



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

Newsletter – February 2024

Officers

Laura Russell – Sub-Dean / Acting Dean
845-232-8601

Nancy Vanderlee – Secretary
914-204-6472

Justan Foster – At-Large Member
518-965-2389

John Vanderlee – At-Large Member
914-475-0444

Susan Guse – Treasurer
845-242-1478

Susan LaGrande – Newsletter Editor
845-235-7203

Eileen Kerkes – At-Large Member
802-309-8407

Chapter Web Site

www.chvago.org

This month's editorial is provided by board member Justan Foster. Justan is Music Director at the Greenbush Reformed Church (East Greenbush, NY) and has served on the CHVAGO Board since 2020. A Past Dean of the Eastern New York and Hudson-Catskill AGO, Justan works to promote the compositions of living, American composers and supports funding programs that encourage growth of interest in organ and development of young artists-- which includes acting as past chair of the 2015 Regional Quimby Pipe Organ Competition and as coordinator for several Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza events. Outside of his role in the music world, Justan is the Director of Microsoft Services for Church World Service (a international nonprofit focused on refugee placement, disaster relief, and sustainability efforts).

“You can't always get what you want
But if you try sometime you'll find
You get what you need”

I'm almost certain that this is the first CHVAGO editorial to quote Keith Richards and Mick Jagger, but hopefully it won't be the last. Regardless of a person's faith or classical music journey, we all have a handful of songwriters many would write off—but they make sense to

us, individually. They speak to us. They remove the weight of mechanics and inspire us to be present in what we feel, think, and do. And the real beauty in their work is when the lyrics match the melody to tell a story that transcends their own experience and becomes something we can resonate with. And sometimes they need some inspiration from the rest of us.

In preparation for the upcoming workshop on commissioning new music and choral reading session, let's demystify the process so you can prepare to play your part in this critical piece of musical growth.

Myth #1: Commissioning new music is expensive.

Your institution is likely on a budget, and it probably fails to adequately address all of the musical needs or goals you may have as a leader. While it is true that many well-known composers can readily ask for \$1,000-5,000 for a new work that may last just a few minutes, there is also a new world of opportunity for emerging lyricists and arrangers who will gladly provide you with something suitable for what amounts to nominal fees (I recently commissioned a new anthem with instrumental parts and custom voicing ranges for less than \$400, when a single new anthem could run \$75 for a small choir and miss the mark entirely). These artisans are also readily available if you take to social media or forums related to music, and I have found each and every budding composer was ready and willing to work with whatever unique challenges your program may present.

Myth # 2: My music program isn't good enough to premiere a new work.

What makes commissioning new music so exciting is how flexible it can be for your situation. You are given a blank canvas and someone to help guide you. How many times have you perused a published work to find that the sopranos need to hit an A (or even an F some days) that you know will cause grumbling or sacrifice artistry for accuracy? Or perhaps you have always thought this one tune would be better suited to a poem or these lyrics better suited to less frenetic melody? The good news is that you can do just that. Commissioning a new work should be a dialogue where the end product is a masterpiece no matter the size of the palette.

Myth #3: I don't have anything special to commission music for.

While commissioned works typically feature a note about being related to an important anniversary, historic event, or to act as an epitaph, that isn't true of all music. You don't need to celebrate a birthday to bake a cake. Music is meant to make sense of something where words alone don't do justice. While that could be needed at one of many milestones, it can just as easily be just as appropriate while looking out of window of a cabin in the Adirondacks, comforting someone who is ill, or taking stock of a transition in life that is unexpected or overwhelming. I distinctly remember an AGO recital during the 2007 NYC Regional Convention where it was noted that the piece by André Raison was written on the occasion of King Louis XIV's return home following fistula surgery. [No, really \(follow this link and see page 6\).](#) Finding beauty where you can is truly a required skill for any dedicated musician.

I'm sure you don't remember the story behind the piece that made you fall in love with music, but that doesn't make it any less important to you. The true value of commissioning new

music goes beyond a one-time gift or stop-gap solution. You have helped to create something new in a world in pain that is crying out for beauty. You have supported an aspiring artisan, bridged a gap between trauma and healing, and maybe even inspired the next generation to take up this musical craft that we hold dear.

