

Fanfare

September 2025

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



A NOTE FROM THE DEAN

Dear AGO members and friends,

I'm excited to kick off another program year! As a reminder, our first event is quickly approaching. We will meet at John Seest's house on **Tuesday, September 9.**

Be on the lookout for an email from Nick Fennig to RSVP to the event.

While this month is light on updates, I'm looking forward to catching up with you in person very soon. Your presence and participation are what make this chapter so special! I hope to see you there!

-Jacob Taylor, dean



INDIANAPOLIS AGO CHAPTER OFFICERS

2025-2026 ELECTED OFFICERS

Dean: Jacob Taylor
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

FIFTH SURSA AMERICAN ORGAN COMPETITION, SEPTEMBER 2025



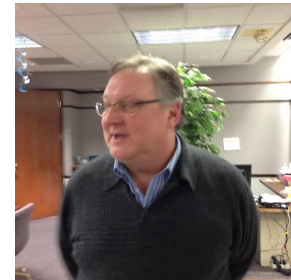
Ball State University School of Music will be hosting the fifth [Sursa American Organ Competition](#) live rounds on Saturday, September 6 and Sunday, September 7. This event will feature some of the most talented organ performers in the United States in the pre-professional and high school divisions.

The competition will take place at Sursa Hall on Saturday, September 6 from 10:30am-4:00 pm, and Sunday, September 7 from 12:30pm-5:00pm. The candidates will perform their music on the Goulding and Wood organ, Op. 45.

All sessions are **FREE** and **OPEN TO PUBLIC**.

A BLT (Blessed Little Thought)...*from chapter member John Rohe*

Having attended the last feature of last year's program, I have been pondering a phenomenon that I have now had the joy of experiencing at other Chapter soirees.



Put together a great organist at the console and a large gathering of organists of different training, cultures, temperaments, and opinions, mix the two in singing, and there is no tune they can't handle, with excellence. Whether unison of different octaves, or mixed parts, it is a sound to behold.

Over the years, and there have been many, I have had the pleasure of belonging to various chapters, from coast to coast. Each had a unique complexion expressed.

So, to the best group of organists who are also a choir, my awe and respect, and I look forward to the next time.

With gratitude,
-John Rohe, MEd, MDes, DBA

Do you have a BLT to share? We'd love to have you submit something for our newsletter. Please reach out to Robert Richter: indyagofanfare@gmail.com

LOCAL EVENTS

REMEMBER THE PARAMOUNT - THEN & NOW

Saturday, September 13 | 2:00pm | *Hilbert Circle Theatre*

This concert - the fourth in a series of fundraisers highlighting the capabilities of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra's Mighty Wurlitzer Theatre Organ - will feature Indianapolis theatre organist, Justin Stahl, and introduce guest ISO Side-by-Side student musicians. Paramount Music Palace organist, Ken Double, will serve as master of ceremonies and demonstrate the original purpose of the "unit orchestra" as he accompanies the 1920 Buster Keaton silent film comedy, *One Week*.

Pricing & Tickets: \$35/adult; 18 & under w/ID - Free Tickets can be purchased at: indianapolissymphony.org | 45 Monument Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46204



Remember the
PARAMOUNT
Then & Now
A Musical Salute to the Music Palace

Celebrate the legacy of the beloved Paramount Music Palace and its Mighty Wurlitzer organ with a concert that bridges past and present.

Enjoy music from *The Wizard of Oz* to *Wicked*, featuring organist Justin Stahl, emcee Ken Double, and a special appearance by ISO Side by Side musicians.

Bonus Feature: A screening of Buster Keaton's silent comedy classic *One Week*, accompanied live on the Wurlitzer.

Saturday, September 13, 2:00pm
Hilbert Circle Theatre

TICKETS
\$35 Adult, 18 & under w/ID Free.
Purchase tickets at:
indianapolissymphony.org/events

Presented by:
INDIANAPOLIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION
PEOPLE WITH PASSION FOR MUSIC

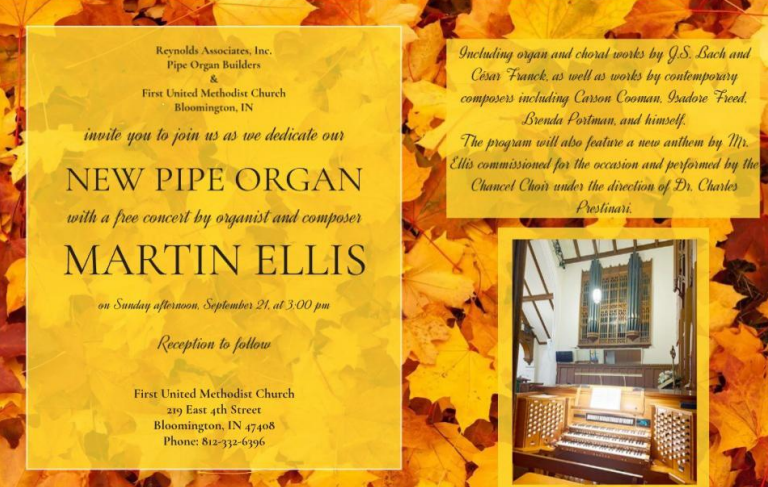
CENTRAL INDIANA CHAPTER
CICATO
AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

