



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

Newsletter – November 2010

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Chapter Web Site

www.chvago.org

Letter from the Dean

Dear Colleagues,

If you weren't able to be at West Point on October 24th you missed a really great afternoon. The ecumenical Evensong in honor of the Reformation was a wonderful service of worship for singers and congregation (several hundred) alike. Six of our members sang along with members from their choirs which they had previously rehearsed in the music. We had about 60 singers plus a small chamber orchestra. Special thanks to Laura Russell for coordinating everything and conducting and to Craig Williams for his inspiring recital prior to the service and his playing throughout as well. I can't mention all the names, but if you were involved in any way, thank you!

This is the time of year when churches are running stewardship campaigns and trying to get the budget in place for the next year. It is also the time when decisions are being made about raises. Have you gotten a salary increase lately? – ever? Sometimes we may not get what we don't ask for. So I want to make a few observations about salaries.

In 2003 I took a job at the Reformed Temple of Putnam Valley. I knew nothing about Jewish liturgy and didn't know a word of Hebrew. They assured me they would help me learn and they have. So for the first few years I knew I didn't really deserve a raise while I was learning. But after 5 years I began to think I would never get a raise unless I asked, so I did. But first I did my homework. I told them what I pay for a substitute at my church in Fishkill and I had checked on what a friend paid her substitutes in Peekskill. I pointed out that the price of gas had gone up substantially since I took the job and I have a 60 mile round trip commute each week. I also asked for an immediate increase in the amount I was being paid for the Bar-Mitzveh's I was playing. I compared it to a wedding and told them what I got for that at my church. The result was an immediate increase both for the Bar-Mitzveh's and for my regular Friday nights. Not all requests will have such a happy ending, of course.

So how do you know what is an appropriate amount to be paid for the job you do? First you need to be clear about the amount of time you are spending. I find that many pastors and church boards have no idea of what the time requirements are. What they see are the "visible" hours you spend at your job: playing on Sunday and choir rehearsal. For one Sunday service (with warm-up rehearsal) and one mid-week rehearsal they might think you work 5 or 6 hours a week. But the rule of thumb is that you take the "visible" hours and multiply by 3 to get the real total of what most people will spend on the job. You need to be prepared to enumerate what those "invisible" tasks are. Aside from practicing (the most time consuming) you choose music for the choir, order it, learn it, file it. Then you may choose the hymns and liturgical music or meet with the pastor to discuss same. Do you write a newsletter article, change the hymn board in the church, rehearse with individuals or instrumentalists, arrange parts for your choir or other musicians? Do you arrange to have the pianos and organ tuned – maybe even having to be there to let people in? By now you have the picture and can fill it in with your own particular situation.

The National AGO publishes salary guidelines every year which take into account the total number of hours required for the job and your educational background and experience. I recommend you print out a copy to give to your pastor or board when you start salary negotiations (www.agohq.org). Scroll down to the Special Features box and click on salary guidelines.) Most of us won't come up to that standard but it does help people realize the extent to which you are underpaid! And don't be afraid to raise the issue of benefits. Does your denomination have a pension plan for lay people? If so, you should be part of it. Do you need health insurance? AGO Headquarters also offers group insurance that might work for some people, especially if a church is willing to subsidize part of the cost. To get there from the AGO home page, scroll down to the Special Features box on the left side of the screen and click on Insurance.

My final comment on salaries is that you should have some kind of contract or agreement with the body that is employing you. Pastors all have some kind of agreement and you should too. Sample AGO contracts are available on line as well.

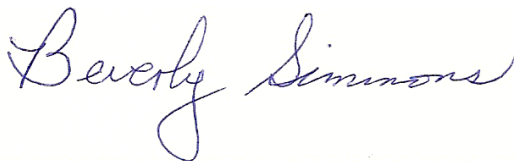
If you do approach your board or pastor about a raise do it humbly and without making demands. Let them know that you are understanding about all the other expenses of the church and that it may not be possible immediately. But tell them gently that you think it is time they considered a raise, especially if it has been quite a while. Best wishes for a good outcome!

