

THE BIRMINGHAM CHIFF

...off the old blockflute



Birmingham Chapter of The American Guild of Organists October 1, 2010



Jamie McLemore, Dean

October 2010

Greetings!

I looked at the date on the calendar today and it states that fall is to arrive. With this current heat wave, I somehow doubt that it's anywhere near. I saw Jerry Tracey at church Sunday and wanted to ask him if we would ever have cooler weather. Hopefully our season will change soon.

Our own AGO "season" started with a tremendous hymn festival at Church of the Ascension. Three members from South Highland were present and they all want us to do another one - in that room. The singing from the 50+ that were in attendance was just wonderful. The readings, service music, and chosen hymns were so inspiring. Many thanks to Sub-Dean Charles Kennedy for planning this and for printing such a program! Also, thanks goes to Michael Sparks for hosting our first event of the year. There are pictures of this event on our updated web site. Go see all of these! Thanks Jim for doing this.

The next meeting of our guild is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 12**. Please make note that we will NOT meet on Monday. The

date was changed due to the Columbus Holiday. We will meet at the Cathedral Church of the Advent. Charles has more of this in his article.

I know all of us are so shocked and saddened by the sudden death of Dr. Ted Tibbs. Ted was such a prominent member of our chapter and the entire musical community at large. Many faculty have come into the bookstore since his death and have expressed both their sympathy and how much they will miss him on campus. As one faculty member stated, "he was so dapper and had such a dry sense of humor!" Our prayers are with his current and former students, his church and immediate family and of course all of us. Ted.....*Requiescat in pace*.....we shall miss you greatly.

Jamie



Dear Members,

I am pleased to announce our program for Tuesday, October 12 at the Cathedral Church of the Advent (2017 Sixth Avenue North), "Getting More Out of Your Choir," to be presented by Dale Adelman, Canon

for Music at St. Philip's Cathedral in Atlanta. Dr. Adelman has provided the following information about his program: "With the pressure of weekly performance, it is easy for church choirs and directors alike to fall into rehearsal habits that mitigate against musical maturation over the long term. Dale will offer brief, practical suggestions on a variety of topics, including tone production, tuning, phrasing, rhythm, and perhaps conducting (if time allows and participants wish). Different singers catch on in different ways, and sometimes it is useful just to hear how someone else describes or demonstrates the desired result! Dale will share techniques that he has found build musicianship but don't necessarily require additional rehearsal time."

About Dale Adelman:

"Dale Adelman was named Canon for Music at the Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta, in 2009, having served previously as music director of All Saints', Beverly Hills; St. Paul's Cathedral, Buffalo; the Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus; and the Gentlemen of St. John's. Through recordings on Gothic Records and Pro Organo, and guest conducting in many parts of the USA, often under the auspices of the Royal School of Church Music, Dale has established a reputation for his choral work with adults and children alike. He was the first North American to sing in the renowned Choir of St. John's College, Cambridge, England, then under the direction of George Guest, where he gained truly extraordinary exposure to the historic canon of sacred choral music in England, and completed doctoral work at the University of Cambridge on the nineteenth century revival of Anglican choral worship, which was subsequently published. He is a past president of the Association of Anglican Musicians, served terms as editor and consulting editor of the Journal of AAM, his choral arrangements are published by Parac-

lete Press and Trinitas, and he currently serves on the external advisory board of the Institute of Sacred Music at Yale University."

Dinner will be served at 6:00 in Clingman Commons, with a business meeting following at 6:30, and the program in the choir room at 7:00. The cost of the dinner will be \$8. Please send your reservations to me by no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, October 8, by calling (205) 226-3505 (church) or (734) 353-0486 (cell), or emailing me: kenedy@cathedraladvent.com.

To enter the Cathedral, use the porte cochere entrance located on the corner of 6th Avenue North and Richard Arrington Blvd. This will be the *only* entrance to the Cathedral open. The front doors to the nave will *not* be open. Parking will be available in the 6th Avenue visitors parking lot directly by that entrance, or along 6th Avenue North.

