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

**Newsletter – November 2022**

**Officers**

**Benjamin T. Vise** – Dean  
330-327-0895

**Nancy Vanderlee** – Secretary  
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**Laura Russell** – Sub-Dean  
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**Susan Guse** – Treasurer  
845-242-1478

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

**Eileen Kerkes** – At-Large Member  
802-309-8407

**Chapter Web Site**

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

**Letter from the Dean**

Dear CHVAGO colleagues and friends:

It was such a total joy for us to gather in the historic and elegant surroundings of First Lutheran Church in downtown Poughkeepsie on Sunday afternoon, October 2nd, for a multifaceted program to install our officers and board for the new year of life for our unique and spirited chapter of AGO. A very palpable feeling of utter joy in being able to gather once more “in person” was apparent throughout our time together, and it pervaded every aspect of our celebration and sharing of our respective gifts! How could it have been otherwise when we have finally emerged from such a long period of being “locked down” by the COVID epidemic?

The singing of our opening hymn, “When in Our Music God is Glorified,” just about blew the roof off of that magnificent space, at least to my ears at the console of the wonderful vintage Austin organ in the gallery! And I assure you that I spared no organ, either!! It set the stage for an incredibly vibrant beginning to our program year for 2022-2023.

Our brand new chaplain, Rev. Kelly-Ray Meritt, enthusiastically jumped into his new role as we used a ritual of installation that I “borrowed” (with their full permission) almost verbatim from my colleague Bob Bidwell, the Dean of the Central Arkansas chapter of AGO which is based in my home town of Little Rock, Arkansas! We also took time to honor our host for the day, Eric Hepp, who has been so incredibly vital to the life of our chapter over many years in too many aspects of our life together to mention! We were excited to present him with a certificate as our newest inductee for our League of Distinguished Service award.

After this we had multiple presenters--all arranged by Sub Dean Laura Russell (even though she could not be there personally as she was returning from the wedding of her grandson in New Hampshire)--who shared a wide variety of choral anthems, a “hot off the press” setting of a psalm presented by Susan Guse, and even an original composition by James Fitzwilliam. The gathered members formed a small but very vibrant choir as we gathered around the rich sound of the magnificent Steinway piano in the First Lutheran sanctuary. Then Eric ended the program with an original organ work by John S. Dixon that had been presented at the National AGO Convention in Seattle earlier in the summer.

*(Editor’s Note: See page 7 for the complete program for this event.)*

The “piece de resistance” for everything, however, was the incredible spread that Eric had prepared--all by himself!--for a time of fellowship afterwards. With such a variety of good things to eat and drink, including multiple gourmet cheeses and even a lovely “cinnamon streusel” style baked dish that Eric made himself! How could we have possibly gone wrong?

I was so pleased that we were able to get a magnificent photo taken of the entire group by James F. using his iPad. Thanks to the efforts of our Director of Communications, Susan LaGrande, this will be appearing in the Chapter News section of The American Organist magazine in another month or so. There is a 2-month lead time to get things published there, but be sure to also check out the very fine submission by Susan about recent chapter events that is found on pg. 100 of the October 2022 issue of the magazine. We are SO incredibly blessed to have Susan constantly balancing so many multiple functions in the life of our chapter, including her diligent and very thorough preparation every month of this newsletter!

Our board of directors will have our next meeting via ZOOM on Sunday evening, November 13, at which time our agenda will include discussion of other planned programming for the year to come. In the meantime, I wish to ALL of us the gift of wisdom and energy we will need as we enter one of our busiest seasons of the entire year as church musicians, choral directors and organists! And even all those enthusiastic “fans” of the above, without whom our life together could not exist.

Blessings to you all during this magnificently beautiful time of the year!



Benjamin T. Vise, MM  
Dean, CHVAGO

## Membership News

- Welcome to new member Richard Wert, whose contact information is:

44 Colonial Drive  
Red Hook, NY 12571  
845-758-5574

[werthause@gmail.com](mailto:werthause@gmail.com)

We look forward to getting to know you, Richard!

## 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	845-635-0411
Joe Bertolozzi	845-337-1216	Sistine Lezon	914-456-0533
Luca Cantone	703-554-5906	Janet Nickerson	845-294-8138
Greg Citarella	845-559-4013	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	Nancy Vanderlee	845-266-3858
Larry Hazard	845-452-0119	Benjamin Vise	330-327-0895
Eric Hepp	845-489-2625	John Ward	917-657-4614
Boyd Herforth	845-687-6233	Christopher Wynkoop	845-926-7389
Wesley Joseph	845-849-0104		

## 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
Gregory Citarella	845-559-4013	Michael Oosterhout	301-910-5307
Justan Foster	518-965-2389	Anthony Rispo	914-979-5181
Larry Hazard	845-452-0119	Benjamin Vise	330-327-0895
Boyd Herforth	845-687-6233		

## **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 December 2022, is November 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: 845-226-6496 (home) - e-mail: [CHVAGOboard@gmail.com](mailto:CHVAGOboard@gmail.com)

## **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.*

MUSIC DIRECTOR - (Part Time)

