



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

Newsletter – June 2024

Officers

Laura Russell – Sub-Dean / Acting Dean
845-232-8601

Nancy Vanderlee – Secretary
914-204-6472

Justan Foster – At-Large Member
518-965-2389

John Vanderlee – At-Large Member
914-475-0444

Susan Guse – Treasurer
845-242-1478

Susan LaGrande – Newsletter Editor
845-235-7203

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

Chapter Web Site

www.chvago.org

Letter From the Acting Dean

Dear Colleagues,

This will be the last letter that I write to you as Acting Dean. I have been on the CHVAGO board since 2008, and over the years I have served as Secretary, Sub-Dean, Dean, and most recently as Acting Dean. Our chapter has presented many wonderful concerts, hosted workshops on a variety of topics, and held enjoyable social gatherings with our members. We have supported young organists through our scholarships and through our involvement with and development of the AGO Achievement Awards. Information about the AGOAA appears on our website and at AGOHQ.

During the dark years of Covid, our board tried to stay in touch with all of our members by presenting tutorials about creating a “Virtual Choir”, by sponsoring online members’ recitals, and by promoting and sharing organ performances and repertoire via Facebook and YouTube. We researched and shared denominational practices and scientific guidelines for “safe music-making” in houses of worship and in music venues. During 2020 the board also became increasingly aware of the importance of including under-represented composers and

performers in our concerts and in choral and organ music in our houses of worship. We drafted a [Juneteenth Statement](#) that appears on our chapter website. As a board and as individuals we continued to work toward expanding the canon of choral and organ music.

Our chapter also has a long history of working collaboratively with regional musical organizations, houses of worship, and other AGO chapters. This year marks the 25th anniversary of one such organization that is near and dear to my heart: the annual Hudson Valley BachFest, produced by the Hudson Valley Society for Music. This community-based festival has been held every summer since 2000. In that year I was one of the co-founders of this festival; I launched the first BachFest Choir in 2000 and conducted a performance of Bach's *Magnificat* for choir and orchestra. In the years since, I have conducted the BachFest Choir in performance of many of Bach's Cantatas and Motets, and several of his large works, including the *Mass in B Minor* and the *Passion according to St. Matthew*. All six of Bach's *Brandenburg* Concertos and many of his *Orchestral Suites* have been performed in the festival as well.

An important feature of the festival, right from the start, was what was then called the Keyboard Marathon. Our friend Ruthanne Schempf shepherded this event, and has encouraged local keyboard players to perform on piano, harpsichord and organ. Since 2019 our chapter has sponsored the organists who perform on this concert. In recent years these organists have included CHVAGO members Craig Williams, James Fitzwilliam, Reilly Xu, Bruce Xu, and Patrick Walker.

This year Gail Archer, Vassar College Organist, will perform Bach's *Praeludium et Fuge in e minor (Wedge)*, BWV 548 and *Allein Gott in der Hoh sei Her*, BWV 662. Recent Vassar graduate Avery Duer ('24) will perform the *Toccatina and Fugue in D minor*, BWV 538 "Dorian".

The 2024 BachFest takes place over the weekend of June 22-23 at Vassar College's Skinner Hall, 124 Raymond Avenue, Poughkeepsie. The Keyboard Concert will take place on Saturday, June 22 at 3:00 PM. Choral and Orchestral works will be performed on Sunday, June 23 at 4:00 PM. Both concerts are open to the public; there is a suggested donation of \$25. For more information, please go to our calendar of events at https://www.chvago.org/CHVAGO_Calendar.php.

I hope to see you at these exciting events!



Laura Ramsey Russell, DMA
Acting Dean, Central Hudson Valley AGO

Election Results

Thanks to everyone who voted in our recent election. Slightly less than half of you responded to the ballot, and we hope for a stronger turnout next time.

We also take this opportunity to thank Eileen Kerkes and Justan Foster, whose terms are expiring. We greatly value their dedication and faithful service, and we wish them all the best as they move on.

We are also pleased to welcome new board members John Corrie and Kari Maschhoff! Both are relatively new chapter members, but they have already indicated their eagerness to help the chapter move forward.

