



NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2025



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***Deadline for January /
February 2026 Newsletter
is December 15, 2025***

NOTES FROM THE DEAN

Dear Colleagues,

First, I want to thank those who worked hard to make our Season Opening Dinner in October such a success. James Yeager and others did an outstanding job providing a warm welcome to so many participants. We are grateful to Nathan Cleaveland, Matt Greer, and others at St. John's Methodist for welcoming us graciously.

Please consider engaging more actively in AGO activities this year. James Yeager and his revived Program Committee have such exciting plans for this season. We would love to see you there and get to know you better.

A conversation started recently among some members about the challenges of tuning and maintaining pipe organs in New Mexico at this time. Currently there are no local pipe organ technicians or tuners, leaving all of us to rely on out-of-state service providers. Interest has been expressed in working together in a more organized way to pool costs and ensure the availability of services. If you are interested in participating in that conversation, please contact me. I hope to facilitate further discussion and connect members with common needs and challenges.

Evelyn Henson, a tireless and wonderful volunteer, does a great job of updating this newsletter and our website with local organ events and information. If you have information that might interest other members or stakeholders, please provide that information to Evelyn. For example, Evelyn has a page on the website about local organs, but it's incomplete. Please consider providing Evelyn with information about the instruments to which you have access. If you know of planned organ performances or choral activities, please let Evelyn know.

Please keep in touch,

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 - REPORT

On Friday, October 17th, our inaugural event was attended by twenty-five Chapter members and guests. **Nathan Cleaveland** hosted the gathering, which featured a delectable catered dinner at St. John United Methodist Church.

Dean Jeremy Wirth conducted a brief business meeting, recognizing chapter officers, the executive board, and other team leaders. He also nominated **Fr. Steve Rosera** as **Chaplain** for our chapter. Fr. Steve is the pastor of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Albuquerque. The nomination was unanimously approved by the gathering.

Sub-Dean James Yeager announced the 2025-2026 program and expressed gratitude to the program committee for its innovative initiatives. Several guests, including five potential new members, were cordially invited. Several attendees traveled from distant locations within New Mexico, including Farmington and Santa Fe.

The program concluded with a duo-organ piece (a transcription of Beethoven's *Symphony V, Op. 1, No. 1, Allegro con brio*) performed by **Nathan Cleaveland** and **James Yeager**.

Photos from Susan Eberlein and Elaine Zabor



Program Committee: Nathan Cleaveland, John Garlisch, Jerry Nelson, Patricia Oakley, James Yeager (chair). James Yeager, Sub-Dean Also: (614) 746-9479.

CHAPTER PROGRAM NOTES

Program of Upcoming Chapter Events, 2025-2026 (*Please mark your calendars!*)

1. **Hymn Playing & Singing with AGO Gusto**, November 16, 2025, 3:00 p.m.*
2. **Bradley Hunter Welch in Recital**, January 11, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.
3. **The Organ with Music Transcribed**, April 26, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.*
4. **The Organ Plus**, May 24, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.*
5. **Annual AGOABQ Member Recital**, June 2026 [date TBA] at 3:00 p.m.*

*Events may include refreshments and socializing. Come mingle afterward!

Note: Detailed descriptions of events in 2026 will appear in upcoming newsletters. Stay tuned!

HYMN PLAYING AND SINGING WITH AGO GUSTO

Sunday, November 16, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. Church of the Incarnation
(2309 Monterrey Rd NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87144).

Our second event features hymnody, the musical bread and butter of church musicians. Chapter members have volunteered to play exemplifying their technique, treatment, and hymn playing methods. Each organist will choose two favorite hymns and lead the gathering. We contribute uniquely to worship with this time-honored skill. The spacious nave in this church has marvelous acoustics and a three-manual Allen digital organ. **Elizabeth Illerbrun**, music director of the church, will host.

Refreshments and social time will follow. The program is expected to last about one hour.

Save the date!

January 11th, 2026, for **Bradley Hunter Welch** at **Cathedral of St. John**. Details in full will be in the next issue of *The Coupler* Newsletter. [This is a chapter-supported event.](#)

ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER AGO RECEIVES A MATCHING GRANT!

