

## Greetings from President Michael Waltenberger

Greetings, dear FABM Family! We hope that you are busy with the last details for your Thanksgiving and Advent/Christmas season and that you are looking forward to the joy and wonder that comes with this time of year. It is a busy time with special events, extra rehearsals and concerts and yet a time for us to once again experience the Birth of our Savior in a real and personal manner.

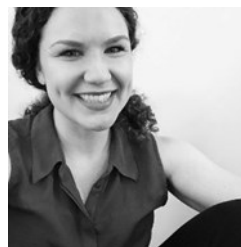
Your FABM Board met in September and are delighted to share with you some exciting changes that will take place in 2019. While we were pleased to share the slate of Clinicians with you in July at Green Lake, there have been some changes in the leadership lineup for 2019. It is amazing to see how the Lord leads His people to accomplish His purposes all in His perfect timing – and how He has led us to an exceptional roster of leaders for next summer.

We are pleased to announce the following as part of our Clinician leadership for 2019:



**David Weck**, the founding director of The Agape Ringers and music editor with Hope Publishing Company will be leading our Handbell division. David is in demand as a handbell clinician throughout the year and has been director of numerous national and international handbell events all over the world. He has served on the board of the Handbell Musicians of America and was awarded the *Area 8 Outstanding Service Award* and *Honorary Life Member*.

Our Youth Choir will be led by **Katelyn Larson**, who is a choral director at Stillwater Area High School in Stillwater, MN, and a voice teacher in the Twin Cities. She is an active vocal clinician around the state, frequently serving as a solo and ensemble contest judge and section coach for the Minnesota All-State Choirs. Her choirs have performed at the Minnesota ACDA fall convention and the St. Olaf Choral Festival. Active in church music ministry, she currently serves as the choir director at Colonial Church in Edina, MN.



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**Conference for Church Musicians  
July 14-20, 2019**



Katelyn hold degrees from St. Olaf College and the University of St. Thomas. She has served as the associate editor of ACDA's online publication, *The Star of the North*, and remains an active member of ACDA, NAFME, and MMEA.



**Dr. Eric Allen**, Associate Professor of Music and Assistant Director of Bands at Texas Tech University, looks forward to leading our Orchestra and Ensembles during worship and sharings next summer. An active clinician and conductor, he contributes annually as a featured clinician at the American Conducting Symposium at Puebla State Conservatory in Puebla, Mexico. He also serves as Coordinator of Instrumental and Special Music at LakeRidge United Methodist Church in Lubbock, TX where he conducts the worship orchestra at weekly services. He established the LakeRidge Concert series at the church and serves as the artistic director. He holds Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from Florida State University and a Doctor of Musical Arts in Conducting from the University of Minnesota.

So there you have it! While no one could anticipate the events that led to these changes, we know that the Lord has led us to some outstanding and exciting leadership. Family weddings, scheduling conflicts with new jobs, and directing the premiere of a commissioned piece for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Apollo moon landing have turned into marvelous blessings for the 2019 FABM Conference!

Our other leadership remains the same as announced last summer:

Dr. Gene Peterson – Adult Choir

Dr. Lee Spitzer – Worship

Terry Taylor – Children

Dr. Jane Holstein – Piano

Dr. Sarah Mahler-Kraaz – Organ

As we shared this summer, Dr. Jane Holstein will be with us as our Piano Clinician throughout the entire week. Jane's expertise at the keyboard, and her creativity in using the piano in worship will be just a part of all that we will learn from her.

Wednesday will be a special day for organists. Dr. Sarah Mahler-Kraaz will present an afternoon of Organ Workshops at the beautiful Our Savior's United Church of Christ in Ripon, following by an evening concert at 7:15 p.m. in the church sanctuary. Sarah's expertise, the church's recently rebuilt pipe organ, the renovations in their worship space, and the marvelous hospitality of the congregation from Our Savior's will combine to make a terrific opportunity for both organists and enthusiasts that day.

Here's a question for you: Who do you know (friend, colleague, fellow choir singer, instrumentalist) that would benefit from next summer's Conference? Now is a perfect time to ask them to clear their calendar and schedule a week at beautiful Green Lake! Scholarships are available: information about registration and the Conference will be on our website at [www.fabm.com](http://www.fabm.com).

Attached to this newsletter is the updated brochure. Feel free to make copies and share with those in your church and in your musical circles. Hard copies of the brochure are available by emailing me at [mwaltenberger@comcast.net](mailto:mwaltenberger@comcast.net) and I will send them out via snail mail.

Your Board remembers you in our prayers and in our hearts as you continue to work and serve our Savior through His wonderful gift of music. Blessings to you all!

