



MAY / JUNE 2022

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***Deadline for the July /
August 2022 Newsletter
is June 15, 2022***



NOTES FROM THE DEAN



Dear Friends,

It is Holy Saturday as I write this message, and I have a thousand thoughts and worries going through my head about services tonight and tomorrow. I have to remind myself constantly to slow down and just breathe. One thing at a time, slow down, however one thinks of it, self-relaxation is important in our lives as church musicians, and it's important to be able to pass along a sense of calm to our choir members. I'm looking forward to our May 14 program (in person...yay!) where we will learn more techniques to use to care for ourselves and others.

A dear friend just posted this beautiful poem by Sylvia Sands on Facebook. While it won't be timely when this newsletter reaches you, I thought you might tuck it away for next year.

Creation takes him to her heart
and wraps rock-green darkness
around his tortured limbs.

The hidden walls
sweat with anticipation,
while little animals
that live beneath the earth
wait.

Animals had watched
his lonely cattle-shed birth.
Now they keep vigil at his wake,
knowing,
with the rocks and the ferns,
with underground streams,
with lichens and tree roots,
knowing,
those (dumb?) animals,
more than Peter, James, and John,

knowing,
waiting,
these little listening animals,
for the first tremors
heralding the earthquake
of his resurrection...

Easter Peace to all,
Nancy Granert, Dean

USEFUL CHAPTER EMAILS

Dean: Nancy Granert – dean@agoabq.org

Sub-Dean/Program Coordinator: Pauleta Hendrickson – program@agoabq.org

Treasurer: John Homko – treasurer@agoabq.org

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

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

May 14: Caring for our bodies.

On **Saturday, May 14th, at 3 pm**, we are having our first in-person event in more than two years!

We will be welcoming **Amy Greer** and **Darci Balkcom**, two Albuquerque musicians who also practice the arts of practice, movement, and body positioning. As we come out of the pandemic, many of us have found our bodies aren't as thrilled with sitting on the bench or in front of a choir, no matter how much our hearts and minds wish to do so.

Amy and Darci will help us work through some of our physical challenges and bring our musical bodies and hearts back into alignment. We will meet at **St John's Methodist Church**, 2626 Arizona NE, **Albuquerque**, NM, 87110, **3:00pm - 5:30 pm on May 14th**. Look for a flyer with more information coming in early May.

Please make this meeting a priority so that we can be together with our guests.

