



JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2026



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***Deadline for March / April  
2026 Newsletter is  
February 15, 2026***

## NOTES FROM THE DEAN

Dear friends,

January and February can be intense for organists. I am sure I am not the only one ever to wake up on December 26th and realize that my church plans for the winter and spring have not really taken shape. January and February are full of important Sundays, and Ash Wednesday is right around the corner. For choir directors, Christmas ends with piles and piles of music to be filed, and the folders must be filled anew before that first rehearsal in the new year. For teachers, repertoire needs to be selected and lessons need to be scheduled and re-scheduled.

This winter and spring the Chapter has some outstanding events planned. My hope is that these will serve as a source of learning and inspiration for our members. On **January 11 at 3:00 p.m. Bradley Hunter Welch** will perform at the Cathedral of St. John, a recital for which the Chapter was able to provide support. Bradley is an incredible player, and I know his performance will remind you of your love for our art and may even inspire you to spend a little more time practicing.

A Nominating Committee will be appointed by the Executive Committee in early January. The Nominating Committee will need to fill several positions, including two Executive Committee seats, several committee spots, and a new Sub-Dean. When everyone is willing to step forward and do a little, the chapter can accomplish so much without overwhelming any individual members. Please consider whether you might be able to play an increased role in the coming year.

Wishing you a winter of incredible music,

*Jeremy Wirth, Dean*

## USEFUL CHAPTER EMAILS

Dean: [Jeremy Wirth](#)

Treasurer: [John Homko](#)

Secretary: [Susan Eberlein](#)

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

Newsletter/Webmaster:

[Evelyn Henson](#)

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## HYMN PLAYING AND SINGING WITH AGO GUSTO – REPORT

Our Albuquerque Chapter hosted its second chapter event of this season, “Hymn Playing and Singing with Gusto,” at the Church of the Incarnation (Rio Rancho, NM). **Pastor Fr. Michael Garcia** and **Mrs. Elizabeth Illerbrun**, Director of Music and Liturgy, welcomed members, guests and attendees who numbered over 70, an excellent turnout for a small chapter.

Eight professional players were joined by three student organists (two 10th and one 12th grader). Each organist chose one or two favorite hymns for an informal hymn singing fest, showcasing their leadership and interpretive skills. The enthusiastic congregation sang nineteen tunes, including gems like Abbot’s Leigh, Duke Street, Winchester New, Two Oaks, Aurelia, Lauda Anima, and King’s Weston. The three manual Allen digital organ filled the 1000-seat, acoustically resonant church beautifully.

**Chapter Dean Jeremy Wirth** introduced the Albuquerque chapter to visitors, highlighting the A.G.O.’s promotion of music through educational and service events. Organist participants represented various faiths, including Lutheran, United Methodist, Episcopal, Presbyterian, Congregational, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and Roman Catholic.



Players pictured in photo (from left): **Zeke Reading, Hazel Reading, Rebekah Delgado, James Yeager, Elvira Guillen, Jaime Rodriguez, Jeremy Wirth, Nathan Cleaveland, Olivia Garduño, May LeRoy, Steven Woodbury**. Olivia Garduño is a student of May LeRoy. Hazel and Zeke Reading are students of James Yeager. A reception with ample food and drink followed the event and made for jovial socializing.

Some additional photos:



*Mrs. Elizabeth Illerbrun,  
Director of Music and Liturgy,  
welcomed members, guests and  
attendees*



*Nathan Cleaveland with singers*



*Dean Jeremy Wirth speaks to  
visitors about AGO ABQ*

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## CHAPTER PROGRAM NOTES 2026

1. **Bradley Hunter Welch in Recital**, January 11, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.
2. **The Organ with Music Transcribed**, April 26, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.\*
3. **The Organ Plus**, Saturday, May 23, 2026, 7:00 p.m., Keller Hall at UNM campus\*  
Featuring works for organ and string orchestra, plus soprano, Jordyn Tatum. **(Please note the change of date and time from previous announcements)**. Details on repertoire and performers in next newsletter.
4. **Annual AGOABQ Member Recital**, June 2026 [date TBA] at 3:00 p.m.\*

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

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

### Next Upcoming Event . . .

**January 11th, 2026, 3:00pm**, for **Bradley Hunter Welch** at **Cathedral of St. John**. Tickets and Info are available from <https://fcmabq.org/bradley-hunter-welch-recital/> Tickets are \$25. Students with current IDs are eligible for free admission.

