



CORO LUX



Chorus of Light



NEWS OF NOTE



CORO LUX IS BUILT ON THE IDEAL OF “DOING GOOD AS WE DO WELL.” WE BELIEVE THAT IN DIVERSITY THERE IS STRENGTH. WE BELIEVE THE VOICES OF THE WORLD SHOULD BE HEARD, REGARDLESS OF ETHNICITY, GENDER, RELIGION, NATIONALITY, OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION. IN THE PAST WE HAVE USED OUR CONCERTS TO CALL FOR PEACE AND TO BENEFIT CHARITABLE CAUSES, AND WE WILL REDOUBLE OUR EFFORTS GOING FORWARD. THROUGH OUR ART WE SING FOR A BETTER WORLD.



CORO LUX

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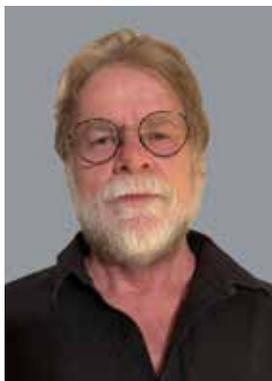
Kristen Norman leads you through our April newsletter. She previews what you'll discover in this engaging issue

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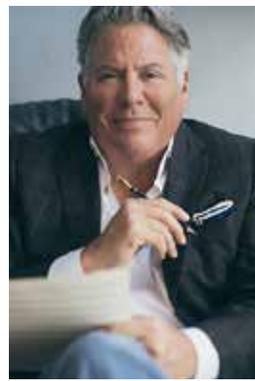
Sue Spaven, our resident archivist tells us what to expect to find in the new online history of *Coro Lux*

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Dr. Joe Alcorn, our in-house covid-19 expert, continues his series with information on super-spreading and singing in the new year

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Bradley Ellingboe looks into the coming performance season and gives his forecast of the singing possibilities in 2021

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Doing good as we do well
Giving the highest quality performances, we also give back to the community

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Great ways to financially help *Coro Lux*

For donors, it is about leaving a legacy and insuring their gifts support the values and causes that are most important to them

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Performances by other local music organizations

Find out about their future concert schedules and cyber events

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Kristen Norman gives a preview of this month's engaging editorial lineup

Welcome to the April edition of the *Coro Lux* newsletter! Spring is in the air, alas also pollen, and we are beginning to dust off our choral music scores in anticipation of being able to gather soon. That's right, with COVID-19 vaccination well underway in New Mexico, *Coro Lux* hopes to begin rehearsals in the near future.. We are extraordinarily grateful for things to start returning to normal, even if it is a post-COVID new normal. In the meantime, take a look at some of the newsletter pieces we have prepared for you this month.

This month we have a nice variety of news articles for our readers. Sue Spaven has written a wonderful introduction to the new *Coro Lux* archives she has just completed assembling. Ashley Jonkman, in turn, has for us an interview of Sue Spaven, *Coro Lux* singer and archivist



(Above) Preview of the home page for the new *Coro Lux* Archive. (Right) The talented creator of the archive, chorus member Sue Spaven.

extraordinaire. Joe Alcorn, as always, has a COVID-19 update. Finally, Brad Ellingboe, our Artistic Director, has written an update on the current status of *Coro Lux* and the anticipated schedule for getting back into rehearsals and performances. Until next time, keep on singing!

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We applaud *Coro Lux*.

Supporting your community is important to you — and to us. That's why we're committed to helping you make a difference.



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Keith Hinds, CFP®, ChSNC™
 Wealth Management Advisor
 505.884.9863
 keith_hinds@ml.com
Danielle Nelson
 Financial Advisor
 505.884.9864
 danielle.c.nelson@ml.com

Merrill Lynch Wealth Management

2125 Louisiana Boulevard Northeast
 Albuquerque, NM 87110

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New Chorus Archives at abqcorolux.smugmug.com

By Sue Spaven, Coro Lux Archivist

We now have an initial version of the *Coro Lux* archives! This is an online ‘scrapbook’ which documents our concerts and other activities, reminding the chorus and the public about our accomplishments and history. George Arthur provided digital copies of the annual programs and the beautiful covers. Brad provided press releases, photos and earlier concert programs from *Coro Lux* storage, and we’ve mined other materials from the internet and screenshots.



