



SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2024

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***Deadline for the
November / December
Newsletter is October 15,
2024***

NOTES FROM THE DEAN



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your continued interest in the AGO. Thank you for your commitment to the music of the organ as an art form. Thank you for your teaching, performing, and service in your congregations. Thank you for your service as ambassadors for our art.

The Chapter Executive Committee has approved a schedule for our 2024/2025 program year:

- **Albuquerque Preludes and Pies:** Saturday, October 19th, 2:00 p.m. at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Albuquerque
- **Santa Fe Preludes and Pies:** Saturday, November 23rd, 2:00 p.m. at St. Bede's Episcopal Church in Santa Fe
- **AGO Members' Recital and Luncheon:** Saturday, March 8th, 11:00 a.m. at Cathedral of St. John in Albuquerque
- **Workshop on the Basics of Organ Technique for Organists and Pianists:** Saturday, May 10th, 10:30 a.m. St. Luke Lutheran in Albuquerque, taught by Margaret-Mary Sauppé

We will also hold three “**Moveable Feast**” social events throughout the year. The first of these will be **Saturday, September 15th, 2:00 p.m.** at the Bosque Brewing Heights Public House, 5210 Eubank Blvd NE in Albuquerque (Eubank and Spain). At least one of the future Moveable Feasts will be in Santa Fe.

More details on the September and October events can be found below. We will also be making efforts to identify and approach potential new members, which are explained below.

In recent months I have had many conversations with Chapter members about the role of the Chapter in their lives and work. A majority of members have emphasized the importance of building relationships with other New Mexico organists as the most important role of the Chapter. We know that in 2024 many resources and programs that used to be provided by chapters are now easily accessible through the internet. But online relationships can never replace the true, in person, real-life friendships and collegial relationships that can be built through the life of an AGO Chapter.

I would ask you to make a renewed effort to attend the events we have planned. I can speak for myself in saying that I find great support and fellowship in the organists and organ supporters that I know through the Chapter. I truly believe that you would find participation well worth the time and effort.

Sincerely yours,

Jeremy Wirths, Dean

USEFUL CHAPTER EMAILS

Dean: [Jeremy Wirths](#)

Treasurer: [John Homko](#)

Secretary: [Susan Eberlein](#)

Newsletter/Webmaster:

[Evelyn Henson](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Moveable Feast: The first Moveable Feast of the year will be **Saturday, September 15th, 2:00 p.m.** at the **Bosque Brewing Heights Public House, 5210 Eubank Blvd NE in Albuquerque (Eubank and Spain)**. Moveable Feasts are informal gatherings for fellowship and discussion. If you plan to attend, please let Jeremy know at jeremyrw77@gmail.com so he can arrange appropriate space. However, if you don't get around to responding please feel free to just show up and pull up a chair.

Albuquerque Preludes and Pies: Saturday, October 19th, 2:00 p.m. at **Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 8000 Academy Rd NE in Albuquerque**. Members are invited to share a prelude that they find useful and think others would find useful. Each participant will briefly explain their piece and then play it. The preludes will be played informally, so there is no pressure to prepare for a "performance." Susan Eberlein, organist at Heights Cumberland, will be available to help you choose your registrations "on the go." A reception, including pie, will follow. All styles, traditions, and difficulty levels are welcome. Don't feel self-conscious about bringing something easy; for many of us easy pieces are more useful than more complicated ones! If you are willing to share a prelude or food for the reception, please contact Jeremy Wirths at jeremyrw77@gmail.com.

Membership Campaign: During the fall we will be working to build the membership numbers of the Chapter. Our plan is to build a list of prospective members and then ask an active member in the same town or with similar interests to invite the prospective members to join. We need your help with the prospective member list. If you know a person who is an organist or an organ enthusiast, please send their name and contact information to jeremyrw77@gmail.com. We will not reveal who suggested them for the list so you can tattle with immunity!

Former Dean Sanelma Sutton suggested this article for inclusion in the newsletter. The article is reprinted from the May 2012 newsletter of the York, Pennsylvania Chapter of AGO. Those of us who serve as church musicians know that leading liturgical music is so much more than simply "performing." At times we may feel that our careful planning, insight, reflection, and sensitivity are overlooked. This article reflects on the multi-faceted role of the church musician. - Jeremy

THE CHURCH MUSICIAN AS (OVERLOOKED) THEOLOGIAN

How the musicians of the church contribute theologically to worship.

By Mark Gorman

No one goes to church and thinks, "I sure hope the worship will be dull and uninspiring!" People desire vibrant worship. Whether it's the communal practices of Taizé or Iona, the anthems that resound in cathedrals, the gospel choir who brings the congregation to their feet, or the strum of guitars with a praise song, it's clear that music has a central role in establishing worship.

Unfortunately, discussions about the relationship between music and worship have mostly been one-dimensional, focusing on the music itself, from style (traditional or contemporary) to instrumentation (guitar vs. organ). If churches hope to sustain practices of vibrant worship, the scope of the conversation must include not only church music but also church musicians.

This conversation requires us to think about how the church musician is also a theologian. This might come as a surprise. If we associate "theologian" with anyone in a congregation, it is usually the pastor or other ordained staff. Applying that term to our church musicians can seem like a stretch, especially when many church musicians lack the formal theological education clergy receive through Master of Divinity programs.

Part of the problem may lie in how we think about theology. If theology is mostly dried ink for a dusty classroom, then we may never learn to see musicians as theologians. But if one of the purposes—indeed, the chief purpose—of theology is doxology (the praise of God), then it is easier to see how the church musician does function as a practical theologian, complementing the theological role of the pastor. As David Arcus, adjunct associate professor of sacred music and Divinity School organist, told me recently, "Clearly, our tasks [of being musicians or pastors] are different. But we all share in the general responsibility of facilitating the praise of God."

