

Neumesletter*

Summer 2026 Edition

Música Antigua de Albuquerque



*Neumes: the musical signs used in chant notation.

Our 2026-27 Season

1. Dancing, Drinking & Diversions



"Peasant Dance," painted in 1568 by Pieter Breugel the Elder

Our season will open with a lighthearted program about the ways in which people spent their leisure time in the Middle Ages and Renaissance, and how they sometimes got into trouble in the process.

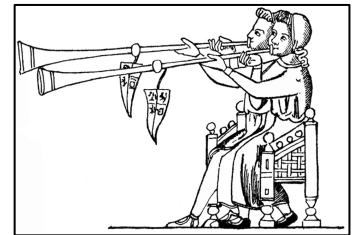
2. Welcome, Yule

Our Christmas concerts will feature both medieval and Renaissance works, with selections from various countries. To add to the musical renditions, narrator Kathy Wimmer will be reading selections from period literature. The title of the concert comes from an early 15th-century English carol, known in its older spelling as "Wolcum, Yole." The text appears without music in early sources, but modern audiences may be familiar with its setting by Benjamin Britten in *A Ceremony of Carols*.



3. Pomp & Pageantry

Important events in history have often been heralded with music. From simple fanfares to elaborate motets, medieval and Renaissance music served to accompany special events such as coronations, royal births, weddings, funerals, dedications of cathedrals, military victories and more, and composers were frequently called upon to write appropriate music for these occasions.



4. Back to Nature

In much of the secular music of the medieval and Renaissance periods, we encounter the belief that there is something ennobling about nature, the forest, and the rustic simplicity of the people living there. In poems of medieval troubadours and trouvères, a popular genre was the *pastourelle*, with its action set in the forest among the rustic shepherd folk. Later in the 15th century the poet Jacopo Sannazaro's *Arcadia* established the idea of an idyllic land of innocence and contentment, where shepherds and shepherdesses enjoyed an untroubled life, inspiring many Renaissance madrigalists.



Paper vs. Email

Due to the exorbitant rise of paper prices and postage in the years since Covid, we need to cut back on our hard copy mailings whenever possible, and you can help us by receiving email only. If we already have an email address on file for you, we will use that in the future instead of paper mailings (but if you would prefer to continue getting hard copy, that's fine—just let us know). If we don't have an email address for you, we'll of course keep sending things to you via "snail mail." Thanks very much for your understanding!

Some Events of the Past Season

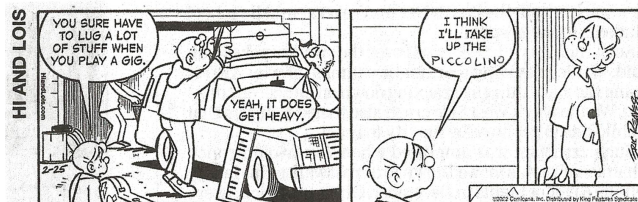
Last July 24, we performed at the United Church of Los Alamos. The program was part of the church's Vacation Bible School concert series, and was open to the public. The theme was "Music for the Church Year" and included both medieval and Renaissance works for the major feasts of the liturgical year—Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and Common Time. The pieces were by Josquin des Prez, Juan Ponce, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, Hildegard of Bingen and several anonymous composers. The music was interspersed with verbal commentary by Rev. Laura Loving about the various church seasons and their meaning within the context of the liturgy.

On Saturday, October 11, we performed on KHFM's live in-studio series "The 10 at 10." The repertoire was drawn from the "Get a Life!" concert that we had recently performed as part of our subscription series. We enjoyed the challenge of performing for a live but unseen radio audience, and as always, we had fun talking about the instruments and music. The program was sponsored by Joel & Beth Scott, two of our faithful longtime audience members.

On November 12, the group performed a demonstration of instruments and music for the students of the UNM Music History I class. The pieces were from the Middle Ages and Renaissance and were selected to supplement what the students had been learning in class about those periods. Thank goodness the classroom is located right near an elevator by the loading dock so we could haul all our instruments without having to walk across campus!

