

Fanfare

JUNE 2025



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

A NOTE FROM THE DEAN

AGO members and friends,

Summer is finally here! I would like to thank our chapter leaders for their work in making this past year a success. I would like to especially thank John Rohe for his diligent work in preparing our newsletter this past year, and I would like to warmly welcome Robert Richter as our new newsletter editor. Finally, thank you to the new slate of officers for being willing to serve the chapter—many of them once again—throughout the coming year. Your leadership and commitment are truly appreciated.



Our May event was a wonderful success! Alongside the installation of officers, Jeffrey Smith's inspiring leadership of congregational hymns made for a very memorable experience! We also shared a delicious meal and a—perhaps annual?—music swap.

Let us know what you think of the new newsletter format! Enjoy the summer!

Best regards,
-Jacob Taylor, dean



INDIANAPOLIS AGO CHAPTER OFFICERS

Thank you to all who were elected, appointed, or continue to serve our Chapter!

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Executive Committee Meeting #4

Date: Monday, May 5, 2025 **Time:** 5:15 PM

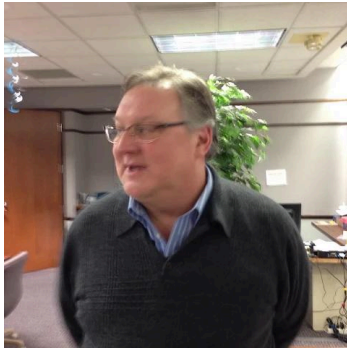
Key Discussions & Decisions:

- **Election Process:** Emphasized the need for email verification.
- **Mozingo Grants:** Approved three grants as recommended by the Mozingo Grants Committee.
- **Budget Review:** Reviewed the budget for the past year.
- **Appointed Positions:** Discussed roles for upcoming year.
- **Fees for Membership Friends:** Set fee as a donation of any size.

Additional Discussions:

- Frequency of the AGO phone tree when promoting events.
- Desire to feature AGO regional conventions in the newsletter.
- Exploring opportunities to occasionally submit photos to *The American Organist (TAO)* magazine.

THANK YOU TO FANFARE EDITOR JOHN ROHE



Our chapter's newsletter is the cornerstone of our communications, keeping us well informed and connected. At the heart of this vital effort for the past several years has been John Rohe. With meticulous attention to detail and a remarkable knack for gathering and presenting abundant information, he has consistently provided us with comprehensive coverage of both local happenings and national AGO events. John's commitment has enriched our chapter and kept us all in the loop. We extend sincere thanks to John for his service and dedication.

Welcoming Our New Editor

We are happy to announce that Robert Richter will be stepping into the role of Fanfare editor. Robert is the Director of Music & Communications at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in Carmel. He has previously served a variety of roles for our chapter, including member at large, secretary, and was the chair of the Convention Guide Book Committee for the 2015 Regional Convention hosted by our chapter.



Please note that all information, articles, position openings, and other items intended for the monthly newsletter should now be emailed to Robert at indyagofanfare@gmail.com. The deadline for the July issue will be **Wednesday, June 25**.

Thank you Robert for taking on this important role!

- Indy AGO Executive Committee

2025 CONVENTIONS

In odd-numbered years, the AGO traditionally hosts smaller, regional conventions. This summer there will be two events: AGO Fort Worth and AGO Phoenix. This format allows attendees to learn, network, and enjoy performances in a more intimate setting than National Conventions. For more information:

[2025 REGIONAL CONVENTIONS](#)

If you attend one of the conventions, we would love to have you share about your experience. Please email Robert to include any thoughts, photos, or experiences that you would like to share with your fellow members: indyagofanfare@gmail.com



IMPORTANT NEW INFORMATION FOR CHAPTER FRIENDS

Last October, the American Guild of Organists transitioned membership management to a new website, and as part of the new membership management plan, the management of Chapter Friends was given over to local chapters. Therefore, you may not have received any reminders about renewal (we will be sending reminders to our Chapter Friends list this summer).

To simplify payments and record keeping, Indianapolis Chapter Friends should offer a donation, of whatever value you are able, to the local Chapter at least once every 12 months. To give a donation and continue as a Chapter Friend, please use this link: [AGO Donation Page-click here](#)

This link will take you directly to the donation page for the Indianapolis Chapter. You can also access this site by going to www.agohq.org, **hovering** (not clicking!) over ‘Contribute’ and scrolling down to click on ‘Contribute to Chapter Funds’, which will allow you to donate to our chapter. You have the option to donate to the Artist Recital Series or the Orgelkids Program.