October 9, 2025

Congratulations! I'm very pleased to share that your chapter's application for a \$500 matching grant to support chapter programming has been accepted. We are making arrangements with our finance department to transfer the funds to your Chapter's account in the next week or so. We look forward to hearing about the success of your event and are here to offer support, as needed.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can provide any further assistance.

J.W. Arnold, CAE
Membership, Marketing & Communications Specialist
AGO Headquarters, New York City

Note: The above grant will be applied to the **ORGAN PLUS** program in May.

UPCOMING EVENTS *(In date order within that venue)*

Posters for many of these events are on pages together at the end of the newsletter. Please use them to advertise these events in your own church or on personal social media pages, or for your own perusal, etc.

CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN *(318 Silver Ave SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102)*

Saturday, November 1, 2025, at 11:00am - All Saints' Day Organ Recital - FREE

Maxine Thevénot, Director of Music and Organist, plays works by Bonis, Messiaen, Bridge, Dupré and Vierne.

Sunday, November 9, 2025, at 3:00pm – Death and Resurrection – tickets at fcmabq.com Faure's *Requiem* and Vivaldi's *Gloria*

Maxine Thevénot, conductor; Sarah Nickerson, mezzo-soprano;
Alfredo Beltrán, baritone; Edmund Connolly, organ.

Sunday, December 7, at 4:00pm - Advent Lessons and Carols – no tickets required

Enjoy a world premiere by Dr. Bruce Neswick

Saturday December 13, 2025, at 10:30am – A Children's Messiah – no tickets required

With Polyphony – Voices of New Mexico (10th Anniversary)

Sunday, December 14, 2025, at 11:00am – Magnificent Magnificat – no tickets required

Seasonal works by Handel and Vivaldi featuring a Cathedral Chamber Ensemble with soloists.

Sunday, December 21, 2025, at 3:30pm – A Ceremony of Carols – no tickets required

Harpist Emily Levin; followed by **Lessons and Carols Service at 4:00pm**

Wednesday, December 24, 2025 – Christmas Eve – featuring the Cathedral Choirs

4:00pm – Christmas Pageant Service

7:30pm – Choral Prelude

8:00pm – Sung Eucharist

10:30pm – Organ Prelude

11:00pm – Sung Eucharist

Thursday December 25 – Christmas Day

11:00am – A service of Christmas carols with organ

CONCERTS AT THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI, SANTA FE

The Cathedral Basilica St. Francis of Assisi (CBSFA) in Santa Fe will be holding 4 concerts in the November-December time period.

1. The first will be on **Wednesday, November 12 at noon** featuring the **Navy Military Band**.
2. The next occurs on **Sunday, November 16 at 3 pm** featuring presentations by the **Cathedral adult vocal choir and the Bells of St. Francis** (*cathedral bell choir*).
3. A combined bell choir-flute concert featuring the **Bells of St. Francis and Santa Fe Flutes**

Choirs will be on **Saturday, December 6th at 6:30 pm**. The program will cover songs of the Advent and Christmas Seasons.

4. The final concert will be on **Sunday, December 7 at 3 pm** and will feature music honoring the **Virgin Mary**.

Parking for these events is free (*behind the Cathedral*).

More information about these concerts will be available from the CBSFA website or Facebook pages (www.cbsfa.org; or <https://www.facebook.com/CathedralBasilicaOfStFrancisOfAssisi>)

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](#).

November

7 — Tri-M Productions: Musical Theatre Review

14 — David Solem

21 — High Desert Harps

28 — David Solem

December

5 — David Solem, piano

12 — eternal Summer Symphony Orchestra

19 — Chancel Bell Choir

26 — Atalaya String Quartet

January 2026

2 — Luke Raffanti

9 — Saxophone Quartet with Peggy Abbot

ALBUQUERQUE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CHOIR

Sunday, November 9, 2025, at 4:00pm ~ 5:00 pm



Please join our Albuquerque Catholic Women's Choir for a **Jubilee Prayer Concert** at the **San Felipe De Neri Church**, (*The Mother Church of Albuquerque*), 2005 North Plaza St N.W. Albuquerque, N.M. 87104.

