



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

Newsletter – November 2023

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845-235-7203

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Chapter Web Site

www.chvago.org

November 2023 Acting Dean's Letter

Dear CHVAGO members,

I stepped down from the position of Dean almost a year and a half ago and was happily ensconced in my new role as Sub-Dean (in charge of programming). When past-Dean Benjamin Vice moved out of the area unexpectedly, the position of Dean was left vacant. To fill that position, the board referred to our by-laws, which dictated that the Sub-Dean would serve as Acting Dean until the next election, while still remaining Sub-Dean.

I am very grateful to the entire board for offering me support in these dual positions, and I have happily taken them up on their offer. One of the duties of the Dean is to write the "Dean's Letter," which is sent out to members as part of the monthly Newsletter. But I did not write the last two letters. Many thanks to Chaplain Kelly-Ray Meritt who wrote an excellent September letter about his role as CHVAGO Chaplain and how his pastoral training, combined with his interest in organ, extensive choral experience, and love of music make him especially qualified for his position. Thanks also to CHVAGO Secretary Nancy

Vanderlee, who wrote the October letter about the importance of volunteer choirs as the backbone of both the worship and strength of religious communities.

One of the reasons that I asked my colleagues to write the last two letters in my place was that over the summer I was invited by the music director and the board of Cappella Festiva to be Guest Conductor for their November choral concert. Preparing for this concert has been a joyful, all-consuming experience! In this letter I write about my process preparing for this concert, especially about how it relates to an important mission of CHVAGO.

Choosing the theme and selecting the music for the concert was my first task, and it was especially meaningful for me. I quickly realized that it was important to me to continue exploring music composed by diverse composers, part of a mission that our CHVAGO Chapter, along with many other music organizations, has been focused on for the past three years.

Background: I have been a member of both CHVAGO and Cappella Festiva for a good many years (CF since 1987, and CHVAGO since around 2005). These two organizations were among many around the country that were discerning how we should respond as musicians to the important issues raised by the Black Lives Matter movement during that difficult summer of 2020. After much discussion, our Chapter board issued a Juneteenth Statement which is posted on our website at chvago.org and which we posted in June, 2020 on our Facebook page. This statement says in part:

The mission of the American Guild of Organists in general and the Central Hudson Valley Chapter in particular is to foster a thriving community, which must include not only all musicians, but all humans, regardless of color. Our vision is to engage, support, and uplift. We must demonstrate our unwavering support for each other's professional advancement and success, in music as well as in other endeavors... [We pledge to educate] ourselves, our members, and our students about music written by and performed by Black musicians.

We pledged as a Chapter to support and to present concerts of music written by Black composers and by other under-represented groups. We also made a commitment to become more knowledgeable about music outside of the standard choral and organ canons and to educate our members and ourselves about this. All my life I have felt anchored in the tradition of classical music. However, I have become increasingly aware of the responsibility, as well as the opportunity, for us to move out of our comfort zones to explore and to celebrate choral and organ music written by under-represented composers. This is NOT a call to narrow our musical repertoire -- to drop Bach, Dupré, Franck, and others -- but it is rather an opportunity to widen our vision to include more music, not less! There is an amazing treasure trove of music written by African Americans, women, and other under-represented peoples, much of which is only just now being published.

Like CHVAGO, Cappella Festiva also has a Statement affirming their commitment to learn about and perform choral music by African Americans and other under-represented composers. The upcoming November Cappella concert program creates a rich tapestry of music in a variety of musical styles by a diverse group of poets and composers.

The first half of the concert takes us on a journey with engaging, passionate poetry, including texts by Robert Frost, Langston Hughes, Emma Lazarus, Maya Angelou, and others. These texts are set in a variety of musical styles and include classical and popular, and music that draws on elements of jazz and gospel. The composers include Irving Berlin, Adolphus Hailstork, Rosephanye Powell, Randall Thompson, and others. Together the music and poetry form an arc of stories about determination and hope that represent the best of our American traditions and values.

