

THE BIRMINGHAM CHIEF
...off the old blockflute

Birmingham Chapter of
The American Guild of Organists
October, 2011



Jamie McLemore, Dean

October 2011

I'm sitting in my office at Samford and trying to think where has time gone this year? It seems as if the spring was just here, then the POE began, and now we are at the second of our monthly programs. Time is stopping for no one.

It was so good to see so many of you at our first meeting of the year. At the final count we had 44 present that night. It was a great beginning of our year. We welcomed many new members and saw lots of familiar faces. Many thanks go to Josh Coble for hosting and Greg Roberson for arranging the food. The yearbooks were available that night. If you have not yet received yours, please contact one of the officers.

I saw many of you at the organ recital in Reid Chapel on Sunday, September 18th. It was good to hear the renovated Skinner organ – almost completed – in its full splendor. All the performers Dan Lawhon, Charles Kennedy, Josh Bullock, and Jim Dorroh played exceptionally well. The organ has been given new life by the Quimby Organ Company. If you have not

had a chance to hear the renovated organ you will this month. Paul Jacobs, head of the organ department at the Julliard School, will present a recital on Sunday, October 23rd at 2:30 in the afternoon. The day before, he will present a master class for those who want to play for his comments. This will be held from 10:30 to noon in Reid Chapel. Regretfully, I will miss both of these due to a planned trip to New York that weekend. I am sure you will enjoy the entire weekend of music.

Make your plans now to attend our National Convention next July in Nashville. The dates for the convention are July 1-6. We all should take advantage of a national convention being so close to home – only 3 hours away. Registration will be available soon (early October) on the web site at www.nashvilleago.org. Follow the link to the national convention site. Early registration is only \$350!

Enjoy this beginning of my favorite time of the year – fall. I wish you all the best in the middle of school year, choir rehearsals, practice time, and all the myriad of details as we go into the home stretch before Thanksgiving and Advent.

Cheers!
Jamie



Charles Kennedy, Sub Dean

Dear Members,

We are in the midst of a very busy year, with many exciting things happening. Two Sundays ago, the public heard, for the first time, the renewed and revitalized organ in Reid Chapel at Samford University (almost finished), with sounds never heard before in the chapel. The program and occasion was a most fitting testament to the late Jane Slaughter Hardenbergh, who selected Aeolian-Skinner to build the organ and laid the foundation at what was then Howard College for the organ program, which was continued so faithfully over the next five decades by the late H. Edward Tibbs. Professor Kathryn Fouse, recalling the recent passing of two of her faculty colleagues, movingly paid tribute to this legacy in her introduction, as she imagined the celebration in Heaven of the renewed organ with Jane, Ted, and Betty Sue Shepherd. Dean Joseph Hopkins spoke at length about Jane's vision and passion for music, and of how the Quimby Pipe Organs rebuild realizes her original vision for the Reid Chapel organ (which had been scaled back due to budgetary constraints). Dr. Hopkins also spoke of the active role that Ted Tibbs played, in consultation with Dean Hopkins and Firmon Hardenbergh, in the planning of the rebuild. As a Samford alumnus, it was a great honor to be part of this celebration. This is an organ which will inspire students for many decades ahead,

and we can be ever thankful to Firmon Hardenbergh for his marvelous gift to Samford University and the community. Soli Deo Gloria!

The celebration of this organ will continue with a masterclass on Saturday, October 22 at 10:30 a.m., and a recital on Sunday, October 23 at 2:30 p.m., both by Paul Jacobs of the Julliard School in New York. These two events will serve together as the Chapter's program for October. The masterclass is filled already, with four students playing (two from Samford, and two from the University of Alabama). I also would remind you of the chapter program for November 14 at the Cathedral Church of the Advent on the music of Herbert Howells.

I would like to highlight two music events occurring very soon at the Cathedral Church of the Advent. First, there is the concert by *Chanticleer*, taking place on Friday, October 7 at 7:30 p.m. The program, entitled "Love Story," will feature a wide variety of secular and sacred works, including the world premiere a new work by Stephen Paulus. Tickets are still available from the Cathedral Music Office (443-8553, or 226-3505) through Wednesday, October 5, and from the Virginia Samford Theatre website (<http://www.virginiasamfordtheatre.org/>) for credit card purchases until 4:00 p.m. the day of the performance. This is an exciting concert not to be missed! The other upcoming event is Choral Evensong on Sunday, October 16 at 4:00 p.m., which will feature *The Amarillo Canticles* by David Ashley White, "Thou, O God, Art Praised in Sion" by Malcolm Boyle, and "And He Shall Reign as King" by Larry King.