We were all deeply saddened by the passing of Dr. H. Edward Tibbs, who for over 50 years was organist of Southside Baptist and University Organist at Samford University. He was to have given our guild program on March 14, 2011. To honor his memory on that date, we will instead have a program featuring several of his former students, to take place at Southside Baptist Church. I will share additional thoughts on Dr. Tibbs in a special appreciation below.

Charles M. Kennedy
Sub Dean

An Appreciation in Memory of

Dr. H. Edward Tibbs

On Friday, September 17, we were shocked to learn of the sudden passing of our long-time chapter member and friend, Dr. H. Edward Tibbs. Dr. Tibbs served faithfully as

organist of Southside Baptist Church for over 50 years, beginning his service there on March 13, 1960. In the Fall of 1959, he began his tenure as Professor of Music at Samford University, retiring from full-time teaching in 2002, but remaining as University Organist and Adjunct Professor until his death. I had the privilege of studying under Dr. Tibbs during my undergraduate years, from 1987 to 1992. During this time, I was nurtured by his guidance and teaching, as were so many countless others. The nurturing and mentoring did not end at the conclusion of my undergraduate studies, but continued over the years through countless conversations about music and life, all the way up to the week before he died.

One of the things I most appreciate about Dr. Tibbs is that I learned as much from him outside of lessons as I did in lessons (if not perhaps even more so). He was devoted to sharing what he knew, not just about the organ, but about the broad world of music, opening up many doors and avenues as he shared recordings of great performances (often historic performances) and countless stories about the many interesting personalities he knew and places he had been. He will be remembered for his warmth and hospitality, which played no small part in convincing me to study with him. He had a quick wit and keen sense of humor. I will never forget one occasion when he summoned me into his office and put on a recording of the *most awful* soprano singer I had ever heard; whereupon seeing my reaction, he laughed hysterically and showed me the cover of the famous album made by the inimitable Florence Foster Jenkins! He had a marvelous way of dreaming up funny nicknames for his students. For example, he addressed me with variety of names that included “Charlemagne” and (most often of all) “Carlos.”

Dr. Tibbs will be remembered for the love

that he had for his students, his family and his church. He set a good example in so many ways, a recent example being his response to the injury to his right hand some three years ago from a cat bite which became infected, requiring surgery and leaving him unable to play with his right hand for a full year. During the period it took to regain use of the right hand, I never heard him complain, but I saw him press forward by taking extra care of his hand and by doing all the exercises he was told to do. Once he could play with his right hand again, he gave a special pride of place to the playing of hymns (as he always had), seeing this as the most important part of his calling as a church musician.

On Thursday, September 23, Dr. Tibbs’ memorial service was held at Southside Baptist Church, with Michael Smith, Robert Lee and myself sharing the service playing. During this deeply meaningful service, we celebrated the life of a man who was truly devoted to his calling – a man I am privileged to call a mentor and a friend. Ted, as we called him, will be immeasurably missed. I believe it is safe to say that, upon passing into the eternal life, he was greeted with the words “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

Charles M. Kennedy

Meetings, Programs and Events

Tuesday, October 12, 2010
Choral Workshop with Dale Adelman
Dinner 6:00 p.m., Business Meeting 6:30 p.m., Program 7:00 p.m.
Cathedral Church of the Advent

Saturday, November 6, 2010
Masterclass with Ludger Lohmann
TBA
Independent Presbyterian Church

December – No Meeting

Monday, January 10, 2011

Epiphany Party

Location to be announced

6:00 p.m.

January 28-29

University of Alabama Church Music

Workshop

Carole Terry, Guest Clinician

Sunday, February 13, 2011

Recital: Raymond and Elizabeth Chenault

Cathedral Church of the Advent

Recital 4:00 p.m., Reception Following

Monday, March 14, 2011

A Memorial Tribute to H. Edward Tibbs,
featuring his former students.

Dinner 6:00 p.m., Business Meeting 6:30

p.m., Program 7:00 p.m.

Southside Baptist Church

Monday, April 11, 2011

Student Recital and Installation of Officers

Dinner 6:00 p.m., Business Meeting 6:30

p.m., Program 7:00 p.m.

St. Paul's Cathedral

Monday, May 9, 2011

Work Session for Pipe Organ Encounters

Dinner 6:00 p.m., Business Meeting 6:30

p.m., Work Session 7:00 p.m.