Coro Lux Oratorio Society

We chose the application SmugMug which facilitates uploading, presentation and navigation through the images. The programs and photos are stored in a hierarchy of folders and sub-folders which contain the ‘galleries’ of JPEGs. At the top level there is one folder for the overview of *Coro Lux* and a folder for each season such as ‘2018-2019’. Clicking on an image takes the user into sub-folders or a gallery; hovering over a gallery image brings up textual information.

These archives are a work in progress. They belong to you, and you can help make them complete, correct and fun! We’d like to include photos that you may have of concerts, rehearsals, workshops, parties, etc. Press releases and advertisements are also needed. Specifically, we could use more photos from the Carnegie Hall concert trip and MLK events in Santa Fe. So take a look and send any comments or corrections to archivist@abqcorolux.org .

To submit photos or scanned documents, upload them to this Google drive folder: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1tTtZcbrdVZ_7ac3GHL5_0Tc3TYIQtTQ To donate or temporarily loan a printed photograph or other document to the archives, use email to set up a transfer.

Thanks for helping to create and document our *Coro Lux* history!
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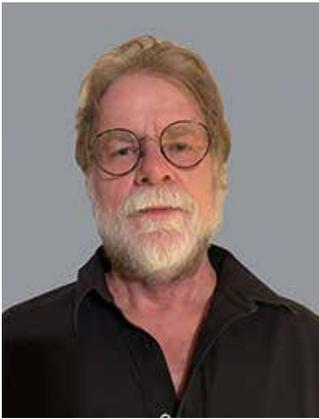
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Superspreading Events and Singing

by Dr. Joe Alcorn

Months ago in this Newsletter we discussed how and why the behavior of an infectious disease can be characterized by a “replication number.” This “R” represents the average number of people an infected person goes on to infect. Of course, such a number represents, in part, the infectivity of the virus and, in part, how well people mitigate their risk of infection. Nevertheless, a highly contagious disease like Measles may have an R of 10— as well as a potentially explosive spread, as one infects ten, infects 100, and so on. SARS CoV-2 seemed to have an R of about 3, which is plenty bad enough as one infection begets three begets 9 and 27 and 81, etc. Early on, before the serious morbidity or the mortality rates of the novel corona virus could be known, just the R of about three was enough to alert public health workers and epidemiologists of the high likelihood of pandemic spread. (And as an aside, one way to look at “herd Immunity” is that, if John Doe with SARS CoV 2 and its R of three, set out into a population of which 70% were immunized, then two out of the three people that SHOULD have become infected by Mr. Doe simply won’t be, due to their immunity. And voila— viral spread is contained!)

And yet R is an *average* and, as such, a bit of a simplification. Early on in the pandemic there were well documented instances of (typically) early and asymptomatic people infecting dozens of others (see [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)30462-1/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)30462-1/fulltext)) and when tracing studies could be done it appeared the virus spread in a sputtering fashion, with some infected people in turn infecting far greater numbers than others. The average R might have been three, but the standard deviation was broad. Indeed, there is evidence to suggest that some 80% of cases can be ascribed to sources representing only 10% of the infected population! (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7338915/>). A still unreviewed paper posits that a well-known two-day Boston conference early in the pandemic was potentially the source of 20,000 infections (<https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.08.23.20178236>) So what accounts for these ‘Super-Spreader’ phenomena?

