



SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2020

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***Deadline for the
November / December
(Christmas) 2020
Newsletter is October
15, 2020***



NOTES FROM THE DEAN



Greetings everyone!

For me, and I trust for you, music is one of the aspects of life that brings the greatest joy. As we continue to cope with the anxieties and inconveniences associated with COVID-19, one of the greatest losses is the missed opportunities to gather in person for the inspiring performances that bring meaning and pleasure to our lives.

As your officers, we continue to lay plans for Chapter programs for this season, acknowledging that many of the tried and true programs like live recitals and masterclasses will not be possible. And yet, I am inspired by the final sentence of our Chapter's statement of purpose, "to provide a forum for mutual support, inspiration, education, and certification of Guild members." Perhaps a silver lining of our present situation could be an increased focus on these roles of the Chapter, in light of the uncertainty of many church positions and the new roles that many of us are grappling with as church music "recording artists," not to mention that we could probably all find a little extra practice time right now, if we had the discipline!

On Thursday, September 17th at 5:00 p.m. we will be hosting a kick-off happy hour via Zoom (more information can be found elsewhere in the newsletter about that). For some, e-meetings provide a valued social connection with people they couldn't otherwise see. For others, it's just hard to connect with people through a screen in any meaningful way. I would encourage you to try connecting with us through this kick-off event. Personal testimony: my church choir is a close-knit group of people, many of whom are older and have sung together for decades. When we stopped having weekly rehearsals, many of the choir members really, really missed getting together every week for both the music and the social aspects. We began having a weekly Zoom "conversation" and some members were unwilling to even try, and others had all the now cliché trouble logging in, trouble with muting, etc. Yet, over time these conversations have been truly, truly a gift. We have worked through some personal issues that had simmered for years. We have discussed topics related to music, theology, society, and just about anything else in

(cont. over)

a depth we would not otherwise have done. Every member of my church choir has logged in to the meetings at least a few times.

In May our Chapter had a Zoom happy hour discussion. The crowd wasn't huge, but the conversation was really lively and interesting. I would encourage you to give it a try on September 17th!

In addition to the happy hour, we hope to "host" a video organ tour and recital from an interesting organ somewhere outside of New Mexico. We are working on getting that set up, and we hope to schedule a "release" event sometime in October.



See you soon, if only on my screen,

Jeremy Wirths

JIEUN KIM NEWLAND



Jieun Kim Newland is an organist and harpsichordist, who is joining our Chapter from Las Cruces. Welcome her at: Jieun.Newland@aya.yale.edu

A native of Seoul, South Korea, Jieun started piano at the age of six and had her first organ lesson at thirteen. Her music studies brought her to the United States in 1999.

Jieun holds a bachelor's degree from the Conservatory of Music at the University of Missouri—Kansas City, studied organ with John Ditto and holds a master's degree from the Institute of Sacred Music at Yale University. While at Yale, Jieun studied organ under Thomas Murray, organ improvisation with Jeffrey Brillhart, and harpsichord and early music with Richard Rephann. She began her career in Church Music at Grace and Holy Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Kansas City, Missouri where she served three terms as Resident Organ Scholar and assisted Canon Musician John Schafer with organ performance, choral rehearsal, and selection of liturgical pieces for worship.

On finishing her master's degree, Jieun served as Director of Music and Organist at Episcopal, Presbyterian, and United Church of Christ churches in Madison, Connecticut; Mercer Island, Washington; and Fort Collins, Colorado. She was a founding member of The Obbligato Players, an early music trio ensemble of violin, recorder, and continuo organ based in Seattle, WA. After her move to Hawai'i in 2017, Jieun collaborated with Early Music Hawai'i, the Honolulu Brass Ensemble, Hawai'i Vocal Arts Ensemble, the Kona Choral Society, the Windward Choral Society, the O'ahu Choral Society, U.S. Pacific Fleet Band, and Sacabuche!.

Jieun is relocating to El Paso from Honolulu with her husband, an army chaplain and Episcopal priest. He will be stationed at Fort Bliss. She will be employed at Peace Lutheran Church, Las Cruces.

USEFUL CHAPTER EMAILS

Dean: Jeremy Wirths – dean@agoabq.org

Sub-Dean & Program Coordinator: Patricia Oakley – program@agoabq.org

Treasurer: John Homko – treasurer@agoabq.org

Newsletter/Webmaster: Evelyn Henson – editor@agoabq.org

PROGRAM NOTES FROM THE SUB-DEAN

Hello everyone,

I hope you are all doing well in these days of COVID-19. For me, classes have started at UNM and I am trying to teach mathematics remotely. I am also taking the Early Music Ensemble class at UNM where we take turns playing our parts unmuted while the other members of the class play their own parts muted. We only ever hear only our own part (if we are leading) or two parts (when we are muted and playing along with the leader). It makes for an “interesting” ensemble experience. I miss the experience of hearing the full group.

Even though we cannot easily get together in person, we are tentatively planning some events this year. Plans still feel a bit up in the air as we navigate our way through the reality of social distancing measures.