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

10/22/2022

VOCAL/BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR, MUSIC DIRECTOR - (Part-Time)

**COBLESKILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - COBLESKILL, NY**

10/22/2022

ORGANIST - (Part-Time)

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH - KENT, CT**

10/15/2022

CHORAL DIRECTOR - (Part-Time)

**CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH - POUGHKEEPSIE, NY**

10/9/2022

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC - (Full-Time)  
**ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST - GOSHEN, NY**  
9/26/2022

PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR OF SACRED MUSIC - (Full-Time)  
**ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY - DUNWOODIE (YONKERS, NY)**  
9/17/2022

ORGANIST - (Part-Time)  
**ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SPRING VALLEY - SPRING VALLEY, NY**  
7/2/2022

ORGANIST AND MUSIC DIRECTOR (Part-time)  
**OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH - FISHKILL, NY**  
5/27/2022

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

## **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, November 6,  
2022  
3:00 PM

Westchester County Chapter, AGO - Member's Recital  
Come hear the wonderful new Russell & Co. Opus 60, with has 51 stops, 37 ranks over 2 manuals. There will be a reception to follow. [St. Pius X Church](#), 91 Secor Road, Scarsdale, NY 10583.  
Info: [agowestchester@gmail.com](mailto:agowestchester@gmail.com).

Saturday, November 12,  
2022  
7:30 PM

Concerts Con Brio presents Chamber Music  
[Musicians of the Hudson Valley Philharmonic](#) will present the Hudson Valley String Quartet, (Marka Young & David Fiedler, violins; Lauren Byrne, viola; Jeanne Fox, cello) who will play the *Lark Quartet in D Major*, Opus 64 No. 5 by Franz Joseph Haydn. Cellist Chris Santos will play the *Cello Suite No. 2 in d minor* by J.S. Bach. Cellists Nanette Koch and Susan Seligman will play *Five Cello Duos* by Halsey Stevens. and the Hudson Valley String Quartet will end the program with “*American*”

*Quartet #12* by Antonin Dvorak: movements III: “Molto vivace” and IV “Finale”. [Christ Episcopal Church](#), 20 Carroll Street, Poughkeepsie, NY. Suggested donation of \$15 at the door. Info: 845-452-8220

Saturday, November 19,  
2022  
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Organfest!  
Celebrate the pipe organ with a keynote address, breakout sessions, and concert with Dr. Peter Latona! Presented by the Liturgy Office of the Archdiocese of New York. Chapter member **Fr. George Hafemann** will lead one of the breakout sessions. [Click here](#) for a printable flyer. [St. Joseph’s Seminary](#), 201 Seminary Avenue, Yonkers, NY. Tickets: \$45 (full day with lunch) /\$25 (student full day - includes lunch)/ \$20 (2:15 PM concert only). Register: [organfest.eventbrite.com](http://organfest.eventbrite.com)

Saturday, November 19,  
2022  
Time 2:00 PM

Concerts Con Brio presents the Cappella Festiva Autumn Concert  
[Cappella Festiva](#) presents their Fall Concert featuring the Chamber Choir, the Treble Choir, and the Cors Capriccio Children's Choir. The Chamber Choir will present *Magnificat in C* by Johann Pachelbel, and other pieces. James Fitzwilliam, organ & piano. Tickets available at the door and online: <https://www.cappellafestiva.org/dbpage.php?pg=evlist>  
[Christ Episcopal Church](#), 20 Carroll Street, Poughkeepsie, NY. Info: 845-452-8220.

Sunday, January 22, 2023  
5:00 PM

Concerts Con Brio presents Chamber Music  
[Musicians of the Hudson Valley Philharmonic](#) will present the Hudson Valley String Quartet: The Cara Group (Rachel Handman & Stephen Minor, violins; Elizabeth Handman, viola; Chris Santos, cello), who will play *Strum* by Jesse Montgomery. Additional program details will be added as they become available. [Christ Episcopal Church](#), 20 Carroll Street, Poughkeepsie, NY. Suggested donation of \$15 at the door. Info: 845-452-8220

## **Choral and Organ music Reading Session**

*These are the musical selections offered at our last chapter event on October 2, 2022.*

“The Prayer, with Lead us Lord” – words and music by Carole Sager and David Foster,  
adapted and arranged by Tom Fetke.

Past Sub-Dean Eric Hepp

“Lost in the Night” (Finnish folk tune)

Advent choral piece arr. by Marty Haugen (Augsburg-Fortress #0-8006- 5924-4)

Benjamin T. Vise, M.M., Dean

“In Flanders Fields”

Words by Dr. John McCrae, Music by John Jacobson and Roger Emerson

Past Dean Gregory Citarella

“By the Babylonian Rivers” (Psalm 137) - arr. of a Latvian folk hymn by Rick Erickson

Treasurer Susan Guse

“The Word according to John”, composed by James and commissioned by Eric Hepp for his  
church choir

CHVAGO Member James Fitzwilliam

“Trumpet Intrada” by John S. Dixon

Past Sub-Dean Eric Hepp



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Soli Deo Gloria