



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

Newsletter – December 2022

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Chapter Web Site

www.chvago.org

Letter from the Dean

Greetings of the season to all of our CHVAGO members and friends!

Obviously everyone working even remotely with a church will be up to their armpits at a minimum doing their preparations for this, one of THE most demanding seasons of the entire year for anyone in our profession! For me personally the season this year has taken on an added air of “complication” because this coming Tuesday, December 6th, I will finally have my second eye surgery to take care of a very vexing cataract in my LEFT eye!

I am very fortunate indeed in that my dear friend Rick Landers from my home town of Little Rock will be coming back to New York for two weeks to help me through this process just as he did when I had the prior surgery on my right eye back in early September. Yes, that was quite some time ago, and the healing process has been achingly S-L-O-W as a result of some complications that arose in that surgery that could not be avoided! Within the past weeks I have finally seen DRAMATIC improvement, however, in my vision on that side--so much so that I CAN NOW EVEN SEE CLEARLY THE NOTES IN THE MUSIC ON THE ORGAN

MUSIC RACK!! Gee, no wonder I was playing so many wrong notes before!! (Hey, at my age you grab any excuse you can, but....yikes)!

With any kind of luck this one “may” go more like a standard cataract procedure which normally heals very fast, but the doctor has made it clear that they simply will not know until they get into my eye to “assess conditions!” Not much one can do under those circumstances but PRAY FERVENTLY for enhanced healing, so I covet from any of you in our membership (of which I know there are many) who also have “good connections upstairs!!” Hey, I take ALL kinds! ALL religions count in my book in one form or another and we “mostly” all pray to the same God!

So in light of all this I am going to “step back” this month and let our able Director of communications, Susan LaGrande, as well as Sub-Dean Laura Russell do the bulk of the writing to give some wonderful additional detail about a number of exciting programs that are planned for the rest of our program year, starting next month! I meanwhile want to wish for all of our members and colleagues a VERY blessed and meaningful (spelled GLORIOUS) season of Advent, Christmastide and alongside anticipation of what I believe to be the often badly “underplayed” season of Epiphany!

As they always say (even though it doesn't always apply the best for organists!)...BREAK A LEG!!



Benjamin T. Vise, MM, Dean
Central Hudson Valley Chapter of AGO

Membership News

Since AGOHQ adopted rolling enrollment dates a few years ago, some of us tend to lose track of our membership expiration date. In any given month, there are several members whose membership is about to expire. Remember, you must be a member in good standing for your name to be included in the Sub List or Teachers List. In order to maintain your membership and the privileges which it conveys, please pay your dues promptly. If you have any questions about how to renew your membership, or when your current membership expires, please contact Susan LaGrande at chvagoboard@gmail.com.

From the Sub-Dean:

I really enjoy planning musical programs, and I am looking forward to our Chapter's presentation of a variety of programs in the upcoming year!

I thought now would be a good time to share with you some of the thoughts that go into planning our programs.

We strive to present programs that further our Chapter's mission and goals, listed on our website:

Our chapter members have a wide range of skills and experiences, and we try to have events that will be helpful or interesting to as many members as possible. We welcome musicians of all skill levels and those who play on all instruments, including pipe organs, electronic organs and theatre organs. We also strive to affirm our commitment to the goals of our Juneteenth Statement.

We try to include programs that:

- Foster social interaction/fellowship
- Feature a variety of venues & instruments in our region
- Promote education through presentations on technique and repertoire, as well as Certification Awards and Achievement Awards
- Include a variety of types of performance, including in-person, virtual, professional performers, regional & local performers
- Bring new members to our chapter by recruiting new and/or young organists and organ aficionados
- Raise awareness of AGO and of the Organ to the public
- Collaborate with other AGO chapters; with other musical organizations; with performers and venues, both religious and secular

Upcoming CHVAGO programs for 2023

- **Spuds 'n Sundaes** event on January 29th - see details on our Calendar, elsewhere in this newsletter.
- **Members' Recital:** This year we will divide up this event into two concerts, both focused on music written by under-represented composers. In February we will feature music written by people of color. In March we will feature music written by women.
Sunday, February 5, 2023 at 3:00 PM at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 161 Mansion Street, Poughkeepsie
Sunday, March 25, 2023 at 3:00 PM at St George's Episcopal Church, 105 Grand Street, Newburgh
Both programs would primarily feature organ works, but they can also include choral pieces. The choral component will be in the form of a reading and/or an informal choral performance.