The votes for the new board have been received and counted, and the results are presented below:

Position	Votes
Dean	
Johannes A. Vanderlee	24
(Write-in)	1
Subdean	
Susan Guse	25
Secretary	
Nancy Vanderlee	25
Treasurer	
John Corrie	24
(Write-in)	1
At-Large Members	
Susan LaGrande	23
Kari Maschhoff	23
Laura Russell	21
(Write-in)	1

Although their terms begin immediately, we expect that the new officers will be formally presented at the Chapter picnic, which will take place at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church on Saturday, August 10, 2024, from 2:00 - 5:00 PM. More details to be announced later.

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 July 2024, is June 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.*

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.com stpaulspringvalley.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.

- Saturday, June 8, 2024
2:00 PM
- BachFest 2024: Bach the Teacher – Young Performers’ Concert
Please join us for a wonderful concert of Bach works performed by talented young people in the Hudson Valley. [Redeemer Lutheran Church](#), 90 NY Route 32, New Paltz, NY. Admission is FREE; donations are always welcome!
- Saturday, June 15, 2024
4:00 PM
- Evensong Choral Concert
Enjoy a special night out with the well-known [Men, Boys, and Girls Choir](#) at the Church of the Transfiguration in New York City (AKA The Little Church Around the Corner). The oldest such choir remaining in the United States, the Choir consists of 8 men and teenagers and no more than 16 boys and girls, ages 8-14, auditioned and selected from the New York metropolitan area, with diverse ethnic and economic backgrounds. The boys and girls rehearse several times each week and not only are paid but also receive incremental merit-based scholarships through the Anthony J. Mercede Scholarship Fund. [Click here](#) for a printable flyer. [Zion Episcopal Church](#), 12 Satterlee Place, Wappingers Falls, NY. A barbecue will follow the concert. Free-will donations accepted. Info: 845-297-9797

Saturday, June 22, 2024 3:00 PM	BachFest 2024: Bach the Virtuoso – Keyboard Concert Bach’s Keyboard works performed on organ and on piano. This concert is co-sponsored by the Central Hudson Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and the Hudson Valley Society for Music. Program: Gail Archer, Vassar College Organist, will perform Bach’s <i>Praeludium et Fuge in e minor</i> (Wedge), BWV 548 and <i>Allein Gott in der Hoh sei Her</i> , BWV 662. Recent Vassar graduate Avery Duer (’24) will perform the <i>Toccat and Fugue in d minor</i> , BWV 538 “Dorian”. Also on the program: <i>French Suite in b minor</i> , BWV 814 performed by pianist Ruthanne Schempf, and <i>English Suite in g minor</i> BWV 808 performed
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by pianist Sylvia Buccelli. [Skinner Hall](#), Vassar College. 124 Raymond Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY. Suggested donation: \$25

Sunday, June 23, Organ Concert

2024

4:00 PM

In the third of a series of organ concerts, St. Mark's will present Anthony Rispo, Director of Music and Organist, St. Mark's Episcopal Church and a student at Columbia University in The City of New York. [St. Mark's Episcopal Church](#), 85 E. Main Street, Mount Kisco, NY 10549. \$20 suggested donation. Info: 914-666-8058

Sunday, June 23,
2024

4:00 PM

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BachFest 2024: Bach the Master – Choral/Orchestral Concert
Please join us in the beautiful (and air-conditioned) Skinner Hall. Program will include the following choral and orchestral works:
-Cantata “O ewiges Feuer, O Ursprung der Liebe”, BWV 34
-Triple Concerto in A minor, for Flute, Violin, and Harpsichord, BWV 1044
-Gloria in Excelsis Deo, BWV 191
Choral Director/Conductor: Christine Howlett. [Skinner Hall](#), Vassar College, 124 Raymond Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY. Suggested donation: \$25

Saturday, August
10, 2024

2:00 - 5:00 PM

Annual Chapter Picnic

A great opportunity for fellowship and good food!

[St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church](#), 55 Wilbur Blvd,
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603.

Watch this space for more information.



Central Hudson Valley Chapter – AGO
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Soli Deo Gloria