



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

Newsletter – August 2024

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From Past Dean Laura Russell:

A Report on the 2024 National AGO Convention in San Francisco.

Earlier this summer I attended the 2024 National AGO Convention which was held in San Francisco, a city that I love dearly!

The Convention had amazing performers playing hugely varied repertoire in concerts and worship services held in beautiful venues in and around the San Francisco area. What follows is a brief snapshot description of parts of the conference, accompanied by actual snapshots that I took with my phone. You will be able to view some of the photos by clicking on links embedded in this document; the rest be be made available soon.

I flew out of Albany, New York on Saturday, June 29th for the pre-conference excursion to the Legion of Honor Museum and an organ concert by Jonathan Dimmock, the Legion's principal organist. However, my connecting flight was delayed in Chicago, and I arrived too

late. On past visits to the area I have walked around the grounds of the Legion, and I have always wanted to go inside to see the museum. It would have been great to hear the new Skinner 2024 organ there too!

I took advantage of the beautiful day to explore Yerba Buena Gardens which was next to the Marriott Marquis, the convention hotel. The Gardens are in the heart of the City, yet the architecture and plantings manage to create a feeling of wildness. I have several photographs of the Gardens and of the [old and new buildings](#) that surround it.

On Saturday afternoon I attended the NYACOP (National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance) Finals which took place at Lakeside Presbyterian Church on the Pearson 2023 organ. The three 2024 Finalists were First Place winner Ryan Chan, from Hong Kong. Second Place winner was Victoria Shorokhova from St. Petersburg, Russia. Third Place winner was Tyler Boehmer from Kansas.

Saturday evening brought the Opening Worship Service in the Reform Jewish Tradition at the historic Congregation Sherith Israel. David Riggs played the Prelude, and NYACOP winner Ryan Chan played the Postlude. The service music included a commissioned piece by Melissa Dunphy. I was fascinated and moved by the architecture and history of the venue. It was one of the few buildings in that part of the City that survived the 1906 earthquake and fire. As one of the few surviving, intact buildings, it offered use of its space to municipal government and other community organizations that were helping in the aftermath of the earthquake. Its eclectic architecture includes multiple elements evoking, among other things, Eastern Europe and the American West. One of the Tiffany-style stained glass windows shows Moses, dressed as a nineteenth-century European Rabbi, delivering the Ten Commandments to Jewish immigrants, while Native Americans look on. The Rocky Mountains form the background to this new Promised Land. In his introduction to the service, the Rabbi described how Reform Judaism originated with immigrants in the United States. Like others who traveled to the American West to reinvent themselves, so did European Jewish immigrants. ([Click here](#) for a photo of the Moses Window.)

Brief overview of events:

Monday afternoon: At the Roman Catholic [Cathedral of Christ the Light](#) in Oakland , Dong-Il Shin performed on the Letourneau 2010 organ. His program included *Grande Piece Symphonique* by Cesar Franck, a World Premiere commissioned work: *Diptych on Veni Creator Spiritus* by Texu Kim. Shin ended his program with *Prelude and Fugue on the Name BACH* by Franz Liszt. Later, Chanticleer gave a stellar performance at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Oakland. Their program was nearly identical to the one that I heard at the Pawling School concert earlier this year, and it was wonderful to get to hear them again! Music included works by Max Reger, a commissioned piece by Ayanna Woods, Hoagy Carmichael, and others.

Monday evening: We returned to San Francisco for a concert at [Grace Cathedral](#) at the top of Nob Hill, performed by Faythe Freese on the [Schoenstein 2001](#) (originally Aeolian-Skinner 1933). She performed selections from *Neuf Pieces* by Jean Langlais, *First Sonata in D Minor* by Felix-Alexandre Guilmant, and she ended with works by Florence B. Price and Leo Sowerby.

Tuesday morning: I attended a Choral and Organ Reading Session given by Oxford University Press and a workshop about Creative Concert Programming in the 21st Century.

Other offerings that morning included a Walking Tour of The Castro District, a Mission Dolores Tour, a workshop about the changes in the AGO Certification exams, a GIA Reading Session of Organ Music of Black Composers, a workshop given by the AGO Task Force for Gender Equity/Society for Women Organists. Our own CHVAGO member Renee Louprette gave the workshop “Transylvanian Organ Landscape: Historic Organ Restoration in Romania”. Some of you may have attended that same workshop that our Chapter sponsored earlier this year at St. James in Hyde Park !