Knowing that many of us are not necessarily familiar with the wealth of music written by under-represented composers, we will share in advance a listing of works, at all levels of difficulty, to help members make a selection of what they would like to play. Look for an email about this, and for the list to appear on our website as well.

- **Bach to Broadway Duo Organ Concert** – late April or early May at Christ Episcopal Church, Poughkeepsie. Date TBD
- **Crawl, Demo, Concert** – at St Philip’s Church in the Highlands, 1101 Route 9D, Garrison, where Christopher Fasulo (Dean of the Westchester Chapter) is the new organist. This will be a joint program between our Chapter and the Westchester Chapter. St. Philips has a beautiful Schoenstein organ that was installed just before the pandemic hit. I know many of us will be excited to hear and explore the possibilities of this wonderful instrument! Late May - early June: exact date TBD.
- **Westchester 2023 AGO Regional Convention – July 3-6, 2023.** We encourage all of our members to register for and attend this exciting event “in our neighborhood”. We hope to collaborate with the Westchester Chapter on aspects of their convention.
- **Annual CHVAGO Picnic** – July/August – date and place TBD
- **Collaboration with NYTOS** – on the re-establishment of the organ teaching program at Hyde Park High School, to include both Classical and Theatre organ lessons. Watch for more information as it becomes available.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming events!



Laura Ramsey Russell
CHVAGO Sub-Dean, Programming Committee Chair

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	Wesley Joseph	845-849-0104
Joe Bertolozzi	845-337-1216	Maris Kristapsons	845-635-0411
Luca Cantone	703-554-5906	Sistine Lezon	914-456-0533
Greg Citarella	845-559-4013	Janet Nickerson	845-294-8138
Richard C. Ehlenberg	845-687-6013	Michael Oosterhout	301-910-5307
James Fitzwilliam	845-849-3606	Edward Palange	914-213-3460
Justan Foster	518-965-2389	Joanne Reed	845-361-3474
Carl J. Geiselhart	845-457-4830	Nancy Vanderlee	845-266-3858
Susan Guse	845-242-1478	Benjamin Vise	330-327-0895
Larry Hazard	845-452-0119	John Ward	917-657-4614
Eric Hepp	845-489-2625	Christopher Wynkoop	845-926-7389

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	Janet Nelson Nickerson	845-294-8138
Gregory Citarella	845-559-4013	Michael Oosterhout	301-910-5307
Justan Foster	518-965-2389	Benjamin Vise	330-327-0895
Larry Hazard	845-452-0119		

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 January 2023, 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:

Susan LaGrande

12 Montrose Lane

Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

Phone: 845-226-6496 (home) - e-mail: CHVAGOboard@gmail.com

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 chvagoboard@gmail.com.

Editor's Note – Because there are so many new position openings this month, we are choosing not to list all of them in their entirety. If you have questions about a position, please contact the prospective employer directly using the information provided in the complete listing online at http://www.chvago.org/CHVAGO_Positions.php. If you need help accessing the online information, please call Susan LaGrande at 845-226-6496.

