



MAY / JUNE 2024



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*Deadline for the July /
August Newsletter is June
15, 2024*

NOTES FROM THE DEAN

Dear Friends,

Earlier this year the Executive Committee had a conversation about more outreach to churches in the area, wondering if we could actually help in some way by having a program in one of our local churches. Soon an opportunity presented itself, so this year, our Members's Recital will benefit St. Mark's Church, whose congregation is exploring options for a new instrument. There will be no tickets, but there will be an opportunity to make a donation to their organ project. The recital will be on **May 19 at 3:00 at St. Mark's**. We have a varied program of Romantic and Contemporary music. Our performers will include Kevin Newman, Jeremy Wirths, Greg Hassold, John Homko, James Yeager, Nathan Cleaveland, and me.

Our final program for this season will be an **Improvisation Workshop** given by our own member, **James Yeager**. I point you to James's announcement of this event elsewhere in this Newsletter (*page 4*).

Our Chapter continues its support of the **Reuter Organ Festival** at the Cathedral Church of Saint John this summer. We will be treated to another amazing group of artists this summer, including Raúl Prieto Ramírez, Käthe Wright Kaufman, Polyphony-Voices of New Mexico, and Stephen Tharp. Tickets are required and are available through Friends of Cathedral Music.

Please watch your email in the coming weeks for our Chapter election ballot!!

With blessings to all,

Nancy (Granert), Dean

USEFUL CHAPTER EMAILS

Dean: [Nancy Granert](#)

Treasurer: [John Homko](#)

Newsletter/Webmaster:

[Evelyn Henson](#)

2024 ELECTION INFO

Candidates for election 2024

Proposed Officers: Dr. Jeremy Wirths, Dean 2024

Dr. Jeremy Wirths is *Director of Music and Organist* at **St. Mark's Episcopal Church** in Albuquerque, a position he has held since 2021. He previously served in the same roles at St. Paul Lutheran Church, also in Albuquerque. He practices family law as an associate attorney at Atkinson & Kelsey P.A. and is Director of the University of New Mexico University Chorus. Prior to relocating to New Mexico, he served as Director of Music at St. Monica Parish and School in Dallas, Texas. During his tenure at St. Monica the parish installed a large new instrument (IV/71) built by Nichols & Simpson Organbuilders. Jeremy holds a number of degrees, including a DMA in choral conducting from the University of North Texas and a Master's Degree in Organ Performance from Emory University. His organ teachers included Jesse Eschbach, Timothy Albrecht, James Higdon, and Martin Jean. Jeremy has held a number of leadership roles in the AGO, including a past term as Dean of the Albuquerque-Santa Fe Chapter.

Proposed re-election: Dr. Susan Eberlein, Secretary 2024-2026

Dr. Susan Eberlein has a B.A. in music, with organ as her principal instrument. Although she spent her formal career as a scientist, she has always been involved in church music. She is currently *organist* at **Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church** and has served as secretary of the Albuquerque chapter of the AGO for two years.

Proposed re-election: John Homko, Treasurer 2024-2026

Mr. John Homko is retired from a career in electrical engineering and computer software and enjoys musical activities as a hobby. He has served as treasurer of the Albuquerque AGO chapter since July 2018, and looks forward to continuing in that capacity for another two-year term.

Members at Large of the Executive Committee

Proposed re-election: Ms. Pauleta Hendrickson, 2024-2027

Ms. Pauleta Hendrickson is currently the *Director of the High Holy Days choir* at **Congregation Albert Synagogue** after having recently served as the Minister of Music at St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, both in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She has a passion for interfaith and inter-generational musical collaborations. She has served on the AGO board for the past few years and is eager to see new and exciting things start to happen. She is a decorated Air Force veteran and military spouse of Sean Hendrickson. Together, they have two adult children and, currently, an empty nest. When not directing choirs, you can find her between the pages of a book (or three), in the garden, gaming, or stitching while watching foreign detective shows.

