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

**Newsletter – September 2024**

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845-232-8601

**Chapter Web Site**  
[www.chvago.org](http://www.chvago.org)

**Chapter Receives Bequest**

Our chapter recently received a bequest from the estate of Alice Cann, a long-time member of our chapter, who died on November 29, 2020. Many of us only knew her as a blind organist, but she had been a beloved organist and teacher before beginning to lose her sight in the 1980s. She was fiercely independent and lived alone, depending on others only for things she could not accomplish herself, like driving. Some of us got to know her through giving her rides to chapter events. She was an accomplished musician, learning new music by ear and playing nearly all the hymns in the Episcopal Hymnal from memory. Her improvisations were remarkable. She continued playing for services at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Pleasant Valley through her last days.

Her bequest, in the amount of \$36,000, came to us as a surprise. It was Alice's wish that the funds be used for educational purposes. During the past two years, our chapter has funded organ lessons for three high school students and this new amount of money will allow us to expand our educational activities. The Board will be exploring additional use of the monies,

perhaps offering scholarship for organ study at the college level by qualified students in our area, and perhaps at the National level.

The Board is also considering honoring Alice by commissioning an original piece of music based on her poem titled *Pea Soup*, which she intended to be formatted to visually suggest the swirling of soup being stirred in a pot. The poem, which we believe to be unpublished, was copyrighted in 1988. We are not sure yet whether the piece of music we want to commission should be purely instrumental or choral, which would actually incorporate some of Alice's words. Once we obtain permission from her family to use her poem, either in quotation or for inspiration, we will provide more details about the commissioning process.

In the meantime, let us remember Alice Cann for her musicianship, her creativity, her wit, and her generosity.

### **CHVAGO Regains Tax Exempt Status**

In January of this year, our membership approved updates to our S.O.P. (Standard Operating Procedures). This allowed our tax exempt status to be updated, and we are, once again, a 501c(3) organization. Many individuals assisted in filling out necessary paperwork toward this update and we are indebted to them for their assistance. We were able to use the New York City organization "Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts" to locate a law firm willing to help pro bono.

Our new 501c(3) status means that any donations or contributions that you make to the chapter can now be claimed as tax exemptions.

### **Craig Williams Concert at the Stissing Center**

A Review by Susan Guse

The Stissing Center for Arts and Culture in Pine Plains, NY, is a fairly new addition to Dutchess County. The building itself, Pine Plains Memorial Hall, is over one hundred years old. In order to save it from demolition, it was purchased in 2014 and renamed the Stissing Center. The entrance and the auditorium have been restored, and work continues on the upper and lower levels.

In the auditorium on Saturday evening, August 24, 2024, Craig Williams performed an exceptional concert on the Allen Quantum T321Q. This is a digital instrument which contains theatre organ capabilities as well as classical organ sounds. Craig, who plays the largest church all-pipe organ in the world in his role as Organist and Choirmaster of the Cadet Chapel, USMA West Point, utilized the classical part of the Stissing Center instrument.

Shorter, but nonetheless substantial works made up the first half of the program, which began with a transcription of Copland's *Fanfare for the Common Man*, followed by Thayer's Fugue on *My Country 'Tis of Thee* from Sonata No. 2 and the Theme from "Largo" (Dvorak's *New World Symphony*). The highlight of the first part was a harpsichord selection by John Bull, played on the instrument's harpsichord registration. Flutist Nancy Vanderlee joined Craig to show off the accompaniment abilities of the instrument with the Cantabile and Allegro from *Sonata in G major* by Georg Philipp Telemann. The balance between the flute, an acoustic instrument, and the organ, in this case an electronic instrument, can pose challenges. However, this was accomplished perfectly as the flute melodies soared above the continuo part.

The second half of the concert consisted of more traditional repertoire: Mendelssohn's *Sonata in d minor, No. 6*; Bach's *Prelude and Fugue in G (BWV 541)*; and Guilmant's *Grand Choeur in D*. All three selections were played impeccably by Williams, and the Allen Organ supported his playing.

We are blessed in the Hudson Valley to have such a gifted organist performing on a regular basis, both at West Point and on other instruments within driving distance. Saturday's audience realized this and stayed to ask questions after the program concluded.

This concert on the 24<sup>th</sup> of August was produced by the New York Theatre Organ Society, and co-sponsored by the CHVAGO and Nancy & John Vanderlee

## **Historic Pipe Organ in Otisville**

We have recently learned about a historic organ in Otisville, which sits at the western edge of Orange County, within our chapter's sphere of influence. Now called The Otisville Sanctuary for Art, Music and Spirituality (Otisville SAMS), the building that houses the organ was decommissioned in 1972, but is now being readied for concerts and assorted activities to take place this fall.

The organ is a Moeller, installed in the early 1900s. It is not currently playable, but a search is underway for a restoration team. In the meantime, small instrumental groups are already giving concerts. To view an article that appeared in the local newspaper, complete with photos of the organ, please [click here](#).

