

THE BIRMINGHAM CHIEF
...off the old blockflute

Birmingham Chapter of
The American Guild of Organists
February 2012



Jamie McLemore, Dean

February 2012

It was so good to see many of you at our Epiphany Party. While the attendance was not as large as in years past, we enjoyed the superb food and fellowship. Our thanks go to Dan and Sherrie Lawhon for hosting this event in their lovely home.

I have heard great reports from the Church Music Workshop in Tuscaloosa. I understand that the concerts and workshops were very good. With Spring Semester beginning on Monday, January 30th there was no way that I could attend.

On Sunday, January 8, the city was overwhelmed with musical events. I attended the Hymn Festival at East Lake United Methodist Church where all 96 ranks of the organ were used. John Schwandt, from the University of Oklahoma, did a stellar job in using the organ for verses of the hymns and accompanying the mass choir. The

church was almost full – save for a few seats in the balcony. Our own Barry Norris has done a stupendous job in building this organ. If you have not had a chance to hear the organ, I'm sure Barry will be glad to show this to you.

Both the Westminster College Choir and Davidson College Choir were in concert at the same time – on the same above Sunday afternoon. From what I have heard, both choirs sang beautifully in both Canterbury UMC and IPC.

Our February program will be held on Monday, February 13th at Dawson Memorial Baptist Church. We will follow our usual schedule with the dinner at 6:00 followed by the business meeting at 6:30 and the program at 7:00. The chapter has some important business to discuss and vote on, so please make an effort to attend this. Remember – your VOTE counts! Please send reservations to me at jamiemcl@centurytel.net or jmclemor@samford.edu or my office 726-2440 or cell 706-0536. Reservations for dinner need to be sent to me by **Wednesday, February 8th**. The cost will be \$8.00. Dinner will be held in the Dawson fellowship hall which is located directly beneath the sanctuary. Parking is available in the back lot next to the office complex. Enter through the back doors of the sanctuary

building and follow the signs to the fellowship hall.

Eric Mathis, Organist at Dawson and Director of the Church Music and Worship Leadership program at Samford will present our program titled, *An Organist's Orientation: Preparing for the Promises and Challenges of Music Ministry in the 21st Century*. This will be a most informative program. I highly encourage you to invite members of your congregation, choir members, and clergy to attend this program. I have included Eric's bio below.

Eric Mathis believes corporate worship is the most important activity in the Christian church. He is deeply committed to helping congregations realize their full potential in worship and worship leaders plan and lead with wisdom, discernment, and responsibility in their local context. At Samford, Eric teaches in the area of music ministry and worship leadership. Before moving to Alabama, he taught music and worship at Azusa Pacific University and Baylor University. Eric has served on staff at churches in California, Texas, Illinois, and Missouri.

Eric's primary interests are in the areas of worship, music, and

preaching. He has published worship services and articles on music and worship, he has presented at national music and worship conferences, and he has coordinated and led worship gatherings for Tony Campolo, Marva Dawn, James Earl Massey, Julie Pennington-Russell, and Leonard Sweet. As pianist and organist, he has accompanied choirs in the United States and abroad, performing with choral conductors Jeffery Ames, Anton Armstrong, Rodney Eichenberger, Eph Ehly, Helen Kemp, Weston Noble, Milburn Price, Paul Salamunovich, Z. Randall Stroope, and others. He is also a contributing writer for workingpreacher.org at Luther Seminary's Center for Biblical Preaching.

Mathis, an ordained minister, earned a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance with a minor in organ from Wheaton College (IL). He earned a Master of Music in Church Music from Baylor University and a Master of Divinity from George W. Truett Theological Seminary, graduating from all programs with honors. He is currently a Ph.D. Candidate in Theology (Christian Worship,

Preaching) at Fuller Theological Seminary, where he has served as an adjunct faculty member in Worship, Theology, and the Arts. Eric is a member of the American Choral Directors Association, the Academy of Homiletics, and maintains visitor status in the North American Academy of Liturgy. He also serves on the editorial board for The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada.

Our March meeting scheduled in the chapel at South Highland Presbyterian has been postponed. The renovation of the chapel is taking longer than anticipated and the rebuilt E. M. Skinner organ will not be installed until the first of March. We will reschedule this program for the fall. Our meeting and program has been moved to All Saints Episcopal Church in Homewood. We thank Melanie Couch for hosting us on short notice. Please read Charles' information regarding the program.

Announcing.....
**The 41st annual
 IPC RELIGIOUS ARTS
 FESTIVAL**
February 5-10, 2012

The Religious Arts Festival is a faith-enriching program offered freely to the community for the purpose of glorifying God through the rich spectrum of the arts.
***"Craftsmanship in Service to the Church:
 how Art beautifies,
 inspires, and augments our worship and life."***

**Sunday, February 5, 2012
 4:00 p.m.**
 A Service of Choral Evensong
A Little Baroque Music
 featuring music of Bach,



Gibbons and
 Telemann
 IPC Choir
 and friends

**Monday,
 February 6,
 2012 7:00
 p.m.**
 Lecture:
 John Paul
 Huguley
 College of
 Building Arts
 in

Charleston, S.C.
**They built the doors on the
 acolyte closet and hand carved
 the inscription
 (see photo left).**

**Tuesday, February 7, 2012
 7:00 p.m.**
 Lecture: The Art of Voicing a
 Pipe: a discussion on the new
 pipe organ John Panning

Dobson Pipe Organ Builders
Wednesday, February 8, 2012
6:30 p.m.