Please check our online calendar frequently, especially at this time of year. There are many wonderful musical opportunities, many presented by your colleagues. Support them when you can with your presence. Our AGO sponsored event for November is our workshop with Gail Archer (Vassar organist and concert artist) on November 14 at 3:00 PM. The location is still not set so check the website and I'll try to send out an email as well.

If you are in the market for any organ music you might want to check out the website www.organtours.com. There is information on how to contact Leslie Peart and ask him for his list (10 pages) of music that he is selling. (Or I can forward the list he sent me if you ask.) He is downsizing his music collection and everything is going for much less than new copies cost.

Finally, in January we will have a choral reading session, but with a twist. This is not music from publishers, but rather music which you think is especially good and which you are willing to share. You must contact Laura Russell if you have a piece or two you want to share. On the day of the program you will bring copies from your library for us to sing from (and return!). You can conduct and we will furnish an accompanist. Everyone will receive a list of what we are singing so if we like it we will have the ordering information. So start thinking what you might want to share and let Laura know.

I hope you all have a fantastic (great, swell, positiv) Thanksgiving and a good beginning to the Advent season.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Beverly Simmons". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Beverly Simmons, SPC
Dean, Central Hudson Valley AGO

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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Endangered Tracker Organ – Can It Be Saved? - by Susan LaGrande

Some of you may have heard about a tracker organ in upstate New York that is apparently in danger of being thrown out with the trash. This is not a historic instrument in any sense; in fact, it was finished shortly before 2003, when it was featured at the Region II AGO Convention.

I attended that convention, but I did not take the tour which included this instrument, so I can't comment on the quality of its sound. Apparently there has been some controversy about that. Nevertheless, it is shocking to think of a fully-functional, beautifully housed pipe organ being discarded.

Even worse is the realization that there are people working hard to rescue this instrument; there is another church who reportedly wants to purchase it, but their offer has been refused. Apparently the current administration of the church where the organ resides would prefer to destroy it and take the financial loss (estimated at up to \$1 million) than allow the instrument to be relocated.

Unfortunately the resolution of this matter is not subject to outside influence, so no amount of outcry is likely to save the organ. But the fact that such a situation can exist anywhere should give us pause. Are we being good stewards of the organs under our care? Can we defend them and care for them as they deserve? Let's not let this happen again.

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>No Sunday Morning Services:</u>	
Barbara Bayers	203-260-4295	Maris Kristapsons	
Joe Bertolozzi	845-831-0695	(no weddings)	845-635-8837
Robert D. Brown	845-485-1597	Beverly Simmons	845-463-1249
Nickie Collins	845-462-2240	<u>For Weddings and Funerals Only:</u>	
Richard C. Ehlenberg	845-658-9746	Alice Cann	845-223-5344
Christopher Fasulo	646-342-4836	Greg Citarella	845-297-7693
Larry Hazard	845-452-0119	Eric Hepp (no weekday funerals)	
Susan LaGrande	845-226-6496		845-489-2625
Susan MacNish	845-635-3814	Charles Surber (no weddings)	
Janet Nickerson	845-561-0763		845-544-2782
Joanne Reed	845-361-3474		
Anne Ressler	845-446-8035		

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	Peter Hall	845-343-4995
Donald Filkins	845-518-2991	Larry Hazard	845-452-0119

Janet Nelson Nickerson 845-561-0763
Beverly Simmons 845-463-1249

Charles Surber 845-544-2782

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 December, is November 23rd.

Position Openings

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, older 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.

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR - (Part-Time)
ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - CORNWALL, NY Filled 10-8-2010

ORGANIST/ACCOMPANIST (Part-Time)
ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - NEWBURGH, NY 8-26-2010

ORGANIST - (Part-Time)
LYALL MEMORIAL FEDERATED CHURCH - MILLBROOK, NY Filled 9-23-2010

ORGANIST - (Part-Time)
BLESSED KATERI TEKAKWITHA RC CHURCH – LAGRANGEVILLE, NY. 8-15-2010

ORGANIST - (Part-Time)
ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - CHELSEA, NY 8-2-2010

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC - (Part-Time)
FISHKILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - FISHKILL, NY Filled 10-7-2010

ORGANIST/ACCOMPANIST (Part-Time)
ALL SAINTS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS) - LAGRANGEVILLE, NY 8-2-2010