Justan Foster, CAGO

Upcoming Events

- Saturday, February 3, 2024 - 3:00 PM
Romanian Organ Landscape: Renée Anne Louprette, Lecturer
Chapter member Renée Anne Louprette is Assistant Professor of Music and College Organist at Bard College where she directs the Bard Baroque Ensemble and leads an annual Bach cantata series. She spent the Fall 2022 season as a Fulbright scholar in Brasov, Transylvania. Her audiovisual presentation will illustrate her survey of historic Romanian pipe organs.
Location: [St. James Episcopal Church](#), 4526 Albany Post Rd., Hyde Park, NY 12538-1564. Free admission. Reception to follow. Info: 845-229-2820
- Sunday, February 25, 2024 - 3:30 PM
Workshop and Choral Reading Session: How to Succeed in Commissioning Music Without Really Trying
This session will feature a beginner's guide to how to commission works, the benefit of commissioning works to meet specific needs, and a choral reading session of recently commissioned works and new favorites. Attendees are invited to bring an anthem or composition (original or published) to share with other attendees, as time allows.
[Church of the Messiah](#), 6436 Montgomery Street, Rhinebeck, NY 12572. For further information, please contact Justan Foster at 518-965-2389 or justan.foster@live.com.

Member News

Welcome to new member Roman Pemberton, who is the newest recipient of the Margaret Pecoraro Memorial Scholarship. Roman is a student at FDR High Schol in Hyde Park, where he has had some experience with the New York Theatre Organ Society's Gus Pratt Organ. He will be studying with Dillon Streifeneder. His contact information is:

Roman Pemberton
3 Stoutenburgh Drive
Hyde Park, NY 12538
845-366-0615
romanwpemberton@gmail.com

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	Timothy M. Lewis	914-374-2608
Gregory Citarella	845-559-4013	Michael Oosterhout	301-910-5307
Justan Foster	518-965-2389	Dillon Streifeneder	845-532-2488
Larry Hazard	845-452-0119		

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	Larry Hazard	845-452-0119
Joe Bertolozzi	845-337-1216	Eric Hepp	845-489-2625
Luca Cantone	703-554-5906	Wesley Joseph	845-849-0104
Greg Citarella	845-559-4013	Maris Kristapsons	845-635-0411
Richard C. Ehlenberg	845-687-6013	Timothy M. Lewis	914-374-2608
James Fitzwilliam	845-849-3606	Michael Oosterhout	301-910-5307
Justan Foster	518-965-2389	Joanne Reed	845-361-3474
Jacob Friedman	914-305-0572	Nancy Vanderlee	845-266-3858
Carl J. Geiselhart	845-457-4830	Christopher Wynkoop	845-926-7389
Susan Guse	845-242-1478		

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 March 2024, 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: 845-235-7203 - e-mail: CHVAGOboard@gmail.com

Position Openings

Editor's Notes

- The AGO, and by extension the Central Hudson Valley chapter, now requires all posted jobs in our Career Center include salary information. This change improves transparency for applicants and complies with applicable New York State laws, where the AGO is headquartered. We believe this change will encourage a more positive experience for our members seeking employment.

- *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 845-235-7203 or email chvagoboard@gmail.com.*
- *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 845-235-7203.*

MUSIC DIRECTOR/ORGANIST - Part-Time
PARISH OF ST. JOSEPH - SOMERS, NY
 12/8/2023

ORGANIST - (Part-Time)
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY - POUGHKEEPSIE, NY
 12/1/2023

ORGANIST - (Part-Time)
ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SPRING VALLEY - SPRING VALLEY, NY
 9/19/2023

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC - Part-Time
THE CHURCH OF ST MARY - WAPPINGERS FALLS, NY
 4/21/2023

PARISH DIRECTOR OF MUSIC - Part-Time
THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-ST.JOSEPH AND OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL - POUGHKEEPSIE, NY
 Revised 1/12/2024

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR - (Regular Part-Time)
ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH - GOSHEN, NY
 Revised 6/13/2023

CHORAL DIRECTOR - (Part-Time)
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH - POUGHKEEPSIE, NY
 Renewed 4/20/2023

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.

