



**MARCH / APRIL 2021**

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***Deadline for the  
May/June 2021  
Newsletter is  
April 15, 2021***



**NOTES FROM THE DEAN**



Greetings everyone!

On Ash Wednesday I had an experience that reflected how much my perspective has changed during COVID-19. My church elected to distribute ashes in a small service outdoors, but people were allowed to enter into the church after receiving ashes for a period of private prayer and reflection. I was asked to play appropriate music for one hour. The music I played was not especially elaborate, but I did have to put together 60 minutes of repertoire and make sure it was prepared and registered.

When it came time to begin playing only two people had entered the church. I watched throughout the hour and there were never more than ten people. Before COVID-19, I would probably have found the situation a little annoying. I spent time gathering and preparing all this music only to play it for such a tiny gathering.

But, during a global pandemic everything is different. Playing an hour of music live, in person, for live people, also in person, was truly a thrill. By the time the hour ended, rather than feeling annoyed, I found myself continuing to play until the very last few people had left several minutes later.

For me, this served as a reminder of the privilege of performance. For the remainder of my life, I know that I will not take for granted the opportunity to attend an opera or a symphony concert or an organ recital. Being forced to make music in isolation has reminded me again and again of the gift of sharing music together in community.

Which provides a convenient segue...Please join us for our next gathering on Zoom which will be **Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.** For the “program” of the event, we invite you to play a piece or excerpt that you would like to share, five minutes or less. You can either record the piece in advance on an organ or play it live at home on your piano or organ. We will hear the different pieces and take a few moments to discuss each one. All of our Zoom gatherings have been fun and enriching and I promise you that you will enjoy this one. You will receive an email before the event with the Zoom information. If you don't receive email please call one of the officers to find out how to participate.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our holiday Zoom party. The event was a great success. People shared many favorite pieces and Fred Frahm shared some of his compositions which, of course, are wonderful. Many people contributed to the party's success and everyone deserves thanks and appreciation.

The Executive Committee is holding out hope that we may have an in-person gathering in May or June to close out the season. If not, we can all look forward to a full season of programming, in person, for 2021-2022.

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

*Jeremy Wirths, Dean*

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## **KALEIDOSCOPE OF COLORS, A FESTIVAL OF PIPES**

**The Organ Historical Society** is embarking on an ambitious virtual convention for our members and everyone around the globe who long to hear outstanding pipe organ music played on some of the country's finest instruments.

**Kaleidoscope of Colors** will feature ten instruments from across the country, played by organists who know the instrument well and can demonstrate its tonal variety. Each 30-minute recital includes a brief history of the recital organ, a review of its stop list and an introduction to the repertoire. On five Sunday evenings in August, viewers will be treated to an hour of glorious music in venues that would be impossible to achieve at one in-person convention. Additionally, five more instruments will be featured during a hymn sing for viewers to participate, as well as a newly commissioned set of variations on the hymn tune *Nettleton* by American composer Kurt Knecht.

**The 2-manual 1885 George Kilgen instrument at Our Lady of Sorrows RC Church, Las Vegas, NM has been selected by the Task Force to be featured for the hymn sing portion of the Kaleidoscope of Colors, A Festival of Pipes.**

This Festival of Pipes features a wide range of instruments spanning over three centuries of construction. From the smallest 1-manual to a massive 5-manual tour-de-force, diversity of instruments, diversity of repertoire and diversity of performers are hallmarks of **Kaleidoscope of Colors**. Our focus is to promote the pipe organ, its storied history, and its relevance in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We believe this is an excellent vehicle to educate the public about the pipe organ. The OHS anticipates that well over 5000 viewers will tune in on any one of the five evenings.

