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# Central Hudson Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

## Newsletter – February 2022

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### Chapter Web Site

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### From the Dean

Dear Colleagues,

The musical high point of January for me was Felix Hell's organ concert on 1/23/22 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Poughkeepsie. It offered both an in-person LIVE concert experience (with distanced seating and mask requirements) AND a Livestream experience. His program choices were excellent, and his playing was well-executed and inspiring. The organ filled the room with glorious sound! [see a copy of his program elsewhere in this newsletter]

Following the concert there was a "Meet and Greet" event sponsored by our Chapter to allow people to talk with the performer and ask questions. It took place via Zoom. I was struck by the fact that, rather than being a limiting or isolating experience, Zoom actually made us feel more connected by allowing people unable to attend the concert (by virtue of location, Covid concerns, etc) to "be there" with Felix. Attending the Zoom session was a person from Mexico, who had met Felix at a live concert he had given in her country a few years ago. She viewed the Livestream of the concert, and then interacted with and caught up with Felix. There was also a young child on Zoom, who Felix didn't recognize at first, although he was

an in person student of his. Felix had never seen the student without a mask, and the child had never seen his teacher without a mask. They were overjoyed to greet each other on Zoom, and to actually see each other's faces for the first time!

Several years ago, when Felix gave a previous concert at St. John's, our Chapter took Felix out to dinner in a local restaurant. At that meal we talked with him about his goal to make the organ more accessible to people who don't normally set foot in houses of worship or in concert halls, where the vast majority of organs "reside." Felix has a special touring organ that he brings to where the people are: in community/public venues, including schools, parks, and malls, so that people can hear the organ, perhaps for the first time, where they are.

*(Sidebar: A shout-out to our own CHVAGO member John Vanderlee who does the same with the NYTOS Traveling Theatre Organ, which travels to Poughkeepsie's Galleria Mall every Christmas season, and to schools and other community venues, to bring organ music to the public.)*

At the Zoom "Meet and Greet" I reminded Felix of our earlier dinner conversation, mentioning that during Covid this continued to be very important, since there are more restrictions and worries about live performance. Ironically, the constraints placed on live performances have also had the effect of creating more opportunities for getting the organ out of the church and concert hall – directly into our homes!

All of this speaks to me about the importance of reframing negative or constraining situations in order to see a few positive opportunities that Covid has given us.

Don't get me wrong! I am NOT claiming that Covid is a positive thing, by any means. I am just saying that when something as earth-shaking and life-changing as Covid happens to us, it is possible to create new opportunities and to find islands of "collateral beauty" in the midst of the serious, extensive collateral damage caused by Covid.

I see this happening in the world of music all around us. Many of our houses of worship are broadcasting their services and organ and choral music to a whole new group of attendees – in some cases, all over the globe!

Our own Former Dean Craig Williams, having lost the opportunity to bring the public into his amazing Cadet Chapel at West Point, has created an equally amazing "public concert series" on his Facebook page – performing great works on the Cadet Chapel Organ, along with fascinating commentary. He has brought this to many thousands of people who could otherwise never have heard him or that organ. Many people have taken the public on virtual tours of their instruments, creating a new category of "Virtual Organ Crawls." Craig did a terrific one in 2021, taking us up into the nether reaches of the Cadet Chapel organ's many divisions.

*[Editor's Note: You can find Craig's virtual crawl of the Cadet Chapel organ in the YouTube video of the AGO 2021 Members Recital, beginning at minute 6:26.*

*<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2p368XSkQZM>.]*

Seeing the world through Zoom/Facebook can feel frustrating and isolating. But the technology can also be inclusive and grant greater access to music. It allows people to experience and participate in musical events by reaching out to those

- who are home-bound
- who are ill or immuno-compromised
- who can't drive at night
- who are in a far-off location
- who are affected by bad weather
- who lack access to transportation
- who are not comfortable in specific venues or regions or neighborhoods

The technology breaks down barriers of time and of space; it can also break down barriers of social class, religion, and culture.

When you feel frustrated, deprived, and depressed about all that we musicians have lost during Covid, try reframing the situation to focus on what we have also gained in the midst of this loss. When we finally emerge from our Covid cocoons, I hope that we can also emerge with fresh ideas and new solutions to approach our communities and the world, making delicious lemonade out of Covid lemons, and sharing our love of organ and choral music with ever greater numbers of people!

Yours, in HOPE!



