



# THE BIRMINGHAM CHIFF ...off the old blockflute

## The Birmingham Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

April 2015

### A Word from the Dean

Dear Friends,

We drove back to Alabama last Sunday after my father’s funeral in Kentucky on Saturday to be greeted by the gorgeous blossoms of the pear and tulip poplar trees. I do not remember a spring when the trees were as full of blooms. It is amazing how much energy you get from seeing the vibrant colors that flowers bring to nature. As the flowers bloom and the grass and trees begin to green, I hope that your energy will be renewed, as well.

Leslie Teardo led a delightful program in March at Avondale United Methodist Church on Dalcroze Eurythmics. It was quite informative and a fun way to get in touch with your body rhythm and realize how it strengthens your sense of rhythm when applied to music. Particularly interesting was Dalcroze’ approach to learning complex rhythms. We also enjoyed seeing Avondale UMC and playing the Skinner organ. Many thanks to Leslie and to Nathan Smock who hosted us. Most of us met at Silvertron restaurant before the meeting for a delicious meal. Sorry if you weren’t able to be with us, we missed you.

We are looking forward to our Student Recital at First UMC Birmingham on April 13. Christopher Henley is recruiting students to play on the recital. It should be a most enjoyable evening. I hope you can make it.

Our friends Jim Cook and Pat Fitzsimmons continue to make steady improvement after their surgeries. Our prayers continue to go up for return of their full strength and patience, as the recovery often tests such.

Finally, I want to thank everyone for the many ways you demonstrated your concern and support of me and my family in the loss of my mother last September and my father in March. It has been a difficult six months, but would have been less bearable had it not been for your friendship.

Sincerely,  
Dan

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### Executive Committee Election

Nominations for the 2015-2018 Class of the Executive Committee are complete. There were no nominees submitted from the chapter, so three members will be elected from the slate comprised of Sam Burke, Debby Holmes, Bill Richardson, David Robertson, and Natalie Tally.

Online and absentee voting will be open April 13 – May 9. Any chapter member who prefers not to vote online and cannot attend the May 11 chapter meeting to vote in person is asked to request an absentee ballot from secretary Karen Krekelberg at [secretary@birminghamago.org](mailto:secretary@birminghamago.org) or (205) 769-0113. Please do this as soon as possible so there will be ample time to mail the ballot and return envelope to you, and so that you have plenty of time to return it to her by the deadline of May 9th. Online voting will also end May 9th.

The election will conclude with in-person voting at the May 11<sup>th</sup> chapter meeting. Results will be announced at the end of the program and published on the website and in the newsletter.

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## March Chapter Event Dalcroze Eurhythmics



*Total concentration: Leslie puts Charles, Sam, Katie, and Dan through the paces*

On Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, Nathan Smock hosted the chapter at Avondale United Methodist Church. The program was the Dalcroze method of music training which incorporates rhythm, harmony, and melody with body movement for a multi-dimensional approach in teaching musical abilities. It is designed for preschoolers through adults and emphasizes improvisation in bringing together the three aspects of eurhythmics (musical expression through movement), solfegé (ear-training and sight-singing), and improvisation (using instruments, movement and singing).

Leslie Teardo, who has a minor in the Dalcroze Method, introduced us to the Eurhythmics portion which focuses on teaching rhythm and structure by responding to music physically.

Leslie presented the topic as a mock conservatory Dalcroze class. She explained that the most expressive music students respond to music physically by tapping toes, swaying, or using another form of movement to the music. She had the group clapping rhythm patterns, walking in circles searching for our cosmic whole note as she played melodic patterns on the piano, and writing rhythmic dictation of the patterns she played as we walked and clapped. It was quite an interesting (and sometimes challenging) program!

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## April Chapter Meeting and Program

Please join us for dinner at 6:00 PM on Monday, April 13, at First United Methodist in downtown Birmingham. Jim Cook and Mark Hayes will be our hosts, and K. C. Hayes will prepare a delicious meal of shrimp and grits, tossed salad, bread, tea or water, and dessert. An alternative meat will be available for non-shellfish eaters, just request it in the comment section of the online reservation form. Cost is \$10.00 per meal.

