

Music Ministry Report 2023

Pauleta Hendrickson, Minister of Music

I am truly grateful to be working in a community that loves music and musical expression. Our community with three different services that feature different musical styles and that means we need diverse musical support. Thankfully, we are blessed with a wide variety of musicians, mostly volunteers, who are willing and able to share their gifts. These musicians take time out their week to rehearse, both privately and in community, as well as showing up early, and staying after, for services. Please, join me in thanking the many musicians that support our work here at St Michael and All Angels.

We are but one of many faith communities within the Albuquerque metro, but I am proud to say that we have some of the finest musicians on our staff. We have four section leaders, some of whom work with both the Chancel Choir and Coro de Luz, a multi-talented organist and pianist in William W. Willimas, as well as several choir members who serve as substitutes for the director or accompanist when needed. I am extremely grateful for this amazing bullpen!

As with all groups, we have had musicians leave and musicians join. We are always welcoming new members and we are looking for new opportunities. This past year, we joined our voices with All Saints Lutheran Church to form the *All Saints and Angels Choir*. We have been rehearsing monthly in preparation for participating in the Dublin Choral Festival in June. We will join with singers from five other choirs and an orchestra under the baton of Jake Runestad. We will definitely be working hard while we are there, but there will be time for local tourism and a pint or two!

As we move into 2024, we will continue to include new musical styles and methods for congregational song. Our first excursion was the inclusion of Hispanic service music and hymns for Hispanic Heritage Month. Beginning in February, we will be including music by African American composers in honor of African American Heritage Month. These month-long concentrations in music will give us a foundation for further excursions into our heritage. Yes, that means clapping is not only allowed, but encouraged!

Thank you for the blessing of serving with you in ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
Pauleta Hendrickson
Minister of Music