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

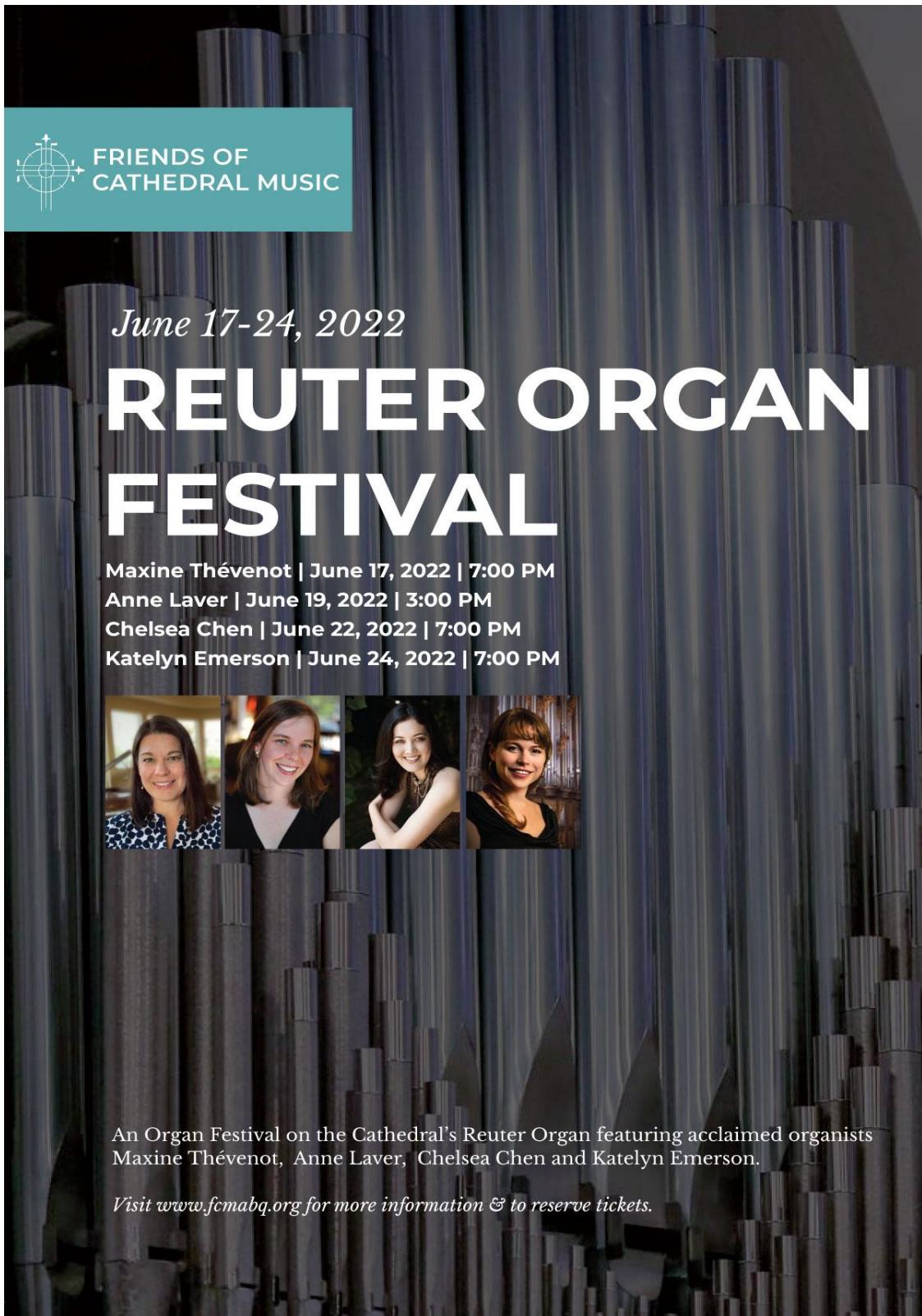
Sunday, May 22nd, 2:00pm – 4:00pm : Albuquerque Catholic Women's Choir

Concert on May 22nd from 2-4 pm at Shrine of St Therese, Little Flower of the Infant Jesus, located one block South of Candelaria on 4th Street, as a fundraiser to help the church. The Choir is still looking for ladies with choral experience to join them! They rehearse on Sundays from 2-4 pm.

Contact Gloria Robinson 505 771-0540 or email her at gloryrobins@gmail.com for more information.

Friday, June 17 - Friday, June 24, 2022: Reuter Organ Festival

Four women organists take the bench and perform on New Mexico's largest pipe organ. In celebration of the anniversary of César Franck each performer will include a major work of Franck's as well as many other composers. <https://fcmabq.org/reuter-organ-festival/>



BOOK REVIEW

The Great Passion, James Runcie,
(2022) Bloomsbury Publishing, New York. 260 pages, hardbound, \$28.

My brother, John, who is not a musician, sent me a book he thought I might find interesting. He was more than right! *The Great Passion* is an historically based fiction, a novel, that spares no efforts to invent a tale woven around **Johann Sebastian Bach**. The cast of characters come to life convincingly in Leipzig, the cultural nexus of Saxony and the locus of Bach's mature career. The narrative is voiced by a boy, Stefan Silbermann, (yes, of famed organ 18th century builder family). James Runcie writes about young Silberman's studies at St. Thomas Kirche choir school and his encounters with classmates, schoolmasters, clergy, court musicians, and, most importantly his friendship with Bach's growing family.