The second half of the program features Francis Poulenc's *Gloria*. This well-known choral work uses the traditional Latin Gloria text against a rich tapestry of musical styles, featuring soaring melodies, echoes of Gregorian Chant, and rich jazz-inspired harmonies and syncopated rhythms. Paralleling the arching journey of the first half of the concert, the *Gloria* sounds one minute like serious, sacred church music, and the next moment like jazzy music you might hear in a cabaret. The juxtaposition of these styles forms a dramatic tapestry, weaving together many different musical threads to create a beautiful work.

In February of this year, our Chapter presented a program of organ music written by African Americans and performed by seven local organists at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Poughkeepsie. It was very well attended, and people were excited to hear this music. Then in April 2024 we will present a concert of organ music composed by women. It will take place at the Poughkeepsie Reformed Church on Hooker Avenue in Poughkeepsie. If you are interested in playing in this concert, please be in touch with me via email.

I view this upcoming Cappella Festiva concert as a continuation of both my own personal journey and the journey of many musical organizations like CHVAGO and Cappella.

The concert will take place on Sunday, November 5th at 7:30 PM at Christ Episcopal Church in Poughkeepsie, and its title is "Journeys & Celebrations." Tickets are available at the door. I hope to see many of you there!



Laura Russell, Sub-Dean, Acting Dean

Member News

Please keep Grace Haack and her family in your thoughts and prayers. Grace's son-in-law passed away on October 21.

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. 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	Eric Hepp	845-489-2625
Joe Bertolozzi	845-337-1216	Wesley Joseph	845-849-0104
Luca Cantone	703-554-5906	Maris Kristapsons	845-635-0411
Greg Citarella	845-559-4013	Timothy M. Lewis	914-374-2608
Richard C. Ehlenberg	845-687-6013	Michael Oosterhout	301-910-5307
James Fitzwilliam	845-849-3606	Edward Palange	914-213-3460
Justan Foster	518-965-2389	Joanne Reed	845-361-3474
Carl J. Geiselhart	845-457-4830	Nancy Vanderlee	845-266-3858
Susan Guse	845-242-1478	Christopher Wynkoop	845-926-7389
Larry Hazard	845-452-0119		

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. If you would like your name listed, please contact the editor using the information above.

Meredith Baker	914-261-0028	Timothy M. Lewis	914-374-2608
Gregory Citarella	845-559-4013	Michael Oosterhout	301-910-5307
Justan Foster	518-965-2389	Dillon Streifeneder	845-532-2488
Larry Hazard	845-452-0119		

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 2023, 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: 845-235-7203 - e-mail: CHVAGOboard@gmail.com

Position Openings

Editor's Notes

- The AGO, and by extension the Central Hudson Valley chapter, now requires all posted jobs in our Career Center include salary information. This change improves transparency for applicants and complies with applicable New York State laws, where the AGO is headquartered. We believe this change will encourage a more positive experience for our members seeking employment.
- *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 845-235-7203 or email chvagoboard@gmail.com.*
- *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. If you need help accessing the online information, please call Susan LaGrande at 845-235-7203.*

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ORGANIST - (Part-Time)

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SPRING VALLEY - SPRING VALLEY, NY
9/19/2023

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC - Part-Time

THE CHURCH OF ST MARY - WAPPINGERS FALLS, NY
4/21/2023

PARISH DIRECTOR OF MUSIC - Part-Time

**THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-ST.JOSEPH AND OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL -
POUGHKEEPSIE, NY**
4/19/2023

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR - (Regular Part-Time)

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH - GOSHEN, NY
Revised 6/13/2023

MUSIC LEADER - (Part-Time)

CHRIST'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - WOODSTOCK, NY
11/28/2022

ORGANIST - (Part-Time)

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - NEWBURGH, NY
1/28/2022

CHORAL DIRECTOR - (Part-Time)

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH - POUGHKEEPSIE, NY
Renewed 4/20/2023

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND ORGANIST - Part-Time
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - MIDDLETOWN, NY
3/28/2022

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.

