

**Collection #  
M 1488  
OM 0754  
BV 5498-5504**

**AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS  
COLLECTION, 1873-2008**

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Processed by

Stephen Good  
May 2021

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Indiana Historical Society  
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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

[www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org)

## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF COLLECTION:** 12 manuscript boxes, 1 half size manuscript box, 7 bound volumes, 1 photographs folder, 3 cold storage color photograph folders, 3 OVB cold storage color photograph folders, 1 oversized manuscript folder

**COLLECTION DATES:** 1873-2008

**PROVENANCE:** American Guild of Organists, Indianapolis Chapter

**RESTRICTIONS:**

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**ALTERNATE FORMATS:**

**RELATED HOLDINGS:**

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 1997.0523, 1997.0607, 2019.0132

**NOTES:** Materials in cold storage need at least 4 hours to acclimate, so patrons should call ahead if they wish to view materials that are in cold storage.

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

The American Guild of Organists was originally founded in New York City in 1896 by forward looking musicians throughout the United States with several different purposes: advancing worthy religious music; elevating the status of church musicians and increasing appreciation of their responsibilities, duties, and opportunities; raising the standards of efficiency of organists and choirmasters by examinations; providing members with opportunities for meeting for the discussion of professional topics; and doing other such lawful things as are incidental to the purposes of the Guild. By 1956, the AGO had more than 17,000 members across 275 chapters that were in every state, the District of Columbia, and the Panama Canal Zone. The AGO boasts members from all religions, as it is non-sectarian. It also has considerable influence with the standardization of organ consoles, with both builders and architects conferring with Guild committees.

The Indiana Chapter was chartered in 1919, at DePauw University School of Music in Greencastle. The original officers were Van Denman Thompson (Dean), Carrie Hyatt Kennedy (Sub Dean), Ida Burr Bell (Secretary), Myra S Gordon (Treasurer), Edna Cogswell (Registrar), and Dean Armstrong (Librarian). In 1956, this became the Indianapolis Chapter, after other chapters popped up all over Indiana, including chapters and branches in DePauw, Evansville, Fort Wayne, Indiana University, Kokomo, Lafayette, Muncie, the St. Joseph Valley, the Wabash Valley, and the Whitewater Valley.

Sources:

Materials in the collection

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection is split into multiple series: scrapbooks (including several bound volumes of photographs and newspaper clippings), chapter news, financial, AGO history, correspondence, membership, yearbooks, administrative, Mozingo, events, fanfare, executive minutes, membership minutes, concert notes, photographs, and miscellaneous.

This collection primarily consists of meeting minutes, concert and recital programs, and newsletters. There are also ledgers, budgets, and other financial papers, as well as different administrative papers including charter documentation and by-laws. The Mozingo series contains endowment documents and estate papers for Berniece Mozingo. The collection also contains membership rosters and yearbooks with lists of members, as well as correspondence about different events and issues in the AGO.

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