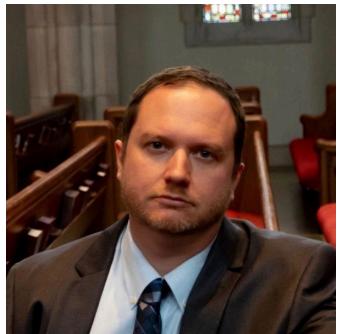


# Fanfare December 2025

The Monthly Newsletter for the Indianapolis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists



## DEAN'S NOTE



Dear friends,

As we move through this busy Advent and Christmas season, I want to offer a word of encouragement to each of you. Whether you're preparing lessons and carols, planning pageants, juggling extra rehearsals, or simply doing your best to keep the candles lit and the choir singing, thank you!

This is a beautiful but demanding time of year for church musicians, and your work brings joy, stability, and hope to so many in our congregations.

As we look ahead to 2026, we're excited to offer a few opportunities to gather again. Please mark your calendars for our **Epiphany Party on Monday, January 5, 2026** - a warm, festive way to celebrate the new year together. More details will be shared soon!

Thank you for all you do for your churches, your communities. May the coming weeks bring you moments of rest and renewed inspiration.

Warmly,

- John Allegar, Dean



# INDIANAPOLIS AGO CHAPTER OFFICERS

## 2025-2026 ELECTED OFFICERS

**Dean:** John Allegar  
**Sub-dean:** Michael Messina  
**Secretary:** Alan Jordan  
**Treasurer:** Luke Kessler  
**Registrar:** Nicholas Fennig

**Members-at-large 2023-2026:**  
 Susan Raccoli, Dawn Waddell  
**Members-at-large 2024-2027:**  
 Matt Gerhard, Jodi Martin  
**Members-at-large 2025-2028:**  
 Jordan Lewis, Richard Perry

## APPOINTED POSITIONS

**Archivist:** Addie Yoder  
**Chaplain:** The Rev. Steven M. Giovangelo  
**Exam Coordinator:** Richard Perry  
**Grants Committee Chair:** John Seest

**Investment Committee Chair:** Luke Kessler  
**Newsletter Editor:** Robert Richter  
**OrgelKids Coordinator:** Darrell Bailey  
**Webmaster:** Paul Guyer



The Jacobs School of Music Organ Department invites you to attend our upcoming Organ Weekends, offered free of charge and featuring performances, lectures and masterclasses by distinguished members of our faculty, including Professor Dr. Ludger Lohmann, internationally acclaimed performing artist, teacher, and author, and Distinguished Visiting Professor of Organ for the 2025–2027 academic years.



**Back to BACH**  
 November 14–16, 2025

**Before BACH**  
 February 13–15, 2026  
 (Audition Weekend)

### Organ Faculty



Jesse Eschbach

Janette Fishell

David Schrader

Jeffrey Smith

## A BLT (Blessed Little Thought)...*from the editor*

*Silent Night at the Console: Reflections on Christmas from the Organ Bench*



For many of us, the most memorable moment of the entire church year is not an anthem, a postlude, or even a rousing processional. It is that quiet, candlelit pause on Christmas Eve, when the congregation takes a collective breath, the lights dim, and the sanctuary seems to hold its own silence. From the console, this moment looks and feels different than it does from the pews. It is a vantage point few parishioners will ever see, but one that shapes every church musician.

Christmas Eve is often the culmination of weeks of preparation: rehearsals, bulletins, choir logistics, pageant music, pre-service recitals, and the delicate art of pacing one's energy through multiple services. But when the time finally comes to play the first chord of '*O Come, All Ye Faithful*' or to support the congregation in '*Silent Night*', something magical happens. The organist becomes both leader and participant, guiding the community's song while simultaneously being swept into its emotional current.

There is a unique sense of exhaustion and exhilaration that accompanies this night. At the console, surrounded by flickering candles, brass, stands, choir folders, perhaps even the faint scent of evergreens, the organ becomes both instrument and sanctuary. Its breath becomes the breath of the congregation; its voice becomes the collective proclamation of Christmas joy.

And then comes the quiet. The lights lower and the congregation lights their candles. Whether you play a delicate accompaniment for '*Silent Night*' or simply listen from the bench as the choir or a soloist leads the verses, there is a sense that the sacred story has once again taken hold, not only in scripture and song, but in the hearts of those gathered.

For many of us, these moments are the reason we do what we do. Yes, Christmas brings challenges, long hours, and technical demands. But it also offers these fleeting moments when music transcends the task and becomes prayer.

