



December 1, 2020

Next deadline: December 17, 2020

No AGO December 2020 Event
We will be busy with the Christmas Season.
See you Tuesday, January 12, 7:30 PM!

From the Dean's Bench

Dear Friends,

From all of us who are serving the chapter in some capacity, we would like to wish you a joyous holiday season. Every aspect of our lives looks different this year. From family get-togethers to our church services, everything is different. But some things remain the same. And one of them is the camaraderie that we enjoy in this organization. We hope you will join us on **Tuesday, January 12, at 7:30 PM** for an Epiphany Meet and Greet on Zoom. Our very own **Matt Gerhard** will be providing some musical entertainment to put us in the holiday spirit. Mark your calendars and plan to join!

The chapter would like to thank **Luke Kessler** for managing the chapter website for the past five years. Luke has decided to step down from this position and we welcome and thank our incoming website manager, **Paul Guyer**.

Travis Person

We will continue featuring our members and their home organs.

When I retired in 2002 from North United Methodist Church after 41 years there as Minister of Worship and the Arts (organist, choirmaster, and associate pastor), the congregation presented me a two-part gift at my retirement party: 1. They endowed an academic scholarship in my name to be awarded annually by the Fellowship of United

Methodists in Music and Worship Arts (of which I had served a term as national president). The Scholarship will go to an undergraduate preparing for a career in church music. And 2. A cash gift. I decided to use the latter as partial payment toward the purchase of the most compact 3-manual organ made by Rodgers, to be centered at one end of our modest-sized living room. It has all of the “bells and whistles” for playing any piece of organ music of which I am capable, plus a PR-300S Digital Sequencer and Sound Module. The speaker cabinets are located in the corners to the right and left of the console. The zimbels and music rack light are later additions.

Bob Schilling



This Estey reed organ became a member of my family during the 1930s and was moved from one Swiss German Mennonite farm to another in Wayne County, Ohio (think Schantz Organ factory and Smuckers Jams and Jellies). When it was moved to the second farm location, my father cut off the decorative top, removed one of the kerosene lamp stands (to better fit into a corner) and, to keep the clutter of music books off the floor, removed the knee swell bars so he could add three drawers on each side of the pedals. This instrument was mine as I began piano lessons in grade one. Having to think crescendos, decrescendos and staccato notes all while pumping pedals was good training for my brain. Purchasing a piano was never discussed in my hearing so evidently my piano teacher (Oberlin graduate) did not approach the subject with my parents.

I had cousins who played their pump organs with a sweeper motor installed but that was not considered for this Estey organ. It was moved to the Carolinas as **Dave**, my late husband, and I attended seminary and the University of South Carolina. When in North Carolina and teaching class piano to four elementary boys, they would take turns playing the organ and the Kawai piano for class lessons. There was always a fight—they

all wanted to play the organ.

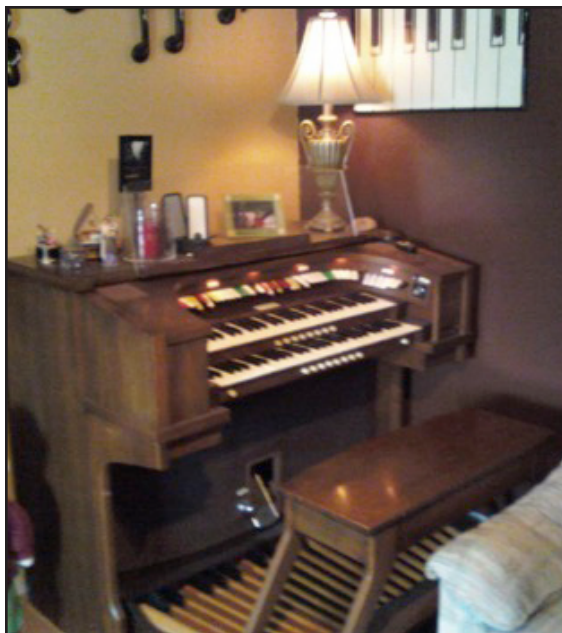
It came to Indiana in 1990 and has had to have only one draw knob re-glued from this last move. No other repairs needed, ever. When we moved off the Ohio farm (1951) Dad built a new house and he replaced the pads on the pedals with leftover wool carpeting from the new living room where the organ was used. I've never replaced them. My sister bought cloth to replace the faded fabric behind the decorative wood carving plates above and



below the keyboard.

