

An Advent Devotion

The weeks of Advent and Christmas are the most musically evocative of the entire year. I relish the familiar carols and hymns, the sometimes haunting melodies, and the fresh musical ways to tell a time-worn but never worn-out story. We musicians are in our element.

Especially at this time of year we are angels. Yes, you read that right. The Greek word ἄγγελος (*angelos*) has a double meaning: “angel,” but also “messenger,” which makes sense from a theological perspective. For the next few weeks—but also all year long—you are an angel/messenger as you proclaim through music the good news of Jesus’ advent and birth. (So is the choir member next to you, by the way. Just sayin’...)

So when we read in Luke 2 about divine messengers on the hillside, celebrating with the shepherds, we can sing “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will,” and know we are joining a long line of worshippers and musicians from throughout the ages and around the globe in proclaiming that very message. No wonder this is such a special time for musicians!

“All glory be to God on high,
 And to the earth be peace;
 Good will henceforth from heav’n to men
 Begin and never cease!”
 — Nahum Tate, 1700

Tell it, angels!

John Campbell, President, FABM



Inside this issue:

Greetings Pg 2
from John
Campbell,
President

A Note Pg 3
from Joyce
Crowder,
Executive
Secretary

**Conference for
 Church Musicians
 July 17-23, 2022**



Greetings from FABM President John Campbell

Green Lake 2022 is just around the corner—at least, it’s starting to feel that way in the planning process. And it will be well worth your presence! Here is a list of our clinicians:

- Worship—Mary Alice Birdwhistell (Senior Minister, Highland Baptist Church, Louisville, KY)
- Adult Choral—David Schwoebel (Full-time composer, arranger, pianist, accompanist, clinician)
- Youth Choral and Children’s Music—Emily Burch (Coordinator of Music Education, University of South Carolina, Aiken, SC)
- Handbells—Tim Waugh (Artistic Director and Founding Conductor, Charlotte Bronze Handbell Ensemble, Charlotte, NC)
- Instrumental—Beth Malovance (Music Education Specialist, Salvation Army USA Central Territory, Chicago, IL)
- Piano—Joel Raney (Editor and composer, Hope Publishing Company, Chicago, IL)

We will also have a hymn festival on Wednesday night at Our Saviour United Church of Christ in Ripon, led by Tim Waugh at the organ.

What a line-up! I love the mix of returning favorites and new faces among the clinicians. This is going to be yet another wonderful, Spirit-led conference. Make your plans now to be in Green Lake July 17-22, and invite your church folks, friends, and neighbors to join us there. The more, the merrier!

Keep singing!

John

Dr. John W. Campbell, President, FABM



Mary Alice
Birdwhistell



David Schwoebel



Tim Waugh



Emily Burch



Beth Malovance



Joel Raney

A Note from Joyce Crowder, Executive Secretary

If you were not able to be at The Conference for Church Musicians last summer, we missed you. For those at the conference, including a total of 15 who came for the first time, we enjoyed the opportunity to share music and celebrate God in our midst.

We had 88 adults, 22 youth and 10 children registered. That was for a total of 120, which included all the Clinicians, Coordinators, Board, Accompanists, etc. Although it was less than 2019 (by 70 persons) we were able to meet expenses because of your generous Patronage, Scholarships, and extra giving to FABM. The Board was outstanding in working hard to keep expenses down and many of those who were in leadership decided to donate their time and financial resources as well. We thank everyone who played a role in a successful Conference 2021.

You will be receiving a letter in a couple of weeks that will be asking you to consider being a Patron. Your contribution will be noted in the BOI next summer and we'll be listing the names of those you wish to honor or remember. We are sending it a bit earlier this year so you can consider a year end contribution to be able to include it in your tax info for 2021. Be watching for that info and give as God leads. You might also ask your church to include a gift in their yearly budget as they plan for 2022. You can also give online at www.fabm.com in the same place that you would register for the conference. Patronages are accepted any time of the year.

Also, consider being a host for a coffee break one day next summer during Adult Choir Rehearsal. For more details contact Joyce Crowder.

Praying you are staying healthy and strong,

Joyce Crowder

Executive Secretary





**Fellowship of
American
Baptist
Musicians**

**4430 Post Horn Court
Columbus, IN 47203**

E-mail:
fabm.webmaster@gmail.com



For the past 57 years, FABM has helped church musicians make their ministry meaningful and effective.

FABM Board

President: John Campbell

President-Elect/Treasurer: Eric Hobbs

Secretary: Carla Williams

Executive Secretary: Joyce Crowder

**We're on the
web!
www.fabm.com**



[FABM—Fellowship of American Baptist Musicians](https://www.facebook.com/fabm)

(to access the FABM Facebook page, place your cursor on the words above, then while holding down the Ctrl key press the left mouse button)