

THE BIRMINGHAM CHIFF ...off the old blockflute

Birmingham Chapter of The American Guild of Organists April 2014



Charles Kennedy, Dean

A WORD FROM THE DEAN

Greetings to all of you, fellow chapter members. I would like to thank Sub-Dean Dan Lawhon and Baptist Church of the Covenant for hosting us for our February meeting and program, and Lee Couch for his excellent and interesting presentation on the music of Buxtehude and other North German composers. I would also like to thank Bruce Ludwick for hosting our meeting at the Cathedral of St. Paul, and for his excellent and informative program on chant.

Special thanks as well go to K.C. Hayes for catering a delicious dinner for each of these occasions.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

I am pleased to present the report of the Nominating Committee, giving the slate of candidates for Officers (2-year terms) and Members-at-large to the Executive Committee (3-year terms) to stand for election, as previously announced via email to the Chapter on February 17.

DEAN: *Dan Lawhon* - Dan is Director of Music at Baptist Church of the Covenant, adjunct faculty member at Samford University, and currently serves as Sub-Dean.

SUB-DEAN: *Leslie Teardo* - Leslie is Associate Organist at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Mountain Brook, and the director of Colla Voce, a Birmingham-area community choir. She presently serves on the Executive Committee

SECRETARY: *Karen Krekelberg* - Karen is Organist and Associate Director of Music of Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church.

TREASURER: *Mike Burt* - Mike is Organist of First Baptist Church in Talladega.

MEMBERS AT LARGE (Class of 2014-2017; 3 of 4 to be elected):

Sherelyn Breland - Sherelyn is Organist of First Church of Christ, Scientist, and currently serves as Secretary.

Charles Kennedy - Charles is Associate Director of Music and Organist at the Cathedral Church of the Advent, and currently serves as Dean.

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

Nathan Smock - Nathan is Organist of

Avondale United Methodist Church.

Online voting is now underway, and will continue until the elections conclude on April 7. Those elected as Officers will be installed during the hymn festival on the occasion of our chapter meeting on May 12, and will serve from July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2016.

The three members-at-large elected to the Executive Committee will be installed at the May chapter meeting as well, and will serve from July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2017.

We are thankful to Sam Burke, Jim Cook and Cathy Shelton for serving on the Nominating Committee and for presenting us with an excellent slate of candidates.

AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS AND CHAPTER OPERATING PROCEDURES

The proposed revisions to the Bylaws and Chapter Operating Procedures have been posted to the chapter website. Voting is now underway on these documents, and will conclude on April 7.

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Student members of the Birmingham Chapter, including a few prospective members, met at Baptist Church of the Covenant just prior the chapter dinner. Chaired by Christopher Henley, this ad hoc committee discussed ways to bring more organ students into active membership, and discussed ways to make future chapter programming more relevant to students. We are grateful to Idabelle Gay for her suggestion that we form such a committee, and for the time that she has taken to serve as the committee's advisor.

MAY HYMN FESTIVAL

On Monday, May 12, we will have our Guild

Hymn Festival as the closing program for the 2013-2014 season. Please be thinking of ways in which you might wish to participate, whether as an organist or reader. We will be organizing and putting the hymn festival together soon.

AGO MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It is not long before AGO membership renewal forms will be sent out. Dues for membership renewal are due on July 1, only three months from now!

I look forward to seeing you at our next chapter meeting at the Cathedral Church of the Advent on April 7. Please do not miss the opportunity to hear several talented and promising young organ students!
Charles M. Kennedy, Dean



Dan Lawhon, Sub Dean

Dear Friends,
We are approaching the end of our program year with two more exciting programs left. Thanks to Dr. Leon W. Couch, III, who presented a delightful program on “Buxtehude’s Music, the Affections, and Rhetorical Interpretation” at Baptist Church of the Covenant in February and to Bruce Ludwick who presented an excellent program, “Chant: Music and Prayer for All Christians” in March at the Cathedral of St. Paul’s. If you missed either of these programs, you missed a treat. Our program on April 7th will be led by our students in recital at the Cathedral of the Advent. Christopher Henley, a freshman

organ major at the University of Alabama, (a student of Faythe Freese) has helped to organize this recital. It is always enjoyable to hear the next generation of organists. We hope you will be a part of this event. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. Reservations can be made through our website or by contacting Sherelyn Breland. Also, on April 12th, the Minnie McNeil Carr and Myrtle Jones Steele Organ Scholarship Competitions will take place at St. Mary's on the Highlands.