Some of it has to do with diligence of mitigation or lack thereof. Clearly the wearing of masks and maintenance of distance reduces the efficiency of infection and, therefore, the

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There’s a time for applause, and a time for a helping hand

Although many of our activities have been curtailed by the need to quarantine, nonetheless, our expenses continue. As we do everything in our power to emerge from this pandemic as a healthy organization, we ask that you consider making a contribution. Coro Lux is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and all donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Go here to donate:

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(Superspreading continued)

R value as we have reviewed several times now. So a Super-Spreader event might take place in one place and not another mostly because of boisterous maskless crowding. But might there be biological differences amongst humans that make some of them more readily shed or disperse virus within their respiratory tracts? Biological differences that make for Super Spreaders individuals?

The “aerosolizing” of SARS CoV 2 virus in tiny droplets of mucus and moisture is the key to spreading the virus. It seems reasonable to predict that, given human diversity in every other dimension, some infected people may simply have less adherent virus or more easily mobilized mucus or SOME biological reason for shedding virus more prolifically . And indeed evaluation of aerosolization DOES show great variability between humans (for whatever reasons) though for all of us production of aerosol generally increases with weight and age and becomes greater with the severity of COVID 19 illness (<https://www.pnas.org/content/118/8/e2021830118>) . Speech volume also dramatically increases the expelled aerosol, though again there are some individuals that simply produce an order of magnitude more than others (<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-019-38808-z>). And we have learned in numerous studies now that, for a given individual, singing produces 4 X to 100X the aerosol of talking (<https://depositonce.tu-berlin.de/handle/11303/11491.3>).

So, does Super Spreading occur due to these individual variables?

Well, if so, you might expect that such events would take place randomly. Whereas cell-phone tracking data seems to suggest that location is key— perhaps 80% of infections attributable to 10% of the locations— basically gyms, bars and restaurants, and other more densely packed spaces in which people spent moderate amounts of time (<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-020-2923-3>). Perhaps the variability amongst humans DOES play a role in the likelihood of initiating an event that we haven’t the metrics to pluck from available data. But it seems more likely that the availability and abundance of tinder - congregant humans sharing their breath - is more important to the fire than the heat of the match.

In short, and perhaps not unexpectedly, regardless of human diversity, the risk of SARS CoV 2 infection (regardless, too, of viral variant) rises whenever virus can hang in the air long enough for humans to inhale enough of it. Principles of mitigation remain effective, for example, minimize time spent in crowded locations and close contact, and wear masks. Recognizing that younger, slimmer, non-singing people are less risky than their opposite probably won’t change anybody’s day to day activities, but it does remind us that the substrate of *Coro Lux* membership is skewed toward the riskiest emitters.....

The \$64 question may be whether vaccination, in addition to protecting from illness, also protects against passing on of asymptomatic infection. But that’s for another discussion.

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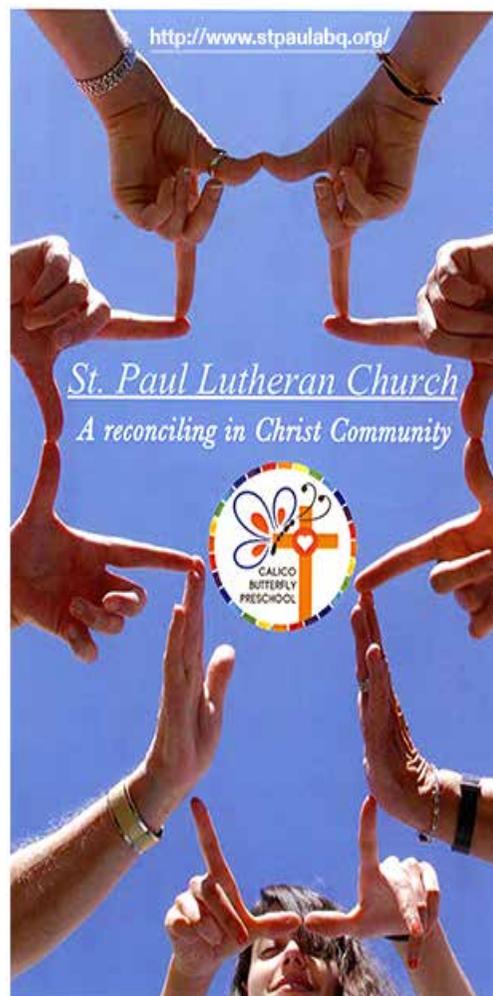


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Spring Speculations: When might we return to singing?