It resides just feet away from the baby grand Kawai in my living room and is played or demonstrated on requests from guests. What antique dealer would be interested in this Estey reed organ because of the drawers added by my practical and wood-loving Dad?

Addie Amstutz Yoder



My home organ for both practice and enjoyment is a two-manual Allen, System 435-TH, built in 1977. It is a second-generation “MOS-2” digital computer organ. I purchased it in November 1997 and am its third owner. It is a theatre-style instrument, but for flexibility both manuals do have a Mixture stop (a III on the Solo manual and a IV on the Accompaniment manual). The organ has 36 stops, and it curiously features a 32’ Tibia on the Solo manual but not on the Pedal! This is because there is an Octaver tab on the Solo, to shift every stop up one octave. I’m told this was done to accommodate the limits of the 1977 computer memory capacity. The single toe stud was a custom addition requested by the original owner; it is a Tremulant reversible.

To increase the organ’s flexibility to play many styles of music, it is equipped with Allen’s exclusive Alterable Voice Card Reader System, which uses IBM computer punch-cards to program four available Alterable Voice stops. This was revolutionary technology in the 1970s, but it pales in comparison to modern advances in technology for digital organs. Nonetheless, 43 years later this organ remains a quality instrument for which Allen is still able to provide replacement parts if needed.

Tom Nichols





Seven Eight Artists warmly welcomes organist **Stephen Price** to the roster! To learn more about Dr. Price or inquire about booking, please visit:

<https://www.seveneightartists.com/price>

Stephen Price is the Sub-Dean of our Indianapolis AGO chapter.

Tom Magee New Hymn Tunes

During the pandemic time **Tom Magee** has written several new hymn tunes. One features words from **Isaac Watts'** poems and the tune has been named after Tom's vocal teacher in high school. His company, Classic Organs, created a video of the song filmed on their new Rodgers installation at Saint Joan of Arc Catholic Church. This video will be featured by Rodgers Instruments during the month of December. The video can be found on the opening page of the website: classicorgans.net or on YouTube at: [Glory to God on High Hymn Tune: DEDOMINICIS](#)

New Member

Myrna Galbraith

Originally from Argos, Indiana, **Myrna** came to Indianapolis to attend Indiana Central University (now the University of Indianapolis). After graduation, she remained in the area for 25 years, working in churches and operating a piano studio in her home. Since 2002, she has lived in different parts of the state, and returned to Indy in 2012. Currently, she resides in Shelby County.

Myrna served as choral accompanist and substitute organist at Old Bethel United Methodist Church for the past 8 years. As of January 1, she will be stepping into the role of Director of Traditional Worship. This will include serving as organist as well as directing various choirs.

She started organ lessons right before her 12th birthday, took piano lessons one semester in college, and then she learned on the job. She doesn't recommend that order of doing things!

Beginning her music career at age 13, she was a volunteer musician in her home church, and served as substitute organist through high school and during summers of her college years. Her first job offer came in 1977, just one day before earning her Bachelor of Science degree in music education. **James Lamberson** was her organ professor, and she had one semester with **Nora Courier** when Mr. Lamberson was on sabbatical.

Many years ago she was in the Indianapolis chapter of AGO, but with 35 piano students and various church responsibilities, she was not active.

Both sides of her family have a rich history of music, mostly church music. Her mother, her siblings and her dad sang for a local radio station in the '30s. (She wishes there were recordings of their singing.) She had lots of cousins who sang and played various instruments. Myrna and her sister sang together in church while in grade school and she and a cousin began playing organ/piano duets in their early teens.

