

**THE BIRMINGHAM CHIEF**  
**...off the old blockflute**

**Birmingham Chapter of**  
**The American Guild of Organists**  
**November, 2011**



Jamie McLemore, Dean

It is amazing to see how many stores already have Christmas decorations out before Halloween – much less Thanksgiving. The thing that surprises me the most is how people “decorate” for Halloween. I never knew that this was a time to decorate so much. Guess I’m out of the loop!

I’ve heard great reviews from the Master Class and Recital that Paul Jacobs gave last month. From what I understand all of the students who played for him were thoroughly prepared. I read the review in the paper and knew that it would be a great “rededication” for the organ. The Quimby Organ Company has done a superb job in the renovation. I am sorry that I missed these events but it was something that could not be changed.

Our next meeting is Monday, November 14 at The Cathedral Church of the Advent. We will follow our usual schedule of dinner at 6:00; business meeting at 6:30 followed by the program at 7:00 in the nave. Our

Sub-Dean Charles Kennedy is presenting a program on Herbert Howells. Please read his article in this newsletter.

**2011 November**  
**Organ Recital**  
**Series**

The forty-seventh annual **November Organ Recital Series** will take place at neighboring churches while the [Schreiber Memorial Organ](#) built by the Dobson Organ Company is being installed.

More than 150 artists representing the finest talent from the United States and Europe have performed on IPC's Aeolian-Skinner organ over the past 45 years. Please note that all the organ recitals are always free and open to the public. All recitals begin at 4:00 PM.

The recitalist and their venues are:

**Sunday, November 6, 2011**

Isabelle Demers  
St. Mary's on the Highlands  
1910 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue South

**Sunday, November 13**

Christopher Houlihan  
Reid Chapel, Samford University

## Sunday, November 20

Jeremy Filsell

Episcopal Church of the Ascension  
1912 Canyon Road, Vestavia Hills

Pictures of the Dobson install can be found on the IPC web site. Please go to [www.ipc-usa.org](http://www.ipc-usa.org) to view these. Many members were able to attend the "Blessing of the Pipes" on Wednesday, October 12. It was very exciting to watch the truck unload all of the organ parts.

We are all in the midst of the busiest seasons of the church calendar. Extra rehearsals for choirs will certainly be scheduled and with Christmas Day and New Year's on Sunday this year, it adds just a little more work. If your church is doing special music, please make all the effort to add these to our calendar.

We will not have a meeting in December. Please remember that our Epiphany Party will be held on **Friday** (note the day change!!) **January 6<sup>th</sup>** at the home of Dan and Sherri Lawhon beginning at 6:00 PM. I will have more information for you in our next newsletter. I wish you all a blessed Thanksgiving and safe travels for those who are going to be away. See you at the Advent.

*Jamie  
Dean*



Charles Kennedy, Sub Dean

Dear Members,

October has proven to be a very busy and exciting month for music in Birmingham (as will be the month of November), with the continued celebratory events for the renewed Aeolian-Skinner organ in Samford University's Reid Chapel. On Saturday, October 22, Paul Jacobs of the Julliard School conducted a masterclass, for which the participants were Heekyung Lee, Josh Bullock, James Smith and Josh Coble. Each of the participants was well prepared, and responded very well to Mr. Jacobs insightful comments. We were subsequently treated to a brilliant recital by Mr. Jacobs on the Jane Hardenbergh Memorial Organ the next day. The organ was put through its paces in the recital, with a broad range of colors and ensembles heard. Repertoire included the Elgar Sonata in G Major and his famous Pomp and Circumstance March in D Major, Florence Price's *Suite*, Bach's *Sonata in E minor*, and John Weaver's *Fanstasia*. Bach's *Fugue in A minor* (from BWV 543) was played as an encore. We will have yet another opportunity to hear this organ with Christopher Houlihan's recital on November 13 at 4:00 p.m., as part of the Independent Presbyterian organ series.

