

Neumesletter*

Summer 2025 Edition

Música Antigua de Albuquerque



* Neumes: the musical signs used in chant notation.

Our 2025-26 Season



1. Get a Life!

We will kick off our season with a fun concert about work and play in daily life during the Middle Ages and Renaissance, from the drudgery

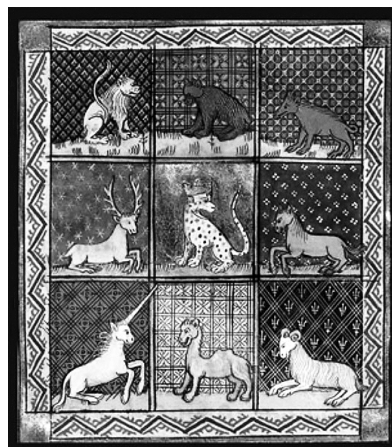
of daily chores to the pleasure of leisure activities. There was no end to the number of tasks that had to be done, but people still seemed to be able to find time for rest and relaxation.

2. Drive the Cold Winter Away

Our Christmas concerts will feature both medieval and Renaissance works, with selections from various countries. The concert title comes from an anonymous country dance that was published in John Playford's *English Dancing Master*. Its tune also existed as a Christmas song, with lyrics extolling the season as a time for carols, mirth and good cheer. To supplement the musical part of our program, Kathy Wimmer will be returning to read selections from period literature.



3. Creatures Great and Small

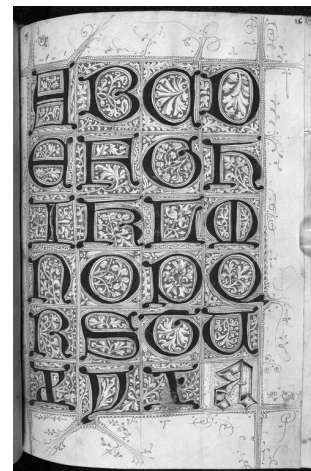


Our third program will be a medieval and Renaissance bestiary that will include music about various animals, birds, insects and other creatures, as well as some mythical ones found only in legends. Among the most famous of these fantastical beasts were the dragon and the unicorn, but there will be appearances by lots

of real-life creatures large and small, like lions, horses, dogs, birds, and one of the most despised of all—the pesky flea.

4. Alphabet Soup

The final concert of our season has a whimsical theme that will feature works by composers whose names start with the different letters of the alphabet. Those Q, X & Z names will require a little more research for sure, but we guarantee you we'll find a composer for each letter! And we'll probably throw in a couple of works by that most ubiquitous of all medieval and Renaissance composers, the very prolific "Anonymous."



Our Newest Member



This past year, we were joined by tenor Curtis Storm, and he has proved to be a wonderful addition to Música Antigua! Born in the metro-Detroit area, he holds degrees in music education and voice performance from Rochester

Christian University and UNM. Since moving to the Southwest he has been a featured soloist in performances with the New Mexico Philharmonic, San Juan Symphony, and Rock Rock Strings. He has also sung extensively with a number of choral ensembles, including Ensemble Music New Mexico, Quintessence, and Polyphony. Curtis is also frequently involved in opera and has performed with Opera Southwest, the Santa Fe Opera, and independent productions. He is a co-founder and administrator of Opera on Tap New Mexico, a local non-profit venture in which he organizes performances of opera and classical voice repertoire in bars and breweries with the mission of expanding the accessibility of the art form for people not normally exposed to it.

FAQ's

Here are some questions that we have been asked at our concerts. For our audience members who might have had the same questions, but maybe were too shy to ask, we offer here some answers.

Q. Do you play from original manuscripts?

A. Not usually. We would rather play from music that has been transcribed into modern notation, and for that we owe a debt of gratitude to the many musicologists in the field of early music. We occasionally have made transcriptions ourselves from original sources.

Q. Where do you get your music?

A. When we first started as a group, we found most of our music at the UNM Fine Arts Library, and some from other university libraries. More and more music is now available on the web.

Q. Do you play on original instruments?

A. No. Any actual period instruments that have survived are not in playable condition today and are generally found in museums. MAA plays on modern replicas.

Q. Where do you get your instruments?

A. There are many makers of quality early instruments around the world these days, thanks to the 20th-century early music revival. We have bought most of our instruments, but others have been donated by members of the early music community. Several of our instruments were made locally, including one of our Celtic harps, the vihuela, the smaller vielle, two treble viols and one of the tenors, and our "lion's roar" drum. Hovey made his own sackbuts, and Ruth put together one of the tenor crumhorns from a kit. Art made part of one of the bass viols, with much help from Don Robertson at Robertson & Sons Violin Shop.

