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# Central Hudson Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

## Newsletter – April 2025

### Officers

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**Susan LaGrande** – Newsletter Editor  
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**Chapter Web Site**  
[www.chvago.org](http://www.chvago.org)

### Letter from the Dean

Happy Spring!

Although the weather seems to think otherwise, the calendar points to the seasons advancing. Yes, the world is gradually greening up and replacing winter's drabness, but it also reminds us of how that same relentless march of time highlights the fragility of our own existence. Lately I find more friends and acquaintances being touched by illness or death. Coupled with the political turmoil, it's sometimes difficult to keep a positive outlook.

Yet on those days when the sun breaks out, and the color riot of spring flowers dots the fresh green, I am reminded of how little mankind plays a role in the creation of such magnificence. How, long after battles have played out, and we are gone, these same cycles will continue to repeat. Therefore, why not treasure what we have now, what we have accomplished, and do what we are still able to do?

Making music is what we are about, and because music is eternal, it will outlast us. Some of the greatest music has been created by composers compelled to express their emotions on

music staffs; to mourn, inspire or celebrate. If you, as a musician, can convey these feelings, you contribute to making our world better.

Your board of directors is taking the lead in putting our own stamp on this season. We produced a wonderful concert in the magnificent chapel of The Mount in Esopus, NY. Kudos to all those members who participated in front of a very appreciative audience. (See last month's newsletter for further details.)

Funded by the Alice Cann bequest, we have a new young student, Roman Pemberton, who is now taking lessons from Emily Lapasardi. He tells me he's really enjoying it; go Roman! Our hope is to expand on this educational effort. We are investigating the purchase of an "Orgelkids" program, which has had success elsewhere. We have also been talking about organizing a "Pizza and Pipes" and possibly a "Pipe Organ Encounter".

On May 10<sup>th</sup> we have an "Organ Crawl" scheduled in Goshen, NY (see details below), where after lunch we are invited to the Middletown Paramount theatre to get acquainted with its Wurlitzer pipe organ beginning at 2:30 PM. You may have a turn at that console if you like, until 3:00 PM when Bardavon staff organist Juan Cardona Jr. will demonstrate with a small concert. This is a collaborative event with the New York Theatre Organ society.

I believe we also need to do more to show our face to the public. For example, last week I was involved in a most timely silent film showing in Brooklyn: Cecil B. DeMille's "King of Kings" which was brought to life by not one but two organs, plus a choir! The result was so impressive, that I wondered about the possibility of a local repeat! And on a more daring note, I have been in touch with social media sensation Anna Lapwood's agency about the feasibility of hosting her in our area. That would put us on the map!

I believe that all of these positive ideas will help us move forward, except for one thing. Your board needs more active members. We cannot do it alone. Recall what I said about the march of time and then consider your current board members. With Easter approaching, and the Great Celebration coming – a time of Cleansing – you could help us to take a fresh look at our chapter. Please consider joining us with your ideas. Together we can move to brighter days!

Your dean,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John Vanderlee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

John Vanderlee

## **Organ Crawl - May 10, 2025**

Mark your calendars and be sure to join your fellow CHVAGO chapter members for an organ crawl on Saturday, May 10, 2025. This year we are going to the village of Goshen, followed by a visit to the Paramount Theater, Middletown, after lunch. If you live in Dutchess County, Goshen is a short trip on I-84. If you live in Orange County, no doubt you are almost there. Bring your organ shoes and your favorite organ selections to try out on the instruments.

The day will begin at 10:30 AM at 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church, 33 Park Place, Goshen. They have plenty of parking and offered to let us leave our cars there on the first part of the crawl. Organist Jonathan Hall will demonstrate the 1931/2022 Austin Organ (Opus 1780, 3 manual, 47 stops), in an 1870 case!

Directly across the village green and within walking distance is St. James Episcopal Church, 1 St. James Place, Goshen, where Organist Jacob Friedman is our host. The St. James organ was built in 1927 by F. A. Bartholomy Company.

Then we will visit Scotchtown Presbyterian, 367 Blumel Road, a short drive, to visit a 19<sup>th</sup> century Odell Instrument.

Around 12:30, we will return to 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church for lunch in their fellowship hall. Please bring a sack lunch; coffee and cookies will be available. After lunch our tour will conclude at The Paramount Theatre, 17 South Street, Middletown, where we will visit the 1922 Wurlitzer Theatre organ.

Hope to see you there!

## **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 May 2025, is April 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	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](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	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](mailto:chvagoboard@gmail.com).*

### ORGANIST - (Part-Time)

#### **THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS-ON-THE-HUDSON, NEW HAMBURG, NY**

St. Nick's is looking for an organist for our small and vibrant Episcopal church, where we value participation more than perfection. The ideal candidate will enable our community to participate in music as worship, rather than as performance. We primarily sing from The Hymnal 1982, and our hope is to find an open-hearted musician who cherishes the riches of our Anglican musical heritage and who is also willing to become familiar with and use the Hymnal supplements, including Lift Every Voice and Sing II; Wonder, Love, and Praise; and Voices Found, as well as songs from other traditions. Many of our parishioners love to sing, and we expect our organist to direct a small choir for Christmas and Easter and to prepare them to sing at other times as directed by the Rector. Examples may include funeral services and collaborative Episcopal and/or interfaith choirs.

