



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

Newsletter – November 2009

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www.chvago.org

Letter from the Dean

Dear Colleagues,

I'm writing this on a raw fall day in late October as the leaves are rapidly falling from the trees. It is obvious that Autumn is here to stay. So now it is time to turn to our many indoor activities. Along with all of your choir rehearsals and practicing I hope you will take time to enjoy some of the concerts listed on our calendar page. There are always more than I have time to attend, but the ones I do attend I always enjoy.

If you were able to be at the Cadet Chapel at West Point last Sunday you certainly had a treat. Rick Erickson's improvisations as he introduced the hymns were varied and masterfully thought out. He had us singing in unison, in parts, men and women separately and in canon. We even experienced a "wave canon" starting at the back of the chapel and working its way forward. What fun it all was! I had both parishioners and choir members from my church (and my priest) and they all loved it. Many thanks to Craig Williams for his part in getting this off the ground.

Coming up very soon, on November 7, is our Pedals, Pipes and Pizza on both sides of the river. Please pass on the information to any piano teachers you know and to any students who might like to attend. No pre-registration is necessary but you can call Margaret Small or Laura Russell for more information.

The next program for the chapter is on November 21st from 2-4 p.m. at First Lutheran Church in Poughkeepsie. Bob Chase will be leading a workshop about the requiem. When I asked him to explain what this was all about he gave me this answer.

This workshop is intended to introduce to the choirmaster, choral conductor, and organist, a variety of repertory of memorial music that is available for performance.

To be sure, everyone is familiar with the Mozart and Brahms requiem...but what about the requiem settings of Schnittke, Stanford, Lobo, or Cimarosa? All are excellent, inspired works, yet they are pieces that are rarely performed and the difficulty level is on a par with Mozart and Brahms.

The workshop draws upon material found in my two books, dedicated to the topic of memorial music (of the concert kind): Dies Irae: A Guide to Requiem Music and Memento Mori: A Guide To Contemporary Memorial Music (both published by Scarecrow Press).

The former book includes a discussion and analysis of 250 requiems, dating from the Gregorian original, up through those of the twentieth century. The traditional Roman Catholic requiem, as well as those of the Eastern Orthodox, German, Anglican, and secular varieties are included. The latter book includes only memorial music of the 20th and 21st centuries (about 80 works) ... and none of these pieces are found in the first book.

We will hear short samples from 10-12 requiems with a discussion on style and the composer's biography.

Bob first gave a requiem workshop at the AGO National Convention in Los Angeles (2004) to an oversubscribed audience. Since then, the workshop has been given to several AGO chapters, to the faculty and graduate composition students at the University in Warsaw, Poland, and to the students of the Music Conservatory in Beijing, China.

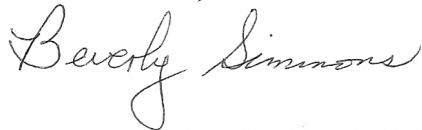
Since knowledge about the requiem seems to be limited for most of us to the half-dozen, sure-fire audience pleasers: Mozart, Rutter, Brahms, Cherubini, Faure, and Britten, perhaps this workshop will expand, at least temporarily, our horizons. We might even find ourselves programming one of them next year.

At our last Board meeting we discussed the need for someone to act as the historian of our chapter. We have a file cabinet of information, some of it organized, some not. Is there

someone out there who would enjoy putting the information in order and keeping it up to date? Please let me know if this interests you.

Before finishing this article I want to ask you to keep several very special people in your prayers: Frank LaGrande (husband of Susan) is consulting with doctors on his options for treatment following cancer surgery. Also please keep Jack Davis in your prayers as he continues to struggle with health issues. In addition, Laura Russell's mother died very recently, so please keep her in your prayers as well. May God bless each of you with healing and with peace.

