



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

Newsletter – October 2023

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914-204-6472

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845-242-1478

Susan LaGrande – Newsletter Editor
845-226-6496

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

Chapter Web Site

www.chvago.org

The following is a modified excerpt from an article that Nancy Vanderlee wrote for a recent edition of her parish newsletter. The subject matter seems very timely, since many choirs are just resuming rehearsals after a summer break.

The Role of a Volunteer Choir

Why it is a Vital Component of our Worship

Any member of our choir would agree that we prepare music to praise God and edify the congregation. We minister to the congregation and to each other. Our ensemble serves as a conduit of faith for both the congregation and choir members. Choirs encourage good singing throughout the congregation and can be avenues to faith for visitors/guests who end up participating. In a church choir, ordinary people can experience the satisfaction of text coming to life as they sing a well-rehearsed anthem, hymn or canticle.

A volunteer choir creates a community unlike any other. A healthy choir can be one of the strongest small groups in a congregation. A rare and special dynamic is created among people who don't have to be there. Our church is fortunate to have an ensemble such as this,

whose members have been known to gather for social events outside of rehearsals and worship services, such as dinners and movie nights, as well. We must nurture this sense of community in the choir.

In addition to providing direction, a choir director also serves as a voice teacher. Participants improve their vocal skills by practicing proper vowel and consonant formation, which leads to a more blended sound. Music reading skills are touched upon, but the ability to read music is not required for participation. Choir members always have access to practice sound files produced specifically for them, which helps to boost their confidence. Every anthem that we sing is carefully chosen, arranged, and tailored specifically to bring out the best in each person's voice and the overall ensemble. Recently, some singers have been performing descants which I have composed specifically for our ensemble. Volunteer singers need to feel needed!

Frequently our singers are accompanied by a cellist, in addition to piano or organ. We find that this unifies our sound by enhancing the tenor/bass vocal lines or adding a counter melody or descant.

I feel fortunate to work in a congregation which supports these efforts by providing funds for continuing education and instrumentalists. With this financial backing, I continue to grow as a musician myself, by attending workshops and conferences, taking courses in choral arranging and composition, and performing as part of the Cappella Festiva Chamber Choir, led by Dr. Christine Howlett and Dr. Laura Russell at Vassar College, both of whom are excellent mentors. My ongoing work as a musician outside of the church, both as a singer, flutist, and teacher, is a constant source of renewal and skill building, which directly enhances my effectiveness as a church musician. My experience of over thirty years as a choral educator in the public schools has also directly informed my ability to minister at St. Peter's.

May our choir continue to grow and thrive, fulfilling its role as a ministry!

Nancy Vanderlee

*Music Director/Organist St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Lithgow
Secretary, CHVAGO*

Member News

Our membership has swelled by three additions since last month. They have already been introduced to you, but their inclusion in our chapter is now official, and we offer them a hearty welcome.

- Susie Gilgert, scholarship recipient.
- Tommy Leung, scholarship recipient.
- The Rev Kelly-Ray Meritt, CHVAGO chaplain.

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 November 2023, is October 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 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 845-235-7203 or email 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. If you need help accessing the online information, please call Susan LaGrande at 845-226-6496.

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
WRenewed 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.

Saturday,
October 7, 2023
7:30 PM

SAVE THE DATE! Bach to Broadway Returns
In one of our most popular concerts, this collaboration between CHVAGO and The New York Theatre Organ Society (NYTOS) features the NYTOS Traveling Theatre Organ played by Nathan Avakian and the Christ Church Gress-Miles pipe organ played by James Fitzwilliam. [Click here](#) for a printable poster. [Christ Episcopal Church](#), 20 Carroll Street, Poughkeepsie, NY. Info: 845-452-8220

Sunday, October
22, 2023
2:00 PM

West Point Cadet Chapel Organ Recital by Jillian Gardner
[Jillian Gardner](#), Concert Organist, University of Alabama at Huntsville. Featuring works by Works of Percy Fletcher, Eurydice Osterman, Herbert Howells, Rachel Laurin, Bach, Widor, and her own transcriptions from Tchaikovsky and John Williams. 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

Saturday,
November 4,
2023
5:00 PM

Organ Concert by Paul Jacobs
[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, and all are welcome. Info: 845 -562-8730

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 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,
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,
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



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Soli Deo Gloria