



The Coupler

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2025

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Deadline for November / December 2025 Newsletter is October 15, 2025

NOTES FROM THE DEAN



Dear Friends,

I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer. In June we had a groundbreaking "Members Meeting" and potluck supper, which was well-attended and fruitful. We agreed at that meeting to redevelop a Program Committee to plan programming for the Chapter each year. **James Yeager** has worked hard to populate that committee, and several members have stepped up. Thank you to those who have volunteered. The Program Committee has been hard at work and their plans are exciting. I would particularly encourage you to attend the members' meeting scheduled for October.

At the Members' Meeting the topic of organ conventions was discussed. If you have never attended an organ convention, I would encourage you to try it sometime. Fall is a good time to think about conventions because most conventions are in Spring or Summer and it takes a few months to get registered and plan the travel. Conventions are so much fun and provide workshop and recital opportunities that are rare in New Mexico.

AGO will host a national convention **July 6-10, 2026**, in St. Louis, Missouri. AGO national conventions are a whirlwind of great organ playing, teaching, instruments, and community. Other organizations host annual conventions that are excellent as well, such as the Organ Historical Society and various denominational music associations. One convention that is fun, soon, and close by is the East Texas Pipe Organ Festival, which will be held **November 9-13, 2025** in East Texas.

I hope everyone is doing well. Please watch for our upcoming announcements!

Jeremy Wirth, Dean

USEFUL CHAPTER EMAILS

Dean: [Jeremy Wirth](#)

Treasurer: [John Homko](#)

Secretary: [Susan Eberlein](#)

Sub-Dean (programs) [James Yeager](#)

Newsletter/Webmaster:

[Evelyn Henson](#)

WELCOME BACK DINNER MEETING

Friday, October 17, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

St. John's United Methodist Church, 626 Arizona St. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110

- Excellent Catered Dinner, Business Meeting & Announcements.
- Officers and Team Leaders Installation, plus a musical treat to finish.
- Everybody is welcome to bring a guest.
(Only limitation is the seating for the dining room is 45 people).

Dinner Cost per person \$20, Entrée Options (choose one):

1. Seared Chicken Breast with a Champagne Cream Sauce
2. Herb Crusted Roast Salmon

Buffet selection of side dishes, bread, and beverages.

Desserts: Cherry Crisp or Chocolate Brownies

RSVP via email by October 5, 2025 (Please do respond) for dinner reservation with your entrée choice (#1 or #2) to Chapter Secretary, [Susan Eberlein](#)

PROGRAM NOTES

Program Committee Report (*Sept. 2, 2025, meeting*)

In a recent meeting the program committee discussed ideas for 2025-2026 and coming years. We researched programming of various AGO chapters nationwide like ours in size, demographics, and geography. We considered broader concepts that might best serve the musical and professional interests of our membership. We also discussed finding a balance between broad appeal to the majority and narrow (but valuable) interests of the minority.

Here is a sampling of ideas: organ crawls, organ construction, tuning & maintenance issues, registration, hymn playing, a hymn sing or festival, improvisation, playing transcriptions (orchestral), member sharing and recitals, master classes on teaching and pedagogy, transitioning from piano to organ. Some chapters have done programs focused on local composers, recent compositions, music for organ plus instruments, music by women composers, jazz crossover music for or with organ, and even themed events such as a Halloween organ event! Fun **is** allowed.

One important aspect of Guild events can be socializing and networking, especially among organists and musicians whose work tends towards our isolation. We hope to offer gatherings where we include fellowship and refreshments. To this end, we have landed on the following four program ideas (each including social time):

1. a member recital,
2. an organ transcriptions fest,
3. an organ plus (instruments/voice event,
4. a hymn sing festival.

We hope to present these four ideas in greater detail (venues, and dates) at our **October 17 dinner meeting**. Lastly, the Cathedral of St. John presents an organ recital, January 11, 2026, featuring Bradley Hunter Welch (with chapter support). Do come **October 17th** and find out! and stay TUNED (whatever temperament suits you best).

Program Committee: Nathan Cleaveland, John Garlisch, Jerry Nelson, Patricia Oakley, James Yeager (chair).

James Yeager, Sub-Dean Also: (614) 746-9479.

SANTA FE SUMMER ACADEMY REPORT



The **6th annual Santa Fe Summer Organ Academy** was held at First Presbyterian Church Santa Fe, NM from Aug 5-8 on C. B. Fisk's Op. 133.

The week began with an organ recital by **Dr. Kimberly Marshall** entitled *“Balance and Change: Four Centuries of Evolution in Organ Music”*.