## **Beacon's Organs Disappearing?**

Thanks to Joe Bertolozzi for bringing to our attention a recent article in The Highlands Current, a weekly periodical which covers topics of importance to northern Putnam County and Beacon. The article, subtitled *Touring the vanishing instruments of Beacon*, is based on an interview with Joe at the St. Lawrence Friary, where the small [Peragallo pipe organ](#) is scheduled to be removed this month.

The fate of other pipe organs in Beacon is also in question. Development at the former Craig House is threatening the [18-rank Johnson & Co. pipe organ](#) built in 1873. And Prophecy Hall, formerly the Reformed Church and now a performance space, is giving away its [1895 21-rank Ryder](#) organ. What will happen to the 1860-ish [Geo. Jardine 7-rank](#) organ at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church when/if that building is sold is anybody's guess.

To read the entire article (which also mentions our new dean, John Vanderlee), please visit <https://highlandscurrent.org/2024/08/30/free-pipe-organ/>

## **Membership News**

Please make sure to renew your AGO membership on time. Recently we have had several members drop off the roster and we don't want to lose any more! Remember, if you want to keep your membership privileges, which include being on our Sub List or Teachers List, you must renew. If you have any questions about how to do that, please don't hesitate to reach out to Susan LaGrande, membership coordinator, at 845-265-7203. You can also call the AGO directly at 212-870-2310. They will be very happy to help 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 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 2024, 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: 845-235-7203 - e-mail: [CHVAGOboard@gmail.com](mailto: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](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	Susan Guse	845-242-1478
Joe Bertolozzi	845-337-1216	Larry Hazard	845-452-0119
Owen Borda	914-734-2456	Eric Hepp	845-489-2625
Luca Cantone	703-554-5906	Wesley Joseph	845-849-0104
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

## 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](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	914-261-0028	Larry Hazard	845-452-0119
Gregory Citarella	845-559-4013	Timothy M. Lewis	914-374-2608
Justan Foster	518-965-2389	Dillon Streifeneder	845-532-2488

## 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](mailto:chvagoboard@gmail.com).*

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC - (Part-Time)  
**TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH - FISHKILL, NY**  
*Filled 9/1/2024*

ORGANIST/DIRECTOR OF MUSIC - (Part-Time)  
**GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH - MILBROOK, NY**  
*Filled 9/1/2024*

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 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](mailto:stpaulssv@gmail.com) [stpaulspringvalley.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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.
- Sunday, September 22, 2024  
4:00 PM      Concerts Con Brio presents Four Centuries of Music for Violin and Piano  
Marka Young, violin & James Fitzwilliam, piano  
Music by Mozart, Florence Price, Beethoven, & more! [Click here](#) for a printable flyer. [Christ Episcopal Church](#), 20 Carroll Street, Poughkeepsie, NY. Suggested donation of \$25 at the door. Info: 845-452-8220
- Saturday, September 28, 2024  
4:00 PM      Concerts Con Brio presents Music for Flute, Voice, and Piano  
Carl Gutowski and Friends - Musicians of ACMA (Association of Classical Musicians and Artists) Music by Alfredo Casella, Claude Bolling, Gaetano Donizetti & more! [Click here](#) for a printable flyer. [Christ Episcopal Church](#), 20 Carroll Street, Poughkeepsie, NY. Suggested donation of \$25 at the door. Info: 845-452-8220
- Sunday, September 29, 2024  
2:00 PM      West Point Cadet Chapel Organ Recital by Brink Bush  
[Brink Bush](#) is one of the leading interpreters of German Romantic organ music in the world today. [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](mailto:craig.s.williams58.civ@army.mil)

- Saturday, October 12, 2024  
7:30 PM      Bach to Broadway 2024  
Experience the ultimate musical showdown at "Bach To Broadway" hosted by the New York Theatre Organ Society in collaboration with the Central Hudson Valley chapter of the American Guild of Organists and Christ Church. Join us for an electrifying organ duel featuring the remarkable talents of organists Nathan Avakian and James Fitzwilliam. These virtuosos will take the stage, showcasing their skills on the magnificent NYTOS Touring Theatre Organ and the Gress-Miles Pipe Organ. [Click here](#) for a printable poster.  
[Christ Episcopal Church](#), 20 Carroll Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12501. Suggested donation \$15. Info: 845-452-8220.



- Saturday, November 9, 2024  
7:00 PM
- Concerts Con Brio presents Breezy Hill Woodwind Quintet with guest pianist James Fitzwilliam. Music by Rimsky-Korsakov, Scott Joplin, JS Bach, Grieg, Lennon/McCartney & more! [Christ Episcopal Church](#), 20 Carroll Street, Poughkeepsie, NY. Suggested donation of \$25 at the door. Info: 845-452-8220
- Sunday, November 10, 2024  
2:00 PM
- West Point Cadet Chapel Organ Recital by Caroline Robinson [Caroline Robinson](#) previously held the post of Organist and Associate Choirmaster at the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta, GA, and is now Assistant Professor of Music at the University of Michigan. [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](mailto:craig.s.williams58.civ@army.mil)
- Sunday, December 8, 2024  
4:00 PM
- Annual Handel's Messiah [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](mailto:craig.s.williams58.civ@army.mil)
- 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:craig.s.williams58.civ@army.mil)





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Soli Deo Gloria