



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

Newsletter – January 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

From the Editor

I hope everyone is recovering from a busy holiday season. The new year is upon us, a time when we naturally think of new beginnings and set new goals and aspirations. In keeping with this theme, I think it is appropriate to consider where we are in our journey as organists and music lovers, and how we got started.

As has been reported in previous newsletters, we have two new scholarship recipients, who have also become members. As part of their application process, they were required to submit an essay in response to this question:

What first attracted to you to the organ? What do you like best about playing the organ now? What are your goals (short-term and long-term) with regard to continuing your organ lessons?

Their responses were thoughtful and interesting, and I think worthy of sharing with our members.

In her essay, Susie Gilgert wrote, in part:

... Playing the piano has been a passion of mine for many years, and the organ provides a new musical adventure. The main factor that led me to the organ is my desire to become a well-rounded and versatile musician. ... I have long been impressed by each of the talented organists that have performed on the Casavant Organ at St. John's. The world-renowned organist Felix Hell has performed here, and I, along with the rest of his audience, was captivated by his skilled performance. I have also had the pleasure of listening to performances on other organs, such as when I participated in BachFest in Skinner Hall at Vassar College. These talented musicians have inspired me to try playing this instrument myself. It takes an incredible amount of dedication, diligence, and practice to play the organ well, and I have always gravitated towards a challenge. The organ is a unique and beautiful instrument, and it was only a matter of time until I started taking lessons. ... Coming to the organ as a former piano student, I was surprised and interested to learn how much the organ differs from the piano. I have also been enjoying pedal exercises and coordinating the motion of my feet and hands. This has been the most difficult part of transitioning from the piano, but also the most exciting. Even in less than a month of lessons, it has become much easier to use the pedalboard. My goals continue to develop as I learn more about the organ and discover new repertoire. ...

Tommy Leung wrote this, in part:

I ... have always been amazed by the organ ever since I was a little boy, sitting in church with my mom, hearing its deep and rich sound fill the entire space of our gigantic church. I would turn around and sneak a peek at the amazing person playing up in the loft, at the person touching all of those keys and pressing all of those pedals, all at just the right moment. ... [At] that age I thought it was something I thought I could never do. ... My short term goal is to learn how to play this humongous instrument with the tips of my fingers and feet. ... I think it will be an instrument that I would like to play for the rest of my life if my fingers allow me to. If nothing else, it will keep me on my toes! ...

Let's all try to recapture that enthusiasm and sense of wonder as we set our goals for the coming year!

Susan LaGrande

Newsletter Editor

Upcoming Events

- Sunday, January 21, 2024 (Snow Date: Sunday, January 28, 2024) - 5:00 PM

Spuds & Sundaes!

Annual Meeting - Social - Music Sale - Mini Organ Crawl

Four events in one! And a great opportunity to bring a guest.

Annual meeting: We will discuss and vote on the new Chapter Standard Operating Procedures (see below for details).

Social: The menu is baked potatoes and ice cream, with appropriate toppings for each. If you would like to contribute a topping, please contact Susan LaGrande.

Music Sale: 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.

Organ crawl: There will be an opportunity to play/hear seasonal organ music on the [Emmons-Howard tracker organ](#) (1904).

Location: [Hopewell Reformed Church](#), 143 Beekman Road, Hopewell Junction, NY 12533

- 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

New S.O.P. (Standard Operating Procedures) for CHVAGO

Out with the old and in with the new...

The National Council of the American Guild of Organists is governed by a set of bylaws. Each chapter of the American Guild of Organists may establish its own set of operating procedures, which are then approved by a regional councilor, the vice president of the National council and approved by members of each chapter. Chapter operating procedures help define how to effectively run a chapter, as well as clarify what personnel are needed and their job descriptions.

The Central Hudson Valley chapter approved our current S.O.P. in the summer of 1993. National's recommendation is to update a chapter's S.O.P. whenever an election takes place, usually every two years, so we are considerably behind in compliance. Over the past two years, a sub group of our board has been working toward an update of the 1993 document using a sample S.O.P. provided by National.

Three major additions were made to the document:

1. The office of the Chaplain was added to the list of appointed officers.
2. Currently, the quorum for voting is 25%. The proposed change is to 15% based on current membership numbers.
3. We retained all of the committees suggested by National, but divided the list into standing and ad hoc committees, for a total of 13 committees. CHVAGO's S.O.P. dated 1993 had 9 committees.

