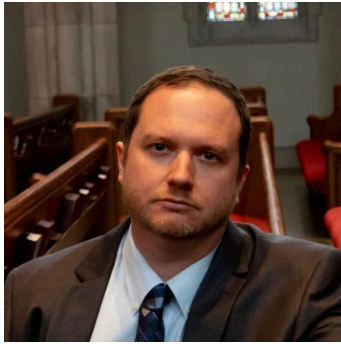




DEAN'S NOTE



As Thanksgiving approaches, we pause to express gratitude; for music, for community, and for the instrument that unites us.

The organ's vast range, from whisper to thunder, mirrors the seasons of our own lives and ministries. Each service, recital, and rehearsal reminds us that beauty often grows from patience and faithfulness. We give thanks for colleagues who inspire, for choirs who trust our leadership, and for congregations who listen with open hearts.

Amid the rush of rehearsals and preparations, may we find stillness at the console, grateful for the gift of music and the privilege of shaping worship through sound.

Happy Thanksgiving to all who serve through music!
-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

INVITATION TO INDY AGO CHAPTER MEMBERS

The IU Jacobs School of Music warmly invites Indianapolis AGO chapter members and friends to attend the upcoming Organ Weekend *'Back to Back'*, featuring performances, lectures, and masterclasses—all free of charge.

Those that have a piece by Bach performance ready to play are welcome to contact Hayden Ives-Glasgow at Hglasgow@iu.edu to reserve a place in the masterclass.

For more information: [Back to Bach: Friday November 14- Sunday November 16.](#)



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

ORGAN MUSIC DONATED TO THE CHAPTER

The Chapter has received two boxes of organ music from the library of William (Bill) Robinson (1922-1999), a former Indianapolis AGO chapter member. The scores will be available at our next music swap event. Mr. Robinson's son Mark, and Mark's siblings, appreciate the AGO sharing their father's music with the next generation of organists. I was able to speak with Mark via phone about his father. Mark himself is a musician living in Alaska - high school choral director and community orchestra and choir member. He connected to the Indy AGO through Steve Potts, current Director of Music at First Baptist Church, Indianapolis.

Bill Robinson served as Organist & Choir Director at First Baptist from 1960 to 1968. He arrived there right as the church's Cassavant organ was being built. Previously, he served at Highland Baptist in Louisville. His first church job was at the age of 15 at a church outside Pittsburgh. He studied with the organ professor at the University of Pittsburgh, then went on to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary which at the time was a *"hotbed of liberal theology"* per Mark.

After First Baptist, he moved on to Woodruff Place Baptist Church in Indianapolis, then retired full-time church work to start a computer processing company for churches. He played the organ at the Scottish Rite Cathedral, as he was a mason, and was a founding member of the Fellowship of American Baptist Musicians.

A story: During World War II, while serving in France, Bill met his wife, an American serving through the Women's Army Corps (WAC). Bill played a box organ at the Army base's chapel. A Protestant French family came to the service and invited Americans, including Bill, to their home to celebrate holidays. It turns out that the mother in the family (she was in her mid-50s) was a student of Vierne! Vierne lived in the woman's home when she was a child. The home organ was a tracker instrument and Vierne would not allow her to practice on it without his direct supervision, so she had lessons with Vierne on a daily basis! Evidently, this woman would have been the next concert organist from France if it hadn't been for being a woman in the 1930s who was expected to start a family. Bill Robinson took lessons with this woman during the war and said she had "wrists of steel" because of her training on the tracker organ. Vierne famously studied with Widor, and so did Albert Schweitzer, who certainly influenced organ building in America. The neo-baroque Cassavant at First Baptist can be traced to this influence. Hence, a full circle moment for William (Bill) Robinson.

-Nicholas Fennig, Registrar

LOCAL EVENTS

CHORAL EVENSONG: ST PAUL'S CHOIR

Sunday, November 9 | 4:00pm | St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Free of charge | www.stpaulsindy.org | 6050 North Meridian, Indianapolis IN 46208

ORGAN CONCERT: THE ART OF BACH

Friday November 14 | 7:30pm (Central Time Zone) | Dr. Ryan Kennedy

Free of charge | [Saint Meinrad Archabbey](http://SaintMeinradArchabbey) | 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad IN 47577

HOLIDAY CONCERT: CIRCLE CITY RINGERS

Sunday, November 23 | 3:00pm | Carmel Clay Library

Free of charge | circlecityringers.org | 425 E. Main Street Carmel, IN 46032

ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS: ST PAUL'S CHOIR

Sunday, November 30 | 9:00am & 11:15am | St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Free of charge | www.stpaulsindy.org | 6050 North Meridian, Indianapolis IN 46208



OPEN POSITIONS

RESIDENT ORGANIST

Roberts Park United Methodist Church | robertsparkumc.org

401 N. Delaware St., Indianapolis, IN 46204

(317) 635-1636

Roberts Park United Methodist Church seeks a highly qualified organist/pianist who will provide dynamic pipe organ and piano music that enhances the worship experience and ministry of the church. The Resident Organist provides leadership for music in worship, facilitating the congregation's praise of God and prayer through song. Primary responsibilities include accompaniment of all service music, including hymns, songs, and choral music, as well as weekly solo works appropriate to the liturgical patterns and practices of the church. The Resident Organist is a member of the music staff and, accordingly, collaborates with the Worship Planning Committee (pastors, Music Director, and other worship staff) for planning and visioning of the worship life of the congregation. The Resident Organist reports directly to the Music Director. [For more information - click here](#)

ORGANIST/ACCOMPANIST

Oxford Presbyterian Church | 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](#)

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Zion Evangelical United Church of Christ | www.zioneucc.org

603 N New Jersey Street Indianapolis, IN 46202

(317) 639-5411

Zion Evangelical United Church of Christ is looking for a music director who is responsible for leading the music program as the organist, pianist, choir director, and solo accompanist. Please see attached job description. The position requires being on site 8-10 hours per week and does include a benefits package. If interested in a part time position, please send an email with a resume to: zionmusicdirector24@gmail.com.



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