**Children's Presentation about
the Pipe Organ, John Panning**
Dobson Pipe Organ Builders



Thursday, February 9,
2012 5:30 p.m.

Religious Arts Festival
Banquet*

**Ticket Reservation Required*

Speaker: Dr. Michael Bauer,
Professor of Music, Kansas
University

Tales of Transformation:
Beauty and Discipleship in an
Age of Anxiety

We live in an age of anxiety.
Teetering between the
extraordinary creative and
destructive powers of the human
race, we seek to live our lives as
disciples of Christ. Beauty, as
expressed in the fine arts,
craftsmanship, and human
creativity itself, provides us with
stories of transformation that offer
hope and liberation. In so doing,
beauty enlivens our collective
journey as the body of Christ.

Friday, February 10,
2012 7:00 p.m.

Early Music Concert by New
York Polyphony

As you can see, this looks to be a great week of events. All of the events are free of charge (except the banquet) and should appeal to everyone.

The National Convention is going to be a stellar! Early registration ends February 14th. Take advantage of the savings before the time runs out. You can register on line or by mail. Both options are available on the web site at www.ago2012.org. I have been in contact with some members of the Nashville chapter and they are excited (and somewhat exhausted!) about the convention. All of the recitals are being held in the afternoon with workshops in the morning. I have been informed SEVERAL times that we will not experience any problems with bus transportation like we had in DC - yes that was a nightmare - especially on the first day of the convention. How many of us can remember that fiasco? With the hotel within walking distance of several churches and the concert hall, it will be easy to maneuver. I do hope many can join us there.

WOW! What a lot of information in this month's newsletter. It's going to be a whirlwind of our shortest month - even though it's leap year. I hope many of you can attend some or all of these. I look forward to seeing you at Dawson.

All best.....
Jamie



Charles Kennedy, Sub Dean

Dear Members,

The month of February brings to us many exciting musical events. I bring to your attention the Religious Arts Festival at Independent Presbyterian Church, taking place February 5-10, which Jamie has covered in more detail above, along with our upcoming chapter meeting on February 13 at Dawson Memorial Baptist Church. 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.

The venue of our meeting scheduled for March 12 has been changed. It was originally to have taken place at South Highland Presbyterian Church, to showcase the newly installed and restored E. M. Skinner organ in the chapel (relocated from Ensley Highland Presbyterian Church). Unfortunately, due to renovation work in the building, the organ will not be ready in time for our meeting. We will hope to feature this organ in a program for next year. Chapter member Melanie Couch has graciously agreed to host our meeting at All Saints Episcopal Church in Homewood. The dinner and chapter meeting will occur, as usual, at 6:00 and 6:30 p.m., respectively. For the program, chapter members will be invited to share favorite organ repertoire. It

can be something newly published, or something you've found useful for weddings, funerals or other occasions, or something unusual you'd like to share with the chapter, or just simply one of your favorites. All chapter members are invited to participate.

I hope to see you at our February chapter meeting and at many of these other upcoming music events!

Charles M. Kennedy,
Sub Dean

Programs and Events 2011-2012

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

All Saints Episcopal Church, Homewood
6:00 Dinner; 6:30 Business Meeting
7:00 Program: Presentation of favorite and/or interesting organ repertoire by Chapter members.

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

Calendar of Events

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

February 10, 2012: 7:00 PM

Early Music Concert
New York Polyphony
IPC Religious Arts Festival
Independent Presbyterian Church
For further information: <http://www.ipc-usa.org>
bfillmer@ipc-usa.org

February 13, 2012: 6:00 PM

Chapter Meeting: Eric Mathis Speaks on Church Music
Eric Mathis, Samford University School of the Arts
Dinner at 6:00, Chapter business meeting at 6:30, Program at 7:00
Dawson Memorial Baptist Church, 1114 Oxmoor Road, Birmingham, AL 35209

February 17, 2012: 12:30 PM

Mid-Day Musical Menu: Sacred Classics
Adrienne Price, soprano; Melanie Rodgers, violin and viola; Derek Kluz, piano
Concert to be held in Clingman Commons
Cathedral Church of the Advent, 2017 Sixth Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203
For further information:
<http://www.adventbirmingham.org>
kennedy@cathedraladvent.com

February 26, 2012: 4:30 PM

"What They Played"
Jim Cook, organist
A Whimsical Look at Organ Works from the Building's 120-year history
First United Methodist Church, Downtown Birmingham