After dinner we'll have a business meeting and then adjourn to the sanctuary for the annual student recital. You'll receive an email in the next few days letting you know online reservations are available for use. Hope you can attend. It will be a great evening!

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## April Event Highlights

*Please See the Calendar of Events for Full Listing*

### IPC Spring Concert – all choirs with orchestra

On Sunday, April 19, 4:00 PM at Independent Presbyterian Church, the Spring Concert will feature all choirs of IPC – adult, youth and 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade children – in a performance of Andrew Carter's *Benedicite* "Bless Ye the Lord!" Accompanied by orchestra, this cantata lists various aspects of life to praise the Lord: green things of the earth, sun and moon, badgers and hedgehogs, ice and snow, whales and waters, butterflies and moths, thunder and lightning, grannies and granddads. O let all the earth bless the Lord!

Also on the program will be the *Concerto for Organ* by Kenneth Leighton to be performed by Jeff McLelland and orchestra and conducted by Lester Seigel.

### Saint Luke's Episcopal - Canterbury Cathedral Choirs

The Men and Boys Choirs of Canterbury Cathedral in England will be in concert Friday, April 10 at 6:30 PM. This performance is part of their nine-city 2015 American concert tour. The choir is comprised of twelve professional adult singers and twenty-five boys, between eight and thirteen years old, under the direction of Master of the Choristers David Flood.

*(continued on next page)*

General admission tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and children. Tickets can be purchased at the door on the evening of the performance or at Saint Luke's during the week. Saint Luke's is located at 3736 Montrose Road, 35213. Go to [www.saint-lukes.com](http://www.saint-lukes.com) for more information.

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## THIS AND THAT

### **Southeastern Regional AGO Convention**

As of March 25 *less than 15 spaces remained* for the convention. If you'd like to attend, contact Timothy Belk, convention coordinator, at (704) 309-0822 to see if any spots are available. Here's the website if you'd like to check out convention details: <https://www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=1278737>

### **Sacred Music Workshop – University of Florida**

Registration is still open for the 8th Annual Sacred Music Workshop at the University of Florida. Our guest clinician is Dr. Wilma Jensen. The workshop will begin at 1 PM on Monday, May 4 and run until 5 PM on Tuesday, May 5 (with an optional masterclass Tuesday evening).

Details (including a downloadable registration form) <http://ufsmw.weebly.com>. Questions? Contact Laura Ellis ([lrelis@ufl.edu](mailto:lrelis@ufl.edu)) or Scott Ziegler ([scottrziegler@ufl.edu](mailto:scottrziegler@ufl.edu)). Updates available at <https://www.facebook.com/Ufsacredmusicworkshop>

### **We Knew Him When**

Did you recognize him when you received his email a couple of weeks ago? Weston Jennings was an undergraduate student at Eastman when he applied to be on staff of our POE2011. He was accepted, which turned out to be a wonderful decision. He performed a flawless recital (attended by his Montgomery grandparents) at St. Luke's Episcopal Church of works by Lemare, Bach, Mendelssohn, David Conte, and Dupré – all from memory. And he easily assumed the role of mentor to the POE students, answering questions about organ study and possible career paths, playing video games, and swimming at the pool party. He was an absolute delight to be around!

It has been a pleasure to watch Weston's success, both in the US and in England, which you can read

about in his mid-March email or by visiting his webpage at [www.westonjennings.com](http://www.westonjennings.com). He was the first American organ scholar at Canterbury Cathedral in England and currently serves as organ scholar at Chelmsley Cathedral. He has played recitals at major venues in both countries, earning rave reviews. And so it is with pride and affection that we follow the continuing achievements of this remarkable young man we met just four years ago when all these accomplishments were yet to be realized.

### **Talented Lady**

As many of you know, First United Methodist Church in Birmingham recently renovated its sanctuary. This included restoring the amazing frescoes of the sanctuary ceiling. K.C. Hayes, wife of Mark and daughter of Jim Cook, tackled the job with beautiful results. You'll be able to see the renovated sanctuary at our April chapter meeting as FUMC hosts our annual student recital. It's a sight not to be missed! If you'd like to read the write-up and see photos of K.C. at work and her efforts, here's the link to the article printed in Birmingham Magazine [http://www.al.com/bhammag/index.ssf/2015/02/restoring\\_historyrecreating\\_a.html](http://www.al.com/bhammag/index.ssf/2015/02/restoring_historyrecreating_a.html).