Proposed election: Ms. Lana Zoltowski, 2024- 2027

Ms Lana Zoltowski was born and educated in Moscow, Russia. After completion of studies at the piano faculty of Moscow Conservatory Musical College, Ms Zoltowski pursued Master's Degree at the Russian Academy of Music (The Gnessins'). She studied organ under the guidance of professor Alexander V. Fiseisky. Her professional qualifications include *concert pianist, soloist of chamber ensemble, organist* etc.

Two decades ago, Ms Zoltowski moved to the United States to start a family with her husband Frank, an optical engineer and an accomplished amateur astronomer. Since then, Ms Zoltowski worked as an *organist* at different churches of Albuquerque, including Christian Science, Monte Vista Christian church and First Presbyterian. She joined AGO in 2006, and in 2009/10, she briefly served as a member of the executive Committee. Presently, Ms Zoltowski resides in the East Mountains with her family.

Proposed Executive Committee 2024 - 2025

Officers:

Jeremy Wirths, Dean
Susan Eberlein, Secretary
John Homko, Treasurer

Members at large

Lois Engelkes 2025
Kevin Newman 2025

Stephen Montoya 2026
Margaret-Mary Sauppé 2026

Pauleta Hendrickson 2027
Lana Zoltowski 2027

Voting Process – Evelyn Henson

This May/June Newsletter should arrive in your email Inboxes by May 1. The Voting Ballot should arrive in Inboxes a week later, by May 8. If you wish to vote for all the proposed candidates, please just write “Yes to all,” and then hit the “**Reply To All**” button which will return your vote both to me and Susan Eberlein, our current secretary. We will count the votes for the record. If you only wish to vote for some candidates, please write “Yes” or “No” against individual names and hit “**Reply To All**” to return your vote to both of us for counting. Thank you! Members without email addresses will receive their newsletter and ballot paper together in the mail. Please return those mailed ballot papers by mail or by hand to Susan Eberlein, our secretary. The last day for counting votes will be **Memorial Day**. Please vote early. Thanks.

JOB VACANT - ST. JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

St. John's United Methodist Church in Albuquerque seeks a **full-time Assistant Music Director**. This position combines administrative duties with music teaching and worship leading. Applicants should have a minimum of a bachelor's degree in music (education or performance preferred). An ideal candidate will have keyboard proficiency, experience working with children and youth, good vocal technique, conducting experience, and strong administrative skills. This is a full-time position with benefits. Send an email of interest with résumé and references to Matthew Greer at mgreer@stjohns-abq.org. Application deadline is June 1. <https://www.musicatstjohns.org/getinvolved> **Matthew Greer**, Director of Music and Worship Ministries, St. John's United Methodist Church, 2626 Arizona Street NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110

MUSIC AT ST. JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, ALBUQUERQUE



"Music at St. John's" is excited to present **Lyyra**, the newest professional vocal ensemble from the *VOCES8 Foundation*, in concert. The only professional six-voice women's a cappella group in the US, Lyyra was created to build support and visibility for upper voices and their potential. With a broad texture and exhilarating range of sound, the group's members specialize in classical, jazz, pop, and folk music from diverse traditions and backgrounds. Join us as we welcome Lyyra on their premiere US tour, **Thursday, May 23 at 7 PM** at St. John's United Methodist Church. Tickets at musicatstjohns.org.

IMPROVISATION—GENTLE AND JOYOUS WORKSHOP



led by Dr. James A. Yeager

Saturday, June 15, 2024, 10 a.m. [two hours]

Faith Lutheran Church 10000 Spain Road NE, Albuquerque NM 87111

James Yeager studied at Union Theological Seminary with Searle Wright and Alec Wyton. He studied composition there with Joseph Goodman as a master's student in theory and composition. He received his D.M.A. in organ at the University of Colorado, Boulder. While on a faculty sabbatical leave, he studied with Dr. Naji Hakim with lessons on improvisation at the organ of *Église de la Sainte-Trinité* in Paris. Regular improvisation in church services continues to be a joy.

