



Central Hudson Valley Chapter
of the
American Guild of
Organists

Newsletter – January 2014

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Chapter Web Site

www.chvago.org

Letter from the Dean

Dear Colleagues,

As we enter another New Year, I imagine your calendars look very much like mine – already quite full with activities of the next few months. I confess I would not have it any other way! We are all busy people and probably mark the Advent and Christmas season – the beginning of the new church year – as more significant than a switching of the calendars. Still this emergent season is hopefully a time to get some rest and reflect on past accomplishments and maybe even some unmet expectations. The changing of the calendar reminds us that if we did not get something done, it is not a failure if we still have the chance in the future to get it done – or perhaps modify our expectations.

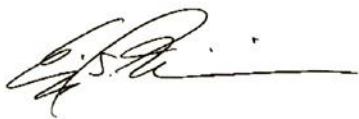
There is nothing wrong with modifying expectations. As professionals, we should do this more. How many times have we risen from the organ bench feeling like we totally messed up something – only to have members of the congregation thank us for the beautiful music? Or, conversely, how many times have we achieved a new goal at the organ only to turn around and face a congregation or staff that had no idea we were meeting or surpassing a goal? I remember in my early days of church music when I was teaching myself how to play the organ (I wisely chose lessons a few years later) and I mastered a difficult postlude – pedals and all! I turned in triumph to the people standing around the console – only to have the president of the church council castigate me for playing all seven stanzas of the last hymn! (I thought Lutherans liked to sing...) Valuable lesson learned – Our agenda is not always their agenda. But another valuable lesson learned is that a difference in agendas does not need to be ascribed more value than it is worth: We still need to set our own goals and meet them...our personal development is usually acknowledged in more subtle ways than outright compliments or other types of affirmation. So as we examine our personal goals, it is okay to see where some adjustment of expectations is okay as long as we feel true to our own personal calling as musicians. We just need to see that we rarely impress or disappoint others the way we are impressing or disappointing ourselves.

Again I remember taking a job in midtown Manhattan seated on the bench of a popular organist who had played there for decades...but also aware that changes were necessary. After one difficult rehearsal, one of the old-guard choir members called me “mediocre” and a few other things (we later on became very good friends). I complained to the head pastor that perhaps I was not what the church needed at that challenging time. That pastor never went out of his way to compliment me but at that moment he told me in a very soft voice, “If you were mediocre, you would not be here.” That was not warm or fuzzy but I understood the point completely. Another valuable lesson learned...

So I invite you to join me in learning new lessons every new year. The first adjustment we are making this year is that our annual Spuds ‘n’ Sundaes get-together has been changed from January 12 to January 26! Please note in our Calendar that this represents a date and time change – we will be meeting at Trinity Church Fishkill at 5 pm. I hope to see many of you there!

We changed this to accommodate the schedule of the Cappella Festiva concert which was postponed due to weather and moved to the 12th at 4 pm (Vassar College Chapel). Please consider taking advantage of this and many other musical events in the Hudson Valley this winter. The Calendar in this newsletter and website is a wonderful resource for checking out local music events.

Have a happy, prosperous and blessed New Year!



Craig Williams, AAGO
Dean, Central Hudson Valley AGO

Membership News

Fr. George Hafemann has a new e-mail address, effective immediately:
frgeohafe@icloud.com.

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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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 2014, is November 23rd.

List of Organ Substitutes

The following chapter members have indicated 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	Larry Hazard	845-452-0119
Barbara Bayers	203-260-4295	Eric Hepp	845-489-2625
Joe Bertolozzi	845-831-0695	Boyd Herforth	845-255-5298
Robert D. Brown	845-485-1597	Wesley Joseph	845-849-0104
Alice Cann	845-223-5344	Constance Lacey	845-897-5962
Greg Citarella	845-297-7693	Susan LaGrande	845-226-6496
Nickie Collins	845-462-2240	Janet Nickerson	845-561-0763
Richard C. Ehlenberg	845-658-9746	Joanne Reed	845-361-3474
Donald Filkins	845-831-6315	Beverly Simmons	845-463-1249
Michael D. Golzmane	845-240-8212	Patrick Walker	845-473-4208
Alexander Green	801-687-5956		

List of Organ Teachers

The following chapter members have indicated 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.