### **Employment Opportunities**

Holy Apostles Episcopal in Hoover and First Baptist in Gadsden currently have jobs available and listed on the "Positions Available" page of our website. If you are interested in either, click here for further info: <http://www.birminghamago.org/OpenPositions.html>

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## Scheduled Chapter Events 2015

### **April**

#### **Student Recital**

Monday, April 13, 6:00 PM  
First United Methodist Church, Birmingham

#### **Minnie McNeil Carr Organ Award Competition**

Saturday, April 18, 1:00 PM  
Episcopal Church of the Ascension

### **May**

#### **Repertoire Swap**

Monday, May 11, 6:00 PM  
South Highland Presbyterian Church

## Calendar of Events 2015

For complete details on these items, see the Online Calendar on the chapter website [www.birminghamago.org](http://www.birminghamago.org)

**April 8, 2015 6:00 PM**

*Birmingham-Southern Concert Choir and Hilltop Singers.* Tyson Hall, Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church

**April 10, 2015 6:30 PM**

*Choral Concert.* Canterbury Cathedral Choir, England. Saint Luke's Episcopal Church

**April 15, 2015 7:00 PM**

*Choral Concert.* A short concert of three pieces by Benjamin Britten, including "Rejoice in the Lamb." Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church

**April 19, 2015 2:30 PM**

*Recital.* Karl Isaac Johnson, organ, piano, and cello; Kyle McGucken, piano. Reid Chapel, Samford University

**April 19, 2015 4:00 PM**

*Choral Concert. Benedicte* by Andrew Carter, *Concerto for Organ* by Kenneth Leighton. The choirs of IPC. Independent Presbyterian Church

**April 21, 2015 7:30 PM**

*Cathedral Concert Series.* The Tallis Scholars. Tickets: \$25 reserved seating, \$15 general admission, \$10 student admission. Cathedral Church of the Advent

**April 24, 2015 12:30 PM**

*Mid-Day Music.* The Alabama Choir School Concert Choir. Cathedral Church of the Advent

**April 26, 2015 3:00 PM**

*Choral Evensong – Service of Easter Celebration.* IPC Camerata. Dan Lawhon will play a 30-minute recital following the service. Independent Presbyterian Church

**April 26, 2015 3:00 PM**

*Choral Evensong.* The Cathedral Choir, Frederick T. Teardo, Charles M. Kennedy. Cathedral Church of the Advent

**April 26, 2015 5:00 PM**

*Organ Dedication Concert.* Featuring Rick Phillips, Dale Reynolds, Jamie McLemore, Rachel Julian, Karen Krekelberg and combined choirs. Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church

**April 26, 2015 5:00 PM**

*University of Montevallo Concert Choir.* Concert given to benefit upcoming European tour. Directed by Dr. Melinda Doyle. Cathedral of St. Paul

**April 28, 2015 11:00 AM**

*Lecture-Recital on Rhetoric and Buxtehude.* Leon W. Couch III. Hill Recital Hall, Birmingham-Southern College

**May 10, 2015 4:00 PM**

*Choral Evensong.* St. Luke's Episcopal Church Choir. St. Luke's Episcopal Church

**May 14, 2015 6:00 PM**

*Choral Eucharist for Ascension Day.* The Cathedral Choir, Frederick T. Teardo, Charles M. Kennedy. Cathedral Church of the Advent

**May 17, 2015 3:00 PM**

*Cathedral Concert Series – Music of K. Lee Scott.* The Cathedral Choir, Frederick T. Teardo, Charles M. Kennedy. Cathedral Church of the Advent

**May 24, 2015 3:00 PM**

*Choral Evensong – Service of Commissioning for IPC Choir Tour to Spain.* Jeff McLelland will play a 30-minute recital following the service. IPC Choir. Independent Presbyterian Church