Additional changes include the date for the beginning of the fiscal year (previous date July 1, proposed date January 1) and an allowance to schedule/re-schedule meetings based on local health conditions (allowing for zoom meetings).

The updated S.O.P. was completed and submitted to the National Office, and is now cleared for our membership to review and approve.

At this point, we need you, our membership, to attend the next chapter meeting on Sunday, January 21, 2024 at Hopewell Reformed Church where we will be holding a discussion and then voting on the new S.O.P. Please attend this important event!

For more information, contact [Susan Guse](#), treasurer of CHVAGO.

Sad News

We are saddened by the news that organist and composer Charles Callahan died on Christmas Day. Charles Callahan was one of the artists who presented at the AGO Regions II&III convention, which was hosted by our CHVAGO chapter in 2005. He performed as a postlude for the Opening Convocation an original piece commissioned by our chapter. This is how he described his piece, which was titled “Fanfare and Riffs.”

OK – I know what you’re probably thinking – “FANFARES for organ, of course, but – RIFFS???”

Actually, there’s more in common than you might think between our instrument and the concept behind the word, RIFFS.

RIFFS appear in music from before Gershwin and blues, through jazz and boogie woogie, all the way up to Led Zeppelin, Metallica and Limp Bizkit.

So – what is a RIFF? It’s the same idea as a LICK! A short, hopefully memorable phrase; a small rhythmic and/or melodic motif, that lends itself to repetition, variation, and all sorts of improvisatory transformations.

Organ improvisations for centuries have centered around a brief germinal idea giving birth to a larger form – the four-bar phrase is an obvious example. Check out Dupré’s treatise on improvisation, or Gerre Hancock’s fine volume on the subject.

In this piece, the FANFARES contain rhythmic alterations within the normal common time structure. These flourishes build dynamically, and are interrupted several times by the RIFFS, which are also syncopated and built on melodic alterations or “blue notes” not in the customary major or minor scales or church modes. Ever wonder why some of Messiaen sounds like Duke Ellington? They both loved color, rhythm and exotic harmonies. Late Vierne has some rather purple passages too.

What is it that makes your own homemade apple pie different from all others? The way you make it, flavor it and bake it – especially important are the spices – and in music we’ve got syncopation, ornamentation and harmonic colorations, among lots of other “flavorings”. Try some of these when you need to improvise a little interlude!

And – I hope you like my apple pie!

Charles Callahan

We are grateful to have had the chance to welcome Charles Callahan to Poughkeepsie. May he rest in peace, long remembered.

Member News

In recent days we have received several notifications from AGO HQ about members who have not renewed their membership. Several have actually had their membership canceled. Don’t let this happen to you! If you have any questions about your membership status, please contact [Susan LaGrande](#).

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	Edward Palange	914-213-3460
Jacob Friedman	914-305-0572	Joanne Reed	845-361-3474
Carl J. Geiselhart	845-457-4830	Nancy Vanderlee	845-266-3858
Susan Guse	845-242-1478	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	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		

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 February 2024, is January 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**

4/19/2023

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.

Sunday, January 14, 2024
4:00 PM
Organ Recital Series - Featuring Malik Jardine
Malik Jardine, currently enrolled at Borough of Manhattan Community College applied studies program, is the only organist in the Community College CUNY system. He studies with Dr. Nathaniel Gumbs, who is Director of Chapel Services at Yale University. [St. Mark's Episcopal Church](#), 85 East Main Street, Mt. Kisco, NY 10549. \$20 suggested donation. Info: 914-666-8058

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NOTE DATE CHANGE!
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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

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](#).