Prayer and song in celebration of our **Jubilee Year 2025!** Join us in Prayer and Song. No fee.



ALL SAINTS' DAY ORGAN RECITAL

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1
11:00AM**

Director of Cathedral Music & Organist

MAXINE THÉVENOT

works by

Bonis, Messiaen, Bridge, Dupré, and Vierne

The Cathedral of St. John
318 Silver Avenue SW

Friends of Cathedral Music presents

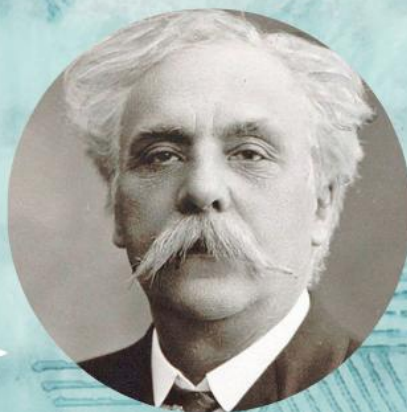
DEATH & RESURRECTION

FAURÉ'S *REQUIEM* AND VIVALDI'S *GLORIA*

Sunday, November 9, 2025 at 3:00 PM
Cathedral of St. John, Albuquerque

FEATURING:

Maxine Thévenot, conductor
Sarah Nickerson, mezzo-soprano
Alfredo Beltrán, baritone
Edmund Connolly, organ



Tickets at fcmabq.org

ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS

ENJOY A WORLD PREMIERE BY
DR. BRUCE NESWICK

Sunday, December 7, 2025 at 4:00 PM
Cathedral of St. John, Albuquerque



No tickets are needed for this special service.
Donations gratefully received.
Learn more at fcmabq.org



**The Cathedral of St. John
318 Silver Ave SW
Albuquerque, NM**

A Children's Messiah

Saturday, December 13, 2025

10:30AM



POLYPHONY:
VOICES OF NEW MEXICO



MAGNIFICENT MAGNIFICAT

SEASONAL WORKS BY HANDEL AND VIVALDI
FEATURING THE CATHEDRAL CHOIRS

Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 11:00 AM
Cathedral of St. John, Albuquerque



No tickets are needed for this special service.
Donations gratefully received.
Learn more at fcmabq.org

BENJAMIN BRITTEN'S
**A CEREMONY OF
CAROLS**

HARPIST EMILY LEVIN

Sunday, December 21, 2025 at 3:30 PM
Lessons & Carols service at 4:00 PM

Cathedral of St. John, Albuquerque



No tickets are needed for this special service.

Donations gratefully received.

Learn more at fcmabq.org

CHRISTMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL

FEATURING THE CATHEDRAL CHOIRS

Christmas Eve

4:00 PM | Christmas Pageant Service

7:30 PM | Choral prelude

8:00 PM | Sung Eucharist

10:30 PM | Organ prelude

11:00 PM | Sung Eucharist

Christmas Day

11:00 AM | A service of Christmas carols
with organ

Cathedral of St. John, Albuquerque



No tickets are needed for these special services.

Donations gratefully received.

Learn more at fcmabq.org

Jubilee Year Prayer Concert

Albuquerque Catholic Women's Choir

Join us in Prayer and Song!

**November 9, 2025,
Sunday at 4:00 pm ~ 5:00 pm**



**San Felipe De Neri Church
The Mother Church of Albuquerque
2005 North Plaza St N.W.
Albuquerque, N.M. 87104**

Friends of Cathedral Music presents

BRADLEY HUNTER WELCH IN RECITAL ORGAN MASTERWORKS

Sunday, January 11, 2026 at 3:00 PM
Cathedral of St. John, Albuquerque



Tickets at fcmabq.org



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

14400 Soula Dr. NE
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 January / February 2026, will be **December 15, 2025**. Please email news, articles, or photos, upcoming events or reports, plus any other website items to the Editor, [Evelyn Henson](#), by December 15, 2025. Thank you.

AGO ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER

Secretary: 14400 Soula Dr. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87123