Tuesday evening: Shin-Young Lee & Olivier Latry performed with the Berkeley Symphony at St. Ignatius Parish. The concert opened with *Concerto in One Movement for Organ and Chamber Orchestra* by Emma Lou Diemer. This was followed by *Ascending Light* for Organ and Orchestra by Michael Gandolfi. *Toccata Festiva* for Organ and Orchestra by Samuel Barber. The concert ended with the two organists playing Stravinsky’s own reduction for piano duet, performed on the Hupalo & Repasky 2024 organ rebuild.

Wednesday: I attended the Northeast Regional Meeting and chatted with Westchester Chapter member Jonathan Riss, former CHVAGO member Barbara Bayers, and many people from other chapters in our region. In the evening I attended the St. Cecilia Recital performed for the first time in its history by a woman. Janette Fishell performed at the [Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption](#) on the Ruffatti, 1971. This was another stunning venue. Highlights from that concert, which was titled “From Muse to Master Muse” included selections from *Cinq Improvisations* by Charles Tournemire; selections from *Pieces de fantaisie* (dedicated to two of his female students) by Louis Vierne; selections from *Four Biblical Dances* (dedicated to organist Susan Landale) by Petr Eben; and from *Deux Esquisses* (dedicated to Madame Stephane Bornemann) by Marcel Dupre. The second half of the concert included the World Premier of the commissioned *Suite for Organ* by Mason Bates; *Premiere Prelude et Fugue* by Elsa Barraine, and selections from *Six Etudes pour orgue* by Jeanne Demessieux. The concert ended with selections from *Symphonie No. 1 pour Orgue*, by Rachel Laurin.

Thursday morning offerings included two worship services: a Baptist service, and Episcopal Morning Prayer. The services were followed by more concerts, including organists Weicheng Zhao, Anne Laver, Annette Richards, Jonathan Moyer, and Monica Berney in a variety of venues in Menlo Park, Stanford, and Palo Alto.

Thursday evening featured the Gala Reception back at the convention hotel. This was a Convention and a City to remember!

See you At the Picnic!

Don’t forget our CHVAGO Annual Picnic, which will take place this coming Saturday, August 10, 2024, from 3:00 to 6:00 PM! Most of you have not yet responded to the survey which was sent out last week. If you prefer, you can send an email RSVP to CHVAGOBoard@gmail.com or call Susan LaGrande at 845-235-7203. We hope to hear from everyone by Wednesday, August 7. Please come, and invite a guest! We look forward to seeing you.

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 September 2024, is August 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

List of Organ Teachers

The following chapter members have indicated on their membership application that they will accept new organ students. Please note that only CHVAGO members in good standing are eligible to be included in this list, unless otherwise approved by the Board. However, it should not be assumed that these individuals are endorsed by the CHVAGO, and background checks are encouraged. More information about each teacher 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	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		

List of Organ Substitutes

The following chapter members have indicated on their membership application that they will serve as substitute organists. Please note that only CHVAGO members in good standing are eligible to be included in this list, unless otherwise approved by the Board. However, it should not be assumed that these individuals are endorsed by the CHVAGO, and background checks are encouraged. 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	Larry Hazard	845-452-0119
Joe Bertolozzi	845-337-1216	Eric Hepp	845-489-2625
Owen Borda	914-734-2456	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	Joanne Reed	845-361-3474
Justan Foster	518-965-2389	Stephen Siktberg	845-702-2375
Jacob Friedman	914-305-0572	Dillon Streifeneder	845-532-2488
Carl J. Geiselhart	845-457-4830	Nancy Vanderlee	845-266-3858
Susan Guse	845-242-1478	Christopher Wynkoop	845-926-7389

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, and applicants should expect that prospective employers may require background checks. 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.*

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC - (Part-Time)

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH - FISHKILL, NY

Trinity Episcopal Church seeks a skilled church musician familiar with a liturgical worship style to lead congregational and choral music and direct its choir for Sunday worship services and on special occasions.

Responsibilities and Duties

1. Lead organ music and direct the choir at the regularly scheduled worship services each Sunday and select appropriate music for each service in consultation with the clergy. This would be expected 48 Sundays per year.

