Poughkeepsie. Works by Albinoni, Bach, Bitgood, Buxtehude, Mendelssohn, Michel, Pachelbel, Schumann, Vivaldi, and Willan A donation of \$10 is suggested. Proceeds will benefit the church's organ maintenance fund. Info: 845-452-8220
Saturday, December 4, 2004 (Snow Date December 11) 7:00 PM	Music at Marist - Lessons and Carols Service: Marist Singers and Women's Choir Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Poughkeepsie Free. 845-575-3174
Saturday, December 4, 2004 8:00 PM	Camerata Chorale Concert "Requiem" by Maurice Durufle, under the direction of Lee Pritchard. with <b>Jack Davis</b> . organist: also other French music.

December, 2004

with Gary Palmieri, accompanist  
The Reformed Church, 70 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, 845-452-8110. Tickets \$15 at the door; advance tickets \$12. Meet the performers following the concert.  
Camerata Chorale info: 845-255-3243

Sunday, December 5, 2004  
3:00 and 7:00 PM  
Music at Marist - Marist Band and Orchestra Concerts  
Nelly Goletti Theatre, 3rd Floor, Student Center, Marist College, Poughkeepsie  
\$6 general admission, \$5 seniors and Marist Faculty, \$4 Marist students with ID. Info: 845-575-3174

Sunday, December 5, 2004  
3:00 PM  
Handel's Messiah  
Cadet Chapel, USMA, West Point, NY  
**Alan D. Reese**, tenor soloist Free. Info: 845-938-7352

Wednesday, December 8, 2004  
8:00 PM  
Music at Marist - Edwin A. Ulrich Scholarship Student Recital  
Performing Arts Room, 3rd Floor, Student Center, Marist College, Poughkeepsie  
Free. Info: 845-575-3174

February 6, 2005  
3:00 PM  
Mayer Organ Recital  
featuring Janelle O'Malley  
Cadet Chapel, USMA, West Point, NY Free. Info: 845-938-7352

**Saturday, February 26, 2005**  
**Time to be announced**  
**Workshop conducted by Paul Jacobs**  
**St. John's Lutheran Church, 55 Wilbur Blvd, Poughkeepsie**  
**For chapter members and guests. Info: 845-227-7696**

Sunday, February 27, 2005  
Organ Recital by Paul Jacobs  
St. John's Lutheran Church, 55 Wilbur Blvd, Poughkeepsie.  
Info: 845-227-7696

**Sunday, April 3, 2005**  
**Annual Members' Recital**  
**Grace Church, Middletown**  
**Watch this space for further details**

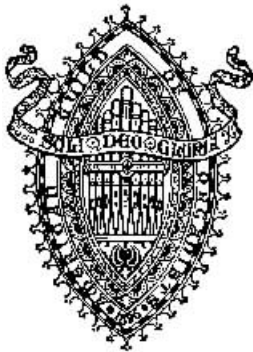
Sunday, April 10, 2005  
3:00 PM  
Recital Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Dr. Davis'  
Appointment as USMA Organist/Choirmaster  
featuring **John A. Davis, Jr.** and **Thomas Sheehan**  
Cadet Chapel, USMA, West Point, NY Free. Info: 845-938-7352

Sunday, May 8, 2005  
3:00 PM  
Class of 1936 Distinguished Organists' Recital  
featuring James Welch, Organist, Santa Clara University  
Cadet Chapel, USMA, West Point, NY Free. Info: 845-938-7352

June 22 – 25, 2005  
**Only 7 months to go!**  
Region II & III AGO Convention  
Hosted by our own Central Hudson Valley chapter  
Call a board member today to see how you can get involved!



Central Hudson Valley Chapter – AGO  
Susan LaGrande, Secretary/Newsletter Editor  
12 Montrose Lane  
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590  
[www.chvago.org](http://www.chvago.org)



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