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# Central Hudson Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

## Newsletter – March 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](http://www.chvago.org)

### From the Acting Dean:

**Our Members' Recital is coming up in April!** This annual Chapter event is an opportunity for members of all levels of experience and ability to share with their fellow organists music that they have worked on and care about. It is also an opportunity to hear other organists play and to experience some new music. Sometimes the recital has no special theme, and the concert is like a delicious pot-luck meal. However, some years we do focus on a particular theme, as we did last year and will again this year.

Last year's Members' Recital theme was "Organ Music written by Black Composers". We held that event on February 12, 2023 to a packed house of enthusiastic listeners at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Poughkeepsie. Members of our Chapter played a wide variety of music by composers David Hurd, Adolphus Hailstork, Carl Haywood, Ruth Norman, George Walker, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor and Florence B. Price.

This year our theme is "Organ Music composed by Women". It will take place on **Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>** at 3:00 PM at the Poughkeepsie Reformed Church on Hooker Avenue in Poughkeepsie. The "John A. Davis, Jr. Organ" at the church is a contemporary, eclectic

American pipe organ built by Schantz of Ohio which was installed in October 2003. According to the church's website, *"It has already established itself as one of the finest organs in the Hudson Valley. The 45 ranks of pipes -- 2,652 total -- provide a superb variety of sound, greatly enhancing worship, from hushed tones of reverence and awe to majestic peals of praise and exaltation."* For the organ specifications please go to: <https://www.poughkeepsiereformedchurch.com/the-davis-organ>

Last year we sent out lists of resources and music for our members to become better acquainted with the wealth of organ music written by African American composers. In a similar vein, this year I am sharing some resources for you to explore to discover the breadth and depth of organ music composed by women!

I encourage you to look through this material and to find some music that captures your interest. I am keeping a list of the music that people are selecting, so please be in touch with me as you figure out possible music to play at the recital. I would like to aim for the first week of April as a deadline for a nearly complete list of the recital music.

### **Resources for the discovery of organ and choral music by women composers:**

**MusForum**, "**The Online Network for Women Organists**", founded by Hudson Valley organist and conductor Gail Archer, (Vassar College Organist). This is an excellent site with current events, news, special features on individual artists, and a list of articles and resources for learning more about women composers and organists. I highly recommend it: [www.musforum.org](http://www.musforum.org).

**The Association of Anglican Musicians' project "Great Host of Composers"** seeks to bring diverse voices to liturgies through building a curated database of sacred music by a great host of women composers. All of their offerings may be found in the detailed database at: [www.greathostcomposers.org](http://www.greathostcomposers.org). Other denominations may offer similar resources as well. Here are some examples from AAM's project:

- *Listing of choral music and voluntaries by women composers for the three-year Revised Common Lectionary.*
- *Mass Settings, Evening Canticles, Responses, Anglican Chant – Women Composers Data Base*

**The American Guild of Organists' Task Force for Gender Equity** includes links to the **Society of Women Organists (SWO)** which include:

- The March 2024 Newsletter from AGOHQ about Women Composer Sunday. It includes links to webinars and lists of possible repertoire. <https://www.agohq.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/March-2024-Newsletter.pdf>
- More information can be found at: <https://www.agohq.org/?s=women+composers>

I encourage all of you to explore repertoire by composers who may be new to you. Whether or not you play in our Members' Recital this year, please plan to attend, and bring others with you. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to hear your colleagues play!

Sincerely,  
Laura Ramsey Russell  
Acting Dean & Sub-Dean, CHVAGO

## More on Women Composers

In addition to the resources listed in Laura's letter, please note that this week (March 4) American Public Radio's *Pipedreams* program will celebrate Women In Music. The full program, including a link to the streamed content, is available at <https://www.pipedreams.org/episode/2024/03/04/women-in-music>.

You can also view the AGO Webinar from February 15, titled "Woman Composer Sunday 2024: Honoring Trailblazers and Inspiring New Generations." The link is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wPwz9wk8WVQ&t=2s>. There is also a transcript available if you prefer reading to listening.

## Member News

- Welcome to new member William Bozzetto! Bill is actually a returning member after an absence of several years, and he is also a member of NYTOS. His contact information is included in the new membership roster, which is now available on our private Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/133796752589>.
- Welcome also to another new member, Stephen Siktberg! Stephen is Organist/Choir Director at Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church. His contact information is:  
314 Washington Avenue  
Beacon, NY 12508  
[swsikt@gmail.com](mailto:swsikt@gmail.com)

## Organ Competition Announced

The Northeastern CT Chapter of the AGO announces *The 2024 L. Cameron Johnson Memorial Organ Competition for High School Students*. This competition will be held on Saturday, June 1 at 11:00 AM at the Storrs Congregational Church located on the campus of the University of Connecticut. It is a competition solely for High School students and offers three cash prizes: \$1,500, \$750 and \$300 along with an audience prize of \$100. This has also been advertised this on the National Website of the AGO. For more information, please contact Dr. Angela Salcedo at [angelasalcedo@glastonburyfirst.org](mailto:angelasalcedo@glastonburyfirst.org).

