



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

Newsletter – December 2024

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www.chvago.org

Letter from the Dean

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As we have closed out a turbulent month, a happy belated Thanksgiving to all. The division in our nation has not improved even though we look forward to a season of peace and harmony. Nevertheless, I was greatly uplifted by the recent Capella Festiva program “Music of the Earth and Stars”. It contained a great many reminders of how over time such things become meaningless if we trust that we are only a small part of our Creation. By not focusing on our own relatively tiny concerns and paying attention to our place in that greater universe can we transcend such negativity.

Sometimes it’s difficult to see how we fit in this world as we seem to rely ever more on those immediate gratifications propelled by commercialism and the instant rewards of the Internet. Do we ever consider how we live? What impacts we make in our daily lives? How it affects other human beings?

Nancy and I recently stayed at a fairly upscale hotel in Tucson, Arizona, where we ate breakfast every morning. It was buffet style, and we’d fill our plates with what was needed

for sustenance that morning. We were appalled to see what other people took, did not eat or even touch, and then left on the tables to be thrown out. I was taught frugality and how not to waste. I thought about the workers along this food chain, who toiled to bring this food to the table – only to have it rot somewhere.

At the same time, on a morning walk just a few hundred feet from the hotel, we saw homeless people living in the brush, and people begging on not just one, but all four corners of nearby intersections. I don't think our Creator meant for us to live with such a disregard for what is so obvious around us.

Pretty soon we'll celebrate the birth of His Son, Jesus Christ, Who demonstrated the greatest self-sacrifice, in order to teach us how to treat our fellow human beings. A sacrifice served and proclaimed at that holiest of Tables: the Last Supper; where each morsel of Bread was treated with reverence, and every drop was drained from the Cup. The Food itself was elevated, and so honored those who had produced it to be used for this transcendent purpose.

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, who served us the ultimate Meal, let us serve by making great Music for the Holy Season, remembering that we are part of the Whole, not just in what we ourselves do, but the impact we will make on others. This season, Music elevates what is already joyous. Music is the festive ribbon that ties our celebrations together. Be sure that your own joy shines through, a joy to be served to everyone.

Then, perhaps we can all feel better about our own place in these crazy times.

Have a blessed Holiday,

Your Dean, CHVAGO

John Vanderlee

Scholarship Fund News

In September we announced that our chapter had received a bequest from the estate of the late Alice M. Cann, who was a highly valued member of our chapter for many years. Alice specified that her bequest was to be used for educational purposes. In response to this, the Board has established the "Alice M. Cann Education Fund." The current Margaret Pecoraro Memorial Scholarship Fund will continue to be used until the money is exhausted.

The Board seeks YOUR suggestions about ways for our Chapter to use this new fund! Since the amount of the the bequest was quite significant, we need to start thinking big. Some possibilities that have already been suggested are:

1. [Orgelkids](https://orgelkidsusa.org/) - a program in which kids work together to build a small working tracker organ. Info: <https://orgelkidsusa.org/>
2. [Pipe Organ Encounter \(POE\)](#).
 - a) offer sponsorships for young organists to attend?
 - b) Possibly host a POE?
3. Pipes, Pedals, and Pizza - we have hosted these in past years, with great success. Young piano students are invited to play on the organ a piece they have practiced on the piano. A basic demonstration of how a pipe organ works is presented, followed by a pizza party for all.

4. Directly funding organ lessons.

We want to hear YOUR ideas! We really want to hear from you. To reach any board member, email chvagoboard@gmail.com or see the masthead for phone numbers.

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 January 2025, is December 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 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	Jimrae K. Lenser	845-802-4284
Greg Citarella	845-559-4013	Maris Kristapsons	845-635-0411
Richard C. Ehlenberg	845-687-6013	Timothy M. Lewis	914-374-2608
James Fitzwilliam	845-849-3606	Joanne Reed	845-361-3474
Justan Foster	518-965-2389	Dillon Streifeneder	845-532-2488
Jacob Friedman	914-305-0572	Nancy Vanderlee	845-266-3858
Carl J. Geiselhart	845-457-4830	Christopher Wynkoop	845-926-7389
Susan Guse	845-242-1478		

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	Jimrae K. Lenser	845-802-4284
Gregory Citarella	845-559-4013	Timothy M. Lewis	914-374-2608
Justan Foster	518-965-2389	Dillon Streifeneder	845-532-2488
Larry Hazard	845-452-0119		

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.*

ORGANIST, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC - (Part-Time)