Soli deo Gloria,



Beverly Simmons, SPC, Dean

Membership News

- Welcome to our newest members:
 - Susan MacNish
83 Valley View Road
Pleasant Valley, NY 12569
Phone: 845-635-3814
macnish1946@yahoo.com
 - Barbara Bayers
535 Grand Avenue
Newburgh, NY 12550
Cell phone (no home phone): 203-260-4295
Barbara writes: I've "retired" after a career of 48 years playing in the state of CT...mostly Fairfield County. Grew up in the Episcopal church, so am comfortable with the liturgy as well as Lutheran. Last position was MD/O Orange Congregational Church, (suburb of New Haven) 2 singing choirs, (32+ in adult choir and 20+ in a Youth choir, gr. 7-12), directed a level 4 Handbell Choir. The 25+ member Jr. Choir & their director also were under my supervision. I've been an active member of the Bridgeport Chapter (and New Haven Chapter) AGO, holding several offices through the years and I'm planning on participating in activities/events with my new chapter. Am a retired public school educator, holding two masters degrees.
We look forward to meeting you, Barbara!
- October was a big month for member Joseph Bertolozzi. October's Hudson Valley Magazine® voted his public sound-art project "Bridge Music" one of the best things to come out of the Hudson Quadricentennial in their annual Best of the Hudson Valley® issue. He also received the 2009 Dutchess County Executive's Arts Award for excellence as an Individual Artist. Congratulation, Joe!
- On November 1, your newsletter editor Susan LaGrande received her Black Belt in Tang Soo Do, a traditional Korean martial art. She has been studying and training for over four years to accomplish this goal. You can read about her experiences in her blog at www.karategrammy.blogspot.com.

- Jay and Jeanne Shupe have headed south for the winter. Their address is:
Mr. & Mrs. Jasper A. D. Shupe, Jr.
219 South Ridge Drive
Garner, NC 27529-7674

Notes on Gail Archer Concert

Gail Archer's concert on October 25 drew about 100 people, including Stu Ballinger, who was kind enough to send us the program, along with some comments on the selections:

Sonata I, Op 65, no. 1	Felix Mendelssohn-Batholdy
<i>"This well-known show piece is featured on the video "Pulling Out All the Stops"</i>	
Sechs Fugen über den Namen Bach, Op 60, no. 5	Robert Schumann
Prelude for Organ in F Major	Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel
Sechs Fugen über den Namen Bach, Op 60, no. 6	Robert Schumann
<i>"This piece and the two preceding it are not so well known, but delightful!"</i>	
Elf Choralevorspiele	Johannes Brahms
<i>"Exquisite – beautiful!"</i>	
Fantasie und Fuge über B-A-C-H, Op 46	Max Reger
<i>"A surprise – Ms. Archer used the 16' manual stops, and at the end she brought in the 32' Contra Bombardes (what she called the 'Honkers'!)"</i>	

Concert notes are always a welcome addition to our newsletter! Please send your reviews to the editor at the address listed below.

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>
Barbara Bayers	203-260-4295	Judie Brown (also Jewish svcs) 845-888-5318
Joe Bertolozzi	845-831-0695	Alice Cann 845-223-5344
Robert D. Brown	845-485-1597	Greg Citarella 845-297-7693
Richard C. Ehlenberg	845-658-9746	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		<u>Student</u>
(no weddings)	845-635-8837	Gregory S. Quaglieni 845-786-0011
Beverly Simmons	845-463-1249	

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		

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, fax 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 December, is November 23rd.

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: 845-226-6496 (home) - Fax: 845-226-1035
e-mail: SUSANEL2@HOTMAIL.COM

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.

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR - (Part-Time)
CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY, POUGHKEEPSIE, NY
10/22/2009

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR - (Part-Time)
HOPEWELL REFORMED CHURCH - HOPEWELL JUNCTION, NY
9/5/2009

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR (Part-Time)
HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH – HURLEY, ULSTER COUNTY, NY
8/10/2009

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR (Part-Time)
ST. JAMES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - KINGSTON, NY
Updated 4-2-2009

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.

