

THE BIRMINGHAM CHIFF ...off the old blockflute

Birmingham Chapter of The American Guild of Organists March 2013



Charles Kennedy, Dean

A WORD FROM THE DEAN

Greetings to all of you! I would like to thank Idabelle Gay and Shades Valley Lutheran Church for hosting our chapter dinner, meeting and program last month, and Nathan Smock for his work as Hospitality Committee chairman for coordinating the dinner arrangements. The program, presented by Jonathan Setzer of Lois Fyfe Music, took as through readings of several choral and organ works, and was well received by a generous number of members and guests in attendance. A well-deserved thanks goes to Jonathan for taking the time to come to Birmingham for this program, and for bringing a great variety of music for purchase.

NOMINATIONS TO NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 3-YEAR TERM

The Nominating Committee has chosen five candidates to the Executive Committee for the new three-year term beginning July 1. Out of these five candidates (plus any others who may be submitted by members of the chapter, in accordance with the procedures explained below), three will be

elected. Here is a brief line about each of the five candidates.

Mark Hayes is Music Director and Organist of First United Methodist Church, Birmingham, and is Pipe Organ Technician and Owner, Hayes Pipe Organ Service, Inc.

Karen Krekelberg is Organist and Associate Director of Music of Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church.

Bruce Ludwick is the newly appointed Director of Music and Organist of the Cathedral of St. Paul (Roman Catholic) in Birmingham.

Jeff McLelland is Director of Music and Fine Arts of Independent Presbyterian Church in Birmingham.

Leslie Teardo is Associate Organist of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Mountain Brook, and is married to Fred Teardo, Director of Music and Organist of the Cathedral Church of the Advent.

The nomination and election process is defined in Section 8 of our Chapter Operating Procedures and provides a means for additional nominations by the chapter: "Additional nominations may be made by petition if each petition is signed by five (5) members of the Chapter in good standing and submitted to the Chapter Secretary prior to April 1, or within thirty (30) days of the announcement of the

Nominating Committee's slate to the Chapter membership." Once all nominations are received, a ballot will be prepared for voting in April. The three members elected will be installed at the May chapter meeting and will serve from July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2016.

We are grateful to Chairperson Pat Fitzsimmons, Debby Holmes, and Nathan Smock for serving on the Nominating Committee and preparing the slate of nominees.

CHAPTER MEETING - CHANGE TO SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

The Executive Committee has approved change in the sequence of events for our March 11 chapter meeting. We will hold the business meeting at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m., concluding with the program at 7:00 p.m. As you can see, this reverses the normal order of the dinner and the business meeting. We have discussed such a change in the past and would like to try it for the March meeting to see how it will work. Your input will determine whether we continue the change, revert to our usual practice (6:00 p.m. dinner, 6:30 meeting, 7:00 program), or try something else.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

I am pleased to report that donations are now coming in from patrons and sponsors to our scholarship and general funds. I would like to thank Fund Raising chairman Barry Norris for his hard work in helping to make this happen, and for his especially wonderful letter written to prospective donors.

MEMBERSHIP

From Membership Committee Chair Karen Krekelberg: "If you know of someone who could be a good candidate to join our chapter of AGO, please send their names and contact information to Karen Krekelberg at kkrekelberg@vhumc.org or call 205-769-0113. I will be happy to contact them, provide information about our chapter, and encourage them to join us. This is not limited to organists or professional musicians, but can include anyone with choral or vocal interests as well. Thank you for your assistance in this matter!"

JOHN FERGUSON EVENTS

Everyone who attended the events with John Ferguson (recently retired professor and organist of St. Olaf College) as part of the Samford University church music weekend (February 28-March 3) was richly rewarded. Dr. Ferguson's masterclass on hymn playing and improvisation, working with three Samford students of Jim Dorroh, was simply brilliant, and I only wish that every organist in town might have been able to attend. The Hymn Fest at Dawson Memorial Baptist Church was nothing short of spectacular! The creativity and ingenuity of bringing together such diverse styles and approaches to music and worship and combining them into one service was absolutely marvelous. It seemed there was a little something for everyone. The service began with the theme of creation (with a dramatic reading of the Genesis creation account, accompanied by organ improvisation by Dr. Ferguson using portions of the hymn "Let all things now living"), and followed through the liturgical year with Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Ordinary Time. The service was brought to a moving conclusion with the singing of

the hymn "Go my children, with my blessing" to the tune *Ar hyd y nos* (best known to the hymn "All through the night"). It was all so very inspirational. Kudos to Samford University professor Eric Mathis for his hard work in organizing the weekend to make it a smashing success!

AGO REGION IV CONVENTION

I have been asked to encourage all of you to register *now* for the AGO Region IV Convention, to be held in Columbia, SC from July 3-6. The early registration deadline is Easter Sunday, March 31, after which the rates go up, so please register soon to take advantage of the early registration rate. A flyer advertising the convention is being provided as part of this newsletter.