Enjoy works by **Bach, Drischner, Dupré, Frederick Swann**, and **Aaron David Miller** in this afternoon organ recital. This concert is co-sponsored by the Albuquerque Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Hailed as “A world-class virtuoso” and “an expert at defining darks, lights, shadows and colors,” Bradley Hunter Welch is increasingly in demand as a recitalist, concerto soloist, and collaborative artist. A native of Knoxville, TN, Bradley holds the Doctor of Musical Arts, Master of Musical Arts, Master of Music degrees, and the Artist Diploma from Yale University where he studied with Thomas Murray and Martin Jean. He also holds the Bachelor of Music degree magna cum laude from Baylor University where he studied with Joyce Jones.

Dr. Welch is the 2003 First Place winner of the Dallas International Organ Competition and was also awarded the Audience Prize for the second time, having previously won it in 2000. He was Director of Music & Arts at Highland Park United Methodist Church in Dallas, TX from 2009 to 2014 and currently devotes his full-time attention to a thriving solo concert career.



*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](https://fcmabq.org)

**EPIPHANY PRAYER CONCERT**  
**THE ALBUQUERQUE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CHOIR**  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2026,  
AT 4:00 PM ~ 5:00 PM  
HOLY FAMILY CHURCH  
562 ATRISCO RD. S.W.



**Please join us in our prayer concert  
and listen to the birth of Christ in scripture!  
Join us in Sing-A-Long of Christmas Carols!**



**We are a non-profit organization.  
Our mission is to continue singing  
the beautiful musical treasures of the church.**

**We are in the Trusted Partners in Ministry (TPIM)  
within the Archdiocese of Santa Fe**



# In Remembrance

*Holocaust Cantata* by Donald McCullough

*Cello Suite No. 1 in G major* by J. S. Bach

arr. Sophie Webber

*Prayer* by Ernest Bloch

Sunday, February 1, 2026

3:00 PM

The Cathedral of St. John,  
Albuquerque

Polyphony: Voices of New Mexico  
Cantor Emerita Barbara R. Finn, narrator

Amy Huzjak, cello

Maxine Thévenot, piano



## FROM OUR CHAPTER SECRETARY . . .



**Susan Eberlein** will be presenting an organ recital featuring choral preludes and other favorites at **Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church**, 8600 Academy Rd. NE, Albuquerque at **2:30 pm on Sunday January 25**. Everyone is welcome.

<https://www.heightscpc.org/>

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## 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 5:30pm at First Presbyterian Church, Santa Fe**.

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

### January

- 2 — Luke Raffanti
- 9 — Saxophone Quartet with Peggy Abbot
- 16 — Mimi Tung
- 23 — Chancel Choir
- 30 — Sin Nombre Brass Quintet

### February

- 6 — Scott and Johanna Hongell-Darsee
- 13 — Black Mesa Brass Quintet
- 20 — Alicia Solomon, piano and Robi Mulford, violin
- 27 — Santa Fe Flute Choir

### March

- 6 — Roberta Rust, piano
- 13 — eSSO
- 20 — Bach's Birthday
- 27 — Pro Musica Preview





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](http://agoabq.org)

Facebook: [agoabq](#)

The deadline for submissions for the next newsletter due to be published for March / April 2026, will be **February 15, 2025**. Please email news, articles, or photos, upcoming events or reports, plus any other website items to the Editor, [Evelyn Henson](#), by February 15, 2025. Thank you.

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#### **AGO ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER**

*Secretary:* 14400 Soula Dr. NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87123