We do have one definite event on the calendar. On **September 17, at 5:00pm**, we will have a **Zoom Happy Hour**. I’ve learned that there are some advantages to remote meetings. For one, people in different locations can meet together without needing to drive long distances to meet in person. Our chapter is spread out. Members live in Albuquerque and Santa Fe and perhaps in other parts of the state. Without advantaging one location over another, a virtual social gathering can enable all our members to meet together. A Zoom meeting link will be emailed a bit closer to the event, but be sure to put it on your calendar.

The program committee is planning other events this year. Later in the fall, we are planning to have a virtual tour of an interesting organ that we may not get a chance to see in person. This is another advantage of the virtual environment. We can ask someone in a different location to give us a tour of their organ. We have tentative plans to tour the organ at **St. John’s Episcopal in Tulsa, OK**. This organ was installed by Schoenstein & Co. in 2018 and was featured in the February 2019 edition of *The Diapason*. Joseph Arndt is the Music Director at St. John’s, and he is interested in working on this project. There will be more details soon.

We are also planning a December **Christmas party**. Depending on the situation, it may have to be virtual. Nonetheless, even a virtual Christmas party will be another opportunity for us to get together in a social setting for conversation and interaction. The Christmas Party will take place on **Friday, December 18 at 6:00pm**.

In the spring, we hope to have a **Zoom masterclass**. We are still working out technical details. The idea here would be to have a well-known organ pedagogue teach a masterclass via Zoom. The advantage to a virtual masterclass is that participants can play in their own church or on their own home instruments. Viewers would benefit from watching the masterclass again from their home. We had a productive meeting with Harold Stuart, the director of the AGO’s national technology committee. He advised us on some technical aspects of such a project. We will do a couple more test runs before making further arrangements. Look for more information in upcoming newsletters.

We are also interested in having a **Member’s Recital** later in the spring. Again, there may be some technical issues to work out. Other chapters have had successful virtual members recitals. I’ve seen some of these on the web where members of other chapters played organs, pianos, and harpsichords, and performed duets with musicians playing other instruments. This move to virtual might get us thinking a little out of the box and that’s a good thing.

We plan on concluding our season of programming with an end of the year social gathering. We’ll see how things look as June gets closer. Perhaps we’ll finally be able get together in person.

Hope to see you soon - if only virtually - on September 17!

Patricia Oakley

AGO HQ TECHNOLOGY WEBINARS FOR THE TECH-CHALLENGED

AGO Technology Webinars

Now available on YouTube – click the link (handouts available on the second link).

August 20, 2020 – Part 2

[A Virtual Choir for All of Us, Part 2](#)

Presented by Carol Spradling

[Virtual Choir for the Rest of Us Handout](#)

August 13, 2020 – Part 1

[A Virtual Choir for All of Us](#)

Presented by Carol Spradling

[Virtual Choir for the Rest of Us Handout](#)

June 19, 2020:

[Technology Webinar: Putting it Together: Vocal Tools for Effective Collaboration and Recording.](#)

[Sue Mitchell-Wallace Handout](#)

[Kevin Harris Handout](#)

[Sue Mitchell-Wallace Bio](#)

[Kevin Harris Bio](#)

May 15, 2020: Successful Online Streaming to Avoid Online Screaming

[Webinar Handout: Online Streaming and Recording](#)

[Webinar Handout: Mobile Recording Guide](#)

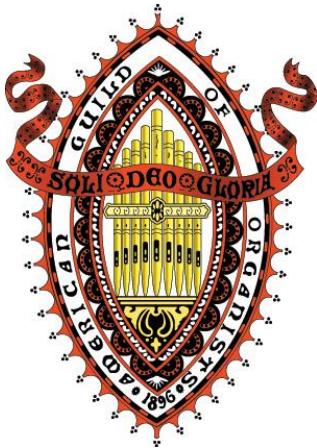
[Video by Stewart Holmes, AGO Northern New Jersey Chapter](#)

HELP AVAILABLE

If anyone needs any help with using a computer or a telephone for virtual meetings, please let us know. We have members scattered throughout our area who are willing to sit down beside you (with mask) or talk you through it on the phone, so you can join in with our virtual meetings and programming. Don't let strangeness stop you from joining us.

We also have Chapter members in other States – please feel totally “At Home” and join us from wherever you are. Introduce yourself to us if we don't already know you. All advertised times for meetings are Mountain Daylight Time or Mountain Standard Time after November 1, 2020 (always 2 hours behind Eastern Time, and 1 hour ahead of Pacific Time).

Contact me for assistance: Evelyn Henson, editor@agoabq.org; or call (505) 303-3389, and I'll link you with a member who can help you.



HAVE YOU USED THE CHAPTER WEBSITE LATELY?

The whole year's calendar is on the Calendar page (use Agenda tab). Please notify the webmaster (editor@agoabq.org) of events you would like to have advertised. Also, paid "Positions Vacant" or requests for volunteer musicians and singers can be advertised free of charge. Our website gets about 400 views per month.

NOTE: our Facebook page has 145 followers and can be used for posting notices about events, vacancies, etc. If you "Like" our page, you will receive new postings in your own News Feed.

Contact Us

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The deadline for submissions for the next newsletter due to be published for November and December, will be **October 15, 2020**. Please email news, articles, or photos, upcoming events or reports, plus any other website items to the Editor, Evelyn Henson, at editor@agoabq.org

AGO ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER

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