Laura Ramsey Russell, DMA - Dean, Central Hudson Valley AGO

## **Membership News**

We recently heard from chapter member Carl Geiselhart, whom we honored in January 2020 as one of the first recipients of the AGO Achievement Awards. Portions of his letter to Treasurer Susan Guse are reproduced below:

*My post-secondary plans have changed a bit since two years ago. I still am intent on continuing my musical studies in some manner, but I would like to major in physics/chemistry and/or possibly engineering. My studies at Juilliard, alongside rigorous AP science courses at my school, have helped me determine that it would be far too demanding and stressful to attempt to pursue a music major or minor alongside my STEM coursework.*

*My current plan is to study privately and perform in some of my school's ensembles; I am applying to schools that offer fantastic science/engineering programs as well as flexible opportunities for non-music school students interested in continuing their studies. Some schools also offer certificate programs, which could be a nice medium between private study and a minor. I will consider enrolling in these if, after a semester or two, I find that I have adequate time.*

*The most critical and troubling variable in all of this is how to delegate my time and opportunities among the three instruments I play: trombone, piano, and organ. As much as I enjoy my studies on each, I have come to feel "spread too thin" (especially when factoring in*

*school) and would like to focus on just one after high school. This is a terrible dilemma: I am most accomplished and interconnected as a trombonist, so I expect the best scholarship opportunities there. However, I have always wanted to intensify my keyboard studies and pursue more collaborative opportunities as a pianist/organist. I don't think I'll be able to figure this out until I'm actually in school and have had a chance to feel out the programs for each, so all I can guarantee now is that I'll be continuing my musical studies in some way. I promise to update you as I hear back from schools in late March and April!*

### **Program - Felix Hell Concert on January 23, 2022**

*Prelude and Fugue in G Major, BWV 541 - Bach*

*Choral Fantasia on "How brightly shines the Morningstar", BuxWV 223 - Buxtehude*

*Pastorale, BWV 590 - Bach*

*Prelude and Fugue on B-A-C-H - Liszt*

*Fête, op. 51 - Langlais*

*Meditation on Akatombo from Three Japanese Sketches - Guy Bovet (born 1942)*

*Sonata No. 1 in D Minor, op. 42 - Guilman.*

### **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 March 2022, is February 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](mailto:CHVAGOboard@gmail.com)

## 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](http://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	Maris Kristapsons	845-635-8837
Joe Bertolozzi	845-337-1216	Sistine Lezon	914-456-0533
Luca Cantone	703-554-5906	Janet Nickerson	845-561-0763
Greg Citarella	845-297-7693	Michael Oosterhout	301-910-5307
Richard C. Ehlenberg	845-687-6013	Edward Palange	914-213-3460
James Fitzwilliam	845-849-3606	Joanne Reed	845-361-3474
Justan Foster	518-965-2389	Margaret Ritzau	860-779-3751
Carl J. Geiselhart	845-457-4830	Anthony Rispo	914-979-5181
Susan Guse	845-242-1478	Todd Sisley	518-225-0928
Larry Hazard	845-452-0119	Nancy Vanderlee	845-266-3858
Eric Hepp	845-489-2625	Benjamin Vise	330-327-0895
Boyd Herforth	845-687-6233	John Ward	917-657-4614
Wesley Joseph	845-849-0104	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](http://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	845-561-0763
John Baratta	973-222-0618	Michael Oosterhout	301-910-5307
Gregory Citarella	845-297-7693	Anthony Rispo	914-979-5181
Justan Foster	518-965-2389	Benjamin Vise	330-327-0895
Larry Hazard	845-452-0119	Patrick Walker	845-464-9035
Boyd Herforth	845-687-6233		

## 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](mailto:chvagoboard@gmail.com).*

ORGANIST - (Part-Time)

### **ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH – WARWICK, NY**

One Sunday service at 11:00 AM. No Choir. One Service on each of the following holidays: Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Good Friday. Weddings and Funerals paid directly to you. Our organ is a Rodgers which was acquired from another church many years ago (not sure of exact date). It is serviced by Gottshall. We also have a Yamaha upright piano available.

Salary: \$11,000 – 15,000 (depending on experience), 4 weeks vacation

We are a small Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregation. We use the Lutheran Service Book, Copyright 2006 from Concordia Publishing House.

[St. Peter Lutheran Church](#), 70 Little York Road, Warwick, NY 10990.

Email: [st.petercontact@gmail.com](mailto:st.petercontact@gmail.com); church office phone: 845-258-4541. You can also find us on Facebook: [st.peterchurch](#) and Instagram. Please call Christina Gust, Church President, at 845-324-0997, or email at [christinagust@aol.com](mailto:christinagust@aol.com). 12/21/2021

ORGANIST - (Part-Time)

### **ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - PLEASANT VALLEY, NY**

One Sunday Service at 10:00 AM; two services on Christmas Eve and during Holy Week. No choir. Weddings/funerals paid directly to you. Approximately \$200. Allen digital computer organ 220 series. The organ came to us gently used in 2021. There are 2 manuals, Swell and Great and a “princess pedalboard.” The organ is in excellent condition, recently serviced by Harry Gottshall. Salary: \$8,500, 4 weeks vacation.