Michael Waltenberger, President

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## A Note from President-Elect/Treasurer

### Dr. John Campbell

Church musicians: Are you twitching yet? Does everyone think you are extra friendly because you are always winking, but it's really just a seasonal nervous eye tick?

Or do you have a big grin on your face all the time because you are reveling in all the music you are involved in, all that is coming up, all that has already happened, and you love every minute of it?

Or is it both?

Probably for most of us, it is at least some of both scenarios. I tend to panic several weeks ahead of Advent, which still gives me time to get all the ducks in order so that things go smoothly and I can have the "big grin" experience in the moment.

How can we make the concentrated chaos of Advent/Christmas go smoothly? Well, it's probably too late as you read this to plan ahead now. But next year...

In fact, keep a running list all year long of ideas for December. Then when you settle down to plan (July? August?) you don't necessarily have to start from scratch. You'll find a lot of good ideas at Green Lake—books and octavos of music, non-musical aspects of worship, best ideas from other churches and church-musician friends, and more. What a great place and time to start! Green Lake, July 14-20, 2019, here we come!

Take good care of your people all year long, and then when you need them to come through at the end of the year, they'll be glad to do all they can. Friendships nurtured in March with that handy carpenter will pay off when you need a manger built in mid-November (aside from the joy of the friendship itself). Praise your people often and genuinely, and they'll be there to help with the wonderful madness of December.

Is "bigger and better" always the way to go? I don't think so. Creative, yes, always. But don't feel like you are in competition with what you did last year. Every so often you might need a big splash; it can be fun, it can get attention for your music ministry. But if it happens every year, it loses its impact, and it can become a (non-creative) rut.

Focus on the message of the season: God loved the world so much that God sent God's only begotten Son, so that whoever will believe in him will not perish, but have eternal life. You can communicate that message softly as well as loudly; it will stand up admirably to both approaches. You can have angels and shepherds and magi in costume with a big star hanging from the ceiling, or simply a choir and scripture readers in soft light. Mix it up from year to year, or even within the same month.

A very merry Christmas to you all.

Wishing you a clear downbeat,

Dr. John Campbell

FABM President-Elect/Treasurer



## Updates from the FABM Board

The FABM Board met in late September to discuss many things including the Budget, Lending Library, Memberships, Conference Fees, Clinician info, and the many other things that we manage for our organization and conference. A few new pieces of information have emerged from that meeting that we'd like to share with you today.

- The Lending Library is being used by only 2-3 churches/members and that is not very often. The Board has decided to eventually close the library for many reasons. If you'd like to talk further about it, please contact Joyce Crowder. The cost alone to store it is over \$100 a month and that's not climate controlled. Here are the details we have for you today.
  1. FABM will continue to store all anthems used in the 2015—50th Anniversary Celebration
  2. If you would like any of the anthems currently in the library you may purchase as many of any titles you might desire until they are gone. We will ask \$15 for the first title and \$5 for each additional title. That money will be used to pay for the shipping and additional costs of closing the library. This will be available to members only for January and February of 2019.
  3. We will open it on March 1st to include any non-members who might wish to purchase the anthems.
  4. You may *borrow or purchase* any music until June 15th as long as we still have it. After that time, the anthems left will be taken to the Conference and dispersed there.
  5. Requests need to include the title of the anthem, how many copies you want and the address where you'd like them to be sent. You can simply write them down and send a check for the total amount to FABM, 3300 Fairlawn

Drive, Columbus, IN 47203.

6. We are asking you to share this info with colleagues, community churches, friends, etc. so we can find a home for these excellent anthems. The full list is on the website at [www.fabm.com](http://www.fabm.com).
  7. Beginning January 2019 you will be able to place the order and make payment through our website much like you would your conference registration.
- The Board has decided to transition from "memberships" to other categories effective January 2020.
    1. Patrons, Supporters, etc. of FABM would contribute directly toward the extra expenses incurred for being a year-round resource to all those in church music ministry. That info and brochure will be ready for all who attend next summer's conference.
    2. Beginning Conference 2020, the fees for the conference will be upgraded to match the actual costs of the conference more accurately.
    3. One goal of the Board is to continue to increase the number of conferees each year. Please invest time and effort with us to make that happen.
    4. We will still have a membership campaign for 2019 with letters coming out in late December.





**Fellowship of  
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*For the past 54 years, FABM has helped church musicians make their ministry meaningful and effective.*

**FABM Board**

*President: Michael Waltenberger*

*President-Elect/Treasurer: John Campbell*

*Secretary: Carla Williams*

*Executive Secretary: Joyce Crowder*



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

(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)