



The E-Coupler, September 2009

The newsletter of the Albuquerque Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
Editor: Craig Smith, critic53@cybermesa.com

FROM THE DEAN

Greetings, members and friends of the ABQ chapter AGO! I want to welcome you to a new year of music and learning with the chapter.

The Executive Committee has put together a fine program for this year, and I hope that you take advantage of as many events as you can. Our focus in 2009-2010 will be on education including courses on practical improvisation skills at the organ and a session on the Service Playing exam. We will also conduct a membership job/salary survey for those currently employed as church musicians in the area, and work to expand our relationship as a chapter with the employers of our members.

Speaking of membership in the chapter, we have been pleased to see a healthy return in membership renewals already this fall. Although our summer deadline for renewals has passed, it is not yet too late to send in your dues to continue as a member in the chapter. As membership grows more by personal invitation than repeated ads or email blasts, I want to encourage you to invite friends and colleagues to join us. Do you know of a church organist who is not a member, or an organ and choral music enthusiast who doesn't play but enjoys listening? Please tell them about our chapter and encourage them to consider becoming a member, and let us know if we can help you by providing application materials or other information.

Our first event this season will be a gathering at Christ Lutheran Church, 1701 Arroyo Chamiso in Santa Fe on **Sunday, September 27th at 4 PM**. We'll begin with a half-hour program of repertoire played by members and will have a brief meeting to install officers for the coming year and to discuss the 2009-2010 program and chapter goals. Following that we'll have a reception and time to socialize and catch up with one another following a very busy summer. We encourage you to attend, and also encourage you to consider a carpool to Santa Fe for the event if you are located in Albuquerque. Directions to the church are as follows:

Christ Lutheran Church, 1701 Arroyo Chamiso, Santa Fe.

Take I-25 to Santa Fe

Exit Old Pecos Trail

Follow Old Pecos Trail to the "Y" formed by St. Michael's Drive and Old Pecos Trail

Bear left onto St. Michael's Drive

At the NEXT stoplight, turn right onto Arroyo Chamiso

Go about 50 yards and turn right into the church parking lot; the Church is located directly across from Fire Station #4.

Our 2009-2010 yearbook is now in production and will be available by the end of the month. It will be available by e-mail and will include an updated directory, lists of substitutes and teachers of organ, our season program, as well as a host of other pertinent information including links to websites of interest, including those of our members. If you would like to receive a hard copy of this document, please advise Craig Smith at critic53@cybermesa.com or by phone at (505) 603-1750.

You may also contact me personally at info@frederickfrahm.com or the Sub-Dean Jane Smith at organista7788@hotmail.com with your ideas, suggestions, and concerns.

With best wishes for a productive and musical Fall,

Frederick Frahm
Dean, Albuquerque Chapter AGO

UPCOMING CONCERTS

* **Maribeth Gunning** and friends will perform works by Debussy, Ravel, and Saint-Saëns at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 20 at St. John's United Methodist Church in Albuquerque. Maribeth will be joined by Guillermo Figueroa, Amy Greer, Keith Lemmons, Jean-Luc Matton, and Joan Zucker. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated. Complimentary childcare is available and a reception to honor the artists will be held immediately following the concert. St. John's is located at 2626 Arizona NE.

* Male soprano **Robert Crowe** (www.robertcrowe.com) and organist **Iain Quinn** perform solo soprano motets by 17th century Italian composer Giacomo Carissimi.

> 5:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18, First Presbyterian Church, 208 Grant Ave., Santa Fe. There is no admission charge, but a free-will offering will be taken to support the church's recital series.

> 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 20 (extended program): The Cathedral Church of St. John, 318 Silver Ave. S.W. in Albuquerque. Suggested donation for admission: \$20 adults, \$15 seniors, \$5 students.

Crowe recently released a recording of these motets on the German label Profil. Reviewing the CD in "Pasatiempo," the arts magazine of the "Santa Fe New Mexican," Craig Smith noted, "Neither length nor complexity faze American male soprano Robert Crowe, who does stellar work interpreting compositions originally written for four different sopranos. The fascinating timbre of his voice is like sharp-edged silver swaddled in and gleaming through velvet, and it is superbly supported by organist Michael Eberth's idiomatic partnership. ... He has a full command of Baroque vocal ornaments such as trillo and trill, and can negotiate huge leaps and fast scales...this disc is a major treat. Bravi all around."

Don't forget to renew your 2009-10 membership promptly! If you need renewal forms emailed to you, or mailed, contact Craig critic53@cybermesa.com, or call him at (505) 603-1750.