

THE BIRMINGHAM CHIFF **...off the old blockflute**

Birmingham Chapter of The American Guild of Organists December 2012



Charles Kennedy, Dean

A WORD FROM THE DEAN

Greetings to you, and a blessed Advent, Christmas and Hanukkah to all of you. There are many, many musical activities happening this month in the Birmingham area, several of which involve our chapter members. It is my hope that, amidst all the busyness of this time of the year, each of you can find a bit of time to relax, take a break, and receive the beauty that this season can bring to each of us.

We are so grateful to Jeff Johnson for hosting our chapter for dinner with Peter Dubois last month. Peter was most delightful as he shared his experiences and thoughts with us, and his recital the next day was truly brilliant. It was an evening of great food and fellowship!

I am very pleased to report that the chapter has approved the revised Chapter Bylaws. The Executive Committee met on December 2 at the Cathedral Church of the Advent, preceding the organ recital by Frederick Teardo, to count the ballots according to the agreed-upon procedure. The results: out of 77 chapter members, 56 approved, 2 did not approve, 3 were invalid (due to additional marks on ballots), and 16 did not return ballots. 52 valid votes (two-thirds of

voting members) were required to hold the vote. The final version of the Chapter Bylaws, as approved, along with the Chapter Operating Procedures, will be posted on our chapter website. I would like to thank all of those who participated in this important process. Thanks goes to Stephen Schaeffer and Bill Richardson for serving as auditors for counting the ballots. And a very special thank you goes to Sherelyn Breland, our chapter Secretary, for her extraordinarily hard work in drafting the revised Bylaws and working with the Executive Committee in all the fine-tuning, as well as her behind-the-scenes work to “rally the troops” to make this vote happen. Sherelyn, you are greatly appreciated!

In other business on December 2, the Executive Committee chose a Nominating Committee, for the purposes of nominating candidates for the Executive Committee to fill the 3-year terms of those whose terms will expire on July 1, 2013. The Nominating Committee will consist of Pat Fitzsimmons, chair; Debby Holmes; and Nathan Smock.

The Minnie McNeil Carr Scholarship Competition will be held at Independent Presbyterian Church on Saturday, April 6, at 10:00 a.m. In accordance with the revised operating procedures, the Minnie McNeil Carr Scholarship Competition is open to any Alabama high school student currently studying organ. Anyone with a student interested in competing should contact either Dan Lawhon or Jeff McLelland to obtain an application form.

Special congratulations are in order to my colleague at the Cathedral Church of the Advent,

Dr. Fred Teardo, for his brilliant recital this past Sunday. It was thrilling to see such a high level of interest from the community, with some 225 people present.

It was our pleasure on Friday, December 7, to host a group of carillon students from the University of Florida, led by our Regional Coordinator, Laura Ellis, to see the Paccard bells (a chime of 15 bells) at the Cathedral Church of the Advent. The group also visited instruments at Sixth Avenue Baptist Church (a digital Schulmerich carillon), Highlands United Methodist Church (a chime of 13 bells), First Presbyterian Church (carillon of 37 bells) and Samford University (carillon of 60 bells).

Again, I wish all of you the best for Advent, Christmas and Hanukkah, and I look forward to seeing you at the Epiphany party on January 4!

Charles M. Kennedy, Dean



Dan Lawhon, Sub Dean

Dear Fellow Musicians and Friends,

I hope that the season of Advent will bring special meaning to you this year. As musicians, we often find ourselves so busy during this season, that it is difficult to relax and enjoy Advent and Christmas. That is why we have Epiphany. Our annual Epiphany party is a great time to fellowship with your fellow organists and supporters of the organ. James Dorroh, will host our Epiphany party at his home this year. The dinner party is scheduled for Friday, January 4th at 6 p.m. I personally enjoy getting to spend time with folks and hear what they have done

through the holiday season both musically and personally as well as what they are dreaming for the New Year. I hope that you will be able to join us for this wonderful evening of food and fellowship. On-line registration will be available for our Epiphany party a few weeks before. If you do not have access to the on-line registration you may contact Sherelyn Breland to make reservations.

Also, remember other upcoming chapter events for next year:

February 11th—Choral and Organ Reading Session at Shades Valley Lutheran

March 11th—Fritz Noack speaking on the Art of Organ Building at Baptist Church of the Covenant

April 8th—Student Recital at Independent Presbyterian

May 13th—Hymn Festival led by Scott Elsholz at Sixth Avenue Baptist

Have a wonderful holiday season and may your music lift the spirits of all who hear it.

Sincerely,
Dan Lawhon, Sub-Dean

Dear Friends,

2013 is the **25th Anniversary of the University of Alabama Holtkamp Concert Hall** organ and to honor the landmark year, a two-year collaborative, interdisciplinary project is soon coming to fruition during three world premiere concerts on **January 23, 24, and 25, 2013 at 7:30 pm.**

You may recall that in 2011 Pamela Decker, Professor of Organ and Music Theory at The University of Arizona in Tucson, was our featured concert organist for the Annual Church Music Conference. At that time, Dr. Decker stayed at our home and was quite taken with

our collection of original artwork by Nall, the Alabama-born protégé of Salvador Dali and was inspired to compose a new 15-minute solo organ work entitled, *The Freese Collection*. (You are invited to visit the Freese Collection link: <http://music.ua.edu/departments/organ/church-music-conference/the-freese-collection-works-of-nall/>)

The University of Alabama's Cornelius Carter, Professor of Dance, Sarah Barry, Associate Professor of Dance, and Rita Snyder, Associate Professor of Dance and company members of The Alabama Dance Program will choreograph and dance during the premiere concerts which also feature organ music by Charles Tournemire and Stephen Paulus. January 25, 2013 also marks the opening festivities of the Tenth Annual of Alabama Church Music conference.