I will be giving the program for our November chapter meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>, which will take place at the Cathedral Church of the Advent. It will be devoted to the organ works of Herbert Howells, with an overview of the composer and a special focus on performance

practice (most particularly style and registration). Please plan to bring any scores you have of Howells. Works to be discussed and played will draw in particular from the Psalm Preludes (Sets 1 and 2) and the *Six Pieces* (which, for those who have older editions with the pieces published separately, includes Preludio 'Sine Nomine'; Saraband for the Morning of Easter; Master Tallis's Testament; Fugue, Chorale and Epilogue; Saraband in Modo Elegiaco; and Paean). I will demonstrate brief passages from a few other works that will be less familiar to most organists. I will also hope to have some time to take a few questions about performance issues in Howells.

Dinner will be served at 6:00 in the Refectory (direction signs will be posted), with a business meeting following at 6:30, and the program in the Nave at 7:00. The cost of the dinner will be \$10. Please send your reservations to me **by no later than 12 noon on Friday, November 11**, by calling (205) 226-3505 (church) or (734) 353-0486 (cell), or emailing: [kennedy@cathedraladvent.com](mailto:kennedy@cathedraladvent.com). Unfortunately we will not be able to accommodate any late reservations. 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 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue visitors parking lot directly by that entrance, or along 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue North.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our next meeting and at various organ recitals throughout the month of November!

Charles M. Kennedy  
Sub Dean

## CALENDAR

### **November 6, 2011: 11:00 AM**

Choral Eucharist for All Saints  
The Cathedral Choir; Stephen G. Schaeffer, Director of Music; Charles M. Kennedy, Music Associate  
Craig Phillips: Communion Service in G (Alabama premiere)  
Cathedral Church of the Advent, 2017 Sixth Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203  
For further information:  
<http://www.adventbirmingham.orgkennedy@cathedraladvent.com>

### **November 6, 2011: 4:00 PM**

IPC November Organ Recital Series  
Isabelle Demers  
St. Mary's On-the-Highlands Episcopal Church  
For further information: <http://www.ipc-usa.orgbfillmer@ipc-usa.org>

### **November 13, 2011: 4:00 PM**

IPC November Organ Recital Series Christopher Houlihan  
Samford University, Reid Chapel  
For further information: <http://www.ipc-usa.orgbfillmer@ipc-usa.org>

### **November 14, 2011: 6:00 PM**

Chapter Meeting: The Organ Music of Herbert Howells  
Charles M. Kennedy, Sub-Dean, Birmingham AGO Chapter  
An overview of the organ music of Herbert Howells, with a discussion of performance practice.  
Dinner at 6:00; Chapter business meeting at 6:30; Program at 7:00  
Cathedral Church of the Advent, 2017 Sixth Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203

### **November 18, 2011: 12:30 PM**

Mid-Day Musical Menu  
Alabama School of Fine Arts Orchestra and Choir  
Cathedral Church of the Advent, 2017 Sixth Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203  
For further information:  
<http://www.adventbirmingham.orgkennedy@cathedraladvent.com>

**November 20, 2011: 4:00 PM**

IPC November Organ Recital Series

Jeremy Filsell

The Episcopal Church of the Ascension, Vestavia Hills

For further information: <http://www.ipc-usa.org>  
[fillmer@ipc-usa.org](mailto:fillmer@ipc-usa.org)

**December 2, 2011: 6:30 PM**

Christmas at Arlington Antebellum House

Joshua Bullock, Greg Evans, Idabelle Gay, William McElwee, Christopher Henley, David Renaker, Dan Lawhon, Melanie Couch

Sacred and secular Christmas works

Chapter members will perform organ, piano and vocal selections during this annual city-wide event through 4 December.

Arlington Antebellum House Museum, 331 Cotton Ave SW, Birmingham

For further information:

<http://www.informationbirmingham.com/arlington>

**Advertise your events  
in *The Birmingham Chiff!***

Log in on the chapter web site, and let us know what performances and services you will be presenting.

Chapter support is important for all of us, but we can't be there if we don't know what you're doing.

<http://www.birminghamago.org>