

THE BIRMINGHAM CHIFF ...off the old blockflute

Birmingham Chapter of The American Guild of Organists September 2013



Charles Kennedy, Dean

A WORD FROM THE DEAN

Greetings to all of you! 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.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Executive Committee held meetings on June 11 and August 8, to review the 2012-2013 season and prepare for the 2013-2014 program year. At the June meeting we discussed the proposed changes to the Chapter Bylaws and Chapter Operating Procedures, recommended to us by our Regional Coordinator for Professional Development, Roy Roberts. These changes, which are mostly technical in nature, will be submitted to the chapter for approval, along with a few other minor revisions proposed by the Executive Committee. The

vote, pending final approval from the Executive Committee, will be conducted primarily online following procedures that will be explained in our September Chapter meeting. At the August meeting, more details of the program year were fleshed out and given preliminary approval, along with preliminary standing committee assignments which are being finalized and will be announced at the September meeting and published in the 2013-2014 Chapter directory. The Executive Committee also voted to contribute to the Guild's Annual Fund, which helps to support the mission of the Guild through educational programs, outreach and membership services that could not otherwise be supported by membership dues alone.

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 Alabama Piano Gallery (see below for details), with dinner beforehand at Diplomat Deli. For October, we are excited to be co-sponsoring organist Jonathan Biggers, who will perform at First United Methodist Church. More details follow in Dan's article below.

DINNER RESERVATIONS AND PROCEDURES

The Executive Committee voted unanimously to establish the following procedures for chapter dinners. The amount charged for each dinner will cover the *actual cost* of the meal. Reservations *must be made by the deadline*. Members *will not be contacted* if they do not make a reservation by the deadline. Those who make a reservation are responsible for the cost of their meal. If someone who has made a reservation is unable to attend and gives notice prior to the dinner, every effort will be made to transfer that reservation to someone who will use it. However, if the reservation goes unused, the treasurer will bill the absent member for the cost.

YEARBOOKS

Yearbooks for 2013-2014 will be distributed at the September chapter meeting. For those members unable to attend the meeting, yearbooks will be mailed. (Thank you, Sherelyn Breland, for your hard work!). All information contained within the yearbook will also be found on the chapter website.

STEPHEN THARP ORGAN RECITAL AT CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

I draw your attention to several interesting organ programs in the Birmingham area that are not part of our Chapter programs. You will see many of these listed below. One that I would particularly like to highlight is the recital by internationally renowned organist Stephen Tharp at the Cathedral Church of the Advent on Friday, September 20 at 7:30 p.m. (and assisted by Fred Teardo for a special performance of Stephen Paulus's *Paean* for two organists). Mr. Tharp is recognized as one of the greatest concert organists of our age. He is

the recipient of the 2011 International Performer of the Year Award by the New York City AGO chapter, and has played more than 1400 concerts across 43 tours worldwide, earning him the reputation as the most traveled concert organist of his generation. The concert is free and open to all - you will not want to miss our first concert of the season!

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Leon ("Lee") Couch to the Birmingham Chapter. Lee is the newly appointed Professor of Organ and Music Theory at Birmingham-Southern College. He will be presenting our chapter program in March, and will also appear on some upcoming recitals at Birmingham-Southern (in October) and the Cathedral Church of the Advent (February, for the Mid-Day series).

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are in order for member Josh Coble, who is a semi-finalist for the 2014 National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance (NYACOP). Josh is pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Alabama, where he studies with Faythe Freese.

SYMPATHIES

We express our sympathies to chapter members who lost loved ones during the past year. In particular, we extend our condolences to Idabelle Gay (for the loss of her brother Sydney), Sam Burke (for the loss of his mother Mary Ruth), and Dorothy Hays Geissler (for the loss of her husband Wayne).

I hope you have all had a wonderful, relaxing and refreshing summer, and are ready to plug back into your many activities

as fellow organists and musicians. I look forward to seeing many of you at Alabama Piano Gallery on Monday, September 9 as we begin our new program year!