He is currently enjoying retirement after 25 years as Professor and Music Director at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Ohio, and 12 years as Music Director at First Presbyterian in Albuquerque. He continues teaching organ privately. Otherwise, he devotes time to composition.

The path to improvising music begins in the same way we study and learn composed music. It begins with the simple desire to play music. It is a truism to say that we gain musical skill by practice. Some musicians think the skill of improvisation must be innate or a natural gift. One could say the same of learning any composition. Both require some innate ability plus hard work. The steps to improvisation can, however, be gentle and joyous, rather than arduous and anxious. The first step requires musical imagination and desire. A single class or short workshop on improvisation may not create an accomplished improviser, yet it may open a path to achieve confidence to extemporize.

Most musicians routinely play conventional scales. Many of us can harmonize a scale or even a melody. Some of us can even invent a scale by experimenting with alteration of notes. Melody and harmony are the stuff of music, composed and improvised. We can begin with elemental building blocks, creating a scale, a melody, and harmonizing. From this point we have broken the first barrier to replacing anxiety with joy and making an arduous idea become gentle. The two-hour workshop aims to give participants some know-how, some building blocks and, moreover, even embolden the beginner past the fear of the idea of improvisation.

Participants should bring a music notebook to sketch ideas (or at least a note pad).

Friends of Cathedral Music Presents

Thursday, May 9, 2024 | 7:00 PM



THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION

Join us for this holy liturgy featuring poetry, music, and readings from the Bible.

Sung by the Cathedral Choir.



I came from the Father and have come into the world; again, I am leaving the world and am going to the Father." John 16:28

Solo Organ Recital

Wednesday, May 15
NOON
St. Francis Auditorium
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Performing works by Bourgeois, Buxtehude, Cabena, de la Guerre, Hampton, Laurin, and Mulet



www.maxinethevenot.com

Friends of Cathedral Music

Episcopal Cathedral of St. John, Albuquerque, NM



CHASQUI QUARTET

June 16, 2024 | 3:00 PM

July 7-14, 2024

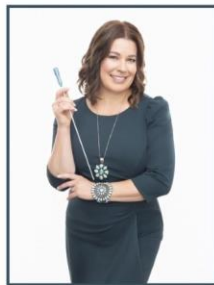
4TH ANNUAL REUTER ORGAN FESTIVAL



July 7, 2024 | 3:00 PM
Raúl Prieto Ramírez



July 9, 2024 | 7:00 PM
Käthe Wright Kaufman



July 12, 2024 | 7:00 PM
POLYPHONY:
Voices of New Mexico
Stephen Tharp, organist
Maxine Thévenot, conductor



July 14, 2024 | 3:00 PM
Stephen Tharp

4TH ANNUAL REUTER ORGAN FESTIVAL – JULY 7 – 14, 2024



Raúl Prieto Ramírez

July 7, 2024 / 3:00 PM

“The powerful personality, passionate expressiveness, gift for communication, and outstanding technique of Spanish organist Raúl Prieto Ramírez make him shine in a wide range of repertoire and styles.” (Los Angeles Philharmonic)

With words such as “sizzling”, iconoclastic”, “impeccable”, and “transcendent” used to describe his performances, Raúl Prieto Ramírez is the first Spanish organist in recent times to establish himself among the elite of the international pipe organ scene.

[Tickets](#)



Käthe Wright Kaufman

July 9, 2024 / 7:00 PM

Käthe Wright Kaufman is the Associate Director of Music and Worship Arts at Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church in Atlanta, Georgia, where she serves as principal keyboardist and accompanist for services, oversees maintenance of the 1982 Casavant Frères organ, and aids the Director of Music and Worship Arts in shaping and supporting a vibrant worship and music program.

