

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

**Birmingham Chapter of
The American Guild of Organists
January 2012**



Jamie McLemore, Dean

January 2012

I hope that everyone had a nice holiday. Heading back to Samford today was not that easy to accomplish because I knew that my "inbox" would be full and that Jan Term students would be keeping us busy.

There are several events this month that our chapter is highly encouraged to attend. The first is this coming Sunday at East Lake United Methodist Church. All 96 ranks of the organ will be used together in a hymn festival featuring John Schwandt. The program begins at 2:30. At 4:00, the Davidson College Choir will be in concert at IPC. I highly encouraged you to attend either one or both if at all possible.

Announcing the Ninth Annual 2012 University of Alabama Church Music Conference featuring Dr. Joby Bell and K. Lee Scott on Friday, January 27, and Saturday, January 28, 2012. Additionally, the 2012 Full Tuition Organ Scholarship winner will perform on Friday evening and the University Singers under the direction of Dr. John Ratledge in collaboration with Dr. Faythe Freese, Organist, will perform

Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* on Saturday evening.

Workshop topics taught by Joby Bell, UA faculty and Alum include: Taizé Worship, Children's Choir Literacy Activities, Organ and Voice Masterclasses, Memorization Techniques, Choir Fundamentals, and Choral Reading Sessions.

You are also invited to attend the Final Round of the 2012 Full Tuition Organ Scholarship competition on Thursday, January 26 from 1-5 pm. The competition is free and open to the public.

This looks to be a great conference and I do hope many of you can attend. Regretfully, spring semester begins Monday, January 30 and I have to work on the 27th and will not be able to attend.

Our March meeting featuring the rebuilt and installed E. M. Skinner in the chapel at South Highland will have to be cancelled. The renovation of the chapel is taking longer than anticipated and the organ will not arrive until the end of February. Charles is working on an alternative program and we will have more information to you ASAP.

Have a great January and try to stay warm!

All best.....

Jamie



Charles Kennedy, Sub Dean

Dear Members,

Greetings to all you as we enter a new year, hopefully refreshed from some much-needed downtime during the holidays.

We have before us a wonderful assortment of music events this coming Sunday (January 8). As already mentioned by Jamie, John Schwandt will present a hymn festival at East Lake United Methodist Church at 2:30 p.m., to celebrate the recently completed organ of 96 ranks. Then at 4:00, there are two events to choose from. One of them is a concert by the Davidson College Choir at Independent Presbyterian Church. The other is a concert by The Westminster Choir (Westminster Choir College of Rider University) at Canterbury United Methodist Church. Isn't it wonderful to live in a city where so many musical things are happening, that we sometimes are forced to make such hard choices?

On Friday, January 20 at 12:30 p.m., I will be presenting a free, 30-minute recital at the Cathedral Church of the Advent on the 100-rank Grieb-Williams Organ (M.P. Möller, 1988), featuring music of Georg Böhm, J. S. Bach, Herbert Howells and Percy Whitlock. There will be a special opportunity to hear the second movement of Howells's rarely performed Sonata for Organ (No. 2, dating from 1932-33), showing a different perspective on Howells from what we more usually hear. This is music that is getting "away from the church," as Howells put it, music which is more along the lines of his

orchestral music. All of you are warmly invited to attend.

Chapter members are encouraged to register for the University of Alabama Church Music Conference in Tuscaloosa on January 27 and 28, featuring guest clinician and recitalist Joby Bell, professor at the Hays School of Music at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina. Some of the details have already been mentioned by Jamie in his article above.

I bring to your attention the various events of the Religious Arts Festival at Independent Presbyterian Church, taking place February 5-10. These will include a service of Choral Evensong on Sunday the 5th at 4:00 p.m., a lecture on organ pipe voicing by John Panning of Dobson Pipe Organ Builders on Tuesday the 7th at 7:00 p.m., and an early music concert by New York Polyphony on Friday the 10th at 7:00 p.m. Details of these events can be found at <http://ipc-usa.org/concertschedule>.

Our upcoming chapter meeting for February will be held at Dawson Memorial Baptist Church on Monday the 13th, with Samford University professor Eric Mathis speaking on the topic of church music. The Dinner will be 6:00, followed by a business meeting at 6:30, and the program at 7:00. Rounding out February will be a 30-minute concert of sacred classics at the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Clingman Commons on Friday the 17th at 12:30 p.m., featuring Adrienne Price, soprano; Melanie Rodgers, violin and viola; and Derek Kluz, piano.

I hope to see you at many of these exciting events!

Charles M. Kennedy,
Sub Dean

Calendar

To list your events here, use the online form on the chapter web site or notify Charles Kennedy

January 20, 2012: 12:30 PM

Mid-Day Musical Menu
Charles M. Kennedy, organ
Cathedral Church of the Advent, 2017 Sixth Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203

For further information:

<http://www.adventbirmingham.org>
kennedy@cathedraladvent.com

February 5, 2012: 4:00 PM

Choral Evensong
IPC Choir
Independent Presbyterian Church

For further information:

<http://www.ipc-usa.org>
bfillmer@ipc-usa.org

Programs and Events 2011-2012

Friday, January 6, 2012 Epiphany Party

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

January 27-28, 2012 Church Music Conference

University of Alabama
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 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