- Tuesdays at 12:15 PM Noontime Organ Recitals at Goshen Presbyterian Church
First Presbyterian Church in Goshen has recently renovated its 1931 Austin organ, replacing a poorly-built recent console with a rebuilt 1931 Austin console, with drawknobs. The church is launching a free noontime recital series, which began on July 11 and will continue weekly on an ongoing basis. The principal organist for the series will be Jonathan B. Hall, DM, FAGO, minister of music of the church. Programs will be held from 12:15 to 12:45 PM every Tuesday. All are welcome, all noontime recitals are free, and there is ample free parking and accessibility. [First Presbyterian Church in Goshen](#), 33 Park Place, Goshen, NY 10924. Info: 845-294-7991.
- Sunday, October 29, 2023 Breezy Hill Woodwind Quintet Concert
3:00 PM The quintet includes chapter members Eileen Kerkes (oboe) and Nancy Vanderlee (flute), along with Alan Kjellman (clarinet), Edwina Pratt (bassoon) and Lisa Fraitag (French horn). Featuring music by Mozart, Taffanel, Bizet, Strauss, some old time favorites and Disney too! Admission: \$20 Adult; \$10 Students & Seniors (65+) Children under 12 - Free. [Click here](#) for a printable flyer. [Zion Episcopal Church](#), 12 Satterlee Place, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590. Info: 845-297-9797.
- Sunday, October 29, 2023 Spooktacular Members Recital
7:00 PM Members of the Westchester Chapter of AGO present works by Bach, Boellman, John Williams and more! [The Reformed Church of Bronxville](#), 180 Pondfield Road, Bronxville, NY 10708. Info: 914-337-6776
- Saturday, November 4, 2023 Organ Concert by Paul Jacobs
5:00 PM [Paul Jacobs](#), one of the United States' pre-eminent organists, will be playing masterworks for organ to celebrate the restoration of Calvary's E.M. Skinner [pipe organ](#), Opus 512, by Foley-Baker, Inc. Please join us to celebrate! This concert is made possible by a generous grant from Foley-Baker Inc., and Friends of Thornwillow Concerts at Calvary. [Calvary Presbyterian Church](#), 120 South Street, Newburgh, NY 12550. Admission is free. To reserve tickets, please visit <https://thornwillowinstitute.org/>. Info: 845-226-1564.

Sunday, November 5, 2023
7:30 PM
NOTE TIME CHANGE

Cappella Festiva Fall Concert - "Journeys & Celebrations"
Laura Ramsey Russell, Guest Conductor; **James M. Fitzwilliam**, Piano & Organ
Wake Up, My Spirit – Adolphus Hailstork; text: Psalm 57: 6-9
The Gate is Open - Elizabeth Alexander
Choose Something Like a Star - Randall Thompson; text: Robert Frost
I Too, Sing, America - Undine Smith Moore; text: Langston Hughes
Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor - Irving Berlin; text: Emma Lazarus
Christus Natus Est - Rosephanye Powell; text: Countee Cullen
United in Purpose - Rollo Dilworth; text: Maya Angelou
Gloria - Francis Poulenc
[Christ Episcopal Church](#), 20 Carroll Street, Poughkeepsie NY.
Info: 845-853-7765

Friday, November 10,
2023
7:30 PM

The New York Theatre Organ Society (NYTOS) Presents "Salute to Our Veterans"
Join us for a special evening of cinematic history and tribute to our veterans as we present the silent film masterpiece *Wings* at the Bardavon Opera House, accompanied by the remarkable talents of [John Baratta](#) on the [2/10 Wurlitzer](#). Released in 1927 and directed by William A. Wellman, *Wings* is a soaring epic that takes us back to the skies of World War I, capturing the courage and camaraderie of fighter pilots. As we honor our veterans, this screening becomes even more poignant. John Baratta's live organ accompaniment will enhance every thrilling aerial battle and poignant moment, making this an unforgettable cinematic experience that pays tribute to the bravery and sacrifice of our servicemen and women. Don't miss this unique blend of classic cinema and heartfelt homage at the Bardavon Opera House. [Click here](#) for a printable flyer. This event is sponsored by the MHA Dutchess Veterans Program, with additional support from Vincitore's Hudson Valley Piano Center and The Central Hudson Valley American Guild of Organists. Free admission. Info: 845-473-2072

Saturday, November 11,
2023
3:00 PM

Organ Recital by Renée Anne Louprette
[St. Thomas Church](#), 1 West 53rd Street, New York, NY 10019.
More details to be announced.