Arcus, an excellent conversation partner for thinking about the role of the musician in the life of the church, regrets "the loss of [understanding] the church musician as a professional leader, teacher, and visionary among ministerial staffs." When he notes that both clergy and musicians share a responsibility for the doxology of the church, he speaks not only as someone who accompanies hundreds of services each year on campus but also as someone of deep and sincere Christian faith.

The shared responsibility means many of the unremarkable, mundane activities of church musicians have real theological import. When I asked Arcus about the factors he considered in leading a hymn, only one stood out as explicitly theological: the liturgical season. The others were straightforward musical considerations, ranging from the size of the organ to dynamics to the presence or absence of a choir. But as musical considerations in the context of and for the purpose of the worship of God, they were musical factors with theological overtones. Playing the organ too softly during a hymn can deprive the congregation of its confidence to participate in acts

of worship. Playing the organ too loudly can drown out the congregation and imply that their participation is unimportant. This communicates the theologically impoverished idea that worship is only for the leaders.

[To continue reading this article, please click here.](#)

THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN, ALBUQUERQUE

Fall programs – see <https://fcmabq.org/>

Friends of Cathedral Music Presents

September 8, 2024 | 12:15 PM
**HOMECOMING SUNDAY:
THE REELERS**

Following the 11 AM service, we welcome the local Celtic Folk group, “The Reelers.” Join us as we celebrate the return of our marvelous Cathedral Choirs!



*No tickets necessary; donations gratefully received.
Visit www.fcmabq.org for more information.*

Friends of Cathedral Music Presents



September 29, 2024 | 3:00 PM

**THE YOUNG-TIRANNO DUO *with*
PIANIST, NATASHA STOJANOVSKA**



**FEATURING MUSIC BY
VERDI, ROSSINI, FRANCK,
STRAUSS, AND
MASSENET.**



Friends of Cathedral Music Presents



2024-2025

**EVENSONG &
SPECIAL SERVICES**



**CHORAL EVENSONG:
FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS**

October 4, 2024 | 6:00 PM

**CHORAL EVENSONG:
FEAST OF ALL SAINTS**

November 1, 2024 | 6:00 PM

ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS SERVICE

December 6, 2024 | 6:00 PM

CHORAL EVENSONG

January 31, 2025 | 6:00 PM

CHORAL EVENSONG

February 28, 2025 | 6:00 PM

CHORAL EVENSONG

March 28, 2025 | 6:00 PM

CHORAL EVENSONG

May 30, 2025 | 6:00 PM

Visit www.fcmaq.org & stjohnsabq.org for more information.

For more info: stjohnsabq.org



TGIF CONCERTS – FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SANTA FE

Thank **Goodness It's Friday!** (*Masks are optional.*)

Whether you're ending your week or starting your weekend, every Friday evening First Presbyterian Church invites our Santa Fe neighbors and visitors from all over the world to our sanctuary to enjoy a short concert (30-45 minutes) of music: organ, voice and piano, choral, chamber music, solo instrumental, jazz, and more.

If you would like to perform on the TGIF Concert Series, [please see our program submission requirements](#).

September

- 6 — David Solem, piano
- 13 — Christina Martos, soprano, and Kristin Ditlow, piano
- 20 — First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir
- 27 — Bryan Hutchinson, piano

October

- 4 — David Solem, piano
- 11 — Thomas Shoebottom, cello and Sam Jacobs, piano
- 18 — Opera West!
- 25 — eternal Summer Symphony Orchestra

November

- 1 — Black Mesa Brass Quintet
- 8 — Sin Nombre Brass Quintet
- 15 — Chenxing Huang
- 22 — High Desert Harp Ensemble
- 29 — David Solem, piano

(REMINDER) URGENT - NEW HQ DUES POLICY. DON'T BE LATE IN PAYING!

The AGO national office has implemented a new policy concerning dues payment and their due date. As of now, there is **NO GRACE PERIOD** after the due date of your renewal. Memberships renew at the beginning of each month of the year, based on the member's date of joining the AGO or on July 1st, if the member was a member in 2014, when the ONCARD database system became effective.

The new policy DOES NOT provide for any grace period of paying dues beyond the renewal date. So, if you have a renewal date of July 1st and do not make your payment by that date, your membership will be cancelled approximately two weeks later. This pattern of processing will occur with every renewal date during the year. The AGO accepts payments by both credit cards and personal check.

You can pay your dues by credit card in two ways. First, you can go online into your ONCARD account, select RENEW DUES AND SUBSCRIPTION, and follow the prompts (you will be asked to confirm / update your membership profile). You can print a copy of the invoice and/or receipt (after the payment is processed). Second, you can call the AGO office at 1-212-870-2310 and pay your dues with a credit card over the phone. AGO staff can also help you with any ONCARD problem. **There will be a new computer system soon which requires all members to have an email address.**



Contact Us

AGO Albuquerque Chapter

14400 Soula Dr. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87123

Find us online at:

Website: agoabq.org

Facebook: [agoabq](https://www.facebook.com/agoabq)

AGO ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER

Secretary: 14400 Soula Dr. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87123

HAVE YOU USED THE CHAPTER WEBSITE LATELY?

The whole year's calendar is on the Calendar page (use Agenda tab). Please notify the webmaster 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 360 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.

The deadline for submissions for the next newsletter due to be published for November / December 2024, will be **October 15, 2024**. Please email news, articles, or photos, upcoming events or reports, plus any other website items to the Editor, [Evelyn Henson](#), by October 15, 2024.