

# Motion to host 2025 AAM Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio

We invite you to Cincinnati for AAM 2025!

Much has changed since AAM was in Cincinnati in 2004. The area has received or will receive new pipe organs by such builders as Fisk (2, including their first Italian-style instrument), Fritts, Pasi, and Richards & Fowkes. The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center on the riverfront opened the year of our last AAM conference in Cincinnati. The area has grown with many restaurants and a park near the Freedom Center between Paycor Stadium and Great American Ballpark, though too early to know if the Cincinnati Reds will be in town the week of the conference. The Cincinnati Art Museum in Eden Park has a dramatic new entrance. The Taft Museum of Art downtown remains a gem of the Queen City as Longfellow named us. Across the street from Christ Church Cathedral, where the opening Eucharist will be held using the new Richards & Fowkes, is Great American Tower, completed in 2011 with its top modeled after a tiara of Princess Di and now the tallest building in Cincinnati and the third tallest in Ohio. Just north of downtown, the Over-the-Rhine area has been brought back to life with many restaurants, bars, and breweries. In 1860, as many as 36 breweries operated in Cincinnati. So much beer was made and consumed in Cincinnati that in 1890 we were dubbed the “Beer Capital of the World.” We have many new breweries in Cincinnati and across the river in Northern Kentucky, as well as bourbon distilleries in the latter.

Reformed Judaism had its beginnings in America in Cincinnati with Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise. We will have a session of the conference at Isaac M. Wise Temple, known locally as Plum Street Temple, a synagogue erected in 1866 for Rabbi Wise and his congregation. The Temple houses a three-manual organ built by Johann Heinrich Koehnken in 1866 and restored by Fritz Noack in 2005.

We have chosen as the theme of the conference, “The Lord is my strength and my song” from Psalm 118. Cincinnati’s May Festival celebrates 150 years this year as the longest-running choral festival in the Western Hemisphere. As part of the celebration, the May Festival embarked on a new endeavor *25 for 25: A New Time for Choral Music*, a choral commissioning project in collaboration with Luna Composition Lab, whose composers and alumni composers have written 25 new choral works for 25 choral ensembles. The Luna Composition Lab provides mentorship and a plethora of educational and professional resources for female, nonbinary and gender non-conforming composers ages 13–18. A recent Sunday afternoon showcased 19 community and school choirs with each performing a premiere. We are interested in doing a session on the transgendered voice for the conference.

We are also interested in commissioning some of Cincinnati’s composers, well known nationally and internationally, for choral works and an organ work. We hope to share a sampling of some of the finest local choral ensembles, including a Bach Cantata Vespers by the St. Thomas Bach Ensemble. The St. Thomas Bach Ensemble is sponsored by St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Terrace Park, Ohio, an eastern suburb of Cincinnati, and uses instrumentalists from the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. Possible post-conference activities are King’s Island Amusement Park (our Executive Director is lobbying for this one!) or Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, Kentucky. With Cincinnati’s moniker, “City that Sings,” we invite you to come sing with us in 2025.

— Co-Chairs: Stephan Casurella, John Deaver, and Shiloh Roby