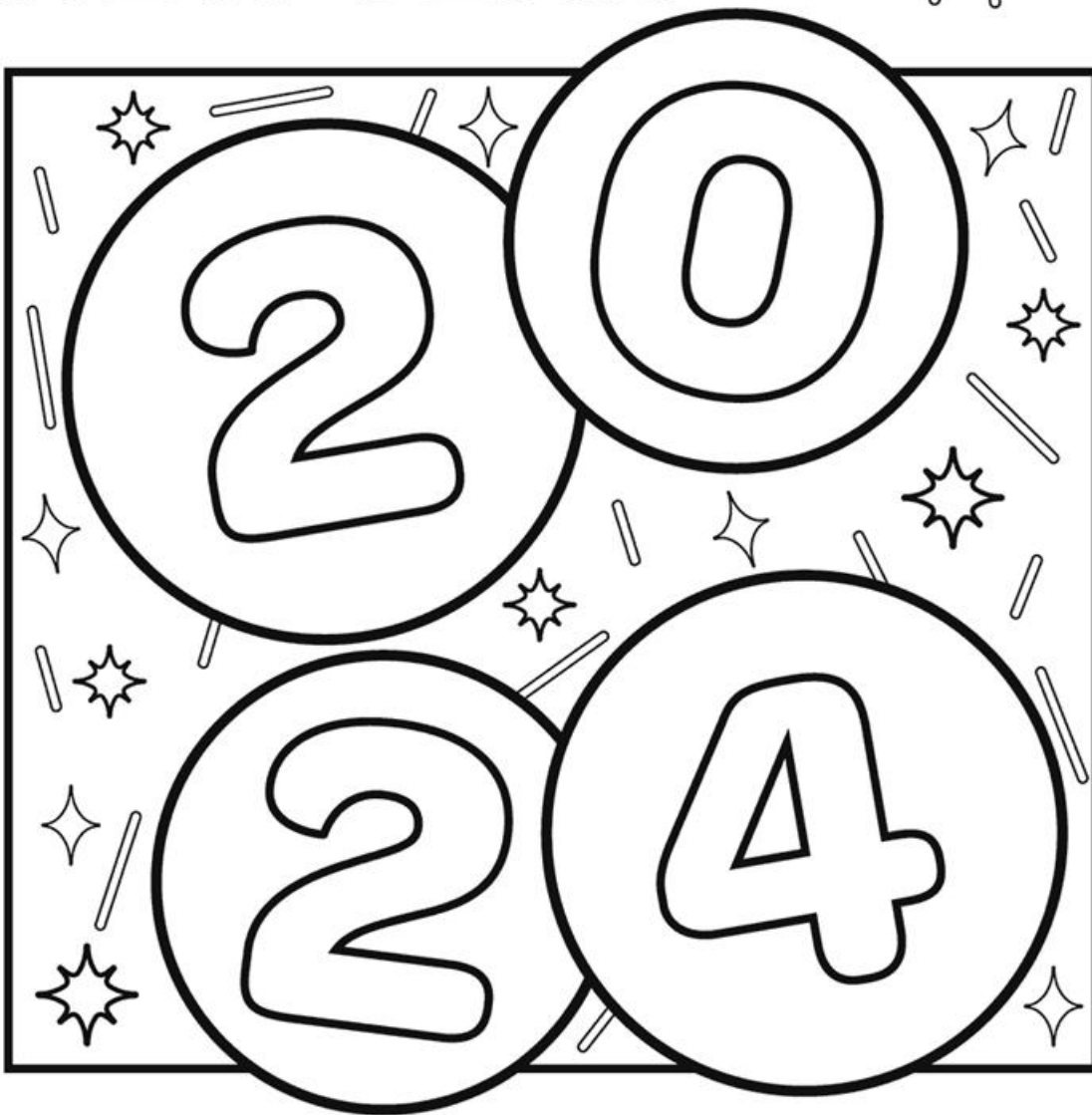
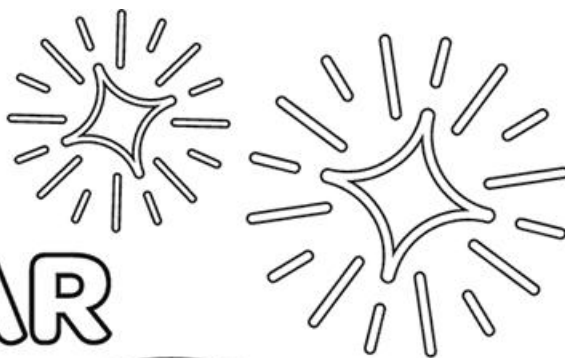
All recitals require a Department of Defense ID or Visitors' Pass from the Visitor Control Center to enter West Point. Entry to the Cadet Chapel and recital are free to the public. All Cadet Chapel organ recitals and concerts are free to the general public. Info: craig.s.williams58.civ@army.mil

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.

HAPPY
NEW YEAR





Central Hudson Valley Chapter – AGO
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Soli Deo Gloria