<p>Saturday, November 7, 2009 Check Listing for Times</p>	<p>Pedals, Pipes and Pizza An opportunity for young piano students to learn about how a pipe organ works, and to try out their skills on the manuals of an organ. Pizza lunch is provided. Two locations: 1. Union Presbyterian Church, 44 Balmville Road, Newburgh, NY. Time: 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Info and reservations: Contact Margaret Small at 845-534-9485. 2. Christ Church, Episcopal, Academy and Carroll Streets, Poughkeepsie, NY. Time: 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Info and reservations: Contact Laura Russell at 845-485-1648.</p>
<p>Sunday, November 8, 2009 7:30 PM</p>	<p>Concerts Con Brio presents: "Gloria" by Francis Poulenc Christ Episcopal Church, 20 Carroll Street, Poughkeepsie, NY. Christine Howlett, soprano soloist. Choir conducted by Laura Ramsey Russell. Organist: James Fitzwilliam. Tickets are \$10, available at the door. Info: contact Laura Russell at 845-485-1648 or LRussell@hvc.rr.com.</p>

Friday, November 13, 2009
8:00 PM
Concert by Kairos
Location: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 163 Main Street, New Paltz, NY
Kairos is continuing our 15th anniversary celebration with performances of "More of our Favorite Things!" Our fall concert will have a (mostly) French theme and will feature a cappella works by Josquin, Poulenc, Debussy, Lasso and others. Come join us for a delightful evening of beautiful choral music!. Tickets are \$12 general admission, \$10 seniors/students.

Sunday, November 15, 2009
3:00 PM
Organ Recital at West Point
Craig S. Williams plays the Complete Sonatas of Felix Mendelssohn – in honor of his 200th birthday, played on the world's largest church pipe organ. Cadet Chapel, USMA, West Point, NY. Free. Info: 845-938-7352

Sunday, November 15, 2009
3:00 PM
Organ, Trumpet, Voice and Violin Recital
Voice: Paulette Sibert; Violin: Julie Berman; Trumpet: Jim Paradies; Organ: **Gregory Citarella**. All are Welcome!
Refreshments following. St. Nicholas-on-the-Hudson Church - Episcopal, 37 Point Street, New Hamburg, NY 12590. Info: 845-297-2010 or 845-297-7693

Sunday, November 15, 2009
4:00 PM
Concert by Kairos
Location: Grace Episcopal Church, 58 North Street, Middletown, NY
Kairos is continuing our 15th anniversary celebration with performances of "More of our Favorite Things!" Our fall concert will have a (mostly) French theme and will feature a cappella works by Josquin, Poulenc, Debussy, Lasso and others. Come join us for a delightful afternoon of beautiful choral music!. Tickets are \$12 general admission, \$10 seniors/students.

Saturday, November 21,
2009
2-4 PM

Workshop on the Variety of Music Available for Memorials
Robert Chase, our workshop leader, is Director of Music at the Church in the Highlands in White Plains, NY, and was formerly professor of music at Pace University. He is the author of *Memento Mori: A Guide to Contemporary Memorial Music* (Scarecrow Press, 2007) and *Dies Irae: A Guide to Requiem Music* (Scarecrow Press, 2003). Location: First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 325 Mill Street, Poughkeepsie, NY.

Sunday, November 29, 2009
3:00 PM

Organ Recital by **Craig S. Williams**
[Craig S. Williams](#), Organist and Choir Director at the Cadet Chapel at West Point, will play "La Nativité du Seigneur" by

Olivier Messiaen at [First Lutheran Church](#), 325 Mill Street, Poughkeepsie, NY. First Lutheran has a historic Austin organ designed by the late Ray Corey and others, and some restoration work has been done on it by Steven Rosenberry under the supervision of the current organist, **Eric Hepp**. Given the limited size of the instrument and dry but ambient acoustic of the sanctuary, the church and organ allow the performance of Messiaen's music in very colorful and convincing ways. There will be readings before each of the nine meditations which make up the work which will further bring to the audience the exploration of the Christmas story.