Finally, I would like to invite everyone to a

solo harpsichord recital that I will be playing to open the Red Door Concert Series at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church (1024 12th Street South) on Sunday, October 9 at 4:00 p.m. This recital will include music by Thomas Tomkins, Peter Phillips, Frescobaldi, Sweelinck, Scarlatti, Louis Couperin and J. S. Bach. I hope to see most of you at many of these upcoming events!

Charles M. Kennedy
Sub Dean

The Cathedral Church of the Advent Choir East Coast Tour

Somewhat exhausted but totally fulfilled, The Cathedral Choir landed in Birmingham on Monday evening, June 20th on a flight from New York City following a nine-day concert tour of the East Coast by 28 singers and Drs. Schaeffer and Kennedy. After almost a year and a half of planning and with much excitement, the choir departed Birmingham by chartered bus on Pentecost Sunday, June 12th after services and lunch together.

Our first stop was Atlanta's All Saints' Episcopal Church for an evening concert (the same *Bon Voyage* concert performed in Birmingham on June 5th), a concert repeated the following three nights for wonderful audiences in St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Winston-Salem, NC; Chapel of the Cross, Chapel Hill, NC; and St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Arlington, VA. (Gregory Hooker, former Music Associate at the Cathedral from 1998-2003, is the Director of Music at St. Mary's). A choral evensong was sung at Washington National Cathedral on Thursday, June 16th before departing for New York City on Friday, June 17th.

On Trinity Sunday, June 19th the choir premiered a new mass setting by Los Angeles based composer Craig Phillips, commissioned by the Advent's St. Cecilia Fund, at a Festal Choral Eucharist at St. Thomas Church Fifth Avenue (The work will have its Birmingham premiere in a Choral Eucharist at the Cathedral on November 6th at 11:00 am). After service they then journeyed uptown to The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine for a catered lunch before singing the final event of the tour, a Choral Evensong.

Along the way, community building was evident, aided by our Samford student members, who paired all in secret *amigo* relationships. In Winston-Salem and Chapel Hill, choir members were hosted by parishioners, when new friendships were begun; at other venues the choir stayed in hotels. Choristers enjoyed sight-seeing in various places and free time in New York City.

We are grateful to all who attended our *Bon Voyage* concert on June 5th in Birmingham to support us and send us off on this tour. The benefits for us were many, but we can point to the further development of our singing ensemble while also taking the Gospel message in song to appreciative audiences and congregations. We have returned to our home base with a renewed sense of purpose and mission.

-Stephen Schaeffer

Upcoming Events

October 7, 2011: 7:30 PM

- Chanticleer in Concert
- Chanticleer
- Tickets: \$25 advance, \$30 door, \$35 reserved seating; Call 443-8553 or 226-3505.
- Cathedral Church of the Advent, 2017 Sixth Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203
- For further information: <http://www.adventbirmingham.org> kennedy@cathedraladvent.com

October 16, 2011: 4:00 PM

- Choral Evensong
- The Cathedral Choir; Stephen G. Schaeffer, Director of Music; Charles M. Kennedy, Music Associate
- Cathedral Church of the Advent, 2017 Sixth Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203
- For further information: <http://www.adventbirmingham.org> kennedy@cathedraladvent.com

October 21, 2011: 12:30 PM

- Mid-Day Musical Menu
- Kelly Jensen, solo handbells
- Cathedral Church of the Advent, 2017 Sixth Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203
- For further information: <http://www.adventbirmingham.org> kennedy@cathedraladvent.com

October 22, 2011: 10:30 AM

- Organ Masterclass
- Paul Jacobs, Master Teacher
- Reid Chapel, Samford University, 800 Lakeshore Drive, Birmingham, Alabama 35229
- For further information: <http://arts.samford.edu/events/>

October 23, 2011: 2:30 PM

- Organ Recital
- Paul Jacobs
- Reid Chapel, Samford University, 800 Lakeshore Drive, Birmingham, Alabama 35229
- For further information: <http://arts.samford.edu/events/>

October 31, 2011: 9:00 PM

- Organ Spooktacular
- BSC faculty, students, and alumni
- Works by JS Bach, PDQ Bach, and maybe some others
- "Organists behaving badly"
- Hill Recital Hall, BSC Campus
- For further information: jhcook@bsc.edu

Meetings, Programs and Events 2011-2012

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

Home of Dan and Sheri Lawhon
6:00 – 8:00 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