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

**Newsletter – December 2017**

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**Letter from the Dean**

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to December – a month of striking contrasts, often on a collision course with each other:

- darkness and light
- the joys of family and the stresses of family
- hectic busy-ness and quiet awe
- the secular world of shopping on steroids and the coincidence of several great religious traditions

For those of us entrusted with providing music for religious institutions, December is frequently a stressful time –selecting music that is appropriate to the level of our ensembles and to the institution we serve; planning and scheduling sufficient rehearsal time at the busiest season of the year; practicing; and serving the pastoral needs of choirs and musicians.

At the same time, it is an inspiring, thrilling time, spent exploring the bounty of beautiful music that spans many centuries and many different musical styles. The traditions of December also give us a special opportunity to continue to inspire those who already know and love the music AND to reach out to those who may have never before experienced the amazing impact of such music in their lives.

It is easy to feel overwhelmed and even isolated at this busy time, when so much is expected of us as musicians. Although most of us are “on our own” in planning special services, we should never be hesitant to reach out to our CHVAGO music colleagues for repertoire suggestions, for help with finding guest singers and instrumentalists, and for encouragement and support! Some of us already collaborate on Lessons & Carols or on Christmas Eve services, hopping from our home church to a colleague’s church and from organ bench to conductor’s baton to help support each other’s musical efforts. If you haven’t done that, I encourage you to reach out – start a new tradition of collaboration and support to each other!

I draw your attention to the December issue of The American Organist magazine which has several articles of interest. AGO President Michael Bedford talks about “celebrating our commonalities” in divisive times. He reminds us that December bring the confluence of Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa, all of which rejoice and celebrate in the themes of loving and giving that are shared by people of diverse faiths and people all over the world. He also celebrates the seven Regional Conventions that AGO chapters hosted this year – especially the one in Montreal that several CHVAGO members attended this past summer – as examples of collaboration across national borders and the sharing of a wide variety of diverse musical and religious traditions.

AGO Executive Director (and member of our chapter) James Thomashower gives us a compelling listing of AGO accomplishments over the past year. It is exciting to hear about all the wonderful things that our national organization is doing! AGO Chaplain Don Saliers discusses how music can help in a time of war, crisis and division – what we are doing as musicians really DOES matter! Quoting Leonard Bernstein, he writes: “This will be our reply to violence: to make music more intensely, more beautifully, and more devotedly than ever before.”

So, fellow musicians, let us follow our calling and our passion: let us make music lavishly and lovingly!

In fellowship,



Laura Ramsey Russell, DMA  
Dean, Central Hudson Valley AGO

## League of Distinguished Service Inductees

A highlight of our November Bach to Broadway concert was the induction of four long-time chapter members into the newly formed League of Distinguished Service. Here is a brief biography of each inductee:

- **Lois Hoger** grew up the daughter of a Lutheran Pastor in St. Joe Michigan. She married a Lutheran Pastor from Chicago, Donald Hoger, and moved to the Hudson Valley 51 years ago. Lois played organ at St. Timothy Lutheran in Hyde Park where her husband was pastor. The four Hoger daughters report that on Sunday morning, they always woke-up to the hymns for the service on the piano at home. They assisted their mother at the organ bench turning pages or pulling stops for her. Lois studied organ with Thomas Schmidt at Concordia College, Bronxville and continues to attend workshops and seminars, as well as National Conventions, for A.G.O. and A.L.C.M. (Association of Lutheran Church Musicians), holding membership in each organization. For a number of years, Lois has supplied as organist at local churches and played for the Lutheran Care Center.
- **Connie Lacey** attended Ohio Wesleyan where she met her husband. In 1962, they moved to the Hudson Valley Area; her husband was a teacher. She was organist at several local churches and in 1986 she became organist/choir director & bell director at New Hackensack Reformed Church in Wappingers Falls. Under her direction, the Children's Choir and Adult Choir regularly participated in the yearly Dutchess Interfaith Concerts, often including one or more bell choirs. In 1996, she moved to the Fishkill Reformed Church where she plays the organ, directs the choir and has established a chime ringing program. Connie is a member of the local A.G.O. chapter, currently serving on the board. She also belongs to Handbell Musicians of America (formerly the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers), Area 2 (NY, NJ, PA and Ontario). Connie has served on their board in an elected position for Area 2.
- **Larry Hazard** is the embodiment of the spirit of Santa Claus - whom he portrays at Adams Fairacre Farms every Christmas season. His generosity is displayed in his work with the Red Cross and other volunteer endeavors. But he brings that same generosity to his life as professional musician. Since 1972, Larry has been performing and teaching music in Dutchess County. In addition to his duties as the Choir Director/Organist at the Reformed Church of Beacon, Larry is President of Local 238-291 of the American Federation of Musicians. He is also a member of American and New York Theatre Organ Societies, the NYS Music Teachers Association, and of course our own Central Hudson Valley chapter of the American Guild of Organists.
- **Stu Ballinger** was raised as a preacher's kid, so he was no stranger to church music growing up. He was particularly drawn to organ music, and he became fascinated with the way a pipe organ works. Despite problems with low vision, Stu has assisted with repairs and restorations of several local organs. Along the way he has acquired encyclopedic knowledge of historic pipe organs all over the Northeast, with a special fondness for the Wanamaker organ in Philadelphia. Stu's enthusiasm for pipe organs and organ music, both theatre and classical, is contagious. He is a member of the American Guild of Organists and the Organ Historical Society, and is a licensed ham radio operator, call sign WA2BSS.

Congratulations to each of you for this well-deserved honor!

## Membership News

Lois Hoger reports that she, like many of us, was traveling to visit family over Thanksgiving. While hurrying to her departure gate at Detroit airport, she thought she saw a familiar figure ahead of her in the crowd. Small world! It turned out to be Alice Cann, accompanied by her friend Len Marcus. Not only did they share a flight from Detroit to Stewart Airport, but they also sat in adjacent rows. You never know where you might run into a fellow organist!

## 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. If you would like your name listed, please contact the editor using the information above.

Meredith Baker	914-261-0028	Boyd Herforth	973-851-5192
Gregory Citarella	845-297-7693	Timothy Lewis	914-949-2874
Justan Foster	518-965-2389	Janet Nelson Nickerson	845-561-0763
Larry Hazard	845-452-0119	Michael Oosterhout	301-910-5307

## 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. If you would like your name listed, please contact the editor using the information above.

Denise Bassen	845-226-1564	Boyd Herforth	845-255-5298
Joe Bertolozzi	845-831-0695	Sally Hitchcock-Bell	845-596-2854
Nancy Brown	845-373-9122	Wesley Joseph	845-849-0104
Luca Cantone	703-554-5906	Timothy Lewis	914-949-2874
Greg Citarella	845-297-7693	Tom Liotta	845-355-2488
Mary Danyla-Gold	845-249-5448	Susan MacNish	845-635-3814
Richard C. Ehlenberg	845-658-9746	Glenn May	908-890-4628
James Fitzwilliam	845-849-3606	Janet Nickerson	845-561-0763
Justan Foster	518-965-2389	Michael Oosterhout	301-910-5307
Neil Gould	845-452-7857	Joanne Reed	845-361-3474
Janice Grace	917-882-9393	Anthony Rispo	914-979-5181
Iouri Grichetchkine	917-974-6231	Dillon L. Streifeneder	845-532-2488
Larry Hazard	845-452-0119	John Ward	917-657-4614
Eric Hepp	845-489-2625		

## Membership Questions

Please address all questions regarding membership and ONCARD to our Membership Chairman, Craig Williams. His phone number is 845-239-2262 and his e-mail address is [craigwilliams@hvc.rr.com](mailto:craigwilliams@hvc.rr.com).

## **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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://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 January 2018, is December 23.