ORGAN DEDICATION:

MARTIN ELLIS, ORGANIST

Sunday, September 21 | 3:00pm |
*First United Methodist Church,
Bloomington IN.*

First United Methodist Church, Bloomington, Indiana hosts acclaimed organist and composer Martin Ellis, who will perform the dedicatory concert celebrating the church's renovated **Reynolds 3/50 pipe organ.**



Reynolds Associates, Inc.
Pipe Organ Builders
&
First United Methodist Church
Bloomington, IN

invite you to join us as we dedicate our
NEW PIPE ORGAN
with a free concert by organist and composer
MARTIN ELLIS
on Sunday afternoon, September 21, at 3:00 pm
Reception to follow

First United Methodist Church
219 East 4th Street
Bloomington, IN 47408
Phone: 812-332-6396

Including organ and choral works by J.S. Bach and César Franck, as well as works by contemporary composers including Carson Cooman, Isadore Freed, Brenda Portman, and himself.

The program will also feature a new anthem by Mr. Ellis commissioned for the occasion and performed by the Chancel Choir under the direction of Dr. Charles Probst.

The concert will take place on Sunday, September 21 at 3:00 pm in the church sanctuary. ALL are invited to attend this FREE concert and reception.

Mr. Ellis will perform works of J. S. Bach, César Franck, and noted 21st century American composers, including Carson Cooman, Isadore Freed, Ramon Noble, Connor Chee, Eurydice Osterman, and Brenda Portman.

Also included on the program are two compositions by Mr. Ellis, including a newly commissioned anthem, “Sing to the Lord a New Song,” sung by FUMC Bloomington’s Chancel Choir.

A light reception and meet-and-greet with Mr. Ellis and Mr. Thad Reynolds will follow the concert in the church’s Gathering Space.

For more information:

www.fumcb.org/organ-restoration

www.reynoldsorgans.com

OPEN POSITIONS

ORGANIST/ACCOMPANIST

Broadway United Methodist Church | broadwayumc.org

609 E. 29th Street Indianapolis, IN 46205

(317) 924-4207

The Organist/Accompanist works in conjunction with the pastors and membership by ministering music from the organ and piano, which contributes to the musical portion of worship services. This includes using the organ to provide a prelude and postlude for Sunday services, assisting in leading the congregation in hymns, and providing accompaniment for the choir, soloists, and musicians for the praise of God. [Full Job Description- click here](#)

Interested parties should contact Rev. Dr. Shonda Nicole Gladden at sgladden@broadwayumc.org

ORGANIST/ACCOMPANIST

St. George Lutheran Church (ELCA) | stgeorgelutheran.net

10931 S 600 W, Edinburgh, IN 46124

(812) 587-5024

St George Lutheran Church, a historic church in Shelby County, Indiana is seeking an organist/pianist to help lead congregational worship on Sunday mornings and other special services. [Full Job Description - click here](#)

Please submit resume and/or questions to Gail Mercer - gmercermhmc@gmail.com - 317-341-0859

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Roberts Park United Methodist Church | robertsparkumc.org

401 N. Delaware St., Indianapolis, IN 46204

(317) 635-1636

The role of the Roberts Park UMC Music Director is to provide leadership in the development of music that enhances the worship and ministry of the church. The Music Director works in cooperation with the Organist and reports directly to the Executive Director. [Full Job Description - click here](#)

Send resume and cover letter to Executive Direct, Jarrett Hill at jarrett.hill@robertsparkumc.org

CO-DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Christ Church Cathedral | cccindy.org

125 Monument Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46204

(317) 636-4577

Christ Church Cathedral (CCC) in Indianapolis is seeking a visionary, collaborative Co-Director of Music to help shape the next chapter of our vibrant and growing music ministry. If you are passionate about choral music, young voices, Anglican liturgy, and multicultural community, we invite you to discern with us. This is not a traditional music director role. It is an opportunity to join a bold experiment in shared leadership, creative partnership, and musical excellence grounded in faith. You will help shape a music ministry that reflects the breadth and beauty of our city, our diocese, and the Kingdom of God. [Full Job Description - click here](#)



INDIANAPOLIS CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

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 - October 2025 - are due by **Friday, September 26, 2025**. Please email news, articles, photos, upcoming events, or reports to the editor, Robert Richter: indyagofanfare@gmail.com