## New Guidelines for Wedding Music

The Liturgy Office of the Archdiocese of New York has just published new guidelines for music at weddings. This document may be downloaded here: [Guidelines for Music at Weddings](#). Additional archdiocesan liturgical and musical guidelines may be found on the [Liturgy Office website](#).

## List of Organ Teachers

The following chapter members have indicated on their membership application that they are accepting new organ students. Please note that only CHVAGO members in good standing are eligible to be included in this list. 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, 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 contact them directly if you would like more information. Please note that only CHVAGO members in good standing are eligible to be included in this list, unless otherwise approved by the Board. 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	Larry Hazard	845-452-0119
Joe Bertolozzi	845-337-1216	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	Michael Oosterhout	301-910-5307
Justan Foster	518-965-2389	Joanne Reed	845-361-3474
Jacob Friedman	914-305-0572	Stephen Siktberg	swsikt@gmail.com
Carl J. Geiselhart	845-457-4830	Nancy Vanderlee	845-266-3858
Susan Guse	845-242-1478	Christopher Wynkoop	845-926-7389

## 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 April 2024, is March 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)

## 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. 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).*
- *Because there are so many new position openings this month, we are choosing not to list all of them in their entirety. If you have questions about a position, please contact the prospective employer directly using the information provided in the complete listing online at [http://www.chvago.org/CHVAGO\\_Positions.php](http://www.chvago.org/CHVAGO_Positions.php). If you need help accessing the online information, please call Susan LaGrande at 845-235-7203.*

MUSIC DIRECTOR/ORGANIST - Part-Time  
**PARISH OF ST. JOSEPH - SOMERS, NY**  
 12/8/2023

ORGANIST - (Part-Time)  
**OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY - POUGHKEEPSIE, NY**  
 12/1/2023

ORGANIST - (Part-Time)  
**ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SPRING VALLEY - SPRING VALLEY, NY**  
 9/19/2023

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC - Part-Time  
**THE CHURCH OF ST MARY - WAPPINGERS FALLS, NY**  
 Filled 2/29/2024

PARISH DIRECTOR OF MUSIC - Part-Time  
**THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-ST.JOSEPH AND OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL - POUGHKEEPSIE, NY**  
 Revised 1/12/2024

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR - (Regular Part-Time)  
**ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH - GOSHEN, NY**  
 Revised 6/13/2023

CHORAL DIRECTOR - (Part-Time)  
**CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH - POUGHKEEPSIE, NY**  
 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  
[TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED] Noontime Organ Recitals at Goshen Presbyterian Church  
*Temporarily Suspended through Easter 2024*  
The principal organist for the series will be Jonathan B. Hall, DM, FAGO, minister of music of the church. 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, March 30, 2024  
5:00 PM Organ Concert by Felix Hell  
World Renowned organist [Felix Hell](#) will present a concert on the newly refurbished [Skinner pipe organ](#) at Calvary Church in Newburgh.  
Bach: Toccata and Fugue in D Minor, BWV 565  
Bach: Trio Sonata No. 1 in E-Flat Major, BWV 525  
Mendelssohn: Sonata No. 1 in F Minor, Op. 65  
Widor: Andante Sostenuto, from Symphony No. 9 "Gothique," Op. 70  
Liszt: Prelude and Fugue on B-A-C-H  
[Calvary Presbyterian Church](#), 120 South Street, Newburgh, NY 12550.  
Info: 845 -562-8730.
- Sunday, April 14, 2024  
2:00 PM West Point Cadet Chapel Organ Recital by Katelyn Emerson  
[Katelyn Emerson](#), Concert Organist. Program to be determined.  
Venue: [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, April 21, 2024 3:00 PM	Annual Members' Recital A recital of Organ Music by women composers performed by members of CHVAGO. Free will donation will help support our chapter's many programs, including the Scholarship Fund. If you are interested in playing a piece in this recital, please contact Acting-Dean Laura Russell at <a href="mailto:laurarus629@gmail.com">laurarus629@gmail.com</a> or 845-232-8601. <a href="#">The Reformed Church of Poughkeepsie</a> , 70 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.
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Soli Deo Gloria