

Inside the Usher Corps: Laura Nagle



volunteers, **Laura Nagle**, who has contributed more than 230 hours with the ISO the past four years as a volunteer!



Tell us about yourself and your background.

I'm originally from New York State and have lived in Indianapolis since 2013. I'm a certified translator and language instructor. In addition to English, I speak French, Spanish, and Irish, and I've spent a good deal of time in Europe. After teaching for 16 years, I recently ventured out on my own as a freelancer, focusing on my translation work.

What motivated you to become an ISO volunteer?

I joined the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir as soon as I moved to Indy, and my first ISC performance was Verdi's *Requiem* with the ISO. It was immediately clear to me that these two organizations share a very special partnership. Over the last few years, I've been consistently impressed by the quality of the orchestra and by the enthusiasm and engagement of the ISO patrons.

Have you ever played an instrument?

I was fortunate to grow up in a community with a fantastic public school music program and I played violin and viola growing up. These days, I enjoy playing ukulele, but my voice is still my best instrument!

Who is your favorite composer?

Gabriel Fauré. When I was in college, my voice teacher imposed a one-year ban on Fauré; she said I was obsessing over the lyrics, getting emotional over the melodies, and ignoring my vocal technique. (She was absolutely right.)

What has been your favorite experience with the ISO so far?

It's always a pleasure to hear that a patron is attending their first ISO performance. On one occasion, some young students attending their first classical concert asked for help following the program; they were wondering how to tell the difference between the movements of a symphony. We wound up conducting some imaginary music together in the lobby at intermission so that they'd know what to watch for in terms of tempo and meter. I'm sure we looked ridiculous, but it was fun!

Why is volunteering for the ISO important to you?

I believe that healthy arts organizations are an essential part of any thriving city. The ISO offers a wide-range of programming that appeals to a variety of audiences, featuring outstanding artists from our community and from all over the world, and I'm proud to support it.