ST. PETER'S CHURCH (EPISCOPAL) - LITHGOW, NY

One Morning Prayer Sunday service at 9:30 AM (Holy Communion is celebrated the first Sunday of each month at the 9:30 AM service), along with the other important services throughout the year, including Lessons & Carols which is a music-driven service the week before Christmas; Christmas Eve, which includes a 4:00 PM Children's Pageant and a 10:00 PM service with Holy Communion and choir; Christmas Day at 9:30 AM with Holy Communion but no choir; Holy Week, including two services on Palm Sunday, and Easter Sunday; Pentecost; Memorial Day which entails arranging for a brass quartet during the annual service held at St. Peter's Cemetery; All Saint's Day. St. Peter's currently has approximately a six-person amateur choir that sings on the Holy Days during the program year (see above) with rehearsals currently taking place prior to and after the 9:30 AM service on Sunday. Funerals, weddings are other special services, such as installation of a Vicar or Ecumenical Lenten Service, are paid at a per service rate. This includes weddings, rehearsals with requested singers/instrumentalists, attendance at liturgical rehearsal and extraordinary practice time, research, and musical arranging necessitated by requests for difficult or unusual music. The organ is a two-manual Allen digital MDS 26. Compensation: The position is part-time (approximately 18 hours per week on average for the year) and the salary (\$20,000 to \$30,000) is commensurate with education and experience. Benefits

include seven weeks for professional development and vacation. The Music Director will secure appropriate substitutes, to be compensated by St. Peter's, for those Sundays she or he is on leave. While our preference is to bring someone on who either has, or is looking to grow, ties to our community, Saturday evening housing in the Millbrook area may be available. The position is under the direct supervision of Rev. Richard McKeon. [Click here](#) for a complete job description. Contact: Rev. Richard McKeon, [St. Peter's Church](#), Lithgow (Mailing address: PO Box 1502, Millbrook, New York 12545 10/24/2024

MUSIC DIRECTOR - (Part-Time)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CHRIST - POUGHKEEPSIE, NY

One Sunday service (10:30 AM) with choir rehearsals Sunday morning (9:00 AM) and possibly a weekday evening (generally 7:00–8:30 PM) in preparation for Christmas or Easter. First right of refusal for funerals & weddings. Instruments: 3-manual 1902 Midmer pipe organ with Austin console (approximately 50 ranks), a refurbished Steinway baby grand piano, a Roland DP-990F digital piano (88 keys), a multi-octave set of Malmark handbells, as well as a set of handchimes. Additional instruments (guitars, hand drums, string and brass instruments, etc.) belong to congregation members who do special music. Salary: \$13,000-\$16,000 (commensurate with skill level). This position does not provide health care or retirement benefits, but does offer Flexible Spending Account. For a complete job description, please [click here](#). [First Congregational Church of Christ](#), 269 Mill Street, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. To apply, please submit a letter of interest, resume, and at least 3 references to Rev. Heather Moody, 269 Mill Street Poughkeepsie, NY 12601, or by email to fccoffice@gmail.com. 10/10/2024

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

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.

- Friday,
December 13,
2024
7:30 PM
- Christmas Classic Pop Singalong
Bring your friends, family, and holiday cheer to this magical evening filled with timeless holiday songs. Let's celebrate the season together! [The Reformed Church of Poughkeepsie](#), 70 Hooker Ave, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 Additional Parking at Bartlett Park off Hanscom Avenue
Info: info@poughkeepsiereformedchurch.com or call 845-452-8110.
- Thursday,
December 19,
2024
through Tuesday,
December 24,
2024
- NYTOS "Deck the Mall"
The tradition continues as NYTOS brings music to the shoppers at the Poughkeepsie Galleria Mall in Poughkeepsie. Daily from 11:30 AM to 8:30 PM except on December 24, when the music will stop at 2:30 PM.
Artists: Nathan and Claire Avakian; Juan Cardona, Jr.; Carl Hackert; among others. Stop by and enjoy!
- Sunday, January
26, 2025
5:00 PM
- Annual Spuds & Sundaes Social
Spuds & Sundaes! The menu is baked potatoes and ice cream, with appropriate toppings for each. If you would like to contribute a topping, please contact Susan LaGrande. We will also offer our used music sale. 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. Venue: [St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church](#), 55 Wilbur Blvd, Poughkeepsie, NY. Info: 845-452-1550.
- Sunday,
February 23,
2025
2:00 PM
- West Point Cadet Chapel Organ Recital by John A. Wolfe
[Dr. John A. Wolfe](#), an alumnus of Vassar College, is a New York City-based organist, choral conductor and music educator. [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, March
30, 2025
2:00 PM
- West Point Cadet Chapel Organ Recital by Colin Mark Andrews
[Colin Andrews](#) is one of only four organists in the world to have recorded the complete organ works of Messiaen. Since the autumn of 2009, he has been Adjunct Professor of Music at Indiana University. [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, May 4,
2025
2:00 PM

West Point Cadet Chapel Organ Recital by Gail Archer

[Gail Archer](#) is a professor of music at Barnard College, and also serves as college organist at Vassar College. [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