

THE BIRMINGHAM CHIEF
...off the old blockflute

Birmingham Chapter of
The American Guild of Organists
September, 2011



Jamie McLemore, Dean

The summer is quickly drawing to a close. Many of us are in the midst of school beginning, choir rehearsal, worship planning, and trying to think of Advent and Christmas music. Once the POE was over I knew that the summer would fly by – and it has. Our Executive Board met in July and had one of the most productive meetings that I can remember. Everyone came to the table with good ideas and left with a feeling that our chapter is stronger than ever. Hosting our first POE really gave us the shot in the arm that we needed. Charles Kennedy, our Sub-Dean, has planned a variety of programs this year. We will have more information about our programs at our first meeting.

Our first meeting will be Monday, September 12 at Mountain Brook Baptist Church. We are inviting all new and prospective members to join us for heavy appetizers. If you know of anyone that is considering joining this is the perfect opportunity for them to get to know all of us. There is no cost for this – the chapter is hosting. We will begin at 6:00 PM in Hudson Hall. Please park in the back parking lot at MBBC and enter the downstairs doors by the grand staircase. Walk up the steps and

immediately ahead is Hudson Hall. I would still like to have an idea of the number attending, so reservations are due to me by Friday, September 9. Please call me at 706-0536, 726-2440 or email me at jamiemcl@centurytel.net or jmclemor@samford.edu.

Our program will be quite varied that night – PLUS a big surprise. Does this not make you want to attend?! It would me! I have invited three local students who attended our POE. They will form a panel discussion on what they experienced during the week. Mr. Bill Gray, Convention Coordinator of the National Convention in Nashville, will give us an overview of what we can expect next summer in Nashville. The convention is July 1-6 and promises to be exciting in the “Music City”! Since Nashville is only three hours away all of us need to take advantage of the convention being so very close. The next few issues of *The American Organist* will have complete registration information and the entire convention schedule.

I have said many times that the POE was a great adventure. Many parents have sent me emails in the last few weeks saying how much their children enjoyed the week. The out of town faculty were so impressed with the venues of churches and Samford – especially the cafeteria! What impressed me the most is how the students arrived on campus not knowing anyone and left knowing *everyone!* These students are the lifeline and future of our guild. The level of talent was really astounding considering that some had only studied organ less than a year. Many

were playing literature that was well beyond their teenage years and they played it magnificently! I look forward to seeing you at MBBC.

Cheers!

Jamie



Charles Kennedy, Sub Dean

Dear Members,

It is a true honor to serve you for another year as Sub Dean of the Birmingham Chapter! I trust that the summer has been a time of refreshment and rejuvenation, as we begin what promises to be an exciting season of guild programs.

We have chosen a variety of programs which promise to be both educational and entertaining this season. You will find a full listing of these programs in the newsletter. Please be sure to take the time to become familiar with these programs, and mark your calendars accordingly.

The opening meeting of the season is on September 12 at Mountain Brook Baptist Church, and will begin with an informal time of conversation over heavy hors d'oeuvres at 6:00 in Hudson Hall, followed by a business meeting at 6:30. The program at 7:00 will feature a presentation by three young people who will share their experiences as students at the recent Pipe Organ Encounter held here in

Birmingham this past June. Bill Gray, Convention Coordinator of the 2012 AGO National Convention in Nashville (to be held July 1-6), will give an overview of the convention. Please invite anyone you can think of as a prospective member, and please send your reservations to Jamie, as requested above, by Friday, September 9.

On Sunday, September 18 at 2:30 p.m., the restored and expanded Aeolian-Skinner organ in Samford University's Reid Chapel will be inaugurated with a recital featuring Dan Lawhon, James Dorroh, Joshua Bullock and myself. Events celebrating the restored organ will continue with a masterclass on Saturday, October 22 by Paul Jacobs, who will perform in recital on Sunday, October 23 at 2:30 p.m. These two events will serve together as the Chapter's program for October. For the November program, I will give a presentation on the organ music of English composer Herbert Howells (which was the topic of my doctoral paper at the University of Michigan), emphasizing practical matters of performance, including style and registration. More information on the remaining Chapter programs for 2011-2012 will be forthcoming in future issues of *The Birmingham Chiff*. Stay tuned!

On a different note, I am pleased to report that Sarah Heaslett, wife of chapter member Mike Sparks, has been appointed organist of Southside Baptist Church, succeeding the late H. Edward Tibbs (under whom she studied for her BM and MM degrees at Samford University). She began her official duties on May 22, having served previously as associate organist at Southside.

I am excited about our lineup of programs for the year, and look forward to seeing many of you at our first meeting.

Charles M. Kennedy, Sub Dean

Chapter Calendar

Please let us all know about the special musical events you are planning and participating in this year. Our online calendar already has many concerts and special services listed, and we want to be sure yours is there too! You can check the calendar and see what's happening by visiting our web site.

www.birminghamago.org

To add an event, you'll need to log in as a member. Our Sub Dean, Charles Kennedy, has agreed to offer assistance to anyone who has not used the online form before.

Meetings, Programs and Events 2011-2012

Monday, September 12, 2011

Mountain Brook Baptist Church
6:00 Heavy hors d'oeuvres
6:30 Business Meeting; 7:00 Program
Bill Gray with an overview of
2012 AGO National Convention
Presentation by Birmingham 2011 POE
students

Saturday, October 22, 2011

Reid Chapel, Samford University
10:30 AM to 12 NOON
Masterclass with Paul Jacobs

Sunday, October 23, 2011

Reid Chapel, Samford University
2:30 PM; Paul Jacobs in Recital

Monday, November 14

Cathedral Church of the Advent
6:00 Dinner; 6:30 Business Meeting;
7:00 Program Charles M. Kennedy
The Organ Music of Herbert Howells

December—No Meeting

Friday, January 6, 2012

Place TBD; 6:00 PM
Epiphany Party

January 27-28, 2012

University of Alabama Church Music
Conference
Joby Bell, Guest Clinician and Recitalist

Monday, February 13, 2012

Dawson Memorial Baptist Church
6:00 Dinner; 6:30 Business Meeting;
7:00 Program Eric Mathis speaks on Church
Music

Monday, March 12, 2012

South Highland Presbyterian Church
Dinner 6:00; 6:30 Business Meeting
Program 7:00 The E. M. Skinner organ, Opus
576, from Ensley Highland Presbyterian
Church, restored and relocated to the chapel at
South Highland Presbyterian Church

Monday, April 16, 2012

First United Methodist Church
6:00 Dinner; 6:30 Business Meeting
7:00 Program Student Recital

Monday, May 14, 2012

Independent Presbyterian Church
6:00 Dinner; 6:30 Business Meeting
7:00 Program Hymn Festival and
Installation of Officers