A PERSONAL NOTE

I am not one to blow my own horn, but I would like to invite all of you to a recital I will be playing at the Cathedral Church of the Advent on March 17 at 4:00 p.m. Given that it is St. Patrick's Day, I thought it would be appropriate to perform Charles Villiers Stanford's marvelous *Sonata Celtica, Op. 153*, based on Irish tunes (most notably *St. Patrick's Breastplate* in the final movement) and evocative of Stanford's native Ireland. Also on the program will be music of J.S. Bach, Johann Ludwig Krebs (in celebration of the tricentennial year of Krebs' birth), Orlando Gibbons, and Herbert Howells (his rarely performed *Prelude "De Profundis"*, written in 1958). I hope many of you will be able to attend!

In the midst of our busy schedules during Lent and with preparations for Holy Week and Easter, I encourage all of you to do your tasks well, with clear minds and well-rested bodies, and I wish for all of you a blessed

Lent, Holy Week and Easter. I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

Charles M. Kennedy, Dean



Dan Lawhon, Sub Dean

Hello everyone,
Shades Valley Lutheran church on Lakeshore Drive hosted our meeting on Monday, February 11th. A special thanks to Idabelle Gay for hosting us at her church and arranging for such a delicious meal. Nathan Smock coordinated the meal and did a wonderful job. Jonathan Setzer, Co-owner of Lois Fyfe Music, lead us in a reading session of both choral and organ literature. He also brought music for our perusal. We hope everyone found something useful from this session.

Our March meeting will be held at The Baptist Church of the Covenant, on Monday, March 11th. Fritz Noack of The Noack Organ Company will present a program on *The Art of Organ Building*. The Noack Organ Company has been at the Baptist Church of the Covenant since February 4 installing Opus 156. Fritz will use the 28 stop-34 rank instrument as he talks about the many aspects of building a tracker instrument, as well as the process of voicing and tuning. This promises to be a very enlightening and fascinating program, well worth your time. It is open to the

public, so invite your friends who might be interested in the inner workings of an organ. The program will begin at 7 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 and a brief AGO meeting at 6:00. You will need to make dinner reservations on our website, if you plan to eat at BCOC.

Looking ahead to April 8th, our program will be a student recital at Independent Presbyterian Church. This will be a great opportunity for your students to play the wonderful Dobson Organ at IPC. We hope that you will encourage students to participate and that you will come out and support the next generation of organists.

Hope to see you soon,
Dan Lawhon, Sub-Dean

BIRMINGHAM POE 2013

Our Birmingham Pipe Organ Encounter (POE) 2013 is less than 5 months away and we are very excited about hosting this exciting event again. Our 2011 POE was a great success and we are continuing in that wonderful spirit again for the next generation of young organists. Your POE steering committee continues to meet and plan for the week-long event which will take place July 14 -19 at Samford University. Our faculty is in place and our venues are set. We have had several inquiries about our POE as our general advertising program has begun to Region IV chapters and members. We have limited space of 24 students this year and I am confident that we will have a full group of students again.

One vital part of any successful POE is a solid financial commitment. Our last POE was a great success and that success came at a cost to our Chapter. For that very

reason I am determined to make our POE as profitable as possible without relying on Chapter resources. Our National office will make available a grant of \$5,000.00 for our POE and while I want us to make use of those funds when needed, I believe that we as members of the Birmingham Chapter can make an individual financial commitment so that we do not have to rely on our Chapter resources and a full funded National grant. POE steering committee member David Renaker is serving as our fund raising chairman for our POE. David has done a wonderful job and continues to work very diligently to make contacts for financial resources. As we go to print, we have raised nearly \$2,750 in donations from individuals and a church foundation, which we have already received, and we continue to make other contacts for donations from individuals, churches and non-profit foundations. I personally know of Chapter members who have told me privately that they will make worthwhile donations for scholarship assistance and other costs. Our final budget for our POE has been accepted by the Committee On New Organists (Birmingham was the first national Chapter to submit and be approved) and our POE steering committee approved projected grants, gifts and donations of \$14,000.00. I am confident we can achieve this goal with your help. In the coming weeks, you will be hearing more from your POE steering committee on ways you can help make this POE a success, but we need your financial support.

Again, I want to thank your POE steering committee for their hard work so far and for their commitment to the work ahead of us. A big thank you goes to David Renaker for his steadfast efforts for our fund raising efforts! And finally, to members of the

Birmingham Chapter, let us work corporately to make our POE a great success not only for our students, but also for Birmingham and Region IV.
Greg Roberson, Director

An Invitation

Josh Coble invites everyone to a 30-minute program he's presenting at noon on Thursday, March 14, at Mountain Brook Baptist Church. Among the works to be played are Bach's "Wedge" Prelude and Fugue in E minor, BWV548, and compositions by Jehan Alain, William Bates, and Stephen Paulus. The recital, which is part of the monthly Senior Adult Luncheon and Program series, is free and open to the public. If you'd like to attend the luncheon at 11:30 a.m., call the church office at (205) 871-0331 to make a reservation by Tuesday, March 12. Cost is \$8.00. The church is located at 3631 Montevallo Road.

Birmingham Chapter Calendar of Events

March **Fritz Noack:**

The Art of Organ Building

Monday, March 11, 2013
Baptist Church of the Covenant
Business meeting 6:00 p.m.;
Dinner 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

Monday, May 13, 2013
Sixth Avenue Baptist Church
Dinner 6:00 p.m.;
Business meeting 6:30 p.m.;
Program 7:00 p.m.