Her husband, **Dave**, was very involved in barbershop singing, competing at the national level and later conducting the Greenwood/Columbus chapter chorus. They met when he was hired to direct the adult choir at the church where she served as organist. Since 1995, Dave has been a pastor with the United Methodist denomination, and still sings on occasion.

Myrna began playing handbells about 35 years ago and is a charter member of Joyful Sound, Inc., a community handbell choir based in Greenwood. That choir celebrated their 21st anniversary this year.



Her son played saxophone and sang for several years while in school and now he sings with his children, ages 8 and 3. They serenaded Myrna recently for her birthday, which she described as “the best gift ever.”

When Myrna is not busy with music, she enjoys antiques and baking. She thinks Indianapolis is a beautiful city with a pretty skyline. She especially enjoys Circle Theatre and the conservatory at Garfield Park.

Welcome back to AGO, Myrna. We invite you to take an active part in our chapter and get to know our friendly members!

Indianapolis Symphonic Choir Virtual Concert

The **Indianapolis Symphonic Choir** will be presenting its 30th annual *Festival of Carols* concert virtually because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The TV broadcast will be on **Monday, December 21, 2020, at 7 PM** on MyIndy TV channel 23. It will be available for streaming online after that time. The performance will feature Indianapolis native and world-renowned soprano **Angela Brown**, and the premiere of “Heart of God,” winner of the annual Christmas Carol Commission Competition, composed by Indianapolis church musician **Francisco Carbonell**. For more information, visit <https://indychoir.org/foc/>

If you know about job openings or job changes, please send your news to Fanfare so everyone can know.

Without concerts, we don’t have much news to print, so please send any news that you have, including virtual concerts!

Joe Roberts' Organ

This organ was built in 1900 in Salem, Ohio, for Central Christian Church in Columbus, Indiana. Alas, after a time the building was not a church anymore. It became a Lutheran Parish Hall, and then Police Athletic League used the building. Eventually the building was abandoned, and after a time it was to be turned into an apartment building. The pipe organ was slated to be removed and junked. **Joe Roberts** was told about the situation by someone who knew the buyer of the building.

Joe Roberts bought it in 1965 for \$200. He and **John Goulding** dismantled it and moved it to Joe's home. Fortunately he was remodeling his house at the time so was able to have the organ built into the house.

It is a tracker organ with 19 ranks. Joe enjoys playing it now and then.

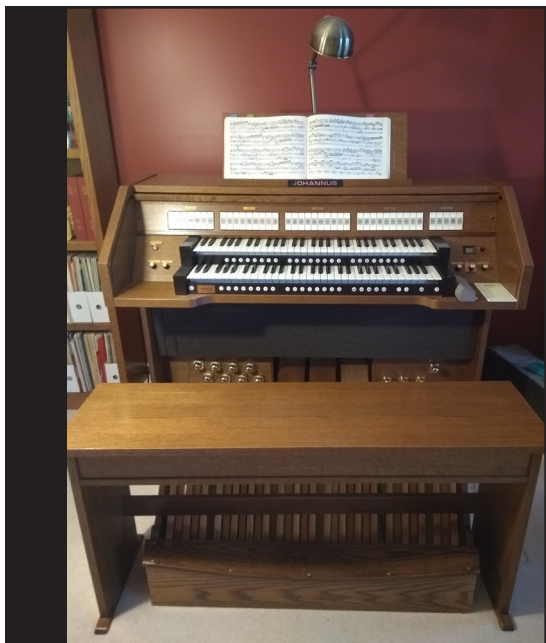
He also has a harpsichord (which I have played and found excellent) but it is loaned out at this time so we don't have a photo.

But what a happy accident to come across an organ like this for such a reasonable price!

I was able to play his harpsichord a number of years ago when Joe had an AGO musicale at his home. The instrument was just perfect for Bach!