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC - (Part-Time)
ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - WOODSTOCK, NY 7-30-2010

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC - (Part-Time)
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WASHINGTONVILLE -
WASHINGTONVILLE, NY 6/29/2010**

ORGANIST - (Part-Time)
RHINEBECK REFORMED CHURCH - RHINEBECK, NY 6-24-2010

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR - (Part-Time)
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - MIDDLETOWN, NY Filled 8-25-2010

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR (Part-Time)
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - BREWSTER, NY 5/25/2010

MUSICIAN/ORGANIST - (Part-Time)
**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION - HOPEWELL JUNCTION, NY.
4-29-2010**

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR - (Part-Time)
ST. MARGARET'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - STAATSBURG, NY 3-15-2010

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.

Sunday,
November 7,
2010
3:00 PM
Organ, Trumpet and Violin Concert
Gregory Citarella (organ), Jim Paradies (trumpet) and Julie Berman (violin). St. Nicholas-on-the-Hudson, 37 Point Street, New Hamburg, NY.
Free Will Offering Appreciated - All are Welcome to attend! Wine & Cheese Reception to follow in the church undercroft. Info: 845-297-2010.

Sunday, November 14, 2010 3:00 PM NOTE DATE CHANGE	Workshop by Gail Archer "Registration for German Romantic Organ Works" <u>Gail Archer</u> is college organist at Vassar College, and director of the music program at Barnard College. Location: <u>First Evangelical Lutheran Church</u> , Corner of Mill and Catharine Streets, Poughkeepsie, NY. Info: 845-790-3381
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- Sunday,
November 14,
2010
3:00 PM
- Three Organists Spectacular
An Organ Concert by Kathryn Jones, Organist, Huguenot Memorial Church, Pelham, NY; Joseph Nigro, Organist, Saint Augustine Church, New City, NY; Thomas Zachacz, Organist, Union Church, Pocantico Hills, NY. Works of Bach, Franck, Chauvet, Guilmant, Couperin, Benoist, Arnat, and Parry. Organ by Sebastian Gluck. Union Church of Pocantico Hills, 555 Bedford Road, Pocantico Hills, New York 10591. Info: 914-631-2069 or ucph@verizon.net
- Sunday,
November 21,
2010
3:00 PM
- Organ Recital by Lee Dettra
The recital is part of the 100th anniversary celebration of the Cadet Chapel organ (originally 38 ranks - now about 10 times that size!). The recital will include Handel's Organ Concerto in F, Borowski's 2nd Sonata, the Prelude from Durufle's Suite for Organ, and works by Cochereau, Gade, Schumann, Boyce, Powell Weaver, and Elmore. Mr. Dettra served as the third organist and choirmaster of the chapel (1985-2000). After 53 years of church and university positions in Florida, Pennsylvania, Delaware and New York, he retired 2 years ago. Following his retirement from West Point, he served Christ Church, Poughkeepsie, before he and his wife moved back to Delaware. With degrees from Westminster Choir College and Union Seminary School of Sacred Music, Lee Dettra holds also the FAGO and ChM diplomas. In addition to this recital, other appearances this year include recitals in Connecticut, Delaware, North Carolina, and Washington National Cathedral (where his son Scott is organist and associate director of music). Cadet Chapel, USMA, West Point, NY. Free. Info: 845-938-7352
- Sunday,
November 28,
2010
3:00 PM
- Organist Gail Archer in Concert
Program of German Advent and Christmas works. Gail Archer is college organist at Vassar College, and director of the music program at Barnard College. Location: First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Corner of Mill and Catharine Streets, Poughkeepsie, NY. Info: 845-790-3381
- Saturday,
December 4,
2010
7:30 PM
- Kairos Concert
In honor of the 400th anniversary of its publication, Kairos: A Consort of Singers, under the direction of Edward Lundergan, will present the majestic *Vespro della Beata Vergine* (1610 Vespers), composed by early Baroque Italian master Claudio Monteverdi, with period instruments. Location: Holy Cross Monastery, Route 9W, West Park, NY. The event will also feature a pre-concert talk (beginning at 7:00 PM) on early Baroque performance practice. Tickets are \$20 adult, \$15 seniors and \$7 youth/students with limited \$25 general admission on concert nights. Visit www.kairosconsort.org to order tickets on-line. For info or for group sales of 10 or more, please contact Carol Lundergan at 845-256-9114 or kairosconsort@gmail.com. Supported in part by a grant from the Dutchess County Arts Council administrator of public funds through NYSCA's

Decentralization Program.