One regularly scheduled weekly Sunday morning service at 10:00am, including Easter Day; two services on Christmas Eve; an evening service on Maundy Thursday; a noon service on Good Friday; and possibly others to be discussed and agreed upon in consultation with the Rector. First right of refusal for weddings and funerals, for which the Organist will receive additional compensation to be agreed upon ahead of time. We have a Johannus digital organ (2-manual) which was purchased new and installed within the last ten years.

Compensation & Benefits: \$1000 per month salary (1099 employee); Four Sundays of vacation and one Sunday for continuing education (with Rector approval of the dates in advance). [Click here](#) for a complete job description. Interested applicants should send a resume with at least three references and cover letter to The Rev. Leigh Hall, Rector, [St. Nicholas-on-the-Hudson](#), 37 Point Street, New Hamburg, NY 12590 or [stnicholasnewhamburg@gmail.com](mailto:stnicholasnewhamburg@gmail.com). 2/22/2025

### 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](mailto:fccoffice@gmail.com). *10/10/2024*

**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, and also will 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      Free Noontime Recitals at Goshen Presbyterian Church  
Every Tuesday, 12:15-12:45 PM. Organist **Jonathan B. Hall** presents a wide variety of music on the church's 1931/2022 Austin organ (in an 1870 case!). First Presbyterian Church in Goshen, 33 Park Place, Goshen NY 10924. Ample parking, and handicap accessible (give a call to let us know you're on the way). Info: 845-294-7991.
- Saturday, April 5, 2025 7:00 PM      Organ Dedication Recital by Alan Montgomery  
St. John the Evangelist Church in Goshen will dedicate its new custom Allen GX-235 organ with a recital by Alan Montgomery. He will present is the interim Director of Music and Organist of The Riverside Church in New York, where he plays the world famous five-manual Aeolian-Skinner organ and oversees the administration of an extensive music program. Previously, Alan served as the Associate Organist at Riverside, starting in April 2022.  
A native of Vacaville, California, Alan holds a Bachelor of Music (Honours) degree from the Royal College of Music in London, where he studied with David Graham and Sophie-Véronique Cauchefer-Choplin. While in London, he also served as Organ Scholar of Saint Mark's, Hamilton Terrace and Farm Street Church. He is a graduate of the Juilliard School in New York, where he earned a Master of Music degree while studying with Paul Jacobs. St. John the Evangelist Church, 71 Murray Avenue, Goshen, NY 10924. Info: 845-926-7389.
- Saturday, April 19, 2025 7:00 PM      Bard Baroque Ensemble Performance  
The Bard Baroque Ensemble, under the direction of **Renée Anne Louprette**, presents works by Bach, Handel, and Mozart dedicated to the memory of Frederick Fisher Hammond (1937–2023), Professor Emeritus and the Irma Brandeis Chair of Romance Cultures and Music History. The Sosnoff Center, Fisher Center, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York 12504-5000. Free admission with reservations required. For full information about the concert and a link to ticketing, [click here](#). Info: 845-758-7900.
- 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)

Sunday, May 4, 2025  
from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Interfaith Music Festival - Dutchess County Interfaith Council  
This festival is a celebration of music and unity, and the choir is at the heart of it all. Whether you've sung with us before or are joining for the first time, we'd love to have you be part of this special occasion. This year, we're focusing on music that captures our theme, Faith in Harmony: Awakening the Spirit of Interfaith Unity.

If you felt challenged by rote learning last time, we hear you! We've worked this year to ensure we can accommodate multiple learning styles, including providing sheet music for most of the repertoire. Whether you learn best by ear, by sight, or a combination of both, there's a place for you in this choir. All are welcome!

Fishkill Reformed Church, located at 1153 Main St, Fishkill, NY 12524

For more info, contact Tamara Bond-Williams,  
2025 DCIC Interfaith Music Festival Director.

Saturday, May 10, 2025  
Beginning 10:30 AM

Goshen/Middletown Organ Crawl  
Join members of the Central Hudson Valley Chapter, AGO, for an organ crawl at several churches in Goshen, followed by a visit to the The Thomas J. Stehle Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ at the Paramount Theatre in Middletown. The day will begin at 10:30 AM at 1st Presbyterian Church, 33 Park Place, Goshen. They have plenty of parking and offered to let us leave our cars there on the first part of the crawl. Organist Jonathan Hall will demonstrate the Austin Organ (Opus 1780, 3 manual, 47 stops).

Directly across the village green and within walking distance is St. James Episcopal Church, 1 St. James Place, Goshen. Organist Jacob Friedman is our host.

Then we will visit Scotchtown Presbyterian, 367 Blumel Road, a short drive, to visit a 19th century Odell Instrument.

Around 12:30, we will return to 1st Presbyterian Church for lunch in their fellowship hall. Please bring a sack lunch; coffee and cookies will be available. After lunch we will proceed to The Paramount Theatre, 17 South Street, Middletown. Hope to see you there!

Sunday, July 6 through Saturday, July 11, 2025

Advanced POE - Worcester, MA  
This will be a wonderful week for young organists age 14-18 who are of intermediate to advanced skill. More information with a link to the Application may be found here: [www.worcesterago.org/poea](http://www.worcesterago.org/poea)





Central Hudson Valley Chapter – AGO  
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Soli Deo Gloria