

THE BIRMINGHAM CHIEF
...off the old blockflute

**Birmingham Chapter of
The American Guild of Organists
September 2012**



Charles Kennedy, Dean

A WORD FROM THE DEAN

Greetings to all of you. As I wrote in the August newsletter, the summer is nearing its sunset (in terms of the weather, that is), with schools back in session and church program years getting into full gear. I think it is safe to say that Birmingham will once again offer many exciting opportunities for music in the coming season, and the Birmingham Chapter is poised to play no small part in this.

CHAPTER PROGRAM SEASON

The full program season is listed below. Sub-Dean Dan Lawhon, in consultation with the Executive Committee, has planned a super line-up of programs for the Chapter. We begin in September with our kick-off meeting at First United Methodist Church (see below for details). October will bring a masterclass and recital by Harvard University organist Christian Lane, and November affords Chapter members a wonderful opportunity to have a meet-and-greet dinner with Peter Dubois (host of *With Heart and Voice*), who is playing on

the November series at Independent Presbyterian Church. We have our Epiphany Party as usual in January, followed by a choral and organ music reading session (courtesy of Lois Fyfe Music) in February, and a talk by organ builder Fritz Noack on "The Art of Organ Building" in March. Two programs are planned for April: the student recital on April 8 (in conjunction with our regular business meeting), and a class by Boyd Jones, II (of Stetson University) entitled "The Art of Registration Adaptation," to be held at the Baptist Church of the Covenant the day before the dedication of the new Noack organ (to be played by Dr. Jones). We will round out the season with a hymn festival presented by organist Scott Elsholz (Canon Organist-Choirmaster of St. Mary's Cathedral, Memphis).

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are in order to member Suzanne Purtee, Organist and Choirmaster of the Church of the Nativity in Huntsville, for having earned the Choir Master certificate.

YEARBOOKS

Yearbooks for 2012-2013 will be distributed at the September chapter meeting. For those members unable to attend the meeting, yearbooks will be mailed. The format has been revised slightly, with the goal of providing all chapter information one might need during the year in one well-organized, portable place (Thank you,

Sherelyn Breland, for your hard work!). All information contained within the yearbook is also to be found on the chapter website.

SEPTEMBER CHAPTER MEETING

Our first chapter meeting of the new season will be at First United Methodist Church (secure parking is available in the First Methodist parking lot), Birmingham, as noted above, on Monday, September 10 – dinner at 6:00 p.m., business meeting at 6:30 p.m., and program at 7:00 p.m. Laura Ellis, our Regional Coordinator, will be the presenter, along with reports from our POE and POEA students. The business meeting will include a few very important items. First, the minutes from the May meeting need to be approved (see the chapter website under the Members Only section). Second, the proposed Revised Chapter Bylaws and Chapter Operating Procedures will be presented for consideration by the full chapter. Both of these are also available on the chapter website in the Members Only section. I encourage each of you to make every effort to read and study these documents before the meeting. We want the input and thoughts of all members as we consider these major revisions.

Dinner reservations are due by noon Thursday, September 6, to Sherelyn Breland (secretary): 664-1373, or 251-455-0967, or secretary@birminghamago.org, or the new online reservation system accessible from the chapter website (It's very easy... I just did it as I am writing this!). Online reservations will end at noon on Thursday. I look forward to seeing many of you at the meeting, and to welcoming several new members!

Charles M. Kennedy
Dean

Birmingham Chapter 2012-2013 Calendar of Events

September

Kick-Off Meeting: Laura Ellis, Region IV Councillor, and POE(A) Scholarship Students

Monday, Sept. 10, 2012
First United Methodist Church
Dinner 6:00 p.m.; Business meeting 6:30 p.m.;
Program 7:00 p.m.

October

Masterclass with Christian Lane

Saturday, Oct. 27, 2012, 10:30 a.m.
Reid Chapel, Samford University

Recital by Christian Lane, followed by reception

Sunday, Oct. 28, 2012, 2:30 p.m.
Reid Chapel, Samford University

November

Dinner with Peter Dubois

Saturday, Nov. 17, 2012
Time and location to be announced.

January

Epiphany Party

Friday, January 4, 2013
Time and location to be announced.

February

Lois Fyfe Music: Choral and Organ Music Reading Session

Monday, Feb. 11, 2013
Shades Valley Lutheran Church
Dinner 6:00 p.m.; Business meeting 6:30 p.m.; Program 7:00 p.m.

March

Fritz Noack: The Art of Organ Building

Monday, March 11, 2013
Baptist Church of the Covenant

Dinner 6:00 p.m.; Business meeting 6:30 p.m.; Program 7:00 p.m.

April

Student Recital

Monday, April 8, 2013

Independent Presbyterian Church

Dinner 6:00 p.m.; Business meeting 6:30 p.m.; Program 7:00 p.m.

Boyd Jones: The Art of Registration

Adaptation

Saturday, April 20, 2013, 10:30 a.m.

Baptist Church of the Covenant

May

Hymn Festival with Scott Elsholz;

Installation of New Executive Committee

Class

Monday, May 13, 2013

Sixth Avenue Baptist Church

Dinner 6:00 p.m.; Business meeting 6:30 p.m.; Program 7:00 p.m.