By Bradley Ellingboe

The days are getting warmer, and longer, and the vaccines are starting to be administered. After nearly a year of quarantine, it's time to begin thinking about singing again!

The Board and I recently spent time planning when we might once again hold rehearsals, trying to determine what it would take for that to happen safely. The more I ponder this exciting possibility, the more variables come into play. Earlier this month we issued a survey to our members and, although we do not yet have all the results, some trends— which are sometimes at odds with each other— are starting to show themselves.

For example, some of our members are ready to return to rehearsing and performing right now. In fact, they wish we had never stopped. Others say they won't feel comfortable rehearsing until 100% of the ensemble has been vaccinated. And still others feel the entire pandemic and the continual firehose of information about it has been politicized, making it difficult, if not impossible, for a layperson to make an informed decision.



(Article continued on following page)



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(Spring speculations continued)

Considering this wide range of responses, one wonders how to thread the needle to everyone's satisfaction. Here are some things we can tell you as of today's date.

First of all, we WILL make definite plans to start rehearsing in some fashion no later than next month. At first this will take the form of online rehearsals. During the pandemic, programmers have invented platforms that now make online rehearsals possible. Of course, nothing takes the place of being together in person in a good acoustic. Nevertheless, after a year without singing, it will be good to start slowly and get some of the "rust off the pipes."

Second, no matter where you fall on the political spectrum, we can't come together again in person until it's legal to do so in the state of New Mexico. Right now it's anyone's guess as to when the present restrictions might be lifted.



My guess is we'll be allowed to have larger outdoor gatherings this summer, perhaps groups as large as 20 - 30 people. The church (St. Paul Lutheran) has a nice space they use for outdoor worship, and we'd probably use that space, borrowing their electric piano and amplification system. At this point I could envision outdoor rehearsals bringing together half of the chorus, followed immediately by the other half on the same evening. (That way we'd only have to set things up once.) The church also has the ability to broadcast over the radio to cars within about 100 feet, so perhaps we could prepare some music this summer and present small outdoor concerts?

In terms of finally containing Covid-19, the fall may be better than the summer, or we may see an uptick in cases as people come back indoors. We just don't know yet.

As you saw in the article from the *Atlantic Monthly* https://www.theatlantic.com/family/archive/2021/02/pandemic-daily-life-normal-summer-fall/618108/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=atlantic-daily-newsletter&utm

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Keith Hinds, CFP®, ChSNC™
Wealth Management Advisor
505.884.9863
keith_hinds@ml.com

Danielle Nelson
Financial Advisor
505.884.9864
danielle.c.nelson@ml.com

Merrill Lynch Wealth Management

2125 Louisiana Boulevard Northeast
Albuquerque, NM 87110

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(Spring speculations continued)

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Photo from *The Atlantic* article, a park in Queens, NY. May, 2020

our best scientists and doctors speculate that things should be back to normal by a year from now. Therefore, to sum up, given the information we have right now, we're planning the following:

- 1) We'll start to sing virtually this spring, and in-person this summer;
- 2) We'll have to see what the fall brings before making any decisions, and;
- 3) We'll assume we can be back to normal by the spring of 2022.

All this being said, we must also admit that things will not be "normal" for a while yet. For example, in regard to anything we do this summer, please know there'll be flexibility regarding attendance. Gatherings will be organized mainly for *esprit de corps* and to start to get back in shape. However, we understand some people will not feel comfortable rehearsing in person. And in any group it's a given that, as time passes, people's lives change. Thus, some members will probably no longer be with us, while other new singers will join.