Charles M. Kennedy
Dean



Dan Lawhon, Sub Dean

Dear Friends,
I hope everyone had a fun and relaxing summer. It is hard to believe the summer is over and we are about to celebrate Labor Day. The new chapter year brings us several exciting opportunities. Our first meeting on Monday, September 9th, will take place at the Alabama Piano Gallery at 7 p.m. APG is located at 1425 Montgomery Highway S. #151. Many of us will meet at the Diplomat Deli at 6 p.m. to eat and fellowship before the meeting. If you would like to join us, it would be helpful to go on-line and sign up so that we can give the deli a "heads up" as to how many folks to expect. We will have a short chapter business beginning at 7 p.m. followed by the evening's program led by Dr. Sherrie Lawhon, Professor of Voice and coordinator of the vocal/choral area at Samford University. Dr. Lawhon is also director of the University Chorale and has an extensive background in both teaching voice and working with choirs. She has led workshops throughout the United States and Canada, as well as Russia. She has affectionately named the session *Choral Tone for Dummies: Remedial, Reminder,*

Reinforcement. She will be concentrating on the basics of what constitutes a good choral tone and the steps in achieving a healthy tone. Regardless of your vocal experience, or lack thereof, this will be a most beneficial session for anyone who works with choirs or soloist. I hope you can be a part of the evening.

Other programs for the fall include a recital by Jonathan Biggers at First United Methodist Church in October and dinner with David Baskeyfield, hosted by Gorman Jones, in November. Leslie and Fred Teardo will host our Epiphany party in January, (one of the highlights of the year). Our programs in February and March will be led by Leon (Lee) Couch and Bruce Ludwick, recent and fairly recent newcomers to our chapter. Cathedral of the Advent has agreed to host our student recital in April. I encourage all teachers to urge their students to make this recital a goal for the year. Our final program will be held at Episcopal Church of the Ascension in May. More details to come.

We have an exciting year of diverse and informative programs for you and hope that you can be a part. I hope you have a grand fall with many opportunities to make music.

Sincerely,
Dan Lawhon, Sub-Dean

POE 2013

Our POE 2013 came to a close on Friday, July 19th and the week long event was a great success. I will be presenting a full report at our first Chapter meeting in September and giving an overview of the events during the week. Again, I personally want to thank all of the POE Steering

Committee members and all of the POE volunteers who made this POE a success.

TREASURER'S REPORT

As we go to press on the newsletter, I have received 50 membership renewal forms for the upcoming membership year. This is a significant decrease from last year as I am sure that not everyone has renewed due to other reasons or simply has forgotten to renew. If you have not renewed your membership for the upcoming year, please do so as soon as possible so that we can gather all of the information for the 2013-2014 membership directories. I will have a Chapter membership update at our September meeting.

Greg Roberson, Treasurer

Birmingham Chapter Calendar of Events 2013-2014

September

Dr. Sherrie Lawhon—Choral Tone for Dummies: Remedial, Reminder, Reinforcement

Monday, September 9, 2013, 7:00 p.m.
Alabama Piano Gallery
Dinner 6:00 p.m. Diplomat Deli (Dutch Treat)
Business Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Program 7:30 p.m.

October

Recital—Jonathan Biggers

Sunday, October 13, 2013, 4:00 p.m.
First United Methodist Church
Reception following

November

Dinner for David Baskeyfield

Saturday, November 16, 2013, 6:00 p.m.
Gorman Jones' Home

January

Epiphany Party

Friday, January 3, 2014, 6 p.m.
Fred and Leslie Teardo's Home

February

Dr. Leon Couch

Organ Works of Buxtehude

Monday, February 10, 2014
Baptist Church of the Covenant
Dinner 6:00 p.m.;
Business meeting 6:30 p.m.;
Program 7:00 p.m.

March

Bruce Ludwick

Chant: Music and Prayer for All Christians

Monday, March 10, 2014
St. Paul's Cathedral
Dinner 6:00 p.m.;
Business meeting 6:30 p.m.;
Program 7:00 p.m.

April

Student Recital

Monday, April 7, 2014
Cathedral Church of the Advent
Dinner 6:00 p.m.;
Business meeting 6:30 p.m.;
Program 7:00 p.m.

May

Hymn Festival/Officer Installation Service

Episcopal Church of the Ascension
Monday, May 12, 2014

Members' Calendar, September 2013

September 15, 2013: 3:00 PM

Choral Evensong

The Cathedral Choir; Frederick T. Teardo,
Director of Music and Organist; Charles M.
Kennedy, Associate Director of Music and
Organist

Cathedral Church of the Advent, 2017 Sixth
Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203

For further information:

<http://adventbirmingham.org>
kennedy@cathedraladvent.com

September 20, 2013: 7:30 PM

Cathedral Concert Series

Stephen Tharp, organ

Cathedral Church of the Advent

For further information:

<http://adventbirmingham.org>
kennedy@cathedraladvent.com

September 27, 2013: 12:30 PM

Mid-Day Musical Menu

Lopez Tabor Duo

violin and piano

Cathedral Church of the Advent, 2017 Sixth
Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203

For further information:

<http://adventbirmingham.org>
kennedy@cathedraladvent.com