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

**Newsletter – June 2022**

**Officers**

**Laura Russell** – Dean  
845-232-8601

**Nancy Vanderlee** – Secretary  
914-204-6472

**Justan Foster** – Board Member  
518-965-2389

**Eric Hepp** – Sub-Dean  
845-790-3381

**Susan Guse** – Treasurer  
845-242-1478

**Susan LaGrande** – Newsletter Editor  
845-226-6496

**Benjamin Vise** - Board Member  
330-327-0895

**Chapter Web Site**

[www.chvago.org](http://www.chvago.org)

Dear Colleagues,

As the events of this year and particularly the last several weeks show, ugliness, pain, and tragedy exist in the world. So do compassion, beauty, healing, and hope, however!

After all, as musicians we strive to create beauty that can heal and give hope to those who suffer.

During the two-plus years of Covid, musicians around the world have reimagined ways of connecting with others and spreading hope and compassion with their expressive and beautiful music making.

Members of our Chapter have been doing that too, both in their religious communities, and through public concerts. Although Covid infections seem to be receding in our area, we are faced with new and continuing challenges with the suffering brought about by the war against Ukraine, and the suffering to victims of gun violence.

CHVAGO organist Patrick Walker and I have been in conversation for a couple of months about a Ukraine Benefit Concert sponsored by our Chapter. However, our goals are now

broader: to bring people together for an organ and choral concert of music that speaks to the suffering in Ukraine and also in Buffalo, Uvalde, Tulsa, and elsewhere.

Patrick is writing a choral anthem based on Psalm 13, where the Psalmist cries out to God, saying: *"How long, Lord, will you utterly forget me? ... How long will you let my enemies triumph over me?"* Several of us have discovered new organ pieces written by Ukrainian composers or based on folk songs from that region. Keep an eye out for upcoming information about this collaborative concert, which will take place at St. John's Lutheran Church in Poughkeepsie later this summer. We will be asking for your participation!

CHVAGO is also planning for our next Members' Recital in September or October, which will be themed around organ and choral music written by under-represented composers. Eric Hepp and I will have some collections of organ music written by African-American composers available for you to look through at our Spuds & Sundaes gathering this Sunday afternoon. If any of you have music that you want to bring to show your colleagues, please bring it Sunday as well. Clearly label the music with your name!

As musicians, we are called to share our special gifts to respond to the violence and pain that surrounds us. I look forward to sharing food and fellowship on Sunday afternoon, and I hope you will become involved in one of our upcoming collaborative concerts as well.

In hope,

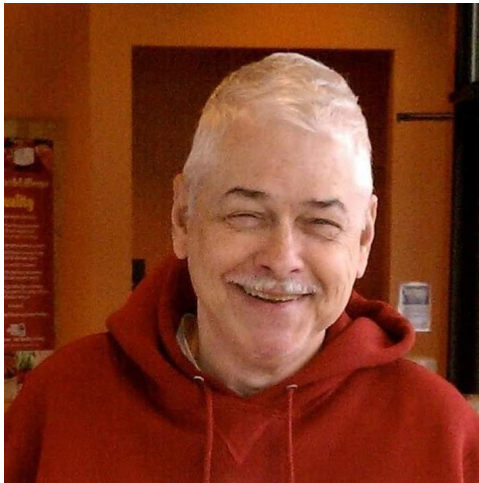
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura".

Laura Ramsey Russell  
Dean, CHVAGO

## Voting for Chapter Officers

It's election time! Your current board has served its term, and we must now elect a slate of new officers to carry on the chapter's good work. You should already have received an email with instructions for the new anonymous process for voting online. (People who do not use email will receive separate instructions by US mail.)

For those of you who have not voted yet, here is the list of candidates, along with a photo and a short biography. Note that if you don't see the bio on the online ballot, click on the little "i" icon next to the candidate's name. There are photos of each candidate on the ballot as well. If you have any questions about the voting process itself, please contact [Justan Foster](#).