Saturday,
December 4,
2010
7:30 PM

Choral Concert - Treasure House Chorale
The TreasureHouse Chorale and Chamber Orchestra and Soloists will perform their twenty-first annual Advent-Christmas Concert “Messe Solennelle”, featuring the towering Saint Cecilia mass of Charles Gounod, and also works of Handel, Mozart, Rutter and others. Program concludes with a Festival of Carols. Church of St. Mary, 11 Clinton Street, Wappingers Falls, NY. Tickets /Info: 914-318-3268. All tickets available at the door.

Sunday,
December 5,
2010
3:00 PM

52nd Annual Handel’s Messiah Performance
Cadet Chapel, USMA, West Point, NY. Free. Info: contact **Craig Williams** at 845-938-7352 or craig.williams@usma.edu

Sunday,
December 5,
2010
3:00 PM

Kairos Concert
In honor of the 400th anniversary of its publication, Kairos: A Consort of Singers, under the direction of Edward Lundergan, will present the majestic *Vespro della Beata Vergine* (1610 Vespers), composed by early Baroque Italian master Claudio Monteverdi, with period instruments. Location: Holy Cross Monastery, Route 9W, West Park, NY. The event will also feature a pre-concert talk (beginning at 2:00 PM) on early Baroque performance practice. Tickets are \$20 adult, \$15 seniors and \$7 youth/students with limited \$25 general admission on concert nights. Visit www.kairosconsort.org to order tickets on-line. For info or for group sales of 10 or more, please contact Carol Lundergan at 845-256-9114 or kairosconsort@gmail.com.

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

Sunday,
December 5,
2010
3:30 PM

Camerata Chorale Concert
The Camerata Chorale of Poughkeepsie, under the direction of Lee Harold Pritchard, will present a program to commemorate and celebrate the life of John A Davis, Jr. This program is part of the Tower Music Series held at the Reformed Church of Poughkeepsie, 70 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY. Free Will Offering; Suggested Donation: \$10.00. Camerata Chorale was founded in 1963 as a not-for-profit, non-sectarian choral ensemble whose members are drawn from more than 20 Hudson Valley communities.

Sunday,
December 5,
2010
7:30 PM

Choral Concert - Treasure House Chorale
The TreasureHouse Chorale and Chamber Orchestra and Soloists will perform their twenty-first annual Advent-Christmas Concert “Messe Solennelle”, featuring the towering Saint Cecilia mass of Charles Gounod, and also works of Handel, Mozart, Rutter and others. Program concludes

with a Festival of Carols. Annunciation Church, 470 Westchester Avenue, Crestwood, NY. Tickets /Info: 914-318-3268. All tickets available at the door.

Sunday,
December 5th,
2010
3:00 PM

Choral Concert - Treasure House Chorale
The TreasureHouse Chorale and Chamber Orchestra and Soloists will perform their twenty-first annual Advent-Christmas Concert "Messe Solennelle", featuring the towering Saint Cecilia mass of Charles Gounod, and also works of Handel, Mozart, Rutter and others. Program concludes with a Festival of Carols.

St. Denis RC Church, 602 Beekman Road, Hopewell Junction, NY.
Tickets /Info: 914-318-3268. All tickets available at the door.

Saturday,
December 11,
2010
7:30 PM

Christmas in New City
The Music Ministries of Saint Augustine Church an Advent-Christmas Concert featuring works of Mozart, Handel, Holst, Biebl and others in the sanctuary of Saint Augustine Church, 140 Maple Avenue, New City, NY 10956. Performances by Saint Augustine Choir, Guest Soloists, pipe organ and Chamber Orchestra. Program concludes with a wonderful program of traditional and contemporary carols for all to enjoy. Spectacular holiday reception follows in the Church Hall. Tickets are \$10, available at the door or in advance by calling 845-634-3641.