If you prefer, we can also accept donations via check made out Indianapolis Chapter, American Guild of Organists, with ‘Chapter Friend’ in the memo line.

Mail checks to:
 Indianapolis AGO Chapter
 c/o Luke Kessler
 3918 Central Avenue
 Indianapolis, IN 46205

-Luke Kessler, treasurer

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the AGO website with links for Sign In, Document Center, Jobs, Magazine, Advertise, Contact, and Cart. Below the navigation is the AGO logo and a menu with links for ABOUT, NEWS, MEMBERSHIP, EDUCATION, CAREERS, EVENTS, CONTRIBUTE, and HOME. The main content area features a dark red banner with the text: "Guild chapters need your support too. Please consider supporting your local chapter." Below this banner are two dropdown menus: "Choose a chapter:" with "Indianapolis (Ind.) Chapter" selected, and "Choose a fund:" with "Artist Recital Series Contribution for" selected. Underneath is the heading "ARTIST RECITAL SERIES CONTRIBUTION FOR" followed by a "Gift amount" section with buttons for 25.00, 50.00, 100.00 (which is highlighted in red), 250.00, and Other. At the bottom is a "Give regularly?" section with two radio buttons: "No, this is a one-time gift" (which is selected) and "Yes, please make this a recurring gift".

A BLT (Blessed + Little + Thought)...from the Editor

A summer sabbath for the weary organist



As the summer sun shines a little brighter and the choir takes a well-earned hiatus, I encourage you to do the same—at least for a moment!

Organists and church musicians are masters of the relentless Sunday-to-Sunday rhythm, but even the most dedicated among us need a season to breathe, rest, and recharge. After all, even God took a day off (and I'm fairly certain They didn't spend it planning next week's postlude 😊).

So, what does a 'Sabbath' look like for an organist? Perhaps it's an afternoon at the park instead of practicing next week's prelude. Maybe it's a Sunday sitting in the pews (or on the beach) rather than on the bench. Or even—dare I say it—a weekend away where the only music you hear is birdsong and the occasional ice cream truck jingle.

Rest is holy work, too!

This summer, I hope you find moments to step away, let your body and soul be refreshed, and return to the console renewed and inspired. That postlude will still be there when you get back—and who knows, maybe it will sound even better after a little time away.

Wishing you a restful and joy-filled summer!

-Robert Richter, editor

🎵 GOT A NOTE TO SHARE? SEND US YOUR BLTs! 🥪

We're always on the lookout for contributions to our newsletter—and that means ***you***! Whether you've got a full-length article up your sleeve or just a 'BLT' (Blessed Little Thought), we'd love to hear from you.

Not sure what to write? It could be as simple as:

- A funny choir rehearsal moment
- A hymn tune you've rediscovered
- Reflections on a recent recital
- Convention report



Drop us a line, share a thought, or tell us what's on your music stand. We promise we won't *organ-ize* your words too much.

Send your notes to indyagofanfare@gmail.com —we'd **LOVE** to hear from you!

LOCAL EVENTS

CLASSICAL GUITAR & HARP CONCERT: Daniel Quinn, Heaven Fan

Friday, June 6 | 7:00pm | *First Presbyterian Church, New Castle*

The First Presbyterian Concert Series features classical guitarist Daniel Quinn and harpist Heaven Fan. All Concerts are free of charge.

12th Street and Ray Pavy Way, New Castle IN, 47362 | firstpresbyteriannc.org

NUESTRO CANTO: Coro Latinoamerica

Saturday, June 7 | 7:00pm | *Christ Church Cathedral*

This summer, Christ Church Cathedral's Coro Latinoamericano will embark on their first choir tour. Before departing, they will offer "Nuestro Canto: Folk, Fight, Faith," a heartfelt documentary-style concert that delves into the immigrant experience, celebrating the beauty of transculturality, the perseverance through struggle, and the unwavering role of faith in our community. Through song, storytelling, and cultural expression, the concert will serve as a tribute to the resilience and contributions of immigrants, creating a deeply emotional and uplifting experience for all in attendance.