**Dean: Benjamin T. Vise** - Benjamin Thomas Vise received the Master of Music degree from The University of Alabama where he studied with Arthur Poister [and] trained (Oberlin and Syracuse U.) with the late Prof. Warren Hutton. He moved to New York from NE Ohio in the fall of 2015 to become Director of Music for Christ Episcopal Church in Suffern, and has over 50 yrs. of widely varied experience serving churches of multiple stripes! He previously served as Dean of the 350-member Detroit chapter of AGO from 1992-94.



**Sub-Dean: Laura Ramsey Russell, DMA** - Since 2001 Laura has been Music Director at Christ Episcopal Church in Poughkeepsie, and she was founder of the Concerts Con Brio music series at the church. In addition she was co-founder of the Hudson Valley BachFest in 2000 and has conducted many of Bach's choral works. She looks forward to planning many exciting programs for CHVAGO members. She has a DMA in conducting from the Hartt School; an MFA from SUNY Purchase, and a BA from Brandeis University. She has taught locally in the music programs at Marist College and Dutchess Community College.



**Treasurer: Susan Guse** - Susan Guse is currently serving on the CHVAGO board as treasurer. Susan was Director of Music at St. John's Lutheran Church, Poughkeepsie, from 1998 - 2000 and will be returning as the Interim Director of Music beginning in September. She has a Master's Degree in Sacred Music from Wittenberg University. Susan teaches piano and organ at home in Hopewell Junction.



**Secretary: Nancy Vanderlee** - Nancy Vanderlee has served as CHVAGO secretary since 2017. An alumnus of the Crane School of Music, and a recent retiree from the Hyde Park Central School District, she currently holds the position of Director of Music/Organist at St Peter's Episcopal Church, Lithgow. Additionally, she teaches piano and flute privately, sings in the Cappella Festiva Chamber Choir, and performs as a free-lance flutist.



**Membership Coordinator: Susan LaGrande** -I am a long-time member of CHVAGO, having first served as assistant newsletter editor. Over the years my role has increased until now I publish the monthly newsletter, maintain the web site and Facebook page, and handle all membership issues. In addition I am the de facto information broker for the chapter, handling inquiries about Subs and Position Openings. I love promoting our chapter!



**At-Large 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 a past chair of the Regional Quimby Pipe Organ Competition in Glens Falls, New York and coordinator for several Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza events. Outside of his role in the music world, Justan is a Microsoft Solutions Administrator & international refugee and disaster relief organization).

Architect for Church World Service (a



**At-Large Member: Johannes (John) A. Vanderlee** - Senior Electronics Technician retired from IBM and Vassar College. I have had a lifelong interest in all things organ from a musical as well as a technical perspective-be it pipes or digital. Initiated and completed the renovation of the Bardavon theatre pipe organ under the New York Theatre Organ Society's banner, of which I currently serve as Chairman. I believe that the organ is a misunderstood instrument, a concept which needs to be countered by greater exposure tho the general public, both young and old, by any means possible.



**At-Large Member: Eileen Kerkes** - Eileen Kerkes received a degree in oboe performance from the Hartt School of Music. She has worked as an accountant, veterinary technician, and oboist/English hornist (Boise Philharmonic). Eileen has renewed her long-time interest in organ studies since returning to the East coast, and looks forward to making connections with other organists by serving on the CHVAGO board.

## 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	845-294-8138
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		

## 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	845-294-8138
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

## 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 July 2022, is June 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

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## **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).*

*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](http://www.chvago.org/CHVAGO_Positions.php). If you need help accessing the online information, please call Susan LaGrande at 845-226-6496.*

ORGANIST AND MUSIC DIRECTOR (Part-time)

**OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH - FISHKILL, NY**

5/27/2022

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR - (Part-Time)

**GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH - HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NY**

4/30/2022

MUSIC DIRECTOR - Part-Time

**THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SALISBURY - SALISBURY, CT**

3/29/2022

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

ORGANIST - (Part-Time)

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

12/21/2021

ORGANIST - (Part-Time)

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

11/11/2021

ORGANIST/MUSIC DIRECTOR - (Part-Time)

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

8/11/2021

ORGANIST/MUSIC DIRECTOR - (Part-Time)