Classes began on Aug 5 with morning master classes where each participant performed organ literature for Dr. Marshall. The afternoons included three lectures: *“The Development of the Toccata from the early Italian toccatas of late 16th century through the French Symphonic toccatas of the second half of the 19th c.”*; *An overview of the “Organ Music of J. S. Bach”* by George Stauffer, where the compositions of J. S. Bach are organized by when and where they were composed; and *“the Development of the Chorale Prelude from the organ chorales of Hans Kotter (1513) to Johannes Brahms.”*

Additional presentations included a “Sound Bath” using the sounds of the organ in a similar way to sound baths with singing bowls and gongs and “Breathing and Joint Health for the Organist” including breathing exercises to calm the mind and stretching exercises for hands and feet.

Continued over . . .

The week concluded with a Participants' Recital that included music by Bach and a new composition by Michael Raillard played by the composer. Many students attended the additional musical events that were offered in Santa Fe that week or visited various museums.

This Academy is limited in size to seven participants to ensure much individual attention of Dr. Marshall and practice time on the Fisk organ. Next year's dates will be from **July 31-Aug 7, 2026**. Come join us!

Linda Raney, Director of Music, First Presbyterian Church

UPCOMING EVENTS



The Cathedral Basilica St. Francis of Assisi (Santa Fe) offers free **noon time** concerts on Wednesdays in September and October. The cathedral web page (cbsfa.org) or [Facebook](#) page lists the performers for the upcoming week. The performers tend to be local talent, including members of the cathedral music program, members of the Opera or Lensic Orchestra/chorus.

Each performance runs for approximately 30 minutes. For more info: contact [Bob Miltenberger](#)

Thursday, October 16, 2:00pm - Keller Hall on the UNM campus, Albuquerque. Melissa Spencer will be playing a composition for organ by graduate student, Doug Falk.

TGIF CONCERTS – FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SANTA FE

Thank Goodness It's Friday!

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. All recitals are **Fridays at 5:30** at First Presbyterian Church, Santa Fe

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

September

- Sept 5 Gioioso-Dvorak String Quartet in A-flat Major
- Sept 12 James Harder and Kirstin Ditlow, duo piano
- Sept 19 Tracy Carr, Oboe and Mark Del Porto, piano
- Sept 26 David Solem

October

- Oct 3 Sin NOMBRE Brass Quintet
- Oct 10 Black Mesa Brass Quintet
- Oct 17 eSSO
- Oct 24 Sean Stanton, baritone, and Kristin Ditlow, piano
- Oct 31 Kehar Koslowsky, mezzo soprano

ALBUQUERQUE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CHOIR

Sunday, September 21st, 2025, at 4:00pm ~ 5:00 pm



Please join our Albuquerque Catholic Women's Choir for a **Jubilee Prayer Concert** at the Shrine of St Therese, Little Flower of the Infant Jesus, 3424 Fourth Street NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107.

Prayer and song in celebration of our **Jubilee Year 2025!** St Therese has been designated as one of the pilgrimage sites in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. All invited. No fee.

OLDEST PIPE ORGAN IN THE CHRISTIAN WORLD

The oldest pipe organ in Christian world sounds once more in Jerusalem, Associated Press explains: -

After 800 years of silence, a pipe organ that researchers say is the oldest in the Christian world roared back to life on Tuesday, its ancient sound echoing through a monastery in Jerusalem's Old City.

[Click here to see the AP video](#)

AGO-HQ INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEM

The long-awaited change from the ONCARD system to the new iMIS program happened on October 15, 2024. It is now essential that every member has their date of birth in the system, or it will charge you the full \$120 renewal subscription. 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 January 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 every month at each renewal date during the year. The AGO accepts payments by both credit cards and personal check.

Members should have received instructions about the new login procedure. You will be required to have a valid email address, which will be verified during the first login procedure. If you're unsure, ask our Dean, [Jeremy Wirth](#)

MEMBER DIRECTORY

Please check that your entry in the **Member Directory** on the ABQ Chapter website is correct. It is passworded. If you don't know the password, please use the form in the sidebar to request the password, which will only be sent to members whose name is on the list. If your name is NOT already on the list, I will check with the AGO HQ Chapter list for our Chapter. (Give me time!) Thanks. *Evelyn Henson*.



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 500 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
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Albuquerque, NM 87123

Find us online at:
Website: agoabq.org
Facebook: [agoabq](#)

The deadline for submissions for the next newsletter due to be published for November / December 2025, will be **October 15, 2025**. Please email news, articles, or photos, upcoming events or reports, plus any other website items to the Editor, [Evelyn Henson](#), by October 15, 2025. Thank you.

AGO ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER
Secretary: 14400 Soula Dr. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87123