And so, the *Coro Lux* of 2020 is gone. It would have been gone by now, anyhow, but I'm sad we never got to show that group off.

The *Coro Lux* of 2022 is not yet here, but will be amazing! And the chorus of 2021 will be a hybrid animal... but we WILL sing!

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**Ashley Jonkman
interviews the very
talented contributor
and alto, Sue Spaven**

Ashley Jonkman

For Sue Spaven, a 3-season member of Coro Lux’s alto section, this past year has been one jam-packed full of music and learning. While some of us may have wondered just what to do with all our extra time in 2020 (and now, 2021 as well), Sue wasted no time, and got busy making music and using her time well.

Sue has a musical background—she began playing classical piano at age 7, and sang in children’s and youth choirs at her home church in Rochester, NY. Her love of song remained steady, and she sang in the university choir at Bucknell University where she went to study math. An accomplished computer scientist, Sue also holds Master’s Degrees in Mathematics (from the University of Michigan) as well as Computer Science (from the University of Wisconsin).

After working four years at the Madison Academic Computing Center, it was Los Alamos National Lab that brought Sue to New Mexico, where she worked on data acquisition for high-energy physics experiments at the LAMPF accelerator and software development for nuclear safety instrumentation. She then moved to Sandia National Labs where she was recruited to teach programming language courses to software developers and designed command and control systems for satellite payloads. A trailblazer for sure, Sue was one of few women working in her field for some time. Speaking about her unique position as a woman in a high-level math sector, Sue laughed and said “Yes, I’ve always been a feminist.”

Retired from working at the Labs now, Sue has many hobbies and interests which she pursues with vigor. She has sung in the choir at her Unitarian Universalist church—and has continued to do so, virtually, throughout the pandemic. Before the pandemic she was also a part of a local Ubuntu Community Choir—a call and response ensemble—as well as a quartet of friends who enjoy learning ensemble singing. Sue continues to hone her piano skills and has even begun making recordings of herself playing old pop songs. Her musical interests don’t end there—she’s a part of a jazz ensemble class at the Outpost which has continued to meet and make

(Continued on the following page)



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(Sue Spaven continued)

music virtually. It was there that Sue first became interested in playing the Vibraphone, and even purchased one for herself to play at home. It's not just the musical stimulation that draws Sue back to the ensemble: "I've made some really good friends there that play all kinds of different instruments," she says. Sue, who confessed that she doesn't do much sitting during the day, is also active outside of music: she does yoga regularly, is part of a senior ballet class (affectionately named the Silver Swans), tutors in an after-school program, enjoys hiking, sewing, and traveling, and takes good care of her 3 furry dogs.

When it comes to time, it seems to Sue there is plenty to fill it with. Though the pandemic has been challenging for all of us in one way or another, Sue has managed to find the silver linings. A self-proclaimed introvert, Sue doesn't mind being at home and working on her projects and hobbies, but like most of us, misses face to face interaction with others. The bright side of being at home has been learning to communicate in creative ways that Sue hopes are here to stay—at least with friends and family that are far away. She's also been driving far less, and taken the time to do more outdoor hikes and walks, which are always beneficial.



Sue Spaven

Sue's musical interests are as wide as her other interests: she loves many things, from older pop music to jazz and classical piano. A frequent patron of the NM Philharmonic, she loves to listen to live music—that's one thing she's looking forward to returning to as soon as it's possible. Her ultimate, desert-island

favorite music: anything by Debussy, whom she loves to listen to and play herself.

It was a friend that brought Sue to Coro Lux. She auditioned 3 years ago, and was delighted to have been invited to sing with the group. She'd sung with Brad at UNM, and knew that the experience was exceptional. "I knew it was pretty special to be singing for him, and I still think it is. And I'm blown away by the quality of the chorus. I just love it; it's thrilling to sing with a large group and make that kind of harmony." A lifelong learner, Sue says "Singing with better singers is challenging and a learning experience. I'll stick with it as long as they'll keep me."

