

Welcome Valerie Thorson

Interim Director of Music and Organist



Ms. Thorson holds performance degrees in organ and voice from the Oberlin College Conservatory (B. Mus.) and Kent State University (M.Mus.), respectively. She has been the principal keyboard player for the Omaha Symphony Orchestra, and has performed as vocal coach/accompanist for Opera/Omaha, the Oberlin Conservatory and the University of Akron.

As a professional organist/choir director for over fifty years, she has served churches in Iowa, Nebraska, Tennessee and Ohio. She also has a strong background, and love for, musical theater and operetta, and has performed numerous roles in both genres. Valerie has taught voice at Kenyon College, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and the University of Akron; and organ at the College of Wooster and The University of Akron.

She was Co-Founder of the Chamber Music Society of Ohio, a professional chamber ensemble in Akron, and served as the principal keyboard/continuo player for the Akron Baroque Orchestra for nine years. Her performance of Handel's *Organ Concerto in F Major* with that ensemble was called "clear and lively... eloquent," by ClevelandClassical.com.