On March 19, Música Antigua performed for the 4th & 5th graders of Monte Vista Elementary School. We played several pieces to demonstrate some of our instruments, including the crumhorns (always a hit) and recorders and violas da gamba. We were very impressed at how quiet the students were when we demonstrated the bass recorder! Our little program was followed by the students showing us the Renaissance country dance that they had been learning while we played the accompaniment for them, to the tune of "Halfe-Hannikin" from John Playford's *English Dancing Master*. They also had been learning to sing "Auld Lang Syne," which we accompanied in a rarely-heard arrangement (ours) for viols and recorders. The event was organized by Tania Hopkins, music teacher at Monte Vista.

Early Music Giggling



(And it seems to be getting harder the older we get!)

Never Too Many Instruments!

You would think we would be trying to downsize at this point, but no! Dennis (Davies-Wilson) has recently acquired two new instruments, an alto and tenor dulcian, and you'll undoubtedly hear these during the upcoming season. A bassoonist by training, Dennis is the ensemble's reed specialist. He already plays shawms and ranket with MAA, but when he saw these dulcians for sale, he couldn't resist.

The dulcian is the predecessor of the bassoon, with an exposed double reed and a conical bore that doubles back onto itself. It was carved from a single piece of wood, rather than in separate sections like the bassoon. It was known by other names—curtal (English), *douçaine* (French), and *bajón* (Spanish) being the most common—and was used from at least c.1550 until around 1700. It was used in both secular and sacred music and its flexible dynamic capabilities enabled it to play either in outdoor settings, usually in a wind band, or in more intimate chamber music performances.



Drawing based on a painting by Denis van Alsloot (c.1570–c.1626) depicting five musicians in a procession. Pictured from L to R are a bass dulcian, a shawm, a cornetto, two more shawms, and a sackbut

Thank You!

Faced with rising prices of paper, postage, and advertising costs, Música Antigua accepts with gratitude any donations from our devoted followers. You can help us continue in our mission of bringing early music to New Mexico audiences. MAA 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 such agencies as: Network for Good (<https://www.networkforgood.org/donate/>), United Way of Central New Mexico (<https://uwnenm.org>) or Charity Navigator (<https://www.charitynavigator.org>)

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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:**
- ___ @ \$80 Regular rate
- ___ @ \$64 Senior (65+) or Early Music America member
- ___ @ \$40 Student (full-time)

Please indicate the four dates desired:

“Dancing, Drinking & Diversions!”

- ___ Sat., October 3, 4:30 p.m., Santa Fe
- ___ Sun., October 4, 4:30 p.m., Albuquerque

“Welcome, Yule”

- ___ Sun., December 13, 4:30 p.m., Albuquerque
- ___ Sat., December 19, 4:30 p.m., Santa Fe
- ___ Sun., December 20, 4:30 p.m., Albuquerque

“Pomp & Pageantry”

- ___ Sat., March 6, 4:30 p.m., Santa Fe
- ___ Sun., March 7, 4:30 p.m., Albuquerque

“Back to Nature”

- ___ Sat., May 15, 4:30 p.m., Santa Fe
- ___ Sun., May 16, 4:30 p.m., Albuquerque



- ◆ **I wish to purchase single tickets only: (as indicated above)**
- ___ @ \$25 Regular rate
- ___ @ \$20 Senior (65+), EMA member
- ___ @ \$12 Student (full-time)
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- ◆ **I include a tax-deductible donation:**

- List me in programs as follows:

- Do not list my name in programs.



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

- ___ The Four Elements: Earth, Water, Air & Fire
- ___ Thys Yool, Thys Yool (Christmas Music)
- ___ Round & Round We Go (The Art of Canon)
- ___ Music to the Max (Court of Maximilian I)
- ___ The Sport of Love (Music of Love & the Hunt)
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- ◆ **AMOUNT ENCLOSED:**

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TOTAL \$ _____

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*Hovey Corbin (sackbut), Curtis Storm (drum), Art Sheinberg (vielle),
Dennis Davies-Wilson (shawm), Colleen Sheinberg (harp), Ruth Helgeson (bladderpipe)*