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## **USEFUL CHAPTER EMAILS**

**Dean:** Jeremy Wirths – [dean@agoabq.org](mailto:dean@agoabq.org)

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WASHINGTON—Acknowledging that it would be painful for many Americans to cancel their plans for the cherished national tradition, Dr. Anthony Fauci warned the public Friday against holding any large-scale celebrations commemorating the historic February release of Johann Sebastian Bach’s 1708 cantata “Gott Ist Mein König.” “Look, folks, I know that many of us were hoping that we could gather in our frock coats alongside our loved ones and friends to pay tribute to Bach’s inimitable baroque cantata, but this year that’s just not in the cards,” said the NIAID director, adding that while he felt the country’s pain at losing the chance to revel in the rich history of the 18th-century composer’s festive instrumental, he still strongly recommended against gathering the full orchestra of 3 trumpets, timpani, 2 recorders, 2 oboes, a bassoon, viola da gamba, and a continuo in an indoor setting due to coronavirus concerns.

“Some of my fondest memories come from gathering every February with my mother and father and listening to Bach’s majestic pre-Neumeister rendering of the cantatas form, and I’m sure millions of you feel the same way. With that said, if you are going to gather, please keep any performances to a quartet. Frankly, though I would recommend just putting your white powdered wigs and knee breeches back into storage, enjoying a pipe organ recital, and maybe reading Johann Heermann’s hymn ‘O Gott, du frommer Gott’ around the dinner table with your close family. I’m sorry, but that’s just where we are at the moment.” At press time, Fauci was strongly urging Americans to consider safety concerns before giving into the temptation to travel back to Bach’s birthplace of Eisenach, Germany.

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## 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> ).

### March 2021

5 — David Solem, piano — Mozart, Piano Sonata in a minor, K. 310

12 — Kathleen Echols, soprano, and Lydia Madrick, piano — opera arias

19 — Linda Raney, Organ — Bach’s Birthday

26 — Michael Brazile, harpsichord — Bach, from French Suite in Eb, BWV 815

### April 2021

2 Good Friday, Chancel Choir

9 Michael Tortorella, piano – Grieg, Sonata op. 7 and Scriabin, Sonata no. 5

16 Chancel Bell Choir

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## REPORT OF JANUARY 2 HOLIDAY ZOOM PARTY FOR THE CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

Fourteen Chapter members attended our January 2nd Holiday Party. An excellent turnout! We spent a great deal of effort attracting the membership, with emails, a notice in the newsletter, Jacquie Lawson cards and personal phone calls. Thanks to **Doug Parsons**, **Douglas Bailey** and, especially, to **Evelyn Henson** for their help.

Our shtick for the evening was to share holiday music that meant something to us and contribute an anecdote about that music. What an eclectic collection of recordings we heard! **Jerry Nelson** himself performed a version of Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland, written by a court musician of the Warsaw court in the 17th century, Paul Siefert. **Dean Jeremy Wirths** contributed a gorgeous Howells version of A Spotless Rose from King's College. **Gloria Robinson** played the Las Posadas song Vamos a Belen on her home organ while we sang (muted). **Patricia** contributed Sir Christmas by William Matthias, performed by an IU Sacred Music Intensive Course choir she sang with. **Fred Frahm** presented his own setting of Morning Star and talked with his usual insouciance about the score (which we could see) and the performance; the St. Luke Casavant was used in the recording.

**Fred Graham** described a poignant memory from his years in Boston, of visiting the statue of the writer of O Little Town of Bethlehem which stands at Trinity Church in Copley Square. That writer was Phillips Brooks, who spearheaded the building of the magnificent church. This anecdote turned out to be a perfect introduction to a recording by **Nancy Granert** (not in attendance) of James Woodman's In dulci jubilo, which Fred told us was composed for her; she played it to a standing-room-only crowd on New Year's Eve at Trinity Church. I contributed the original piano version of Percy Grainger's The Sussex Mummer's Christmas Carol, played by a Grainger specialist from Australia, with the score running on the screen. **Evelyn Henson** contributed the Gerald Finley version of Three Kings from Persian Lands Afar, composed by Peter Cornelius, with the chorale of Wie schön leuchtet die Morgenstern sung beneath the winding solo.