Youth Consort Alum Still Playing

Since 1999, Música Antigua has sponsored the Música Antigua Youth Consort, a select group of high school students who get together to rehearse and perform early music. One of our alums, Willow Stracuzzi, who graduated in 2023 from La Cueva High School, has been continuing her viola da gamba studies with Jaap ter Linden at Case Western University in Cleveland, while majoring in cello at the Cleveland Institute. She is also working toward a minor in Suzuki pedagogy and a minor in viola da gamba and historical performance. She will be performing on viol in June at the Boston Early Music Festival with an ensemble from Case Western. Next year she will be attending the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University.



This Year's Consort

The youth consort members this year are Violetta Troy, Cia Withey, Jackson Agee, and Everett Raucci. The group recently performed in a viola da gamba recital at UNM. They also performed at the District Solo & Ensemble Festival and on the spring orchestra concert at Albuquerque High School. They are all students at AHS.



L to R: Violetta, Cia, Jackson & Everett

Thank You!

You can help us continue in our mission of bringing early music performances to New Mexico audiences. Música Antigua is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and your contribution is tax-deductible as allowed by law. Donations can be made by personal check or credit card, or online via our website, or through these agencies: Network for Good (<https://www.networkforgood.org/donate/>) or United Way of Central New Mexico (<https://uwnnm.org>).

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You may also purchase subscriptions or single tickets online. Please visit the website at <http://www.musica-antigua.org> and if you have any problems or questions, please contact us! We can also take your credit card order over the phone if you prefer—call (505) 842-9613.



Concert Times & Locations

Albuquerque performances will be on Sundays at 4:30 at St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church (601 Montañó NW). Santa Fe performances will be on Saturdays at 4:30 at St. Bede's Episcopal Church (550 W. San Mateo Road NW).

Subscriptions Save 20% Over Single Ticket Prices

◆ Send subscriptions as indicated:

_____ @ \$64 Regular rate
 _____ @ \$48 Senior (65+) or Early Music America member
 _____ @ \$32 Student (full-time)

Please indicate the four dates desired:

“Get a Life!”

_____ Sat., October 4, 4:30 p.m., Santa Fe
 _____ Sun., October 5, 4:30 p.m., Albuquerque

“Drive the Cold Winter Away”

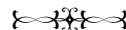
_____ Sun., December 14, 4:30 p.m., Albuquerque
 _____ Sat., December 20, 4:30 p.m., Santa Fe
 _____ Sun., December 21, 4:30 p.m., Albuquerque

“Creatures Great & Small”

_____ Sat., February 28, 4:30 p.m., Santa Fe
 _____ Sun., March 1, 4:30 p.m., Albuquerque

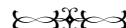
“Alphabet Soup”

_____ Sat., May 16, 4:30 p.m., Santa Fe
 _____ Sun., May 17, 4:30 p.m., Albuquerque



◆ I wish to purchase single tickets only: (as indicated above)

_____ @ \$20 Regular rate
 _____ @ \$15 Senior (65+), EMA member
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◆ I include a tax-deductible donation:

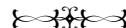
☐ List me in programs as follows:

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◆ Please send Música Antigua recordings (@ \$15):

_____ The Four Elements: Earth, Water, Air & Fire
 _____ Thys Yool, Thys Yool (Christmas Music)
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 _____ A Rose of Swych Virtu (Christmas music)



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TOTAL \$ _____

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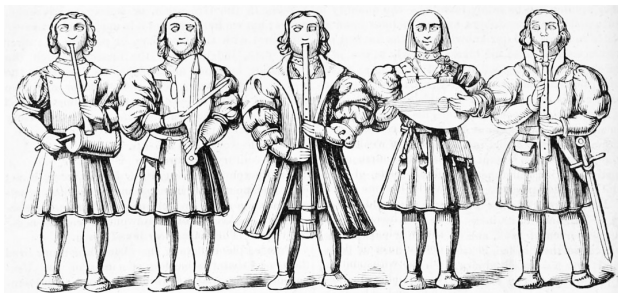
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A band of Tudor "waits," musicians who were employed by English towns to perform various duties like waking the townspeople with their music, playing at the town gates to welcome royalty, and performing on civic occasions.

In Germany, these municipal musicians were called *Stadtpeifer* and in Italy, they were known as *pifferi*.