125 Monument Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46204 | cccindy.org

CICATOS JUNE SOCIAL: Trent Sims

Sunday, June 8 | 2:30pm | *Warren Performing Arts Center*

The Central Indiana Chapter of the American Theater Organ Society presents theater organist Trent Sims on the Warren Performing Arts Center Barton theater organ.

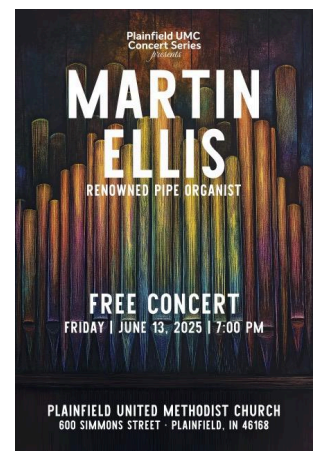
9500 E. 16th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46229 (Door 27) | cicatos.org

ORGAN CONCERT: Martin Ellis

Friday, June 13 | 7:00pm | *Plainfield United Methodist Church*

Program will include works from the classic organ literature as well as some exciting compositions of his own. Martin, formerly assistant organist at Second Presbyterian Church and organist at North United Methodist Church, has recently made a splash as a composer of organ works for church and concert. There is no admission charge.

600 Simmons Street, Plainfield IN, 46168 | pumc.org/

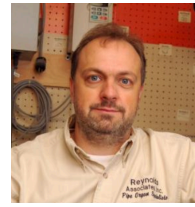


DAVID REYNOLDS MEMORIAL CONCERT: Martin Ellis

Sunday, June 15 | 3:00pm | *First United Methodist Church Noblesville*

This concert will celebrate the life of David Reynolds. With his father Thad, David was a partner in Reynolds Associates, Inc, a firm that has built or rebuilt many pipe organs in Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio.

This program is not a funeral or memorial service. It is planned as a way to celebrate the all-too-brief life of David Reynolds with great music on an instrument that he himself helped to plan and create. The new organ was the last installation in which David participated and was dedicated with a concert by Martin Ellis only a few days before David's passing. Martin returns to the bench for this concert. There is no admission charge.



2051 Monument Street, Noblesville, IN 46060 | noblesvillefirst.com

ORGAN DEDICATION CONCERT

Sunday, June 15 | 5:00pm | *St. Mary's Catholic Church, North Vernon*

A dedication concert for a new Rodgers Imagine Series, 351D. Concert will feature the choir and parish priest, Fr. Jerry Byrd.

212 Washington Street, North Vernon, IN 47265 | ccjc3.org

INDIANAPOLIS EARLY MUSIC: 59th Season

June-July | various dates/times | *The Indiana History Center & Basile Opera Center*

Artist Director: Mark Cudek

Gut, Wind, and Fire | Washington Bach Consort | The Ravensong Players | Ensemble Parlamento | Magdalena | Ensemble Phoenix Munich

indyearlymusic.org

REMEMBER THE PARAMOUNT - THEN AND 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

OPEN POSITIONS

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR

Greenwood Presbyterian Church | greenwoodpres.org

102 West Main Street, Greenwood, Indiana 46142
(317) 881-1259

Part time position, Sundays and the extra services: Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Easter, and other special worship services. Salary based on experience.

Contact: Jan Mernone, Personnel Chair - 19janamer65@att.net

MUSIC PROGRAM DIRECTOR & ORGANIST

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) | fccmadison.com

512 West Main Street, Madison, Indiana 47250
(502) 601-3864

Part-Time Position Available after July 1, 2025. Salary range is \$16,000-20,000 based on experience with two weeks paid vacation time and flexible work hours.

General Position Expectations: Administers and produces all aspects of music for worship services. This position includes: arranging for special music, leading hymn-sing style services, directing a small choir, participating in worship planning. Music Program Director is expected to be available on Sundays and within reasonable means as needed for special services, weddings, funerals, and other music related church events. The senior minister supervises this position. First Christian Church is home to a regularly maintained 15-rank 1992 Temple pipe organ, a Baldwin grand piano, and a 3-octave Schulmerich handbell set.

Interested individuals are encouraged to contact Rev. Stephanie Rolfe: minister@fccmadison.com

Call/Text: (502) 601-3864



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 - July 2025 - are due **June 25, 2025**. Please email news, articles, photos, upcoming events, or reports to the editor, Robert Richter indyagofanfare@gmail.com