



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

Newsletter – March 2009

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Letter from the Dean

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

Welcome to Lent! Did you ever wonder where the word “Lent” came from? As organists we understand what it means in a musical sense. We know the type hymns that will be sung during this time of year. We know the type of pre- and postlude music that will be selected. But have you ever given real thought as to the word “Lent” and its origins? The word comes from Teutonic origins which mean “Spring.” “Lent” is known as a shortened version of the word “Lengthen.” Truly in our northern hemispherical point of view, yes indeed the days are lengthening with more sunlight. Just think of our brothers and sisters who live in the southern hemisphere. Easter is celebrated in an autumnal, almost winter-like manner. Kind of like our Christmas.

Lent, in Christian denominations, is the forty-day liturgical season of fasting and prayer before Easter. The forty days represent the time Jesus spent in the desert, where, according to the Bible, he endured temptation by Satan. Lent, like Advent, is a time of reflection, contemplation, sacrifice and prayer.

Easter in turn is just around the corner. This year, thankfully, Easter is not early. April 12 is Easter. Have you begun to practice those Easter Anthems? What about learning Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" to be sung by your congregation? What are the hymns you will sing on that joyous Easter Sunday?

Sit down with pen in hand and begin to map out your approach to this season of lengthening, fasting and prayer. Look into your musical soul and see what you can bring forth that will be uniquely different than in previous years. I have been discussing with other musicians and clergy about happenings at their respective churches. Not too surprising that attendance is up in many churches and synagogues. The uneasy global economic meltdown might have something to do with this occurrence. Maybe! Then again, maybe not. There are changes in the air.

As your dean I would like to challenge each of you to listen to the discussions at coffee hours, vestry / church meetings; listen to choir members in a closer rigor so as to understand better what you and they can do to bring people closer to God through music. What can you do that will make a difference in one person's life to move them to be prepared for Easter Sunday this April 12? Ask yourself how your journey as a Musician, your journey as a Christian and your journey as a Child of God can make a difference in the community of faith you serve.

Remember the old TV Commercial for Yellow Pages? "Let your fingers do the walking?" Or better yet; "Reach out and touch someone!"? See how best you can reach out and touch someone's soul with your music. Let your fingers do the walking on "The King of Instruments," the greatest instrument which man has ever devised. Remember our instrument is known as "Bach's Royal Instrument." See what you can do about making this Lent and Easter a time to broaden your musical palate. Let people hear your voice through the Organ!

Early in February a dozen or so colleagues met at Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Wappingers Falls for "Gospel Music and the Worship Experience" presented by our colleague, Celestine Campbell. Celestine gave an excellent presentation and overview with "hands on" experience accompanying at the piano and singing! There were numerous resources for us to peruse; hymnals, octavos and CD's. I myself now have my own copy of the "African American Heritage Hymnal". A new resource added to my ever growing and ever burgeoning hymnal and musical library. Again, thank you Celestine! Bethel is blest to have your prayerful and musical expertise.

On Sunday, February 22, 2009 I attended Patricia Maimone's "farewell" and Steeple Benefit recital at St. Mary-in-the-Highlands, Cold Spring NY. The event was to commemorate G. F. Handel's 324th Birthday! The program was well rounded with numerous soloists who Pat has worked with over the years here in the valley of the Hudson! Pat has moved to the West Coast to be closer to family. Understandably we will miss Pat. Remember though, through

technology and the click of a mouse button we can remain connected. A big Thank You goes out to Pat for her years of dedication and service to God, His Church and His People. Pat will have dual membership with our chapter and the Los Angeles chapter AGO! We wish Pat Godspeed and many years of happiness in her new home in California and Mount Olive Lutheran Church. Thank you Pat for your Friendship, Collegial and Professional support!

Well, my friends, I have said enough. I usually like to sign off with something to let you ponder or maybe pray on. Remember ours is a Ministry of Music. We are unique in that we bring the word of God to his people through music. I remember watching a program on PBS years ago entitled: "The Joy of Bach" with Brian Blessed portraying Herr Bach himself! This was all the rage when it was released in 1980! There is a phrase in the program that is attributed to Bach. No one really knows whether or not it was said by Bach. It goes like this:

"Music is my voice and the Organ my pulpit!"

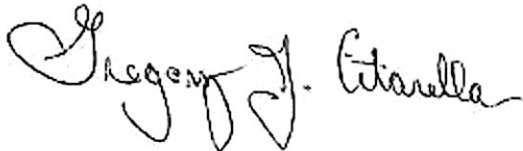
Whether or not Bach said the above is not the point. The point is that you and I know how we relate to the phrase! Let your voice be heard!

