



Central Hudson Valley Chapter
of the
American Guild of
Organists

Newsletter – July 2024

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www.chvago.org

Dean's Letter

Dear Members,

A belated happy Fourth of July, and I hope you had a chance to regale your congregation/audience with some patriotic-themed music! Playing something traditional will always bring a smile to people's faces. Maybe it's the child in us that finds comfort in hearing music that stirs up memories.

Which gives me a great segue into the meat of today's newsletter, but first some great news: Your Central Hudson Valley Chapter of the AGO is now tax-exempt!

Thanks to the Herculean effort of Susan Guse, assisted by Justan Foster, and the input of many others, we have now attained 501(c)(3) status. That means your generosity could now be rewarded with possible tax advantages. (Check with your tax adviser to be sure).

Financially it puts us in a much better position. This news was celebrated with a gathering at the Guse residence on June 23rd. Thank you Susan and Mike!

On to the main topic:

When people are asked at what age they started to play an instrument, it's often in the pre-teen years. It's an age when social pressures are not quite as present, and a kid feels free to express him/herself in whatever form of music feels pleasurable, not just because it's in the "top ten". (Do they still really use that term anymore?) As my spouse will agree, it is also the age where music teachers have the best chance to plant a seed that can take hold and germinate.

The mission statement of the AGO says in part: "...to foster a thriving community of musicians..." and digging deeper it says: "nurture organists of all ages". I see this as a clarion call, and what better than to start this at an early age? Unfortunately, today's school-age children get minimal exposure to serious music in their schools. Of course, there are exceptions in a few lucky districts. But Music is usually treated as an "extra." I don't want to beat on sports programs, but in comparison, the performing arts tend to get short shrift. Yet, how many school-age star athletes make it to the big time? On the other hand, teach a kid the joys of making music and he/she will have a skill for life, where often they can be a part of the larger musical world.

My good friend, John Baratta, who taught music for decades (and still does), had the perfect counter to some who minimized music skills. He'd rattle off all the academics and skills involved in music performance: math, languages, history, geography, discipline, collaboration, etc. I'm sure we can all add a few to that list.

Narrowed down to AGO world, we need to continue teaching our music as well, and become more pro-active if we expect there to be organists in the future. The question has been, where to start? How to engage? By luck, we have identified a few individuals in the past who have gone on to be performers, but we need to do much more than just depend on luck.

In past years, the New York Theatre Organ Society has made a valiant effort through its organ-teaching program at the High School in Hyde Park. However, due to changes in administration mandates which made access to students much more restrictive, plus the ever-evolving personality of students these days, it has become much less successful and very cost-prohibitive. A newer model is needed, and we, the CHVAGO, need to be part of it for our very survival.

I had a deep discussion with the Director of Fine Arts in the Hyde Park School District, and she gave some good outlines for a possible future extending far beyond the school district. It could involve a program based in the former school building of Regina Coeli Catholic Church in Hyde Park, combined with a serious community outreach effort. The details are much more than this letter can contain, and should be part of our upcoming board meeting, including the formation of an education committee to brainstorm our options and formulate a plan. Think about being part of it!

Meanwhile, Nancy and I are looking forward to hosting the Chapter Picnic at our home on Saturday, August 10, 2024 at 3:00 PM. (Please consult your favorite GPS app for driving

directions.) Bring your music, there is an Allen organ and a Yamaha piano available! This will be our first big home event since the pandemic, and we are excited!

Then, on Saturday, August 24, 2024 at 7:00 PM, Craig Williams will premiere the Skinner organ capabilities of the Allen T321Q at Stissing Center in Pine Plains, NY. Besides showcasing a variety of classical composers, Craig will accompany Nancy on flute as well, with selections by Telemann. Admission is \$25.

Nathan Avakian, James Fitzwilliam and I have been talking about plans for another “Bach to Broadway” on Saturday, October 12, 2024. The theme being considered is “The Other Bachs,” which could include PDQ Bach?

I’m working on getting funding for another “Salute to the Veterans” at the Bardavon in November, perhaps the 8th. We’re hoping to do the silent film “The Big Parade” with John Baratta at the console. More news as it develops.

Finally, we’re looking forward to hearing from Laura Russell and her impressions garnered from the AGO 2024 Convention. That should be an exciting newsletter!

For now, let’s stay cool and keep the harmony!

Your Dean-Elect,

John Vanderlee

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 August 2024, is July 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	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	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
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.*

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](#), 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

CANTOR/DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA) - POUGHKEEPSIE

Prepares, rehearses, and musically leads traditional Sunday worship (10:30 AM) and all other scheduled liturgies (Holy Week, Advent, Festival of Lessons & Carols, etc). Ensembles include Adult Choir, Handbell Choir (5-octaves), Handbell Ensemble, and Recorder Ensemble. Instruments include pipe organ by Casavant Frères (Opus 3780 {1999}; 2 manual, 21 ranks, 23 stops), Steinway C piano, Yamaha NU1 Hybrid Digital Piano, rehearsal pianos, Timpani, and handbells (5 octaves Schulmerich handbells and 3 octaves Malmark handchimes). Salary is commensurate with education and experience in the range of \$35,000 to \$50,000, an additional \$5,000 contribution toward health insurance, and a continuing education and workshop fund of \$1,600. The position includes four weeks of paid vacation annually, including four Sundays, along with three weeks of paid continuing education, including three Sundays. For a complete job description or to apply, [click here](#). St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 55 Wilbur Blvd, Poughkeepsie, NY. 5/2/2024

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 Mossl, 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 Annual Chapter Picnic
3:00 - 6:00 PM 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. We will be sending out a survey with more details as we get closer to the date.
Guests are welcome! Our annual picnic is always a great time for fellowship and conversation. The upcoming survey will provide a place for you to indicate how many people you will be bringing.

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.



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Soli Deo Gloria