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

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.*

Sunday, June 5, 2022

3:00 PM

Spuds & Sundaes Social

After a two-year hiatus, our Spuds & Sundaes Social will be returning! This popular event traditionally was held as a way to unwind after the Christmas craziness, but this year it is taking place in early summer, and will replace the usual chapter picnic. The Spuds in the title refer to baked potatoes, individually wrapped and piping hot, with appropriate toppings. The Sundaes are - you guessed it - ice cream! also with appropriate toppings. These items will be supplied by the chapter, along with beverages and ice. **Eric Hepp** has offered to host this social in his back yard, which is located at 24 Lor-Mar Court in Wappingers Falls ([Click here](#) for directions.) Please bring your favorite lawn chair. As at past socials, we will have several boxes of donated sheet music available for browsing, mostly organ music but some choral and piano pieces as well. If you find something you like, make a donation; all proceeds will benefit our scholarship fund, which was established in memory of Margaret Pecoraro. This is a great occasion to bring a friend who may be interested in our chapter. Networking is always valuable, and we always have memorable conversations at our socials! As we get closer to the event we will provide a way for you to RSVP so we can be sure to provide enough Spuds & Sundaes for everyone. It should be a great afternoon! Watch this space for more information.

Sunday, June 26, 2022

2:00 PM

BachFest Returns!

Please join us for BACHFEST 2022 in the beautiful (and air-conditioned!) Skinner Hall at Vassar College, supported by Vassar College and the Hudson Valley Society for Music.



Directed by Christine Howlett.

Program will include: BWV 4 - Christ lag in Todesbanden; BWV 196 - Der Herr danket; Selections from BWV 211 (Coffee Cantata)

All participants must be vaccinated and boosted as per Vassar College guidelines. Info: 845-437-7327.

Friday, July 15, 2022  
7:00 PM

West Point Cadet Chapel Organ Recital by Craig Williams  
Craig Williams is Organist and Choirmaster at the Cadet Chapel, USMA, West Point. [Cadet Chapel](#). All Cadet Chapel organ recitals and concerts are free to the general public. Please allow extra travel time for the 100% vehicle and photo I.D. inspection at Stony Lonesome and Thayer gates. Note that everyone who does not have Department of Defense ID or does not currently hold a valid Local Area Credential (LAC) - otherwise known as a Visitor's Pass - must obtain one from the Visitor Control Center (2107 New South Post Rd., West Point, NY 10996) prior to entering West Point. When you apply for the pass, let the security officers know you are intending to use the pass for attending multiple weekly organ recitals - that way, you can qualify for the yearlong pass! Once you have that pass, you can then enter West Point through \*all\* gates presenting that pass with your driver's license. Please note that all passengers in the vehicle need the pass. When applying for the pass, you need Real ID or enhanced ID. If you do not have Real ID, then you can bring your driver's license \*and\* either a social security card or a passport! At West Point, all persons are required to wear masks inside the buildings. Wearing a mask is required for attending the recital. Info: contact Craig Williams at 845-938-7352 or [craig.s.williams58.civ@mail.mil](mailto:craig.s.williams58.civ@mail.mil).

Sunday, August 21, 2022  
4:00 PM

Organ Concert by Craig Williams  
**Craig Williams** will present a program on the 1847 Ferris tracker organ at the [Round Lake Auditorium](#), 2 Wesley Avenue, Round Lake, NY. Craig Williams is Organist and Choir Master at USMA, West Point. Featuring music by Buxtehude, Bach, Mendelssohn, Brahms, Guilmant, Lemmens, and Dubois. Info: 518-899-2800.

Wednesday, August 24,  
2022  
7:30 PM

Organ Recital by Craig Williams  
**Craig Williams** is Organist and Choirmaster at the Cadet Chapel, USMA, West Point. Music of Dupré, Faxon, Liszt, Price, Sowande, Thayer, and Williams. [Methuen Memorial Music Hall](#), 192 Broadway, Methuen, MA. Info: Voicemail: 978-685-0693.



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Soli Deo Gloria