Older congregation, a few strong singers. We use the 1982 Hymnbook and occasionally supplement from Wonder, Love, and Praise. [St. Paul's Episcopal Church](#), PO Box 1449, 808 Traver Road, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569. 845-635-2854 Contact: Rita Carver, Warden 917-647-1140 [stpaulspv@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulspv@gmail.com) 11/11/2021

MUSIC DIRECTOR, ETC. - Part-Time

### **FREEDOM PLAINS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - LAGRANGEVILLE, NY**

*Withdrawn 1/25/2022*

ORGANIST/MUSIC DIRECTOR - (Part-Time)

### **ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - COLD SPRING, NY**

One Sunday service at 10:00 AM; Eucharist on the first, second, and third Sundays, with Morning Prayer on the fourth and fifth. Additional holy day services as required, including, but not limited to: Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil, and Thanksgiving. We are also considering regular Sung Evensong services,

held Sunday's at 4:00 PM, every other month. Your in-person presence and participation (with safety precautions during the COVID-19 pandemic) for Sunday worship is required, whether inside the sanctuary or outdoors on the lawn. Currently, there is no choir. The successful candidate will bring a willingness and positive energy to encourage, recruit and train members (whether parishioners or outside community) in order to build a volunteer choir. Salary will increase in tandem with the additional duties and responsibilities of the position, and rehearsal time with volunteers.

The instrument (organ) we use indoors is a Copeman Hart & Company organ, manufactured in Irthlingborough, England. A Steinway Model B grand piano is also available. When outdoors, on the Great Lawn, we use a Yamaha 88 key electronic keyboard, with an outdoor amplification system. Salary is commensurate with experience, for four services per month. As parish organist, you will have the right of first refusal for the special, public services which include weddings and funerals. This means you are compensated even if the family engages another musician. The honorarium for parishioners is currently \$200 and \$250 for non-parishioners, and is paid directly to you. The candidate must have either a degree in music or current enrollment in studies toward such a degree, with a concentration in organ studies, and must be vaccinated for COVID-19. For a complete job description, [Click Here](#). [The Episcopal Church of St. Mary-in-the-Highlands](#), 1 Chestnut Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516. Send resume to Father Steve Schunk at [stmaryinthehighlands@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryinthehighlands@gmail.com).  
8/11/2021

**ORGANIST/MUSIC DIRECTOR - (Part-Time)**

**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - ELLENVILLE, NY**

Seeking an organist/music director, one Sunday service weekly, 10:00 AM, and Christmas Eve. Adult Choristers rehearsal on occasional Sundays (9:00 AM) and occasionally mid-week, as scheduled. Weddings and funerals depending on availability with right of first refusal. St. John's has two organs: (1) a newly installed Allen Digital Organ with substantial speakers in the front and back of the sanctuary, and (2) an historic pipe organ, originally built by Lebagh and Kemp in 1874 (mechanical action, two manuals, 18 ranks), which has been recently restored, is in excellent condition, and is maintained by Rosenberry and Myers, Organbuilders. An electronic piano is also available. Service hymn selection in collaboration with clergy. St. John's is the home of the Music Institute of Sullivan and Ulster Counties (MISU), under the direction of Anastasia Solberg, a community-oriented school specializing in traditional and contemporary chamber music; MISU concerts at St. John's 3-4 times yearly. Our church is committed to community involvement, environmental stewardship, and hospitality. Salary range: \$9,000-\$11,000. Flexible vacation time. Visit St. John's online at <http://www.stjohnsellenville.org>. Please submit a letter of interest, resume, and references to The Rev. Canon Jeff Gollhofer, St. John's Episcopal Church. P.O. Box 262, Ellenville, NY 12428, or by email at [jmgollhofer1@earthlink.net](mailto:jmgollhofer1@earthlink.net). 7/23/2021



## 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.*

<del>Saturday, January 8,</del> <del>2021</del> POSTPONED DUE TO COVID CONSIDERATIONS	Bach to Broadway Concert Back by popular demand! Come and be dazzled by a Duo Organ Concert featuring Nathan Avakian on the NYTOS Traveling Theatre Organ, and James Fitzwilliam on the Gress-Miles Pipe Organ, along with other friends and collaborators. <a href="#">Christ Episcopal Church</a> , 20 Carroll Street, Poughkeepsie. Watch this space for more information as it becomes available. Tickets \$15 at the door. Info: 845-452-8220.
Friday, February 25, 2022 7:30 PM	Organ Recital by Dr. John Wolfe <a href="#">Dr. John Wolfe</a> is the Organist and Director of Music at the historic St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Brooklyn, NY. The program includes masterpieces by J.S. Bach, J. Titelouze, D. Buxtehude, and N. de Grigny. <a href="#">Zion Episcopal Church</a> , 12 Satterlee Place, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590. Suggested Donation: \$10.00 per person Seniors: \$5.00 / Children under 13 Free! Masks will be required for all in attendance regardless of vaccination status. Info: 845-559-4013





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Soli Deo Gloria