On **Wednesday, January 23 at 5:30 pm**, the opening night premiere of *The Freese Collection*, a reception will be held; and Nall will mount a visual arts show in Moody School of Music Lobby; and University of Alabama art students and Creative Campus students will display and discuss their artwork as an interactive response to Nall's work. The Nall Foundation will select and award a UA art student \$200 for a winning composition. Come enjoy the art and visit with Nall and Dr. Decker and enjoy gourmet food! Tickets may be purchased at: <http://uamusic.tix.com/Schedule.asp?OrganizationNumber=4125>

The following three original works of art:

1. Nall Violin; 2. Iris and Poppy; and
3. Organ Cross inspired the 3-movement work, with each movement being approximately five minutes in length. In the planning stages of the work, Dr. Decker wrote the following:

My working titles for the movements are as follows:

1. Augenmusik (Eyemusic)
2. Lirio e amapoia (Iris and Poppy)
3. La croix de foi (The Cross of Faith)

The titles represent not only three different languages (German, Spanish, French), but also the influences and materials that will be developed in the pieces. For example, the double-eye design on the violin is reflected, of course, in the "Augenmusik" (or Eyemusic) title. The design features of this work of art would be represented by motivic shapes and compositional procedures that derive from German styles and contrapuntal techniques.

The title of the second movement is the Spanish translation of "Iris and Poppy." The flowing lines and rich colors of this Nall work would find expression in Spanish and South American influences, with possibly a "milonga" type of tango as a lyrical influence on the rhythms and colors of the musical representation. Tango ornamentation can be quite florid in nature, which would, of course, be in keeping with the evocation of the artist's floral images.

The third movement, of which the title's translation is "The cross of faith," would bring French influences into the work as a whole, with liturgical elements also brought into play. This final movement would draw from contemporary French materials and styles, with a toccata figuration depicting a cross "shape".

The individual movements will be based on non-tonal modes of my design--similar in principle to Olivier Messiaen's modes of limited transposition, but different in actual pitch content and design. The intervallic patterns of these modes would also relate to the indicated images and nationalities: e.g., the mode for the second movement would be derived from "flamenco" modal patterns. Nall uses mosaic

patterns in these works; the overall outline of the three-movement would depict the mosaic formation with a musical motive threaded through all three movements, in the manner of a "leitmotiv." This recurring "mosaic" motive would undergo transformations reflective of the German, Spanish, and French influences. Thus, there would be both striking contrasts and perceptible unifying factors, allowing for both unity and a sense of drama. The work as a whole would be intended for recital/concert use, but equally at home in liturgical settings, especially in the case of the third movement."

Ticket Prices are:

\$30 for Wednesday, January 23, 2013 Concert and Hors d'oeuvre Reception

Adults \$18.00; UA Faculty/Staff and Senior Citizens \$15.00; and

UA Students/Students/Children \$12.00.

Tickets are available at

<http://uamusic.tix.com/Schedule.asp?OrganizationNumber=4125>

I look forward to greeting you at one of the premiere concerts!

All the best,

Faythe Freese, Professor of Organ

The University of Alabama

faythefreese@earthlink.net

205-348-3329

*In Celebration of the
25th Anniversary of The University
of Alabama Holtkamp Concert Hall
Organ*

TENTH ANNUAL
2013 University of Alabama
Church Music Conference
Register Online Now!

<http://music.ua.edu/departments/organ/church-music-conference/church-music-conference-pre-registration/>

Dr. Faythe Freese in Concert
on Friday, January 25, 2013
With members of the UA Dance
Repertory Theatre And
Organ and Piano Scholarship Winners

Saturday, January 26, 2013:
University Singers under the direction
of Dr. John Ratledge

Click on the link below to view the conference brochure:

<http://music.ua.edu/wp-content/uploads/CMC-Brochure-FINAL6.pdf>

POE 2013 Update

Your POE 2013 steering committee has been working very hard over the last few months to make our upcoming POE a great success. Our dates have been set, faculty is in place, our venues are mostly confirmed, advertising in the TAO will start in January, and we are in the process of planning for our next meeting in January. I am very proud of our committee and the hard work they have done so far. One of the SC members, David Renaker, has done and is continuing to do a great job for our funding efforts. As part of his hard work, our POE was awarded a grant in the amount of \$2,100.00 from the Southminster Presbyterian Church Foundation for Ministry, Inc. to further the promotion and education of our POE attendees. We are very grateful to Southminster Presbyterian Church Foundation for Ministry, Inc. for this grant and what the funds will do to further the education of future organists.

I want to invite our Chapter members to make a financial commitment to our POE 2013. You will be given opportunities in the next few

months to, once again, make our POE a great success. However, if you would like to take advantage of a tax deductible donation before the end of the year, please consider doing so soon by making your check payable to: Birmingham POE 2013, P.O. Box 59181, Birmingham, AL 35259-9181. Your contribution is greatly appreciated!

I will have more news and updates in the months to come. I want to again thank David Renaker for his great work and to all of our POE SC for the time and work so far. Birmingham Chapter, we want you to be proud of your POE 2013!

Gregory Roberson, Director
Birmingham POE 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**
Monday, May 13, 2013
Sixth Avenue Baptist Church
Dinner 6:00 p.m.;
Business meeting 6:30 p.m.;
Program 7:00 p.m.

Birmingham Chapter Calendar of Events

January Epiphany Party
Friday, January 4, 2013, 6:00 p.m.
Home of James Dorroh

**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