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

**Newsletter – September 2022**

**Officers**

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330-327-0895

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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 Colleagues:

As we begin to move into the upcoming month of September and the fall season of programming which accompanies it for so many, I want to highlight both a program which occurred at the end of July as well as our plans for a wonderful event coming up early this fall to begin our own “new” program year for the 2022-2023 season.

I had so much that I needed to cover in my very first Dean's letter to all of you in August, however, I very regretfully did not have the needed space to properly acknowledge the fabulous “Peace Vigil Concert” that took place on Sunday evening, July 30th at St. John's Lutheran Church in Poughkeepsie. Under the magnificent planning and leadership of our members Patrick Walker (host), Susan Guse and Laura Ramsey Russell, this program was co-sponsored by our chapter as well as St. John's and Christ Episcopal Church in the same city. The quote on the front cover from Leonard Bernstein, whose birthday we happened to celebrate only yesterday, so magnificently set the stage:

*“This will be our reply to violence: To make music more intensely, more beautifully, more devotedly than ever before!”*

The original idea for this program arose some time prior as a response to the beginning of the war in Ukraine, but with all the other violent events which abruptly took place in our society immediately afterward it just became very evident that it needed to expand in scope around the “Vision of Peace” for which we all were so fervently longing! The outcome could not have been a more magnificent evening of brilliant performances by a vast host of participants, including a concert choir organized by Laura, as well as two different handbell ensembles, and which featured original compositions for the evening by Patrick Walker, James Fitzwilliam, and others. Members of our chapter who served as participating organists included Susan Guse, Meredith Baker, Craig Williams, Maris Kristapsons, James Fitzwilliam and Anthony Rispo, whose magnificent closing improvisation literally brought down the house!

With such an energetic and inspiring event serving as a “mere mid-summer concert,” (ahem) we knew that anything we planned going forward would feed off of the inspiration generated! So, now with that intent, we turn our attention to the first upcoming program of our own program year for Central Hudson Valley Chapter of AGO. This program will take place on Sunday afternoon, October 2nd at 3:00 PM at First Lutheran Church, 325 Mill Street in downtown Poughkeepsie. This program will serve as a time to formally install our new officers and board members for the coming two year term, and with any kind of luck this will be done by a “new” chaplain for CHVAGO, a currently “missing component” of our own chapter organization which we are trying fervently to rectify! It will additionally serve as a time to honor our host musician, Eric Hepp, long-serving officer and board member, for all the voluminous years he has worked so hard on behalf of us all!

The second portion of the program will consist of a participatory reading session of choral and possibly organ works, led by volunteer members of our chapter. This portion is being planned by our Sub-Dean Laura Ramsey Russell, even though she will unfortunately not be able to attend herself. No one could possibly have any better a reason to miss it though, since Laura will be just be returning that afternoon from attending her grandson's wedding in New Hampshire! We heartily extend all of our collective good wishes to her as well as all of her family on such a marvelous occasion!

So please DO plan to come and join us SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2nd for a multi-faceted program, which will be followed by refreshments and opportunity for fellowship afterwards. I hope to see YOU there with bells on!

Ever sincerely, and please..... “always play right notes if you are able!”