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Great ways to financially support Coro Lux

If you are currently required to take minimum distributions from your IRA, you might consider a charitable contribution instead

For donors, it is about leaving a legacy and insuring their gifts support the values and causes that are most important to them

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- You must be 70 1/2 at the time of the distribution.
- You may distribute any amount up to \$100,000 per tax year.
- You and your spouse may make combined distributions up to \$200,000.
- You may distribute from your traditional IRA and IRRA.
- Charitable distributions from 403(b) plans, 401(k) plans, pension plans or other retirement plans are ineligible.

How do you apply this strategy?

- The distribution proceeds must be paid directly to Coro Lux.
- Charities must receive distributions no later than December 31 of the respective tax year to be considered as a donation to the charity for the year.
- You cannot receive any goods or services in return for the IRA charitable distribution.

Can you use the charitable distribution to meet any required minimum distributions for the year?

- Yes, you can use up to the entire \$100,000 per person each year to satisfy any required minimum distributions you may have for the year, please consult your tax advisor for the detailed rules. The amount distributed as a charitable IRA distribution is included in the owner's required minimum distribution for the year, if any.

Your financial advisor should work with you and your tax advisor as you evaluate this strategy to determine whether it makes sense in your overall estate plan. [Return to contents page](#)



When the world changes,
we're here to help

We applaud Coro Lux.

Supporting your community is important to you — and to us. That's why we're committed to helping you make a difference.



HH Group
Keith Hinds, CFP®, ChSNC™
Wealth Management Advisor
505.884.9863
keith_hinds@ml.com
Danielle Nelson
Financial Advisor
505.884.9864
danielle.c.nelson@ml.com

Merrill Lynch Wealth Management

2125 Louisiana Boulevard Northeast
Albuquerque, NM 87110

fa.ml.com/hh <https://fa.ml.com/new-mexico/albuquerque/hh/>

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Bus: 505 881-6949
paul.jones.b9tz@statefarm.com

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News from other organizations



SANTA FE WOMEN'S ENSEMBLE

We have greatly missed seeing you and singing for you during this difficult time. Because the joy of music is such an essential part of healing and keeping us grounded, we offer virtual concerts:

STILL SINGING SERIES

October 2020: Special 40th Retrospective

December 2020: Flickers of Warmth for December

March 2021: Seasons and Cycles of Life

Our videos include beautiful music from past performances, new virtual collaborations and heart-warming reflections from Ensemble members.

Visit our website SFWE.org and click on the STILL SINGING link.

Please know how much we appreciate your continued support. Thank you and stay well.



The Sangre de Cristo Chorale reports: **April:** Singing is a talent and joy that one generation often passes down to the next. Santa Fe's **Sangre de Cristo Chorale** has had several multi-generational members, and some of them shared their stories in the April 7 Singer Sidebars video. You'll find the video link on the Chorale's website (<https://sdcchorale.org/>), where you can sign up for the email list that will deliver links to future videos.

And our friends Maxine Thevenot, Ingela Onstad and Michael Hix have passed along this information on their work with the Arizona Bach Festival: <https://arizonabachfestival.org/artists/>

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About Bruni Karr

Albuquerque Professional Property Management Bruni Karr Agency Mission Statement: The mission of BKA is to provide quality service to single-family property owners and residents in Albuquerque, New Mexico, demonstrating integrity and professionalism. Bruni Karr Agency, Karr Agency, is operating in Bernalillo County, New Mexico, specializing in full service, single-family residential property management. The company has been operating since 1979. The Bruni Karr Agency, a leader in the Albuquerque single-family residential property field, which manages approximately 400 single-family residential properties and is a member of the National Association of Residential Property Managers ® (NARPM)

Charles Irwin
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