Sunday,
December 12,
2010
7:30 PM

Choral Concert - Treasure House Chorale
The TreasureHouse Chorale and Chamber Orchestra and Soloists will perform their twenty-first annual Advent-Christmas Concert "Messe Solennelle", featuring the towering Saint Cecilia mass of Charles Gounod, and also works of Handel, Mozart, Rutter and others. Program concludes with a Festival of Carols. St. James RC Church, 14 Gleneida Avenue, Carmel, NY. Tickets /Info: 914-318-3268. All tickets available at the door.

Sunday,
December 12,
2010
7:30 PM

Advent Lessons & Carols Service
Christ Episcopal Church, 20 Carroll Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. This service, which is open to the public, will include traditional Advent Readings, Advent Carols, and Choral Anthems accompanied by the recently restored Gress-Miles Organ, played by James Fitzwilliam. Selections from Bach's Advent Cantata #140 - "*Wachet auf*" will be on the program as well. Immediately following the service portions of "*Amahl and the Night Visitors*" will be presented with singers, instruments, costumes and dance. Freewill offering. Info: 845-452-8220.

Sunday,
December 19,
2010
3:00 PM

Kairos: 2010 Bach Cantata Series
Kairos: A Consort of Singers, under the direction of Edward Lundergan, will present its annual Lessons & Carols service featuring Old and New Testament readings interspersed with seasonal a cappella sacred motets and hymns from the Renaissance to the present. The candlelight service will conclude with a performance of our sixth performance of the 2010

Bach Cantata Series, Bach's beautiful motet *Komm, Jesu, komm*, with organ. A holiday reception will follow the service and all are invited. Location: Holy Cross Monastery, Route 9W, West Park, NY. Info: 845-256-9114.

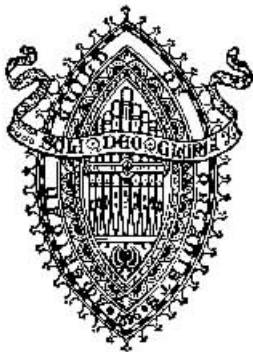
The concert is open to the public and all are welcome. All free-will donations will be matched by the Monastery community and sent to the Kingston Freeman Holiday Fund.

<p>Sunday, January 23, 2011 3:00 PM</p>	<p>Choral Reading Further details to be announced. Location: Christ Episcopal Church, 20 Carroll Street, Poughkeepsie. Info: 845-485-1648.</p>
<p>Sunday, February 13, 2011 5:00 PM</p>	<p>Annual Spuds & Sundaes Social Get together to enjoy baked potatoes and ice cream sundaes, with all appropriate toppings. Trinity Episcopal Church, 1200 Main Street, Fishkill, NY. Stay tuned for further information.</p>
<p>Sunday, March 6, 2010 3:00 PM</p>	<p>Organ Recital by Meredith Baker Ms. Baker is Director of Music at the Most Holy Trinity (Catholic) Chapel, USMA. Cadet Chapel, USMA, West Point, NY. Free. Info: contact Craig Williams at 845-938-7352 or craig.williams@usma.edu</p>
<p>Sunday, April 3, 2010 3:00 PM</p>	<p>Organ Recital by Adrienne Pavur Ms. Pavur is the Rutgers University Organist. Cadet Chapel, USMA, West Point, NY. Free. Info: contact Craig Williams at 845-938-7352 or craig.williams@usma.edu</p>
<p>Sunday, May 8, 2010 3:00 PM</p>	<p>Juilliard Trombone Choir Concert Joseph Alessi, director. Joseph Alessi is the Principal Trombonist of the NY Philharmonic. This concert will feature a new commissioned composition for organ and trombone choir. Cadet Chapel, USMA, West Point, NY. Free. Info: contact Craig Williams at 845-938-7352 or craig.williams@usma.edu</p>
<p>Sunday, May 22, 2011 3:00 PM</p>	<p>Annual Members' Recital Start planning your performance piece now! Zion Episcopal Church, 12 Satterlee Place, Wappingers Falls, NY. Further details to be announced.</p>

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Susan LaGrande, Newsletter Editor
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Wappingers Falls, NY 12590
www.chvago.org



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