

THE BIRMINGHAM CHIFF

...off the old blockflute



Birmingham Chapter of The American Guild of Organists February 1, 2011



Jamie McLemore, Dean

Dear Chapter Members,

This month is our shortest but as I look on my own calendar I realize that it becomes one of the busiest. We do have an exciting program this month at the Cathedral Church of the Advent. Please read Charles' article about this recital.

As I write this, our POE committee is working very diligently to prepare for our event this summer. I want to express my thanks to Charles Kennedy, Greg Roberson, Firmon Hardenberg, Bill Richardson, Jim Dorroh, Josh Bullock, and Scott Robertson for meeting almost monthly since last summer to prepare for this. The one person who deserves the biggest accolades is our wonderful secretary, Sherelyn Breeland. She has placed all the mailing labels on over 3200 brochures much less doing all the desk top copy of the brochures before we sent this to the printer. We cannot say "thank-you" enough for what she has done and the time she has spent doing this. Samford is ready for us and we know the cost of the dorm and meals. For those who will be teaching, please be on the lookout via regular mail for your teaching venue and other important information. I have received several emails from prospective students, so I anticipate the

enrollment to be full with a waiting list. We will be ordering T-shirts for our POE and they will be available to all chapter members at a cost of \$10.00. I'll have more information regarding this at our March meeting.

Please remember Stephen Schaeffer and his sisters and their families at the death of their mother, Barbara Schaeffer on January 2. I was still out of the country and was not able to attend her memorial service. I heard that many of you were able to be there.

I look forward to seeing you at the Advent on Sunday, February 13.

Jamie



Dear Members,

For the month of February, we are pleased to welcome back to Birmingham *The Chenaults* – America's Favorite Organ Duo, who will be making their second appearance at the Cathedral Church of the Advent on Sunday, February 13 at 4:00 p.m. I remember very fondly Ray and Beth Chenault's previous performance at the Advent in 1990, a sonic tour-de-force full of excitement and color. As was the case with their previous appearance here, their concert this month

will be devoted to works they have commissioned from various composers, including Philip Moore's *Allegro for Organ Duet*, Richard Shephard's *Eclogue*, and Charles Calahan's *Toccata on 'Sine Nomine'*, just to name a few. And of course a concert with the Chenaults would not be complete without Sousa's *Stars and Stripes Forever* to conclude! (This is in fact the only piece being repeated from their 1990 concert.) Ray and Beth have been Organists and Choirmasters at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Atlanta since 1975, and have commissioned over 40 works for organ duet since their duet career began in 1979. This concert will be partly underwritten by the Birmingham AGO Chapter. Please spread the word, and do not miss out on what promises to be a fabulous 'ride' on the 100-rank Grieb-Williams Organ at the Advent, with more sonority than one normally hears, thanks to 'four hands and four feet'!

I would also like to highlight the next concert on the Cathedral Church of the Advent's Mid-Day Musical Menu Series, a 30-minute concert by The Cathedral Ringers Handbell Ensemble, under the direction of Stephen Schaeffer, Friday, February 25 at 12:30 p.m. Speaking as a member of this group, I can attest that we have been working very hard on this program, which will feature a wide variety of music with a wide range of difficulty. It has been over five years since The Cathedral Ringers has performed in concert. Many of you direct handbell choirs in your own parishes, and no doubt are continually looking for new handbell repertoire. Concerts like this one can be a great way to discover new music for your own handbell libraries. I invite all of you to come and hear some wonderful handbell music played by our talented, skilled and diligent ringers!

There will, of course, be no chapter meeting

in February. Our next chapter meeting will be on Monday, March 14 at Southside Baptist Church, to be followed by a gala recital in memory of H. Edward Tibbs, played by several of his former pupils on the Samford Memorial Organ, designed by Dr. Tibbs in consultation with Walter Holtkamp, Jr. (3 manuals, 62 ranks, completed in 1968). More information will follow in next month's newsletter.

I am pleased that the brochures for the AGO Pipe Organ Encounter being hosted by our chapter in June have been mailed, and we are already receiving numerous inquiries. There is little doubt that we will end up with a waiting list of students wanting to register. The POE planning committee continues to work through many essential details for making this event a success. Any sort of event on this scale always presents its challenges, and there can never be too much attention to all the minute details.

The Birmingham Chapter has agreed to provide a location for the AGO/Quimby 2011 Regional Competition for Young Organists. This will be held on Saturday, March 5. For more information, please contact Jim Dorroh, 5248 Clairmont Avenue, Birmingham, AL 35222; W: 205-492-1395; jdorroh@saint-lukes.com.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Cathedral Church of the Advent on February 13 to hear The Chenaults!

Charles M. Kennedy

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.