



JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2021

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**Deadline for the
March / April 2021
Newsletter is
February 15, 2021**



NOTES FROM THE DEAN



Greetings everyone!

I expect that you will be reading this on one of the twelve days of Christmas, but I am writing it on December 14th, during the heart of Advent. This particular day holds a sad distinction for my family; a few years ago, my grandmother passed away unexpectedly on December 14th after attending one of my university holiday concerts. Her death left us planning a funeral for the week before Christmas Eve, which presents somewhat of a musical dilemma. She had made some general selections for her service some years earlier, but we decided also to include a favorite Christmas carol, *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*.

Unlike most familiar Christmas carols, *Lo, How A Rose* bears neither the cosmic joy of *Angels We Have Heard on High* or *Joy to the World*, nor the sweet, tender manger scene of *O Little Town of the Bethlehem* or *What Child Is This*. *Lo, How A Rose* reminds those of us in the Christian tradition that, even as we “wait around,” experiencing the joy of the Incarnation with the “all in white” of *Once in Royal David's City*, we also wait with the people of the Old Testament, ever mindful of “the hopes and fears of all the years.”

A few weeks ago, I was planning my church's service for January 3rd and I selected *Lo, How a Rose*. The sentiment of verse 1 is especially contextual this particular Christmas. Our hymnal has a more modern text, but the older, familiar text brings the meaning home more sharply: “it came a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.” As we continue to endure the darkness of the global pandemic, I know that all of us are on the lookout for the “flow-rets,” the tiny glimmers of color and light that signify the end of this especially quiet, lonely time. I hope that by the time you are reading this some in our state will have already received the COVID-19 vaccine so that by Spring we can share some music in person.

In the meantime, I would invite you to join us on January 2nd at 7:00 p.m. for our Chapter “Holiday Party.” Last year's party was so graciously hosted by Edmund and Maxine, but this year's party will be hosted by everyone's new good friend, Zoom. If you would like to participate but aren't a “Zoom-er,” please email me (dean@agoabq.org) or phone me and we will help you participate in partnership with someone who more familiar with using Zoom. The highlight of the party will be sharing our favorite holiday musical moments via YouTube,

along with accompanying anecdotes. I trust that most of the stories will be jollier than this story about my Grandmother, but surely just as meaningful. I am choosing “Word of the Father” from David Willcocks’ *O Come, All Ye Faithful*. I hope you enjoy thinking and researching your own choice for the meeting.



Wishing you the most joyous holidays and a peaceful and prosperous winter.

Jeremy Wirths, Dean

ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER PROGRAM EVENT REPORT: COMMISSIONED VIDEO AND DISCUSSION NOVEMBER 20, 2020

As Mohammed could not go the mountain, why not bring the mountain to Mohammed?

In an earlier Zoom discussion of possible programming during these Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, it was clear it was hard to have public programs and we should explore some options for online events. Several members noted that besides the many fine organ performances on YouTube, some of the most interesting to us organ aficionados, included tours of instruments that we may never see in person. Through the miracle of the use of technology, we felt we could request a behind the scenes tour of some recently built or significantly rebuilt organ of interest.

With that in mind the chapter contacted the musicians of St. John’s Episcopal Church, Tulsa, OK, about the church’s 2018 installation of a new Schoenstein organ, Opus 173.

The completed commissioned video was shared with the membership in November and members were invited to a Zoom discussion of the video on November 20.

That Friday a group of seven members shared our reflections on the video, which consisted of a presentation of the history of organs at St. John’s, the choice of builder and process of making choices against budget constraints, a tour of the different stops and combinations, a look at the organ chamber and façade, and finally a short concert demonstration. Our tour guides were Joseph Arndt, Music Director, and Adam Pajan, artist-in-residence.

All agreed that the video presentation was well done, the tour interesting, and the repertoire chosen well played. However, though repertoire chosen demonstrated organ’s strengths, it could have shown more of the extremes of the instrument for our educational purposes. It also might have been interesting to have a Zoom question and answer session with them on some the questions we tried to answer for each other during our session.

The presentation engendered a discussion of the daunting task of choosing a new instrument, as well as some of our own experiences. This included overseeing renovations of instruments in the past and the use of electronic enhancements to pipe organs. In addition, members at the meeting continued to share ongoing challenges to making music, and recent experiences -- even humorous -- during these challenging times.

Contributed by Chapter member Jerry Nelson

This video may still be viewed on the [Photo/Video Gallery](#) page of our website.

AUGUST JOHN HUYBRECHTS: (FORMER CHAPTER MEMBER)

August John Huybrechts, aged 99, passed away peacefully on Sunday, April 19, 2020, at his home in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He was born in Stabroek, Belgium on Sunday, October 31, 1920, the youngest of seven children of Arthur and Elisa Huybrechts. August was an organist, pianist, composer, and music professor, receiving his first music lessons at age 5 from his father, Arthur Huybrechts. At age 14, August was appointed organist at the Catholic church in Stabroek. He went on to study organ and graduated in 1941 with honors from the famed Lemmens Institute in Mechelen, Belgium. August married Louise Janssens in Stabroek in 1947. In 1952, August and Louise immigrated with their two small sons to the United States where he became organist and choirmaster, as well as piano and organ teacher in Petoskey, Michigan. After becoming an American citizen in 1963, August went on to win the J. Fischer & Brothers Centennial Prize for composition in 1964 for his Mass in Honor of St. Francis. He also taught organ for several years at the Interlochen Arts Academy in Interlochen, Michigan. One of August's proudest career accomplishments was performing the Mozart Piano Concerto no. 21 with the Grand Rapids Philharmonic Orchestra in 1979.

