

Music at IPC

Contributed by Administrator
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Christopher R. Dent — Director of Music

Christopher Dent has been Director of Music at Indianola Presbyterian Church since 2015. He is also Chorus Master for Opera Project Columbus as well as the artistic director of the Magpie Consort choral group in Columbus. He has served on the faculties of Ohio Wesleyan University (guest conductor of the Choral Art Society) and the Ohio State University-Marion campus where he conducted the University Chorus and has served as guest conductor of festival choirs for the Columbus (Ohio) chapter of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians and the 2014 Adams County (Ohio) All-County Choir. Christopher participated in the 2012 Professional Choral Institute (a collaboration between Seraphic Fire and the University of South Florida) as a Conducting Fellow working with Patrick Dupre Quigley and James Bass, and in January of 2015, he was one of five conductors selected to work with Noel Edison and the 100-plus voice Toronto Mendelssohn Choir and Elora Festival Singers as part of TMC’s Emerging Conductors Program. He is a graduate of Capital University (BM trumpet performance) and The Ohio State University (MM in Choral Conducting) where he studied with Hilary Apfelstadt, Robert J. Ward and Thomas Hart.

H. Douglas Slusher – Emeritus Minister of Music Doug Slusher graduated from Westminster Choir College with a Bachelors of Music in voice and church music. He later earned both a Masters and a Ph.D. in music from The Ohio State University. Doug was Minister of Music at Indianola from 1969 until 2004 and was named Minister of Music Emeritus in 2005. With his retirement as an Academic Advisor at OSU, he returned to IPC as Director of the Chancel Choir. He has taught at OSU, Heidelberg College and Dennison University. Doug Slusher retired as IPC Choir Director for a second time in 2015.

Dr. Jerry Lowder - Former Organist

Dr. Lowder retired on Oct. 3, 2010 after 34+ years as organist.

Orlay Alonso - Organist

Orlay began as our organist in October of 2010—coming to us from the Bronx, NY. His music education started at the National School of Arts in his native Cuba, then the F. LaGuardia High School for the Performing Arts in New York City, where he was awarded the Ann-Marie McDermott Memorial Scholarship to study at the Manhattan School of Music Preparatory Division with Ubaldo DÍaz-Acosta. Mr. Alonso graduated from the Mannes College of Music with a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance and later continued his graduate studies at Yale University where he received his Master of Music degree. The thirst for excellence in his performances continued as he received his Professional Studies degree from the Manhattan School of Music. Orlay received his D.M.A. degree in piano from The Ohio State University in 2016 and is now an adjunct member of the faculty at Capital University.

Orlay has garnered top prizes in numerous piano competitions such as Kingsville International Piano Competition, Artists International Young Artists Piano Award, Joyce Dutka Arts Foundation Competition, Queens College Cultural Heritage Competition, The Young Bronx Artists Competition, Yale School of Music Woolsey Hall Concerto Competition and Isabel Scionti International Piano Competition. He has captivated audiences at Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall, Sprague Memorial Hall at Yale University, Steinway Hall, Rockwell Hall at Buffalo State University, Tishman Hall of the New School University, The Spanish Institute, Lefrak Hall at Queens College, Rosch Recital Hall at SUNY Fredonia, Elebash Hall at the Graduate Center of the City University of NY and Trinity Church among others. He served on the staff of Lincoln Bassett School in New Haven, CT, Saint David’s School in NYC, The Spence School in NYC, as a Teaching Assistant at Yale School of Music in CT, and Our Lady of the Assumption School in Bronx, NY. He has been sought after not only as a performing artist but also as an educator by Buffalo State University and The Fredonia School of Music of the State University of New York, where he has given master classes and lectures.

Mary-Rebekah Fortman - Director of Handbell Choir

Mary Rebekah Fortman attended Capital University where she received a Bachelors in Music Education and Masters in Music Education with an emphasis in the Kodaly Method. While an undergraduate, she spent a semester studying at the Kodaly Pedagogical Institute of Music in Hungary. Mary Rebekah currently teaches music at Hanby Arts Magnet School in Westerville, Ohio and is on staff with the Columbus Children's Choir. Mary Rebekah directs the Handbell Choir at IPC. She also leads the Children's Choir and the Youth Choir when they participate in worship services.

Adult Choir The Chancel Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings in the Choir Room from 7:15 pm until about 9:15 pm. The choir sings an introit and an anthem during most Sunday morning worship services from the first Sunday in September through the last Sunday in May. On Sunday mornings the choir gathers at 10 am in the Choir Room to warm up and run through the morning's anthem. In June and July the choir meets only on Sunday morning at 10 am to prepare an anthem for presentation during the morning's worship service.

Children's Choir At present the Children's choir participates in the Christmas Eve Service, the Palm Sunday Service, and the Choir Appreciation Service. The choir rehearses on Sundays during the Sunday School hour for about 4-5 weeks before each occasion.

Handbell Choir The Handbell Choir rehearses at 5 pm on Sunday afternoons from September through April. The choir

plays in worship on Christmas Eve, as part of Choir Appreciation Sunday, and during several worship services throughout the church program year. Special Music Services During the course of the year special music services generally include:• Jazz Worship (the last Sunday before Lent – aka Mardi Gras Sunday)* Choir Appreciation Sunday (usually the last Sunday in April)• Advent/Christmas Choral Service (the first or second Sunday in December)• Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols• A Choral Service (often with small orchestra) sometime during Lent