2. Provide choral music and/or organ music for additional services during the year including Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil.
 3. Have responsibility for the leadership of Trinity's Choir.
 4. Rehearse once weekly with the choir in preparation for Sunday worship. For a period of weeks during the summer the choir is on hiatus.
 5. Cooperate with the clergy and/or the Worship Committee in the area of general planning and leadership of the church's music program.
 6. Have responsibility for the purchase of all necessary music and music supplies, and the hiring of instrumental and vocal soloists, up to the amount budgeted annually.
 7. Have access to use the facilities of the church for private teaching. Times of lessons and use of facilities must be scheduled in advance through the office so as not to conflict with the needs of the church.
- Instruments available for item 7: Allen Organ ADR-4 s/n 3675 manufactured in 1991 (located in church building); Steinway upright piano (located in church building); Steinway grand piano (located in parish building great hall); Baldwin electric organ model 71 s/n 55493-TP-H5 (located in Music Director's office); One set of Malmark Inc. handbells
8. Keep track of and report to the appropriate committee, Buildings & Grounds, the condition and needs for the maintenance of the organ and pianos.
 9. Right of first refusal to provide music at all burial services and weddings requiring organ music held within Trinity church.
 10. Salary commensurate with experience, up to \$22,000 per year. Honorariums for weddings and funerals to be set by our Vestry.

Qualifications and Skills

High school graduate

At least two years of experience playing in a liturgical church setting.

At least one year of experience in choral direction.

Benefits

Four weeks of vacation per year with compensation, including four Sundays.

Budgeted allowance for attending workshops, conferences, educational study, books and music and other forms of continuing education.

Social Security and New York State Unemployment

Send resume to: [Trinity Episcopal Church](mailto:info@trinityfishkill.org), 1200 Main Street (P.O. Box 484), Fishkill, New York 12524. 845-896-9884 - info@trinityfishkill.org 7/16/2024

ORGANIST/DIRECTOR OF MUSIC - (Part-Time)

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH - MILBROOK, NY

Deep roots, open doors: Grace Church, planted these past 150+ years in the charming mid-Hudson village of Millbrook, New York, is rooted in the broad Anglican/Episcopal liturgical tradition and is an open, affirming and welcoming congregation with strengths in spiritual formation, outreach and worship. The Organist and Director of Music position is responsible for the music at weekly 10:00 AM Sunday services, along with Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and Holy Week (Triduum) services. The position is part time, with a salary range of \$20,000 - \$35,000, depending on experience and skill. Benefits include 4 weeks of paid vacation and a retirement plan contribution. The position is under the direct supervision of the Rector. We currently have a six-person choir that sings three weeks a month during the program year, with occasional paid soloist; rehearsals currently take place prior to and after the 10:00 AM service. The main instruments are a Beckerath tracker organ, custom designed and installed in 1969, with two manuals, pedal, and 24 stops (34 ranks), and a Steinway grand piano. Funerals, weddings and other special services are paid at a per service rate of

\$250 per service or negotiated with family. [Grace Episcopal Church](#), 3330 Franklin Avenue (PO Box 366), Millbrook, NY 12545. Contact: [The Rev. Dr. Matthew Calkins, Rector](#). Interested applicants should send a cover letter, resume, and three references by July 1, 2024, to the post office or email address above. 6/1/2024

ORGANIST - (Part-Time)

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH - NEWBURGH, NY

One Sunday service at 10:00 AM (4 Sundays off per year, to be negotiated). Eight additional special services: Thanksgiving Eve, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Holy Week Services: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil (Saturday), Easter – Two Services, German Easter Service. Expected Competencies: Primary Instrument – Organ (with pedals), Secondary Instrument – Piano. Allen Digital organ, Kawai GS30 Grand Piano. Lutheran Book of Worship – Hymns and Service Music, and With One Voice – Hymns and Service Music. Per Service Rate: \$150 (estimated \$8,700 per year) For Funeral and Wedding Service, Organist sets the fee. Choir accompanist – if agreed, compensation to be negotiated (rehearsal or performance). [Christ Lutheran Church](#), 186 Fullerton Avenue, Newburgh, NY 12550 The Rev. Ernst A Mossel, Pastor, Church Office: 845-562-0824 Member of the New York Metropolitan Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Contact: [Daniel Madrid](#), 862-258-0106 2/1/2024

ORGANIST - (Part-Time)

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SPRING VALLEY - SPRING VALLEY, NY