On the other hand, Hector Berlioz was asked during an interview what he thought of this man, this wonderful genius, named Bach. Without hesitation Hector Berlioz leaned forward and said with great conviction:

"Bach is Bach as God is God!"

A very Happy Birthday to Herr Bach! Bach is as young and contemporary today as he was when he penned his music which has been passed down through many generations for all to enjoy.

May your days lengthen and grow in your music ministry and in the Love of God.



Gregory J. Citarella+
(SDG)

Membership News

- Lois Hoger is now the organist at St. Timothy Lutheran Church in Hyde Park, where she expects to remain for the foreseeable future.

Organ for Sale

St. James Episcopal Church of Gt. Barrington, Mass., announces the availability of its 57-rank Austin-Andover pipe organ for sale. Needing to have this instrument removed by this May, 2009, we are willing to offer it at what we consider an exceptionally-low price (\$25,000, OBO), with the hope that it will soon find a suitable home.

About the organ

Easter Sunday, 1919, saw the dedication of a sizeable new pipe organ at St. James Episcopal Church in the Berkshire town of Great Barrington. The creation of America's most progressive and inventive organ builder, the Austin Company of Hartford, Connecticut, this instrument of fifty- seven ranks, distributed over five divisions and controlled by a console of three manuals and pedal keyboard, featured the industry's most progressive, cutting-edge technology, thus greatly facilitating the rendition of the often- elaborate anthem accompaniments and service music common to Anglican church music of the day, along with solo literature for then-widely-popular organ recitals.

In the 1970's the instrument came to incorporate several "Baroque Revival"-informed tonal changes by the Andover Organ Company, its choir replaced by a "Positiv", with new Great mixtures. In the 1990's the Solo division was completely renovated by Foley & Baker, with the addition of a solo E.M. Skinner Tuba from the First Church, Christian Scientist, of Boston.

With sharply-escalating maintenance/repair costs, St. James undertook a full assessment of its organ situation, leading to the retirement of its Austin-Andover pipe organ in March, 2006. The organ has remained intact, although its 1919 console made its way back to Austin in Hartford, Conn., following its disconnection in March, 2006.

Great

Principal 16
Praesant 8
Rohrflöte 8
Gemshorn 8
Oktav 4
Waldflöte 4
Quine 2- 2/3
Cornet III ranks
Mixtur IV ranks
Fagott 8

Swell

Bordun 16
Rohrflöte 8
Viole 8
Celeste 8
Prinzival 4
Traversflöte 4
Octavin 2
Plein Jeu V ranks
Trompete 8
Hautbois 4

Positiv (1972)

Gedackt 8
Spitzflöte 4
Oktav 2
Sesquialtera II
Scharf II-III
Krummhorn 8

Gallery

Lieblich Gedackt 8
English Diapason 8
Vox Setheria 8
Vox Angelica 8
Fern Flute 4
Horn 8
Vox Humana 8
Festival Trumpet 8

Pedal

Prinzival 16
Gedackt 16
Bordun 16
Principal 8
Bordun 8
Oktav 4
Mixture III ranks
Fagott 16
Fagott 8

Swell, Gallery, Positiv

Windchests: Austin
Universal for Gt. and
Choir. Other windchests
date from the 1970's and
90's.

A large 3-phase blower is
also part of the package.

Good News: Pipe Organ Restoration Planned in Quincy, MA

By Lane Lambert - Reprinted from the Patriot Ledger, February 24, 2009

QUINCY - For the Rev. Clifford Brown and longtime members of Christ Church, the pipe organ that once sounded through the sanctuary is an ever-present ghost. The priest and others knew that pipes and assorted pieces of the Episcopal church's century-old organ still lay in an attic space, but no one thought much about it. Since 1973 the brass-colored great pipes have gleamed silently on one side of the chancel, concealing small speakers that send out music from the electronic organ that sits on the opposite side of the altar area.

Now the church may resurrect its 1897 organ, with the help of two groups dedicated to keeping the "king of instruments" alive and well for worship services throughout New England.

The congregation didn't know what a treasure it still had until a couple of weeks ago when members of the Boston chapter of the American Guild of Organists and the Father Hugh P. Smyth Archive Society in Quincy visited. They confirmed that most of the Christ Church pipes are in fine condition, and ready to be used again with a new keyboard and "swell case" for the pipes.

"The possibility that we can do this is pretty awesome," church member and warden Donna Morrison said.

At the time, switching to the Allen electronic organ in the 1970s seemed like an affordable choice for a mid-sized congregation. The addition of electrical pipe controls in the 1930s had created chronic problems with the acoustic organ.

By last year, though, Christ Church's leaders realized the electronic organ was on borrowed time.