Tuesdays at 12:15 PM
[TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED] Noontime Organ Recitals at Goshen Presbyterian Church
Temporarily Suspended through February 2024
First Presbyterian Church in Goshen has recently renovated its 1931 Austin organ, replacing a poorly-built recent console with a rebuilt 1931 Austin console, with drawknobs. The church is launching a free noontime recital series, which began on July 11 and will continue weekly on an ongoing basis. The principal organist for the series will be Jonathan B. Hall, DM, FAGO, minister of music of the church. Programs will be held from 12:15 to 12:45 PM every Tuesday. All are welcome, all noontime recitals are free, and there is ample free parking and accessibility. [First Presbyterian Church in Goshen](#), 33 Park Place, Goshen, NY 10924. Info: 845-294-7991.

Saturday,
February 3, 2024
3:00 PM

Romanian Organ Landscape: **Renée Anne Louprette**, Presenter
Renée Anne Louprette ([website](#)) is Assistant Professor of Music and College Organist at Bard College where she directs the Bard Baroque Ensemble and leads an annual Bach cantata series. She spent the Fall 2022 season as a Fulbright scholar in Brasov, Transylvania, surveying the preservation of historic Romanian pipe organs. Following the lecture, all are invited to take a short tour of the St. James pipe organ (built by George Bozeman Jr. & Co. in 1991) and then to a reception in the Parish Hall featuring a sampling of Romanian wines and culinary delights, hosted by Ms. Louprette. Bring your curiosity and your appetite! [Click here](#) for a printable flyer.
[St. James Episcopal Church](#), 4526 Albany Post Rd., Hyde Park, NY 12538-1564. Free admission, but please RSVP by January 31 to chvagoboard@gmail.com. Reception to follow. Info: 845-229-2820

Sunday, February
11, 2024
1:00 PM

Organ Concert by Felix Hell
World Renowned organist [Felix Hell](#) will perform a solo recital at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Poughkeepsie. A freewill offering will be taken at the concert. Following the concert, there will be a special reception in the Fellowship Hall that all are invited to attend. [St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church](#), 55 Wilbur Blvd, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Info: 845-452-1550.

Sunday, February
18, 2024
4:00 PM

Organ Recital Series
Featuring Marco Jimenez, organ, and Bowie Ma, Violin
[St. Mark's Episcopal Church](#), 85 East Main Street, Mt. Kisco, NY 10549.
\$20 suggested donation. Info: 914-666-8058

Sundays Winter Concert Series
 February 4, 2024 Hopewell Reformed Church presents a series of concerts during the
 February 11, 2024 month of February 2024.
 February 18, 2024 February 4: West Wind Chamber Group
 February 25, 2024 February 11: Bottom's Up Dixieland Jazz Band
 3:00 PM February 18: Blackwood Trio
 February 25: Brass Bohemians
 Refreshments will be served - Free Will Offering appreciated.
[Click here](#) for a printable flyer. [Hopewell Reformed Church](#), 143
 Beekman Rd, Hopewell Junction, NY 12533. Info: 845-221-9542

Sunday, February 25, 2024 3:30 PM
 Workshop and Choral Reading Session: How to Succeed in Commissioning Music Without Really Trying
 This session, hosted by board member **Justan Foster**, will feature a beginner's guide to how to commission works, the benefit of commissioning works to meet specific needs, and a choral reading session of recently commissioned works and new favorites. Attendees are invited to bring an anthem or composition (original or published) to share with other attendees, as time allows.
[Church of the Messiah](#), 6436 Montgomery Street, Rhinebeck, NY 12572. For further information, please contact Justan Foster at 518-965-2389 or justan.foster@live.com.

Sunday, April 14, 2024 2:00 PM
 West Point Cadet Chapel Organ Recital by Katelyn Emerson
[Katelyn Emerson](#), Concert Organist. Program to be determined.
 Venue: [Cadet Chapel, USMA, West Point, NY](#).
 All recitals require a Department of Defense ID or Visitors' Pass from the Visitor Control Center to enter West Point. Entry to the Cadet Chapel and recital are free to the public. All Cadet Chapel organ recitals and concerts are free to the general public.
 Info: craig.s.williams58.civ@army.mil

Sunday, April 21, 2024 3:00 PM
 Annual Members' Recital
 A recital of Organ Music by women composers performed by members of CHVAGO. Free will donation will help support our chapter's many programs, including the Scholarship Fund. If you are interested in playing a piece in this recital, please contact Acting-Dean Laura Russell at laurarus629@gmail.com or 845-232-8601. [The Reformed Church of Poughkeepsie](#), 70 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.



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Susan LaGrande, Newsletter Editor
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Soli Deo Gloria