[Tickets](#)



Stephen Tharp

July 14, 2024 / 3:00 PM

“Stephen Tharp plays as if the music were in his life-blood: musical, spacious, accurate, persuasive, convincing.” –Organists’ Review

Stephen Tharp, hailed as “the organist for the connoisseur” (organ – *Journal für die Orgel*, Germany), “the thinking person’s performer” (Het Orgel), “every bit the equal of any organist” (*The American Organist Magazine*) and “the consummate creative artist” (Michael Barone, *Pipedreams*), is recognized as one of the great concert

organists of our age.

Having played more than 1600 concerts across more than 60 tours worldwide, Stephen Tharp has built one of the most well-respected international careers in the world, earning him the reputation as the most traveled concert organist of his generation. He is listed in Who’s Who in America and Who’s Who in the World, and has been given the 2011 International Performer of the Year Award by the New York City chapter of the American Guild of Organists. In May 2015, he was given the Paul Creston Award which recognizes artistic excellence by a significant figure in church music and the performing arts.

[Tickets](#)

4TH ANNUAL REUTER ORGAN FESTIVAL



JAMES MACMILLIAN'S
**CANTOS
SAGRADOS**
AND OTHER CHORAL WORKS



PERFORMED BY POLYPHONY:
VOICES OF NEW MEXICO
IN COLLABORATION WITH
ORGANIST, STEPHEN THARP

FRIDAY, JULY 12, 2024
7:00 PM

Tickets at fcmabq.org ←

[Tickets](#)

TGIF CONCERTS – FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SANTA FE

Thank **Goodness It's Friday!** (*Masks are optional.*)

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.

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

May

- 3 — Daniel Schwab, clarinet
- 10 — High Desert Harp Ensemble
- 17 — First Presbyterian Church Bell Choir
- 24 — Greg Dufford, clarinet, and Peggy Lyon, piano
- 31 — Folias Duo, flute and guitar

June

- 7 — Geoffrey Schepps, cello, and Edwin Light, piano
- 14 — eternal Summer Symphony Orchestra
- 21 — Kiyoshi Tamaga, piano
- 28 — Travis Bregier, baritone, and David Beatty, piano

July

- 5 — Amy Rohr, soprano
- 12 — Charlotte Rowe, piano
- 19 — André Garcia-Nuthmann, tenor, and John Wolf, piano
- 26 — Kimberly Marshall

(REMINDER) URGENT - NEW HQ DUES POLICY. DON'T BE LATE IN PAYING!

The AGO national office has implemented a new policy concerning dues payment and their due date. As of now, there is **NO GRACE PERIOD** after the due date of your renewal. Memberships renew at the beginning of each month of the year, based on the member's date of joining the AGO or on July 1st, if the member was a member in 2014, when the ONCARD database system became effective.

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 July 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 with every renewal date during the year. The AGO accepts payments by both credit cards and personal check.

You can pay your dues by credit card in two ways. First, you can go online into your ONCARD account, select RENEW DUES AND SUBSCRIPTION, and follow the prompts (you will be asked to confirm / update your membership profile). You can print a copy of the invoice and/or receipt (after the payment is processed). Second, you can call the AGO office at 1-212-870-2310 and pay your dues with a credit card over the phone. AGO staff can also help you with any ONCARD problem. **There will be a new computer system soon which requires all members to have an email address.**



Contact Us

AGO Albuquerque Chapter

14400 Soula Dr. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87123

Find us online at:

Website: agoabq.org

Facebook: [agoabq](https://www.facebook.com/agoabq)

AGO ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER

Secretary: 14400 Soula Dr. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87123

HAVE YOU USED THE CHAPTER WEBSITE LATELY?

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 360 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 July and August 2024, will be **June 15, 2024**. Please email news, articles, or photos, upcoming events or reports, plus any other website items to the Editor, [Evelyn Henson](#), by June 15, 2024.