Gregory Citarella	845-297-7693	Janet Nelson Nickerson	845-561-0763
Larry Hazard	845-452-0119	Beverly Simmons	845-463-1249

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.

Editor's Note – Due to space considerations, position openings may include only the type of position and hiring institution. Complete information about positions is available on our web site at www.chvago.org, or contact the editor, Susan LaGrande, at 845-226-6496.

MINISTER OF MUSIC/ORGANIST (Part-Time)

HOLY CROSS/SANTA CRUZ EPISCOPAL CHURCH - KINGSTON, NY

Sunday service is at 10:00 AM. Choir rehearsal is on Thursday at 7:00 PM. Our Christmas, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday services are sung. Our choir has 10 members – 4 male and 6 female voices. Most choir members read music. There is extra compensation attached to weddings and funerals. The organ is a Johannus electronic 3-Manual with 32-Note AGO Pedalboard. The Model is Sweelinck 30 Platinum Edition. It was installed in 2004. The church is also home to a Steinway Grand Piano. We presently budget \$9,000 for this position. Contact information: The Rev. Frank J. Alagna, PhD, Holy Cross/Santa Cruz Episcopal Church, 30 Pine Grove Avenue, Kingston, NY 12401. Email – fjalagna@gmail.com. Website – <http://www.holycrosskingston.org>. Phone: 845-331-6796. 9/27/2013

ORGANIST - (Part-Time)

ST. PETER'S RC CHURCH - HAVERSTRAW, NY

Part-time organist position at 144-year-old church; seating for 700; multi-ethnic congregation. Responsibilities: provide music for three weekend Masses: Saturday, 5:00 PM; Sunday, 8:00 AM and 11:15 AM as well as Holy Days. Salary \$20,000; weddings, ca. 15 to 20 per year (\$150) and funerals, ca. 50 to 75 per year (\$150). Organ: Jardine & Son's opus 1248 (1898); it is one of the few large instruments from the company's late period (the firm closed in 1899) to survive unaltered. It still has its original mechanical ("tracker") action, which utilizes a series of wooden levers and rods to admit air to the pipes. Restored in 2011 by Andover Organ Co.; organ comprises 28 ranks of pipes, controlled by two manual keyboards and a pedal keyboard. St. Peter Church, 115 Broadway, Haverstraw, N.Y. 10927; 845-429-2196. Email or letter of interest; letters of reference to pastor@saintpeterschurch.us. Position available immediately.9/25/2013

MUSIC DIRECTOR - (Part-Time)

ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH - NEW CITY, NY

12-year old church seating 600, multi-ethnic - Filipino, Indian, Caucasian. Four weekend services: Saturday, 5:00 PM; Sunday, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:00 noon. Choir rehearsal Thursday at 7:00 PM. Position requires knowledge of Catholic liturgy, proficiency in organ and piano, and vocal and directing skills. Responsibilities: plan, assist, provide music for weekend, Holy Days, funerals, weddings and seasonal liturgies: recruit, rehearse, and schedule choir, cantors, instrumental musicians. Peragallo pipe and digital organ installed 2001, 2 manuals, about 25 ranks, excellent condition. Half-time approximately 20 hours. Extra compensation for weddings (\$150.00) and funerals (\$125.00). St. Augustine Church, 140 Maple Avenue, New City, NY 10956 - 845-634-3641. Email/mail letter of interest, resume, salary requirements and letters of reference to frbill@optonline.net. Position available immediately. 8/29/13

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.