Runcie avoids false steps that often cause organists to wince about historical inaccuracies in musical authenticity. Runcie cites 1727 musical life with specific references to Bach cantatas, their arias, and the liturgical framework of St. Thomas Kirche. He names Bach's contemporaries, fellow musicians, singers, and librettists. Runcie is an author for once who "gets it right" about the organ and baroque musical practice. Historical details of Sebastian Bach's family, his second wife, Anna Magdalena, their growing family feverishly copying each week's manuscripts for the Sunday cantata are spot on. The novel avoids condescension or clumsy contrivances with scenes taking place with very honest, almost documentary accuracy.

When Runcie describes Bach giving the boy protagonist, Silbermann, organ or harpsichord lessons, the pedagogy is convincing. We encounter Bach's circle in the fabric of the tale, both local rivals and dear friends including G.F. Telemann and C.F. Henrici (Picander). The book fleshes out our imagination of Bach's theology, aesthetics, and humanity. The crowning moment of the novel "The Great Passion" provides us with a dramatic account of Bach's masterpiece, the *St. Matthew Passion*. The reader gets a seat at the first performance on Good Friday, April 11, 1727. We have followed the year-long leadup with the boy, Silbermann, as a gifted soprano who ends up singing the most beloved arias from the "The Great Passion."

James Runcie is also known as the author of the "Grantchester" series seen in the BBC Masterpiece Theatre. "The Great Passion" is equally enjoyable. Now, if only Masterpiece Theatre would bring it to television!

Review by James A. Yeager

TGIF CONCERTS – FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SANTA FE

These concerts have now resumed in person – *masks and proof of vaccination required at the door*. Whether you're ending your week or starting your weekend, every Friday evening at 5:30pm, First Presbyterian Church invites our Santa Fe neighbors and visitors from all over the world to our sanctuary to enjoy a half hour of music and reflection. All are welcome to come and listen to organ music, voice and choral concerts accompanied by various instruments, chamber music, and more.

May

6 — Bryan Dunnewald, organ
13 — Gioioso! Piano Quintet: Ron Grinage, piano; Ari Lê and Flaviano Prosperini, violins; EJ Nelson, viola; Dina Siegel (cello)
20 — David Solem, piano
27 — Rick Beaubien, baritone; Natasha Stojanovska, piano

June

3 — High Desert Harp Ensemble
10 — Sam Jacobs, piano
17 — Kehar Koslowski, mezzo soprano; Travis Bregier, baritone; David Beatty, piano
24 — eSSO String Orchestra

July

1 — Joan Wang, violin; Diyi Tang, piano
8 — Kehar Koslowski, mezzo soprano; Travis Bregier, baritone; David Beatty, piano
15 — Aaron Howe, baritone; Jim Ahrend, piano
22 — Robert Marcus, clarinet; Edwin Light, piano
29 — Kimberly Marshall, organ

August

5 — Santa Fe Summer Organ Academy

12 — Jonathan Dimmock, organ; Kathleen MacIntosh, harpsichord
19 — Elaine Wang Meyerhoffer, mezzo soprano; Richard Bentley, piano
26 — eSSO String Orchestra

PLEASE CHECK . . .

Please check the website [Directory](#) for corrections, especially if you have changed jobs or addresses/telephone number recently, and also, the [Substitute Roster](#) page, and then email corrections to the [Editor](#), so that we can maintain good information for each other, and help churches find substitute organists as needed. Anyone wishing to be added to the regular substitute organist list, please also let me know. Thank you.

OUCH . . .

- Why did the tortilla chip start dancing? Because they put on the salsa.
- What kind of musical instrument do rats play? Mouse organs.
- What do you call a musical insect? A humbug.
- Why did the fish make such a good musician? He knew his scales.
- Why did the chicken join the band? Because he had the drumsticks.



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 over 200 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

AGO Albuquerque Chapter
3600 Cerrillos Rd, Apt 505A
Santa Fe, NM 87507

Find us online at:

Email: editor@agoabq.org
Website: agoabq.org
Facebook: agoabq

The deadline for submissions for the next newsletter due to be published for July and August 2022, will be **June 15, 2022**. 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

Secretary: 3600 Cerrillos Rd, Apt 505A
Santa Fe, NM 87507