As you prepare for the season ahead, whether you lead a large program, serve a small congregation, substitute, or support in other ways - may the view from your console this Christmas remind you of the beauty and purpose of what you do. May your own '*silent night*' offer a moment of peace amid all the work you so faithfully do.

Merry almost Christmas!

- Robert Richter, Editor - Indy AGO Fanfare

## LOCAL EVENTS

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### **CHRISTMAS CONCERT: ST LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST**

Friday, December 5 | 7:30pm

Saturday, December 6 | 4:00pm & 7:30pm

Tickets \$10 | [stlukesumc.com](http://stlukesumc.com) | 100 W 86th Street, Indianapolis IN 46260

### **SPIRIT & SOUND: INDY WINDS FLUTE CHOIR**

Friday, December 5 | 7:00pm | Northminster Presbyterian Church

Free of charge | [northminster-indy.org](http://northminster-indy.org) | 1660 Kessler Boulevard East Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46220

### **ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS**

Sunday, December 7 | 4:00pm | Episcopal Church of All Saints

Free of charge | [allsaintsindy.org](http://allsaintsindy.org) | 1559 Central Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46202

### **CHRISTMAS MUSIC SUNDAY**

Sunday, December 14 | 9:00 & 11:00am | Second Presbyterian Church

Free of charge | [secondchurch.org](http://secondchurch.org) | 7700 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46260

### **INDY WINDS FLUTE CHOIR: HOLIDAY & WINTER FAVORITES**

Sunday, December 14 | 6:30pm | Plainfield United Methodist Church

Free of charge | [pumc.org](http://pumc.org) | 600 Simmons Street, Plainfield, IN 46168

### **INDIANAPOLIS SYMPHONIC CHOIR: A FESTIVAL OF CAROLS**

Sunday, December 19 | 8:00pm | The Palladium

Sunday, December 20 & 21 | 3:00pm | The Palladium

Sunday, December 22 | 7:30pm | Schrott Center for the Performing Arts

Tickets available at \$64, \$53, and \$37 | [indychoir.org/performance/festival-of-carols/](http://indychoir.org/performance/festival-of-carols/)

### **A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS**

Sunday, December 21 | 4:00pm | Trinity Episcopal Church

Free of charge | [trinitychurchindy.org](http://trinitychurchindy.org) | 3243 North Meridian, Indianapolis, IN 46208

### **NEW YEAR'S EVE ORGAN CONCERT: WOLFF VON ROOS**

Wednesday, December 31 | 3:00pm | Broadway United Methodist Church

Free of charge | [broadwayumc.org](http://broadwayumc.org) | 609 E. 29th St., Indianapolis, IN 46205

## OPEN POSITIONS

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### MUSIC MINISTRY LEADER

**Northwood Christian Church** | [indyncc.org](http://indyncc.org)

44550 Central Avenue Indianapolis, IN 46205

(317) 283-1352

Northwood Christian Church has a long and strong history of quality music in worship and community. We are seeking a musical leader who can help us renew our music ministry in a new era. The Music Ministry Leader will be a member of the Northwood Christian Church staff. This person is to work with the pastor, staff and congregational leadership to enrich congregational worship and to help reach out to the community. [For more information - click here](#)

### ORGANIST/ACCOMPANIST

**Oxford Presbyterian Church** | [oxfordpresbychurch.org](http://oxfordpresbychurch.org)

101 North Main Street, Oxford OH 45056

(513) 523-6364

The Church Organist will assist in selection of music, provide accompaniment for choir rehearsal and prepare and perform music for worship, accompanying the chancel choir and other soloists or ensembles as needed. The Organist may also play organ or piano music for weddings and funerals. Typical time commitment is 12 – 14 hours per week. [Full Job Description - click here](#)

### ORGANIST

**Bradley United Methodist Church** | [bradleyumc.org](http://bradleyumc.org)

210 W. Main Street, Greenfield, Indiana 46140

(317) 462-2662

As a member of the Worship Team, this position will bring excellent organ skills, experience in hymn playing, and strong piano skills in playing solo repertoire and accompaniment for our worship service. [For more information - click here](#)



## INDIANAPOLIS CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS [indyago.org](http://indyago.org)

*Fanfare* is the monthly newsletter publication of the Indianapolis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. The deadline for submissions for the next edition - January 2026 - are due by **FRIDAY, December 26, 2025**.

Please email news, articles, photos, upcoming events, or reports to the editor, Robert Richter: [indyagofanfare@gmail.com](mailto:indyagofanfare@gmail.com)