Saturday, January 25, 2014 7:30 PM Benefit concert for Poughkeepsie-area Habitat for Humanity Christ Episcopal Church, 20 Carroll Street, Poughkeepsie. Info: **Laura Russell**, 845-485-1648.

Sunday, January 26, 2014 5:00 PM NOTE DATE CHANGE! Spuds 'n' Sundaes Social A great time for good food and fellowship! Trinity Church, 1200 Main Street, Fishkill (off Route 9). **Beverly Simmons**, host. Info: 845-463-1249.

Saturday, February 8, 2014 9:30 AM Choral Reading Workshop: World Music 9:30 AM Coffee, 10:00-11:30 Workshop. The Reformed Church, 70 Hooker Avenue. Hosted by **Janice Grace**, Organist/Choir Director.

Friday, February 21, 2014 7:30 PM Concerts Con Brio: "The Red and White and Starry Blue" This concert, featuring Quintette 7, is the last of five free family-focused concerts presented by Concerts Con Brio and given by members of the West Point Band this season. The concerts will all take place at Christ Episcopal Church, 20 Carroll Street, Poughkeepsie. For driving directions, go to www.christchurchpok.org or call the church office at 845-452-8220. The building is handicapped-accessible from the Carroll Street entrance. Members of the audience can meet the performers at a reception that will follow the concert.

Sunday, March 23, 2014
2:00 PM
NOTE TIME CHANGE

Annual Members' Recital
Vassar College Chapel, Raymond Avenue, Poughkeepsie.
Info: **Eric Hepp**, 845-790-3381.

Sunday, March 23, 2014
3:00 PM

FUMC Concert Series: Syracuse Children's Chorus
First United Methodist Church in Schenectady presents
the Syracuse Children's Chorus, under the direction of Artistic
Director Stephanie Mowery. First United Methodist Church,
603 State Street, Schenectady, NY. Admission free; donations
accepted. Info: 518-374-4403.

Sunday, April 6, 2013
3:30 PM

Tower Music Series: Recital by **Craig S. Williams**
Music of Bach, Buxtehude, Dupre', Karg-Elert, Liszt,
Mendelssohn, Messiaen and Widor. The Reformed Church, 70
Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie.

Sunday, April 27, 2014
3:00 PM

Organ Recital by Christopher Jennings
Christopher Jennings loves to promote the role of the organ in
the classical music scene and beyond in order to bring its
music to a variety of audiences. A program of American
works including Clarence Dickinson's "Storm King
Symphony" for Organ. Open to the public and free of charge
(free-will offering accepted). Cadet Chapel, US Military
Academy, West Point, NY. Info: contact **Craig Williams** at
845-938-7352 or craig.williams@usma.edu

Sunday, May 4, 2014
3:00 PM

FUMC Concert Series: Organ Concert by Christopher Herrick
First United Methodist Church of Schenectady
presents Christopher Herrick, formerly the principal organist
at Westminster Abbey, London. First United Methodist
Church, 603 State Street, Schenectady, NY. Admission free;
donations accepted. Info: 518-374-4403.

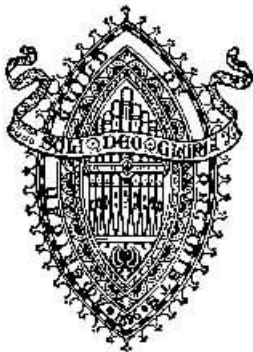
Sunday, May 11, 2014
3:00 PM

Ode to Beethoven Series: American String Quartet
Newburgh Chamber Music presents the American String
Quartet performing the third in a series of six concerts. Over
the series, the Quartet will present Beethoven's complete
repertoire of string quartets. Tickets for each concert (\$20
Adults and \$5 Students) are available at the door or online at
www.newburghchambermusic.org. St. George's Church, 105
Grand Street, Newburgh. Free parking across the street from
St. George's. Info: 845-534-2864

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Central Hudson Valley Chapter – AGO
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Soli Deo Gloria