Benjamin T. Vise, MM  
Dean, CHVAGO

## Membership News

- Joseph Bertolozzi has been busy with his Bridge Music sound-art installation. In June nine dance companies performed to Bridge Music on the Walkway Over the Hudson. That performance was filmed and the movie is being premiered Saturday, September 17 at 6:00 and 9:00 PM at Story Screen Beacon and Sunday, September 18 at 4:00 PM at the Rosendale Theatre, with a pre-screening talk about Bridge Music by Bertolozzi and a post screening Q+A with him and choreographers. In between all that, Bridge Music was awarded the 2022 Dutchess County Executive's Arts Award for Art in Public Places. Congratulations, Joe!
- Margaret Small has a new address and phone number. Effective immediately, her contact information is:  
Dr. Margaret Small  
922 Ohio Street, Apt 132  
Bangor, ME 04401  
Home: 207-573-4442  
Summer: 207-638-2141  
Cellphone: 207-598-1479  
[don.small@ymail.com](mailto:don.small@ymail.com)
- Former chapter member Bruce Xu was recognized in the current (September 2022) issue of the American Organist Magazine in the Pippings section, page 26. Bruce, who with his twin brother Reilly Xu grew up in our chapter, won first prize in the Arthur Poister Scholarship Competition in Organ Playing, which took place in Syracuse in June. He also took the Will O. Headlee Audience Prize. Bruce is an undergraduate student of Ken Cowan at Rice University. Congratulations, Bruce!
- Patrick Walker, former Director of Music at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Poughkeepsie, has assumed his duties as Music Director at Immanuel Presbyterian Church in McLean, VA. We will miss him, but we wish him well!
- Dillon Streifeneder, another young organist who grew up in our chapter, has been named the new Director of Music at St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Poughkeepsie. Growing up in Red Hook, Dillon played in the school's concert band and sang in the choir from grade school through high school. He began playing organ in high school when called on to substitute for the organist at his home congregation of Rock City Memorial Lutheran Church. Shortly thereafter, Dillon began playing in other local churches (including a few Sundays at St. John's), and taking private organ lessons, which he continued in college. Attending Lebanon Valley College (LVC) in south-central Pennsylvania, Dillon earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sacred Music and Organ Performance in 2014. While at LVC, Dillon studied with Dr. Shelly Moorman-Stahlman, sang in the concert choir, and performed with the handbell ensemble. Dillon has served Lutheran, Episcopal, and Methodist parishes in Pennsylvania, Oklahoma, and Ohio, and was most recently the organist and director of music at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Having received his PhD in history in May, Dillon will begin teaching as an adjunct professor at SUNY New Paltz this coming fall semester. Welcome back, Dillon!

## 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 October 2022, is September 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.***

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

ORGANIST/MUSIC DIRECTOR - (Part-Time)

**ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - COLD SPRING, NY**

8/11/2021

## 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.*

- Saturday, September 17, 2022  
6:00 PM and 9:00 PM
- Sunday, September 18, 2022  
4:00 PM
- Movie Premiere - Dance on the Walkway  
**Joseph Bertolozzi** has been busy with his [Bridge Music](#) sound-art installation. In June nine dance companies performed to Bridge Music on the Walkway Over the Hudson That performance was filmed and the movie is being premiered Saturday, September 17 at 6:00 and 9:00 PM at [Story Screen Beacon](#) and Sunday, September 18 at 4:00 PM at the [Rosendale Theatre](#), with a pre-screening talk about Bridge Music by Bertolozzi and a post screening Q+A with him and choreographers. Story Screen Theater, 445 Main Street, Beacon, NY - 845-440-7706 - Tickets \$20. Rosendale Theater, 408 Main Street, Rosendale, NY 12472 - 845-658-8989 - Tickets \$15.
- Sunday, September 25, 2022  
3:00 PM
- Chamber Music Concert by the Harlem String Quartet  
In celebration of its 20th Anniversary, Newburgh Chamber Music presents [The Harlem String Quartet](#), a Grammy Award-winning ensemble devoted to advancing diversity in classical music. This concert includes classical selections by Fannie Mendelssohn and Benjamin Britten, and also works by contemporary composers: Caroline Shaw, Dizzy Gillespie, and Guido Lopez-Gavilan. [St. George's Episcopal Church](#), 105 Grand Street, Newburgh, NY 12550. Tickets: \$40 - \$5 for students
- Saturday, October 1, 2022  
4:00 PM
- Concert for Flute and Guitar  
[Carl Gutowski](#) (Flute) & [David Temple](#) (Guitar). Performing works by Enrique Granados, Francis Poulenc, Eduardo Martin, Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco, and others. Tickets (\$10 adults/\$5 students and seniors) can be purchased at the door. [Zion Episcopal Church](#), 12 Slatterlee Place, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590. Info: 845-559-4013.

Sunday, October 2, 2022  
3:00 PM

CHVAGO Chapter Meeting - Installation of Officers and Choral Reading

Please join us for the Installation of CHVAGO board members and Chaplain, which will be followed by a participatory reading session of choral and organ music led by several CHVAGO members. There will also be refreshments, and an opportunity to see old friends and to meet new colleagues. [First Evangelical Lutheran Church](#), 325 Mill Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. For venue questions - parking and/or accessibility issues, please contact [Eric Hepp](#) at 845-488-2625.

Sunday, October 23, 2022  
2:00 PM

Chamber Music Concert

[The Hudson Valley Chamber Musicians](#) consists of Norman Dee (Flute), Ann Chukurian (Oboe), Leigh Myers (Clarinet), Terry Watson (Horn), and Donald Venezia (Bassoon). [Zion Episcopal Church](#),

12 Satterlee Place, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590. Tickets at the door: \$10, \$5 seniors, children under 12 Free. Reception follows. Info: 845-559-4013.



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Soli Deo Gloria