

# THE BIRMINGHAM CHIFF

...off the old blockflute



## *Birmingham Chapter of The American Guild of Organists March 1, 2011*



Jamie McLemore, Dean

### March Musings.....

The beautiful spring weather and flowers blooming everywhere make us realize that hopefully the cold weather has finally left us. While February was the shortest month, it seemed the busiest for me.

Make plans to attend our next meeting and program on Monday, March 14 at Southside Baptist Church. Ted Tibbs was such a prominent member of our chapter and the entire Birmingham musical community at large. This is such a fitting tribute to a teacher and friend. Charles has all the info in his article in this newsletter.

Our Region IV convention will be held this June 26-29 in Greensboro, NC. The Convention begins that Sunday, June 26 with a hymn festival at First Presbyterian Church where the very large Letourneau organs are located – both chancel and gallery. Our own Faythe Freese will play a recital on Monday June 27<sup>th</sup>. Registration is on line at [www.ggago.org](http://www.ggago.org). Regretfully I will not be able to attend since this is our week for end of the year inventory.

Destination – Nashville July 1-6, 2012! Yes, it seems we were just talking about the

DC convention! However, with Nashville only a 3 hour drive from here we all should take the advantage of a national convention being so close. Atlanta hosted the 1992 convention this close to here so try to make your plans to attend. For more info go to [www.nashvilleago.org](http://www.nashvilleago.org).

Our POE is almost here!! We are 3 months away from hosting this exciting outreach of the guild. As of today, we have 6 who have registered for this and I am receiving inquiries almost daily with questions from both parents and kids who want to attend. I am anticipating a full registration of 30! Yes, 30 teenagers....but we will survive! Our schedule is full from visiting the Alabama Theatre, a day trip to the UA School of Music in Tuscaloosa, a cook-out, plus a trip to Barry Norris' house. Oh...did I mention that the kids will have lessons and classes also! Our faculty includes Jim Cook, Jim Dorroh, Faythe Freese, Pat Fitzsimmons, Ann Giambone, Linda Gill, Dan Lawhon, and Jeff McLelland. Out of state faculty includes; Herb Buffington and Sarah Hawbecker from Atlanta; Laura Ellis, Region IV Coordinator from Florida; Scott Elsholz from Memphis and Andrew Risinger from Nashville. Also college students, Josh Bullock from Samford and Weston Jennings from Eastman School of Music will teach. Our special guest for the week is Dr. Bradley Hunter Welch, Director of Music and Organist at Highland Park United Methodist Church. Bradley will present a recital on Wednesday, June 15 and a Master Class on Thursday. As many of you know, this is a HUGE undertaking both in time, responsi-

bility, and in money. Several churches and individuals have provided scholarships for our POE. If your church, church choir, or anyone you know would like to donate to this, please contact Greg Roberson, our chapter treasurer for more information. We will have more information regarding the POE during our business meeting this month.

I look forward to seeing you at the tribute to Ted at Southside on **March 14<sup>th</sup>**.  
Jamie



Dear Members,

I would like to bring to your attention a very special and rare opportunity to hear a complete performance of Johann Sebastian Bach's monumental *Mass in B minor*, to take place at the Cathedral Church of the Advent on Sunday, March 6 at 4:00 p.m. The concert will be performed by the Georgia Tech Chamber Choir (Jerry Ulrich, Director; Timothy Hsu, Associate Director) and New Trinity Baroque (Predrag Gosta, Director), an Atlanta-based period instruments orchestra. The soloists for the concert will be Wanda Yang Temko, soprano; Terry Barber, counter-tenor; Adam Kirkpatrick, tenor; and Paul Max Tipton, bass. This performance will be the first in Alabama to make use of the new Joshua Rifkin edition of the *Mass in B minor*. I highly recommend this concert, and better yet, is it free, so

please do not miss it!

Our first chapter event for March will be the Birmingham Chapter Scholarship Competition, to be held on Saturday, March 12, 3:00 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Chapter members are invited to attend.

Our March chapter meeting will be Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> at Southside Baptist Church, to be followed by a gala recital in memory of our long time and beloved chapter member, H. Edward Tibbs, played by 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). As of this writing, the performers will be Sarah Heaslett, Charles Kennedy, and Michael Smith (who currently teaches at the Groton School in Massachusetts), with possibly one or two other players from out of town. In addition to music of Bach, Krebs, Langlais, Vierne and others, there will be some hymn singing, as Ted had a special interest in the singing and playing of hymns.

As usual, the chapter dinner will begin at 6:00 p.m., followed by the business meeting at 6:30 and the program at 7:00. **Please send me your reservations for dinner by Thursday afternoon, March 10**, and please note that this is one day earlier than the usual deadline (as requested by the caterer). The cost of the dinner will be \$9.00. The dinner menu will be spinach stuffed pork loin, roasted new potatoes, mixed green salad, rolls, and chocolate pound cake with Irish whiskey cream sauce. I am expecting a significant number of people from the general public to attend the program, in addition to our chapter members, so please do extend a warm welcome to our non-chapter members. Also some members of Dr. Tibbs' family, including his sister Mary Margaret Molina and her husband Jean-Alex Molina, will

be present.

Our next chapter meeting will be Monday, April 11 at St. Paul's Cathedral, with the meeting, dinner and program at the usual times (same as March). The program will be our annual student recital, and will also include the installation of officers. Any student who would like to perform should please contact me at [kennedy@cathedraladvent.com](mailto:kennedy@cathedraladvent.com). More information will follow in the next newsletter.

Charles M. Kennedy  
Sub Dean

### Upcoming Chapter Meetings

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.

### Other Events

- **March 6, 2011: 4:00 PM**

Choral Concert. Georgia Institute of Technology Chamber Choir and New Trinity Baroque Orchestra, Jerry Ulrich, Ulrich, conductor. Johann Sebastian Bach: Mass in B minor  
Cathedral Church of the Advent, 2017 Sixth

Avenue North, Birmingham, AL

For further information:

<http://adventbirmingham.org/> [kennedy@cathedraladvent.com](mailto:kennedy@cathedraladvent.com)

- **March 13, 2011: 4:15 PM**

Evening Praise and Prayer for Lent. First Church Chancel Choir. First United Methodist Church, Downtown Birmingham. For further information: <http://www.firstchurchbhm.com> [jim@firstchurchbhm.com](mailto:jim@firstchurchbhm.com)

- **March 20, 2011: 4:15 PM**

Mostly Mozart. The Chancel Choir, soloists and orchestra. Excerpts from Solemn Vespers, Requiem and Coronation Mass. Choral Concert in memory of Walter Baker. First United Methodist Church, Downtown Birmingham. For further information: [www.FirstChurchArts.org](http://www.FirstChurchArts.org) [mark@hayespipeorganservice.com](mailto:mark@hayespipeorganservice.com)

- **March 27, 2011: 4:00 PM**

Choral Evensong for Lent. The Cathedral Choir; Stephen G. Schaeffer, Director of Music and Organist; Charles M. Kennedy, Music Associate. Cathedral Church of the Advent, 2017 Sixth Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203. For further information: <http://adventbirmingham.org/> [kennedy@cathedraladvent.com](mailto:kennedy@cathedraladvent.com)

- **March 27, 2011: 4:15 PM**

Baroque Chamber Music. Mark Hayes, Jack Sharp, Cary and Judy Donaldson. Part of the Sanctuary Arts Series in memory of Walter Baker. First United Methodist Church, Downtown Birmingham. For further information: [www.FirstChurchArts.org](http://www.FirstChurchArts.org) [mark@hayespipeorganservice.com](mailto:mark@hayespipeorganservice.com)