One Sunday service at 10:00 AM. Seasonal services on Good Friday and Christmas Eve. No choir currently, but would be open to establishing protocol with the newly hired organist. Weddings/funerals: extra compensation which is paid directly by the engaging family. Gress-Miles pipe organ, 2-manuals 14 ranks (1963). Overall the organ is in great shape with a few repairs to be addressed in the near future. Tambourines and drums are occasionally used in worship. Salary range: \$190 - \$200 for each service. Today, we are a small but vibrant and welcoming church with a diverse congregation of about 80 families. We reach beyond the church to the larger community through outreach activities and active involvement in many community organizations. We also participate in local community update meetings hosted by the Mayor of Spring Valley. Our outreach ministry includes our Free Community Dinner and Food Pantry, our Senior's Outreach, Homeless Outreach, Drumming and Community Healthcare Network NG. We are presently in transition as we embark on a journey to select a priest which we have been without since June 2021. We are currently using Supply Clergy and have been blessed to maintain a steady congregation and attendance during this period. This time period has taught us that we have a strong congregation and that we are capable of preserving the church in all of its duties and endeavors. [Saint Paul's Episcopal Church of Spring Valley](#), 26 South Madison Avenue, Spring Valley, NY 10977. Phone 845-356-1857; Fax 845-356-1616; email: stpaulssv@gmail.comstpaulspringvalley.org 9/19/2023

PARISH DIRECTOR OF MUSIC - Part-Time

THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-ST. JOSEPH AND OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL - POUGHKEEPSIE, NY

The Church of St. Mary-St. Joseph and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in the City of Poughkeepsie seeks a part-time Music Director. Must be capable of playing the organ and/or sing. View Mass times [here](#). Salary: \$30,000/year. Weddings, Quinceaneras, etc. extra. [The Church of St. Mary-St. Joseph and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel](#), 231 Church Street,

Poughkeepsie, New York 12601 (845) 452-8250

Please send resume to smsjolmc@gmail.com, ATTN: MUSIC SEARCH. *Revised 1/12/2024*

CHORAL DIRECTOR - (Part-Time)

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH - POUGHKEEPSIE, NY

We are looking for a Choral Director who can work with our organist, choir, and rector. We are seeking a professional, skilled conductor who is creative, nurturing, and collaborative. She/he/they will also be organized, have a good sense of humor, and be able to communicate well. One Sunday Service at 10:30 AM plus additional services Holy Week, Christmas Eve, Christmas, and other times in liturgical year. Choir rehearsal on Wednesday nights at 7 PM and Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM. Christ Church has a choir of between 10-16 voices. We are a progressive Christian community with a strong commitment to music. Our salary range is between \$15,000-\$20,000 depending on experience. Christ Episcopal Church, 20 Carroll Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. To apply, please send a resume and cover letter to rector@christchurchpok.org by October 26, 2022. *Renewed 4/20/2023*

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 Recitals at Goshen Presbyterian Church
Great Music in Great Space - First Presbyterian Church in Goshen has recently renovated its 1931 Austin organ and is resuming its free noontime recital series, which will continue weekly on an ongoing basis. Jonathan B. Hall, DM, FAGO, minister of music of the church, will present manualiter and piano music, and there will be other visiting musicians. 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, August 10, 2024 3:00 - 6:00 PM Annual Chapter Picnic
A great opportunity for fellowship and good food!
Location: Home of John and Nancy Vanderlee, 58 Breezy Hill Road, Staatsburg, NY. Please consult your favorite GPS app for driving directions. Please bring chairs for outdoor seating, as well as a dish to share. Please check your emails from last week for a survey which you can use to RSVP. If you prefer, you may send an RSVP to CHVAGOBoard@gmail.com or call Susan LaGrande at 845-235-7203.

Guests are welcome! Our annual picnic is always a great time for fellowship and conversation.

Sunday, August 11, 2024
3:00 PM

20th Anniversary Concert - St. John's Recorder Ensemble
Featuring Susan Guse on Harpsichord. [Click here](#) for a printable poster. [St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church](#), 55 Wilbur Blvd, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Free admission. Info: 845-452-1550

Saturday,
August 24,
2024
7:00 PM

Organ Concert by Craig Williams
[Craig Williams](#), organist at the Cadet Chapel at USMA, West Point, will present a program of popular classical organ repertoire. The organ is [the NYTOS Allen organ](#), which offers 61 ranks of Skinner sound as well as the usual theatre organ ensemble. This concert is co-sponsored by The New York Theatre Organ Society and CHVAGO. For a printable poster, please [click here](#).
[The Stissing Center for Arts and Culture](#), 2981 Church Street, Pine Plains, NY 12567. Admission: \$25. Info: 518-771-3340.



Central Hudson Valley Chapter – AGO
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Soli Deo Gloria