"We knew we had to do something," the Rev. Brown said.

By coincidence – some would say providence – Ray DiBona of the Smyth Archive Society noticed that an obituary for a church member requested donations to the organ fund. He knew the church once had a pipe instrument built by Woodbury and Harris, a well-known Boston firm in its day, so he arranged a visit by Guild organist Richard Hill of Easton and others from the organ guild.

Hill was the first to climb the step ladder to look at the old pipes, "and there they were," he said – 13 sets, two-thirds of the original array. Morrison and others assumed they'd been sold when the Allen organ was installed.

Hill and DiBona say it won't be difficult to replace six missing pipe sets along with the keyboard, air blower and other elements. Organ builders are still active, while pipes and other antique pieces are available from businesses like the Organ Clearing House in Charlestown.

Hill estimates a restoration will cost at least \$100,000, but Morrison and the Rev. Brown say that's an easier expense for the vestry to consider over the next year or two, since they have to replace the electronic organ anyway.

For now, they're inspired to know that bringing the pipe organ back to life is even an option.

"This would be a wonderful gift to future generations of the church," the Rev. Brown said.

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.

Denise Bassen	845-226-1564	<u>For Weddings and Funerals Only:</u>	
Joe Bertolozzi	845-831-0695	Judie Brown (also Jewish svcs)	845-888-5318
Robert D. Brown	845-485-1597	Alice Cann	845-223-5344
Richard C. Ehlenberg	845-658-9746	Greg Citarella	845-297-7693
Christopher Fasulo	646-342-4836	Larry Hazard	845-452-0119
Susan LaGrande	845-226-6496	Eric Hepp (no weekday funerals)	
Janet Nickerson	845-561-0763		845-489-2625
Joanne Reed	845-361-3474	Boyd Herforth	845-255-5298 / 973-783-8798
<u>No Sunday Morning Services:</u>		Charles Surber (no weddings)	845-544-2782
Maris Kristapsons (no weddings)	845-635-8837	<u>Student</u>	
Pat Maimone	845-446-2395	Gregory S. Quaglieni	845-786-0011
Beverly Simmons	845-463-1249		

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. You may submit newsletter material by mail, e-mail, or phone. Just contact the editor, Susan LaGrande, using the information given below. Remember, the deadline for the next newsletter, to be available the first week in April, is March 23rd.

List of Organ Teachers

The following chapter members have indicated that they are accepting new organ students. We are in the process of soliciting brief biographies from each of them, which will be posted on our web site as they are received. Please contact the teachers directly if you would like more information.

Gregory Citarella	845-297-7693	Janet Nelson Nickerson	845-561-0763
Donald Filkins	845-518-2991	Beverly Simmons	845-463-1249
Peter Hall	845-343-4995	Charles Surber	845-544-2782
Boyd Herforth	845-255-5298		

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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Position Openings - Summary

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.

Editor's Note – Due to space considerations, the following list of position openings includes 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 (Part-Time)

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - BEACON, NY 1/14/2009

ACCOMPANIST - Part-Time

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - POUGHKEEPSIE, NY - 9/12/2008

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR (Part-Time)

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH - NEW CITY, NY - Updated 12-11-08

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR (Part-Time)

ST. JAMES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - KINGSTON, NY - Updated 10/21/08

DIRECTOR OF LITURGICAL MUSIC/ORGANIST - Part-Time

ST. BONIFACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, GUILDERLAND, NY - 5/12/2008

ORGANIST/ACCOMPANIST (Part-Time)

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH - WALDEN, NY - Renewed 5/28/2008

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

Such events may be listed on the Local Events page of our chapter web site at www.chvago.org.

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, March 21, 2009
10:00 AM - 12:00 noon
NOTE NEW DATE
CHANGE!

Historic Organs of Dutchess County
Presented by **Susan LaGrande** and **Connie Lacey**. St. Margaret's
Episcopal Church, Staatsburg, NY.

Sunday, March 29, 2009
3:00 PM

Organ Recital by Meredith Baker, Director of Music, Most Holy
Trinity (Catholic) Chapel, USMA. Cadet Chapel, USMA, West Point,
NY. Free. Info: 845-938-7352 or craig.williams@usma.edu

Sunday, March 29, 2009
3:30 PM

Tower Music Series presents Stringendo Vivace Orchestra
The Stringendo Orchestra School of the Hudson Valley currently enrolls over 180 students between the ages of 7 and 18. Their orchestras have performed at conventions for the New York State School Music Association and the National Association of Music Education, as well as concerts in Minneapolis, Cleveland, and Amherst. The Reformed Church, 70 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY. Free will offering (suggested donation: \$10). Handicapped accessible. Info: 845-452-8110.