## **Editor's Corner**

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

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## **Position Openings**

*Editor's Note - Hiring institutions are encouraged to check references from applicants' previous employers. 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 845-226-6496 or email [SUSANEL2@OPTONLINE.NET](mailto:SUSANEL2@OPTONLINE.NET).*

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

ORGANIST AND MUSIC DIRECTOR (Part-time)

**OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH - FISHKILL, NY**

*11/21/2017*

MUSIC DIRECTOR - (Part-Time)

**ROCKLAND COUNTY CHORAL SOCIETY - NEW CITY, NY**

*11/6/2017*

ORGANIST/MUSIC DIRECTOR - (Part-Time)

**HOLY CROSS/SANTA CRUZ EPISCOPAL CHURCH - KINGSTON, NY**

*11/4/2017*

ORGANIST - (Part-Time)

**FAIR STREET REFORMED CHURCH - KINGSTON, NY**

*11/4/2017*

MINISTER OF MUSIC - (Part-Time)  
**FAIR STREET REFORMED CHURCH - KINGSTON, NY**  
*11/4/2017*

MUSICAL ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR - (Full-Time)  
**MOST HOLY TRINITY CHURCH - WEST POINT, NY**  
*9/1/2017*

TENOR SECTION LEADER - (Part-Time)  
**ST. MARY'S IN TUXEDO EPISCOPAL CHURCH - TUXEDO PARK, NY**  
*8/14/2017*

MUSIC DIRECTOR-MINISTER OF MUSIC-(Part-Time)  
**ST. JAMES AFRICAN EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH-BEACON, NY**  
*8/8/2017*

ORGANIST/MUSIC DIRECTOR - (Part-Time)  
**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - ELLENVILLE, NY**  
*8/4/2017*

MUSIC DIRECTOR/MINISTER OF MUSIC  
**GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH - MILLBROOK, NY** *Filled 11/5/2017*

MUSIC DIRECTOR/ORGANIST - (Full-Time)  
**SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH - SHRUB OAK, NY**  
*Filled 11/17/2017*

ORGANIST - (Part-Time)  
**OLD DUTCH CHURCH - KINGSTON, NY**  
*Renewed 11/8/2017*

MUSIC DIRECTOR (Part-Time)  
**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST - POUGHKEEPSIE, NY**  
*Renewed 11/9/2017*

MUSIC DIRECTOR/ORGANIST - (Part-Time)  
**FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF VOORHEESVILLE - VOOREESVILLE, NY**  
*Renewed 7/2/2017*

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR - (Part-Time)  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - WAPPINGERS FALLS, NY**  
*Renewed 11/8/2017*

## 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

**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.*

Sunday, December 3, 2017 3:30 PM Cadet Chapel Organ Concert - 59th Annual Handel's Messiah  
Featuring the Cadet Choir, Combined Choirs and Orchestra. Cadet Chapel, US Military Academy, West Point, NY. Free admission. All Cadet Chapel organ recitals and concerts are free to the general public. Please allow extra travel time for the 100% vehicle and photo I.D. inspection at Stony Lonesome and Thayer gates. Due to changing security requirements at West Point, please check [www.westpoint.edu/special](http://www.westpoint.edu/special) before leaving for the recital. Info: contact **Craig Williams** at 845-938-7352 or [craig.williams@usma.edu](mailto:craig.williams@usma.edu).

Tuesday, December 12, 2017 through Saturday, December 23, 2017 Music at the Mall  
Once again the New York Theatre Organ Society will present holiday music on the travelling Allen GW319EX organ in the Poughkeepsie Galleria Mall on Route 9 just south of Poughkeepsie. For two weeks, Tuesday through Saturday, several artists will rotate in three-hour shifts starting at 11:30 AM and going until 8:30 PM. The excellent roster of artists, all "heavyweights" in the Theatre Organ World, will include:  
Juan Cardona Jr.  
Nathan Avakian  
Claire Avakian (Nathan's Sister, an accomplished vocalist)  
John Baratta  
Carl Hackert  
our own **John Gagliardi**  
and several other very competent performers. If you would like to give it a try, just stop by, or contact **John Vanderlee** at 914-475-0444.  
Come and enjoy the sounds of the season and other favorites played on an exciting theatre organ. Mall hours are from 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM. Info: 914-475-0444.