Joe Roberts (as told to Susan Raccoli)





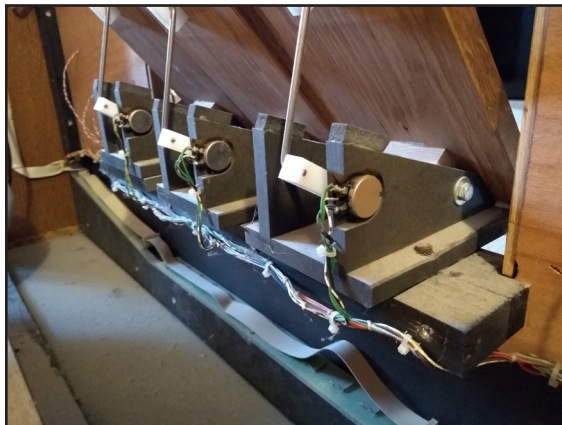
I have a Johannus Opus 10 digital organ. We bought it around 2003 when we lived in Bloomington, IN. It had fallen off of a truck and the back was superficially damaged, so we were able to afford it with a discount. We had little children at the time, and it was wonderful to be able to plug in headphones and practice while they were sleeping. It still is wonderful to practice without being heard!

This organ sees a lot of use and is starting to have some issues, so the other day my husband and son decided to open it up to fix an issue with the expression pedals. Of course once it was open, it stopped doing the thing. It is currently still sitting away from the wall without the back on, both to give it time to recreate its problem, and because my husband plans to change out the pedal light sockets. The current sockets are meant to hold European lightbulbs, which have been impossible to locate. We actually bought the replacement sockets yesterday, so I think this is a project that won't hang around forever!



Here are some pictures of what the inside of an electronic organ looks like. The black box is covering the expression pedals. The last picture is the backside view of the pedals once the box was removed. Overall I love having this organ!

Dawn Waddell



2020-2021 Indianapolis AGO Chapter Events

Tuesday, January 12, 7:30 PM Epiphany Meet and Greet, ZOOM

Sunday, February 21, 4 PM Indianapolis Pipe Organ Festival held at Ball State University (Sursa Hall)

Tuesday, March 9, 7:30 PM “Befriending the Butterflies” **ZOOM - Edie Johnson**, Music Associate and Organist, Church Street United Methodist, Knoxville, TN

Tuesday, April 6, 7:30 PM Hymn Reflections **ZOOM—Robert Hobby**, Director of Music, Trinity English Lutheran, Fort Wayne, IN

May Installation meeting (TBD)

AGO Officers for 2020-21

Dean	Travis Person
Sub-dean	Stephen Price
Secretary	Jordan Lewis
Treasurer	Craig Stoops

Members-at-large 2020-2023:

Jerry Hall
Hector Salcedo

Members-at-large 2019-22:

Gayle Sarber
Jacob Taylor

Members-at-large 2018-21:

Michael Conley
Pat Rozeboom

Chaplain	Robert Schilling
Registrar	Nicholas Fennig
Newsletter Editor	Susan Raccoli
Website manager	Paul Guyer



My organ is an Allen MDS 1. It was a gift to me from my church, St. George Lutheran. It was bought originally for Trinity Lutheran Church in Southern Indiana. Two volunteers from St. George and myself picked it up in August of last year. It is the perfect home practice instrument, being fully self-contained and offering a wide enough range to create ample voicing options for my musical literature.

I appreciate it now more than ever as St. George has returned to virtual services and so I am able to record any needed hymns or solos from the comfort of home. I am truly blessed to be organist for a great church and congregation that values the organ and their organist so much!

Have a Merry Masked Christmas!

Jordan Lewis



If you have an organ at home and have not yet had it featured in Fanfare, please send us a photo and article about the organ for the December issue.



Fanfare Newsletter for the
American Guild of Organists,
Indianapolis Chapter

Next deadline: December 17

Send submissions to Susan Raccoli:

<mailto:raccolisusan@gmail.com>

Cell phone: **317-910-1903**

Local AGO website:

<http://www.indyago.org>

National AGO website:

<https://www.agohq.org/>

American Guild of Organists
Indianapolis Chapter
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Please keep wearing your masks when
you are with other people so when the
pandemic is controlled, we can meet
in person with no one missing.

Stay warm and safe!