



THE E-COUPLER
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DEAN'S LETTER

"ALL OUR VARIED SKILLS AND ARTS
WAIT THE COMING OF HIS SPIRIT INTO OPEN MINDS AND HEARTS."

Hymn: *God Is Here! As We His People Meet to Offer Praise and Prayer.*

Text by Fred Pratt Green

Welcome to a spirited and ambitious year for the Albuquerque Chapter of the American Guild of Organists! Whether you are a new or renewing member, this year's calendar of events promises programs to engage every organist in northern New Mexico. If you are a long-time member of the AGO, take some time to ponder just what it was that attracted you to the organ: perhaps a fantastic recital or thoughtfully prepared Sunday worship made you marvel at the power and majesty of this great instrument. If you are new to the AGO, we welcome your enthusiasm and look forward to your participation in all Chapter activities.

Inspiration comes to us in many ways. When those moments present themselves, we need to be open to them and let their mysterious power redirect our energies. Take advantage of this year's Calendar of Events to find opportunities for just such moments of inspiration. You will find it fully laid out, along with member addresses and emails, and valuable information about regional and national AGO activities, in the Chapter Yearbook that was just distributed.

Our Chapter's collaboration with several church music series makes it possible for our members to attend recitals by internationally known organists James David Christie, Massimo Nosetti, Dorothy Papadakos, and Robin Walker. Lectures and Master Classes explore the music of Friedrich Wilhelm Markull, English Baroque composers, and other organ literature. A special day-long workshop tailored especially for the part-time church musician will draw in local, regional, and national presenters on a variety of topics of interest to all organists.

The highlight of this year's program is a concert in UNM's Keller Hall with the wonderful contemporary ensemble Chatter. This program will be the

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world premiere performance of a composition for voice, organ and strings with soloist Kathleen Clawson by Frederick Frahm: noted composer of organ and choral music, Director of Music at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Albuquerque, and a member of our own Chapter.

The friendship and mutual support of colleagues has always been a strong point of the AGO. The first and last meetings of our year are primarily social times, a chance to meet and greet friends we know and make new friends—and to find ideas about ways to spread the word about the AGO and organ music to our fellow musicians, friends, and congregations. Just as we look for inspiration, we can also *provide* inspiration—for each other and for our churches.

Our first meeting is *Saturday, September 17, at 10:30 am at Holy Faith Episcopal Church in Santa Fe*, Palace Avenue at Paseo de Peralta. It will be a time to hear reports of summer conventions and conferences, share some of your favorite Advent and Christmas music, have some great refreshments, and simply enjoy each others' company.

See you there!

Jane

Jane Smith, Dean

CHAPTER UPDATES

From the Treasurer: We are going to transfer the operating monies in our Bank of America account into a Schwab online cash account. There are two notable reasons for this. (1) The B of A account levies a hefty service fee if our balance drops below a certain (and high) amount; but there are no fees associated with a Schwab account, including checks, deposit slips and transactions. (2) We currently maintain our Recital (Endowment) and Savings accounts with Schwab, so having all funds in one place seems sensible.

In terms of appropriate safeguards, electronic notice of any transfer, deposit, or check written from the accounts will go to the Dean and the Registrar, as well as to the Treasurer. And as discussed in earlier Executive Committee meetings, the Treasurer will notify the EC officers of his intention to write any checks beyond normal, reasonable operating costs (postage reimbursements, annual Web hosting fees, etc.) in advance, so they may request further explanation if desired. In addition, we are examining the possibility of the Treasurer being bonded, for additional checks and balances.

Moving on: Craig Smith is leaving his job as Managing Director of the Santa Fe Concert Association in order to return to writing full-time. His last full day at SFCA will be September 15. If any members have been using his work email address there, csmith@santafeconcerts.org, please delete it from your address books. Use instead his primary email, critic53@cybermesa.com.

ONLINE RESOURCES

There are many Websites and chat networks that offer advice, help, and information to organists and church musicians. Many are denominational. Some of the “general best” the Editor has found are:

- The American Guild of Organists: www.agohq.org
- Organ Historical Society: www.organsociety.org
- Organ Clearing House: www.organclearinghouse.net
- International Music Score Library Project: www.imslp.org
(Free downloads of public domain scores by hundreds of composers, including plenty of organ and choral music. Note: some of the choral and organ scores are in old clefs.)
- Frederick Frahm, Chapter member & composer: www.frederickfrahm.com
- Chapter Member and organist Maxine Thevenot: www.maxinethevenot.com
- *Choir & Organ* magazine: www.rhinegold.co.uk/magazines/choir_and_organ
(note underscoring between words)
- Harpsichord Clearing House: www.harpsichord.com
- Dan Bashor, Johannus Organs: www.churchorganworks.com
- Harry Bennett, Rodgers Organs: www.churchorgansofcolorado.com
- Southwest Church Organs (Allen): www.southwestchurchorgans.com

ANNIVERSARY IDEAS

If you’re trying to find a prelude, postlude, or recital piece for September, consider looking over the works of these composers, all of whom were born or died this month in past years. Several are obvious choices; others might require finding an arrangement, or making one of your own. If you choose to play Cage’s 4’33” then please *don’t* let us know.

Born

Johann Christoph Bach, Anton Bruckner, John Cage, Antonin Dvorak, George Gershwin, Gustav Holst, Darius Milhaud, Henry Purcell, Clara Schumann, Arnold Schoenberg, Dmitri Shostakovich,

Died

Bela Bartok, Vincenzo Bellini, Hildegard von Bingen, Carlo Gesualdo, Edvard Grieg, Jan Sibelius, Johann Strauss, Sr. (!), Richard Strauss

SPECIAL THANKS...

... to Registrar Frederick Frahm, who has very capably handled renewal record-keeping and reports, and also produced yet another first-rate edition of our Chapter Yearbook. Bravo, Fred—and thanks for all you do!