MUSIC LEADER - (Part-Time)

CHRIST'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - WOODSTOCK, NY

11/28/2022

ORGANIST - (Part-Time)
GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - NEWBURGH, NY
11/28/2022

MUSIC DIRECTOR - (Part Time)
ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - CORNWALL, NY
10/22/2022

VOCAL/BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR, MUSIC DIRECTOR - (Part-Time)
COBLESKILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - COBLESKILL, NY
10/22/2022

ORGANIST - (Part-Time)
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH - KENT, CT
10/15/2022

CHORAL DIRECTOR - (Part-Time)
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH - POUGHKEEPSIE, NY
10/9/2022

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC - (Full-Time)
ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST - GOSHEN, NY
9/26/2022

PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR OF SACRED MUSIC - (Full-Time)
ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY - DUNWOODIE (YONKERS, NY)
9/17/2022

ORGANIST - (Part-Time)
ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SPRING VALLEY - SPRING VALLEY, NY
7/2/2022

ORGANIST AND MUSIC DIRECTOR (Part-time)
OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH - FISHKILL, NY
5/27/2022

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND ORGANIST - Part-Time
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - MIDDLETOWN, NY
3/28/2022

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND ORGANIST - Part-Time
**THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-ST.JOSEPH AND OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL -
POUGHKEEPSIE, NY**
3/12/2022

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.

Saturday, December 10, 2022
1:30 PM

A Stissing Christmas
Presented by the New York Theatre Organ Society and the Stissing Center. A seasonal celebration with music, singalongs, a short holiday film, Santa, other special guests, and more! With guest organist [Scott Foppiano](#). [Click here](#) for a printable flyer. [The Stissing Center](#), 2950 Church Street, Pine Plains, NY 12567. Info: 518-771-3339.

Sunday, January 22, 2023
5:00 PM

Concerts Con Brio presents Chamber Music
[Musicians of the Hudson Valley Philharmonic](#) will present the Hudson Valley String Quartet: The Cara Group (Rachel Handman & Stephen Minor, violins; Elizabeth Handman, viola; Chris Santos, cello), who will play *Strum* by Jesse Montgomery. Additional program details will be added as they become available. [Christ Episcopal Church](#), 20 Carroll Street, Poughkeepsie, NY. Suggested donation of \$15 at the door. Info: 845-452-8220

Sunday January 29, 2023,
5:00 PM

Spuds & Sundaes Social - Music Sale - Epiphany Reading Session
Three events in one! And a great opportunity to bring a guest.

- Baked potatoes and ice cream, with appropriate toppings for each. A great opportunity for good food and fellowship. If you would like to contribute a topping, please contact [Susan LaGrande](#).
- If you have organ- or choral-related sheet music that you no longer want, bring it here and let other members browse. Take what you want and leave a donation to benefit the Scholarship Fund.
- Reading session: Bring Epiphany favorites to share with other members. These can be organ solos, hymns, or choral anthems. We will share the music in the church Sanctuary in an informal reading session after our meal. If you want to share hymns or anthems, please bring copies of the music for people to read.

[Zion Episcopal Church](#), 12 Satterlee Place, Wappinger Falls, NY 12590.

Sunday, February 5, 2023
3:00 PM

Members' Recital, Part One

This year we will divide up our Members' Recital into two concerts, both focused on music written by under-represented composers. In February we will feature music written by people of color. Both programs would primarily feature organ works, but they can also include choral pieces. The choral component will be in the form of a reading and/or an informal choral performance. Knowing that many of us are not necessarily familiar with the wealth of music written by under-represented composers, we will share in advance a listing of works, at all levels of difficulty, to help members make a selection of what they would like to play. Look for an email about this, and for the list to appear on our website as well. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 161 Mansion Street, Poughkeepsie. Info: 845-232-8601

Sunday, March 25, 2023
3:00 PM

Members' Recital, Part Two

This year we will divide up our Members' Recital into two concerts, both focused on music written by under-represented composers. In March we will feature music written by women. Both programs would primarily feature organ works, but they can also include choral pieces. The choral component will be in the form of a reading and/or an informal choral performance. Knowing that many of us are not necessarily familiar with the wealth of music written by under-represented composers, we will share in advance a listing of works, at all levels of difficulty, to help members make a selection of what they would like to play. Look for an email about this, and for the list to appear on our website as well. St. George's Episcopal Church, 105 Grand Street, Newburgh Info: 845-232-8601



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Soli Deo Gloria