Sunday, December 17, 2017  
12:30 PM  
Organ Concert by Chase Castle  
Chase Castle is an organist from Cleveland, Ohio. The concert will feature Buxtehude, Bach, Mendelssohn, Vierne, Hindemith, and Langlais. Old Dutch Church, 272 Wall Street, Kingston, NY. Free. Info: 845-338-6759.

Sunday, December 17, 2017  
3:00 PM  
A Service of Christmas Lessons & Carols  
Scripture will tell of God's plan for our salvation in the birth of Jesus and will be accompanied by favorite Christmas carols. Music presented by the Bell Choirs. No charge for admission; a free-will offering will be taken. St. John's Lutheran Church, 55 Wilbur Blvd., Poughkeepsie, NY Info: 845-452-1550.

Sunday, December 17, 2017  
4:00 PM  
Music at Zion: A Candlelight Service of Traditional Christmas Lessons & Carols  
Zion Episcopal Church, 12 Satterlee Place, Wappingers Falls, NY. Free will offering. Info: Contact **Gregory Citarella** for more information at: 845-297-7693.

Sunday, January 21, 2018  
Concert at 3:30 PM  
Food and Fellowship 5:00 PM  
SNOW DATE: Sunday, January 28, 2018  
Annual Spuds & Sundaes Social Event  
This year our Spuds & Sundaes event will take place at FDR High School in Hyde Park. In addition to our traditional food and fellowship, we will enjoy an organ concert by John Baratta on the Gus Pratt Organ at 3:30 PM, followed by an opportunity to ask questions about and to try out the organ. Food and fellowship will follow at 5:00 PM. Hot baked potatoes and cold ice cream will be provided, along with appropriate toppings for both. We will also have our traditional music sale to benefit the chapter scholarship fund. Bring your used organ, piano, or choral music and find some new musical treasures! Open to all - bring a friend. Info: 914-204-6572.

Saturday, February 24, 2018  
2:00 PM  
SNOW DATE: Sunday, February 25, 2018  
Handbell Workshop - Bells in Worship  
The workshop will be led by **Susan Guse**, using the "Back to Bells" curriculum. Bells and chimes will be available on site for the program. St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 55 Wilbur Blvd., Poughkeepsie, NY. NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE REQUIRED. Free of charge. RSVP by February 10th required to order materials. Info: 845-242-1478

Sunday, March 11, 2018  
3:00 PM  
Concert by Cantus Vocal Ensemble  
Cantus is acclaimed as "the premiere men's vocal ensemble in the United States" (Fanfare). First United Methodist Church, 603 State Street, Schenectady, NY. Free admission. Handicapped accessible. Info: 518-374-4403.



Friday, April 13, 2018  
7:30 PM

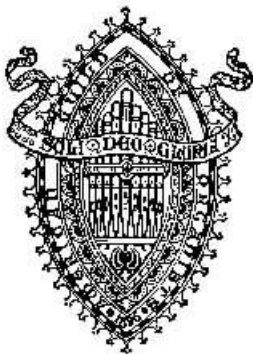
Annual Members' Recital  
Recital Theme: Organ-Plus - Organ plus one or more instruments. Zion Episcopal Church, 12 Satterlee Place, Wappingers Falls, NY. Please Contact **Laura Russell** at 845-485-1648 if you want to play or if you have questions. RSVP requested by mid-March.

Sunday, May 6, 2018  
3:00 PM

Organ Concert by Vincent Dubois  
Vincent Dubois, newly appointed as one of the three organists at the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, won the 2002 Calgary International Organ Competition and the International Competition of Toulouse, France, in the same year. First United Methodist Church, 603 State Street, Schenectady, NY. Free admission. Handicapped accessible. Info: 518-374-4403.



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Soli Deo Gloria