Over his 85+ year career, August educated hundreds of aspiring pianists and organists. At St. Francis Xavier Church in Petoskey he played the organ for countless masses, scores of weddings and other services until he "retired" in 1982, when he and Louise moved to Albuquerque. For many years after "retirement" he was organist and choir director at **Our Lady of Assumption Catholic Church in Albuquerque**. He continued to teach a few piano students into his 90s.

August was a loving, dedicated husband, father, and grandfather, talented musician and composer, and tireless and patient teacher. He spoke at least four languages and could write both right-and left-handed. He loved knowing how the weather was (everywhere) and, until shortly before his decline, he never had a day without a cookie or something sweet. His stories about life in Belgium during WWII are remarkable and have been transcribed.

A Mass and Celebration of August's Life will be held in Albuquerque after COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

<https://www.frenchfunerals.com/obituary/August-Huybrechts>

USEFUL CHAPTER EMAILS

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Pass it on:

Holtkamp "Martini" pipe organ – for sale – Lincoln NM

<https://agoabq.org/membership/instruments-available/>

ARE YOU MISSING OUT ON A DAILY DOSE OF FABULOUS ORGAN PERFORMANCES?

Feel the need to continue your education about organs? Does the pandemic period mean you have more time to explore your favorite instrument?

Well, perhaps you don't know just what an enormous amount of information and fun stuff is available on the *Pipedreams* website. You can search Michael Barone's weekly broadcast recordings by title, composer or performer. But that's just the entrée. There are so many other courses:

The organ photo gallery can take you to organs all over the world: study the specs, see photos, read about the organ builder: <https://www.pipedreams.org/page/organ-gallery>

A listener's guide to how a pipe organ works: <https://www.pipedreams.org/page/how-a-pipe-organ-works>

Organ music for good listening: <https://www.pipedreams.org/story/1997/12/09/picks>

The world's most complete encyclopedia of organ stops: <http://www.organstops.org/>

Bach's Art of the Fugue: <https://pipedreams.publicradio.org/articles/artoffugue/>

For lots of info and tidbits about organists, composers and more, see "Personalities and the Organ Culture" <https://www.pipedreams.org/page/resources>

Explore African-American composers: <https://pipedreams.publicradio.org/articles/africanamericancomposers.shtml>

or the organs of Oaxaca, Mexico: https://pipedreams.publicradio.org/articles/oaxacan_holiday/oaxaca.shtml

or subscribe to the Pipedreams newsletter: https://cloud.connect.americanpublicmedia.org/pipedreams_subscribe

or, perhaps you haven't realized that you've always wanted to know about the Cavallé-Coll organs in Chile: <http://www.clr.cl/Articulos/Spanish-Art-Cavaille-Coll.Htm>

This is the tip of the iceberg! The Pipedreams website resources are truly astonishing in their breadth, not to mention engrossing and amusing. And completely free.

Contributed by Pamela McClain, Chapter Secretary

BRUSH UP YOUR HANDEL! START STUDYING HIM NOW.

BRUSH UP YOUR HANDEL! FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR KNOW-HOW!

(thanks to *Kiss Me Kate*) Getting bored with your same-old same-old? Want to invigorate your left brain? Try these composer documentaries on YouTube:

The Great Composers Part I: Josquin, Vivaldi, Handel, Haydn
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2cNWxU1qd18>

The Great Composers Part 2 - Bach, Scarlatti, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DA17moRjJ4k>

The Great Composers Part 3 - Berlioz, Chopin, Schumann, Liszt, Wagner, Brahms

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bRGAmWCuWb4>

BBC Great Composers: hour long programs

Gershwin: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FHmu7tUhRVA>

Contributed by **Pamela McClain**, Chapter Secretary

SOUTHWEST ARTS 2020–2021 ‘CONCERTS ON THE COUCH’ SEASON

SAT | JAN 16 | 7 PM | [TICKETS](#)

***Ain't No Sunshine*: cellist Jacob Barker**

Classically trained cellist Jacob Barker will perform classical and modern soulful songs by BIPOC artists, such as Bill Withers and Bob Marley, in a program about liberation.

SAT | FEB 27 | 7 PM | [TICKETS](#)

ElectroBach and MeghanDiego

The violin-guitar duo MeghanDiego will perform a fusion of electronic music with works by J.S. Bach. Two special soloists will join them: baritone Gabriel Frongillo, and soprano Melanie Holm.

TGIF CONCERT SERIES

First Presbyterian Church, Santa Fe, is still keeping their Friday evening concert series with a ten-minute recording, available each Friday evening on their YouTube Channel.

(<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrvRLNqsRHuAAndkUgCzEtQ>).

Their concert for January 1, 2021 will be performed by Kristin Ditlow, piano and spouse, “*Music for Christmas*.” It will be available on YouTube from 5:30pm that day.

Future concerts for January and February

8 Robert Krupnick, piano Chopin Nocturnes

15 Stephan Nordstrom, viola and Dominic Dousa, piano

22 Chancel Choir

29 Kathleen Echols, soprano and Lydia Madrick, piano

5 Scott and Johanna Hongill-Darsee: Medieval Ballads

12 Melissa Montoya, soprano and Ronaldo Baca, piano- Spanish song cycle *Mi Jardin Solitario* by Lorenzo Palomo.



Contact Us

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HAVE YOU SEEN THE CHAPTER WEBSITE LATELY?

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 148 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 March and April, will be **February 15, 2021**. 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

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