Sunday, November 12,
2023
2:00 PM

West Point Cadet Chapel Organ Recital by Jens Korndoerfer
[Jens Korndoerfer](#), Concert Organist, Baylor University.
Program to be determined. Venue: [Cadet Chapel, USMA, West Point, NY](#).
All recitals require a Department of Defense ID or Visitors'

Pass from the Visitor Control Center to enter West Point. Entry to the Cadet Chapel and recital are free to the public. All Cadet Chapel organ recitals and concerts are free to the general public. Info: craig.s.williams58.civ@army.mil

Sunday, December 17,
2023 through Sunday,
December 24, 2023

Mall Music
Back by popular demand, NYTOS and the Touring Theatre Organ will fill the mall with music this holiday season. Daily 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Stay tuned for the official artist lineup! Free. Galleria Mall, 2001 South Road, Poughkeepsie, NY. Info: 845-297-7600.

Sunday, January 21, 2024
Snow Date: Sunday,
January 28, 2024
5:00 PM

Annual Spuds & Sundaes Social
Spuds & Sundaes Social - Music Sale - Seasonal Organ Music
Three events in one! And a great opportunity to bring a guest.

- Baked potatoes and ice cream, with appropriate toppings for each. A great opportunity for good food and fellowship. If you would like to contribute a topping, please contact Susan LaGrande.
- If you have organ- or choral-related sheet music that you no longer want, bring it here and let other members browse. Take what you want and leave a donation to benefit the Scholarship Fund.
- There will be an opportunity to play/hear seasonal organ music on the [Emmons-Howard tracker organ](#) (1904).

[Hopewell Reformed Church](#), 143 Beekman Road, Hopewell Junction, NY 12533

Saturday, February 3,
2024
3:00 PM
NOTE DATE CHANGE!

Romanian Organ Landscape: Renée Anne Louprette, Lecturer
Renée Anne Louprette ([website](#)) is Assistant Professor of Music and College Organist at Bard College where she directs the Bard Baroque Ensemble and leads an annual Bach cantata series. She spent the Fall 2022 season as a Fulbright scholar in Brasov, Transylvania, surveying the preservation of historic Romanian pipe organs. [St. James Episcopal Church](#), 4526 Albany Post Rd., Hyde Park, NY 12538-1564. Free admission. Reception to follow. Info: 845-229-2820

Sunday, April 14, 2024
2:00 PM

West Point Cadet Chapel Organ Recital by Katelyn Emerson
[Katelyn Emerson](#), Concert Organist. Program to be determined.
Venue: [Cadet Chapel, USMA, West Point, NY](#).
All recitals require a Department of Defense ID or Visitors' Pass from the Visitor Control Center to enter West Point. Entry to the Cadet Chapel and recital are free to the public. All Cadet Chapel organ recitals and concerts are free to the general public. Info: craig.s.williams58.civ@army.mil

JOURNEYS — AND — CELEBRATIONS

*"The gate is open, dare we enter?
The Star is somewhere on the other
side of fear, On the other side
of hopelessness"*

Laura Ramsey Russell *guest conductor*

Music by:

Adolphus Hailstork
Elizabeth Alexander
Randall Thompson
Undine Smith Moore
Rosephanye Powell
Irving Berlin
Rollo Dilworth

Lyrics by:

Robert Frost
Langston Hughes
Emma Lazarus
Maya Angelou
Sister Peronne Marie
Thibert
Countee Cullen

Featuring Francis Poulenc's *Gloria*

**Cappella
FESTIVA**

Sunday November 5, 2023 | 7:30 PM
Christ Episcopal Church
20 Carroll Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601



Ticket Prices:

\$20 general admission;
\$15 for seniors; \$5 for students.



For discounted tickets, purchase in advance at
www.cappellafestiva.org | info@cappellafestiva.org
Masks are optional but recommended.



Central Hudson Valley Chapter – AGO
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Soli Deo Gloria