Sunday, April 5, 2009
7:30 PM

Durufle *Requiem*
Sung by Christ Church Choir and accompanied by West Point organist **Craig Williams**. Christ Episcopal Church, 20 Carroll Street, Poughkeepsie, NY. The church is handicapped-accessible from the Carroll Street entrance. Suggested donation \$12. Info: call Laura Russell at 845-485-1648.

Sunday, April 19, 2009
3:00 PM

Organ Recital by Eric Plutz
Organist, Princeton University Chapel
(Class of 1936 Distinguished Organists Recital Series)
Cadet Chapel, USMA, West Point, NY. Free. Info: 845-938-7352 or craig.williams@usma.edu

Saturday, April 25, 2009
2:00 to 8:00 PM

VOICE JAM: The Hudson Valley Choral Competition 2009
Choirs may enter in one of three categories: a cappella groups (of any age), youth choirs (high school and younger) and adult choirs with accompaniment. Location: Vassar College Chapel, Raymond Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY. Entry fee \$50 (\$25 for student groups); Admission for non-competitors: \$10 (\$5 for students). Presented by Justice For All Speakers Forum. For more information or to enter your choir, contact the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life at Vassar College, E-mail rsl@vassar.edu or 845-437-5550.

Sunday, May 10, 2009
3:00 PM

Organ Recital by Johan Hermans
Organist, St. Quintinus Cathedral, Hasselt, Belgium
(Class of 1936 Distinguished Organists Recital Series)
Cadet Chapel, USMA, West Point, NY. Free. Info: 845-938-7352 or craig.williams@usma.edu

Sunday, May 24, 2009
3:30 PM

Tower Music Series presents Thomas Sheehan, Organist
Tom returns to the Tower Music Series by popular demand for a third performance. A former member of CHVAGO and currently a student of organ at Westminster College of the Arts, Mr. Sheehan has given previous organ recitals at the Reformed Churches of Poughkeepsie and Kingston, and at the United States Military Academy's Cadet Chapel in West Point. The Reformed Church, 70 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY. Handicapped accessible. Admission: Free will offering (suggested donation: \$10) Info: 845-

452-8110

Sunday, May 31, 2009
3:00 PM
NOTE DATE CHANGE!

Annual Members' Recital
Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church, 2381 New Hackensack
Road, Poughkeepsie, NY Info: 845-452-2933

Wednesday, July 1 through
Friday, July 3, 2009

2009 Regional Convention for Region I (New England) and Region II
(New York & New Jersey)
Registration: Mary Sue Willie, Registrar, 41 Hillcrest Road, Concord,
MA 01742; cvmwillie@aol.com, or register online with PayPal:
www.agoboston2009.com.

Sunday, July 5 through Friday,
July 10, 2009

Organ Historical Society 2009 Cleveland Convention
Info: <http://www.organsociety.org/>

Friday, August 28, 2009
7:30 PM

Bach Organ Recital by Gail Archer
Christ Episcopal Church, 20 Carroll Street, Poughkeepsie, NY.
Specific recital program details to follow. Part of 2009 Hudson Valley
BachFest. For more information go to www.christchurchpok.org or
www.hudsonvalleysocietyformusic.org or call **Laura Russell** at 845-
485-1648.

Saturday, August 29, 2009
time TBA

Bach's "Passion according to St. Matthew" with choir and orchestra
Christ Episcopal Church, 20 Carroll Street, Poughkeepsie, NY.
Laura Ramsey Russell, conductor; **Craig Williams**, organist. For
more information go to www.christchurchpok.org or
www.hudsonvalleysocietyformusic.org or call **Laura Russell** at 845-
485-1648.

Saturday, September 19, 2009
2:00 to 4:00 PM

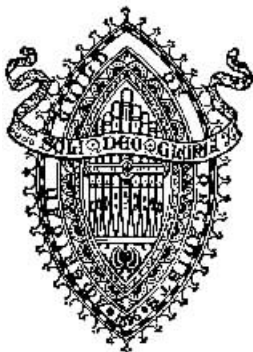
Choral Technique for the Church Choir Director
presented by Christine Howlett, Director of Choral Activities at
Vassar College. Location: Skinner Hall, Vassar College, Raymond
Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY.

Sunday, October 18, 2009
5:00 PM
NOTE NEW LOCATION!

Hymn Festival
Presented by Rick Erickson. Cadet Chapel, USMA, West Point, NY.
Let's get not only our choirs but our congregations to participate. A
hymn festival works best when there are LOTS of people in the
congregation singing! Info: Call **Beverly Simmons** at 845-463-1249.



Central Hudson Valley Chapter – AGO
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SOLI DEO GLORIA