Our final program will be a Hymn Festival and installation of officers. This will be held May 12th at Ascension Episcopal Church in Vestavia Hills. Watch our website for an announcement regarding the meal preceding this event.

I hope to see many of you in Boston for the 2014 National AGO Convention. It should be a wonderful event. Boston is a great town, with such history and many fine instruments.

Let me conclude by saying that it has been a privilege to serve as your Sub-Dean for the past two years. All the best to you in this upcoming year.

Most Sincerely,
Dan Lawhon, Sub-Dean

GREETINGS FROM YOUR REGION IV COUNCILLOR!

One can always start a conversation with a stranger by talking about the weather. And, this year, the weather is sure providing plenty to talk about! I was recently sitting in the airport surfing the web and read that if the Cat in the Hat provided the weather report it might look something like this:

I do not like to see clouds that turn,
it makes my tummy jiggle and burn.

I do not like those claps of thunder,
that make my shoes rattle from under.

So let me say with my weather sighs,
tomorrow will be sunny with a side of fries!

The Cat

Spring will come. Since Easter is so late this year, perhaps we should have expected a long winter? Anyway, a few things to bring to your attention:

- 1) POE's are crucial to the future of our profession. Please encourage youth in your area to consider attending a Pipe Organ Encounter! Check out the complete list (including POEA, POE-Tech, and POE+):
<http://www.agohq.org/education/poe/> And, yes, there is a Facebook Page, too:
<https://www.facebook.com/PipeOrganEncountersoftheAGO>
- 2) If you are attending a POE, what about having your chapter host one??? These are fabulous events that are exciting for students, teachers, and chapter members . . . spending time with our young organists will make you believe that our profession has a great future!
- 3) Has your chapter considered hosting a regional convention? What a wonderful way to highlight the resources in your area. Show the Southeast Region what your chapter has to offer! Interested? Contact me for more information!
- 4) How about hosting a January Jubilee? Don't know much about it? Click here:
<http://www.agohq.org/education/january-jubilee/>
- 5) Get face-to-face with colleagues who are dedicated to the future of quality organ and choral music. Boston this summer, be there!
<http://www.agoboston2014.org>
- 6) Annual fund -- Yes, we hear about it every year, but for a reason! The annual fund has two categories: chapter and individual. Does your chapter contribute? Do *you* contribute? A high percentage of participation in both categories assists the national organization as it puts together grant applications . . . consider donating today. See you at an AGO event soon!

Laura Ellis E-mail: LRELLIS@ufl.edu

Region IV Blog:

<http://agoregionivblog.blogspot.com/>

Region IV Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/AGO-Region-IV/312313912115500?ref=hl>

Coming Events

April 6, 2014: 3:00 PM

Cathedral Concert Series: The Georgia Tech Chamber Choir; Atlanta Baroque Orchestra; Jerry Ulrich, conductor. *Vespro della Beata Vergine (1610)* - Claudio Monteverdi
Cathedral Church of the Advent, 2017 Sixth Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203
For further information:
<http://adventbirmingham.org>
kennedy@cathedraladvent.com

April 7, 2014: 6:00 PM

Student Recital. Dinner 6:00 p.m.; Business Meeting 6:30 p.m.; Program 7:00 p.m.
Cathedral Church of the Advent Episcopal

April 13, 2014: 3:00 PM

Cathedral Concert Series: Frederick Teardo, organ. *Le Chemin de la Croix*, Op. 29 - Marcel Dupré
Cathedral Church of the Advent, 2017 Sixth Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203

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

April 27, 2014: 2:30 PM

Organ Recital: Adam Cobb. Bach, Reger, Locklair, Schroeder, and Wagner
Eastlake United Methodist Church, Birmingham

April 27, 2014: 4:00 PM

Service of Festal Evensong. IPC Choir.
Independent Presbyterian Church

For further information: <http://www.ipc-usa.org> bfillmer@ipc-usa.org

May 2, 2014: 12:30 PM

Mid-Day Musical Menu: Leslie C.S. Teardo, organ.
Cathedral Church of the Advent, 2017 Sixth Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203

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

May 4, 2014: 2:30 PM

Organ Recital. Dan Lawhon, Organ; Sherrie Lawhon, Soprano; John McElroy, Trumpet. Bach, Buxtehude, Couperin, Handel, Franck, Vierne and others.
Baptist Church of the Covenant

For further information: dlawhon@bcoc.net

May 12, 2014

Hymn Festival/Officer Installation Service
Episcopal Church of the Ascension

May 18, 2014: 3:00 PM

The Cathedral Choir in Concert. 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>
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May 29, 2014: 6:00 PM

Choral Eucharist for Ascension Day. 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

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