**Jim Rasmussen** sent his regrets and a link to a recording of Sommeil de l'enfant Jesus (Sleep of the Infant Jesus). "This sublimely beautiful work for violin, harp, and organ, composed by the late Romantic French composer Henri Büsser in 1896, has been offered at St. Bartholomew's Church [New York] each Christmastide for over 100 years."

Also present were **John Vaughan**, **John Homko**, **Douglas Bailey**, **Beverly Simmons** and **Tony Carson**. We finished with a great laugh as **Tom Seamon** played, from his Swedish-American childhood, a jolly recording of Yorg Yorgesson singing a droll song called *I Yust Go Nuts at Christmas*.

*Pamela McClain, Secretary*

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## UNM COMPOSERS' ARCHIVE

It's always fun to find free music scores. You all know about IMSLP already and its limitless treasures. Did you know that the University of New Mexico has an archival section of the library that will get you some free organ music? This is because the New Mexico Composer's archive is contained here:

[https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nm\\_composer\\_archive/](https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nm_composer_archive/)

“The New Mexico Composers' Archive was initiated in 1973 by Dr. John Harvey, then the Dean of Libraries at the University of New Mexico, as an effort to collect primary source materials for the active research faculty and graduate students in the Department of Music. The archive’s mission was to acquire original materials from composers who have had important connections with the University or the State of New Mexico, and who have contributed significantly to our culture. The archive was accumulated with the expectation that future generations will be able to learn something of composition in “our” time and perhaps gain a better understanding of composition in their own time.

The New Mexico Composers’ Archive contains original and published music manuscripts, as well as programs and sound recordings of performances. Also included are articles and newspaper clippings, photographs, typed and handwritten notes, and correspondence, as well as documents used by organizations in the New Mexico music and arts community. Significant contributors include Joseph W. Grant, Elliott Higgins, Scott Lakin Jones, Ramon Noble, William E. Rhoads, Alan Stringer, Isabelle Weimer, Scott Wilkinson, and Michael Mauldin.”

The archive contains materials from 1914 to 2014.

Check out “*Somnolent Variations*,” a whimsical organ piece by Alan Stringer

[https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1079&context=nm\\_composer\\_archive](https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1079&context=nm_composer_archive)

Do you teach piano lessons? Michael Mauldin wrote *Southwest Scenes* in 1997 for his intermediate piano students:

[https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1634&context=nm\\_composer\\_archive](https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1634&context=nm_composer_archive)

Here is the link to what I believe is the entire organ music collection that is digitalized in the New Mexico Composers Archive, with 40 results:

[https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/do/search/advanced/?q=publication\\_title%3A\(%20New%20Mexico%20Composers%27%20Archive%20\)%20AND%20subject%3Aorgan&start=0&context=8211305&sort=score&facet=](https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/do/search/advanced/?q=publication_title%3A(%20New%20Mexico%20Composers%27%20Archive%20)%20AND%20subject%3Aorgan&start=0&context=8211305&sort=score&facet=)

***Pamela McClain, Secretary***

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## **MOVIES FEATURING THE ORGAN AVAILABLE FOR FREE VIEWING**

Church Organ at the Movies: themes and such from popular movies

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VcI9oCNyfkM>

## **THE ORGAN AT SILENT MOVIES: WHAT A GOLDEN ERA!**

(stay tuned to the May-June newsletter for more links to silent films)

Silent Film "The Cheat" with Organ accompaniment by Paul Morris at Crediton Congregational Church

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aSPN-nsq5NU>

Silent Movie Theatre Organ -Love Rides the Rails-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kNMqIBVp3iE>



### *Contact Us*

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### **HAVE YOU SEEN THE CHAPTER WEBSITE LATELY?**

Please notify the webmaster ([editor@agoabq.org](mailto: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 **April 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](mailto:editor@agoabq.org)

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