Sunday, December 20, 2009
3:00 PM

Lessons and Carols - Presented by Kairos
Location: Holy Cross Monastery, Route 9W, West Park, NY
Kairos will present our annual Lessons & Carols Service at Holy Cross Monastery. The service will include readings from the Old and New Testaments, interspersed with choral motets, hymns and carols from the Medieval to the present. The concert is free to the public; a freewill offering will be taken to benefit the Kingston Freeman Holiday Fund, and a reception will follow the service.

Saturday, January 9, 2010
8:00 PM

Concert by Kairos
Location: The Reformed Church of New Paltz, 92 Huguenot Street, New Paltz, NY
Kairos is excited to announce that our 15th anniversary celebration will culminate with our final 2009 Bach Cantata Series performance of Bach's splendid Magnificat and Handel's early and rarely-performed work Dixit Dominus with chamber orchestra. Tickets for this special Cantata Series performance are \$15 general admission and \$12 seniors/students.

Supported in part by a grant from the Dutchess County Arts Council, administrator of public funds through NYSCA's Decentralization Program.

Sunday, January 10, 2010
Time TBA

Spuds & Sundaes Social
Join us and bring a friend to our annual winter social, featuring a menu of baked potatoes and ice cream sundaes, both with all kinds of toppings. This is also the time to browse through piles of sheet music to our Musical Bake Sale. You may bring any unwanted sheet music to add to the accumulated selections. All proceeds will benefit the chapter. Location and time to be announced.

Sunday, January 10, 2010
4:00 PM

Concert by Kairos

Location: Vassar Chapel, 124 Raymond Avenue, Poughkeepsie,
NY

Kairos is excited to announce that our 15th anniversary celebration will culminate with our final 2009 Bach Cantata Series performance of Bach's splendid Magnificat and Handel's early and rarely-performed work Dixit Dominus with chamber orchestra. Tickets for this special Cantata Series performance are \$15 general admission and \$12 seniors/students.

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February 11–13, 2010

"We the People" - American Choral Directors Association, Eastern Division Conference

The American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) is extending its discounted ACDA member registration rate to AGO members attending the winter conference in Philadelphia. Of particular interest to AGO members is the first-ever United in Praise Festival Chorus, which will draw its members from select church and synagogue choirs in the ACDA Eastern Division states (Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts, Maine, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and the District of Columbia). This 200-voice choir will be presented in worship at the United in Praise Interfaith Worship Service on Friday, February 12, at 5:00 p.m., at the First Baptist Church of Philadelphia. After a day of rehearsals with Craig Courtney, noted American composer of sacred music and editor for Beckenhorst Press, the chorus will be ready for a major role in the service. AGO members are invited to recommend this opportunity to their choirs. The postmark deadline for application is October 1, 2009. For further information, please e-mail Ken Steele, Chairman, Music in Worship Repertoire and Standards, ACDA Eastern Division, at krsteele45@comcast.net with "Festival Chorus" in the subject line.

Saturday, February 20, 2010
3:00 PM

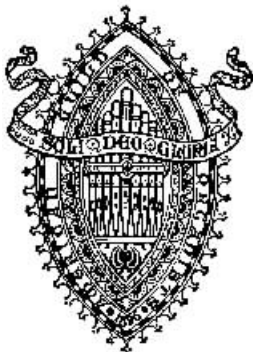
Choral Techniques Workshop presented by Christine Howlett
Postponed from September 19, 2009. Christine Howlett is Director of Choral Activities at Vassar College and Artistic Director of Capella Festiva. She also directs several other choruses and is a member of Kairos: A Consort of Singers. Location: Tekla Hall in the Skinner Building at Vassar College, Poughkeepsie. Info: 845-463-1249.

Saturday, March 6, 2010
10:30 AM to 2:30 PM (with
lunch break)

AGO Certification and Advancement Workshop
Sponsored by the Westchester Chapter, AGO. CHVAGO members are invited to participate at no cost. Place: St. Barnabas Church, 15 North Broadway, Irvington-on-Hudson, NY. Presenter: Dr. Jan-Piet Knijff, DMA, FAGO. Info: 914-591-8194.



Central Hudson Valley Chapter – AGO
Susan LaGrande, Newsletter Editor
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www.chvago.org



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