

THE BIRMINGHAM CHIFF
...off the old blockflute

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



Jamie McLemore, Dean

May 2012
A Magic City
Indæd!

This year has flown by – as has my tenure as Dean! I cannot believe that May is here with graduation, weddings, and end of the year choir programs. If you are like me, you will be glad once the school year ends and the rush of the season slows down a little. I hope some of you will be able to get away for some needed R&R.

We thank Jim Cook and K.C. and Mark Hayes for hosting our annual student recital last month. The food was superb – thanks K.C!! The students who performed in the recital were Josh Bullock, Sean MacDonald, James Smith and Christopher Henley. At this meeting the elections of new officers and Executive Board members was held. The following were elected as officers for the next two years:

Charles Kennedy, Dean
Dan Lawhon, Sub-Dean
Sherelyn Breland, Secretary
Greg Roberson, Treasurer

Jim Cook, Jamie McLemore and Stephen Schaeffer were elected to serve a three year term on the Executive Board. These will be installed at our May meeting at IPC. See the information about this later in this newsletter.

The Dobson is **READY!!!!** Many of the dedication events are listed here. Please take advantage of hearing this organ when you can.

**Sunday, May 6, 2012 8:45 & 11:00
a.m.**

Festival Dedication Service

Featuring organist Jeff McLelland and
the IPC Choir

Commissioned works:

“O Come, Let Us Sing Unto the Lord”
by Howard Keever (choral)

“Tuba Tune” by David Briggs (organ)

Prelude will begin 30 minutes prior to
worship

Sunday, May 13, 2012 4:00 p.m.

A Concert for Organ and Brass

Dr. Jeff R. McLelland, organ

Ambassador Brass Quintet and

timpani from the Alabama Symphony



Sunday, May 20, 2012
4:00 p.m.
A Solo Organ Recital
by Ken Cowan
Westminster Choir College

"It is difficult to find enough adjectives to describe Ken Cowan's playing. He is simply one of the best anywhere!"

The Diapason

Ken Cowan is one of North America's finest concert organists. Praised for his dazzling artistry, impeccable technique and imaginative programming by audiences and critics alike, he maintains a rigorous performing schedule which takes him to major concert venues across America, Canada and Europe.

Sunday, May 27, 2012 4:00 p.m.
A Festival Concert
IPC Choir and 60+ Alumni Singers
Members of the Alabama Symphony -
40 piece orchestra
A German *Requiem* by
Johannes Brahms and
Festive anthems with organ

Our final program of the year will feature this fabulous new Dobson.

This program will be held **Monday, May 14th** beginning at 7:00 PM. The program will be a hymn festival featuring several of our members getting the chance to play this wonderful instrument. Our new officers and Executive Board members will be installed during this service also. Please invite members of your choirs and congregation to join us for the program. Dinner will be at 6:00 pm in the Great Hall followed by the final business meeting of the year. The cost of dinner will be \$10.00. Reservations are due by **Friday, May 11th at noon**. Please respond to this by emailing me at jamiemcl@centurytel.net or jmclemor@samford.edu. You can also call me: Cell: 706-0536 or SU: 726-2440. This will be a great way to end our year with a brand new organ!

A Spring Report from your Region IV Councillor:

Greetings, all! I hope that everyone has had an invigorating AGO season. I have enjoyed reading all your chapter newsletters, so I know that there have been some exciting events in our region this year. Before we hit the summer months consider these things: if you or your chapter has not donated to the annual fund, please do; if you haven't registered for the National Convention in Nashville . . . what are you waiting for? Let's celebrate our Region!

Nashville in July . . . see you all there!

I recently attended the National Council meeting in Philadelphia on April 19-21, 2012. Here is my “Top Ten” list from my visit:

- 10: Great food (Terminal Market, China Town, Market Street);
- 9: Great sights (during the Philly national convention in 2002 I didn't have much time to explore the city; on Saturday night I was able to take in Penn's Landing and see the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall area);
- 8: The Kimmel Center (you've seen the pictures, need I say more??);
- 7: Honoring John and Marianne Weaver at the Gala Reception held at the Kimmel;
- 6: Approval of Charlotte for the 2015 Regional;
- 5: Hearing about the plans for the Boston 2014 National Convention;
- 4: Being able to proudly report that preparations for the 2013 Region IV convention in Columbia, SC, are going well!;
- 3: Major strides in streamlining National Council . . . watch for a vote to amend the by-laws in Nashville;
- 2: Redrawing the lines for the regions—there will only be 7 regions (rather than 9) and no states will be split. We'll miss them, but our Louisiana friends will soon be joining the region to the west of us;
- 1: Getting even more excited about



Several of our members are driving to Nashville for the convention. The majority of those I've heard from are arriving on Sunday afternoon. For those who are attending I would like to take a picture in the lobby of the conventional hotel (The Renaissance) following the opening festival service at First Baptist Church. If we can all meet around 10:00 PM (hopefully the opening service will be over!) we can get this done quickly and efficiently! I know this will be a stellar convention and one that the Nashville chapter members have worked very hard on. I look forward to seeing many of our members in attendance and catching up with members from other guilds around the country.

Our entire National Guild lost two great treasurers of our profession this year....Gerre Hancock in January and just this past March, David Craighead. We certainly mourn their loss and the many lives they touched through their teaching.

The last news.....we have been chosen once again to host the POE next summer for our region! As of

today, the dates have not been formally set. More information will be available at the meeting. We look forward to hosting this again and will count on your support and help.

It has been an honor serving this chapter once again as Dean. In closing I wish all of you continued success, a great summer full of wonderful adventures, and good health and happiness always.

Jamie



Charles Kennedy, Sub Dean

Dear Members,

It has been a true honor to serve as Sub Dean for the Birmingham Chapter, and I am greatly honored to have been elected to serve as Dean for the Chapter in the coming season. There are many exciting things in store for us as we contemplate the coming year. The Executive Committee will be meeting soon to plan programs for the new season. We are also very excited to have been approved to host another Pipe Organ Encounter in the summer of 2013. I personally am very grateful for all the hard work and planning that went into the POE held in 2011, and for all that we learned through that experience that will help make the 2013 POE run even more smoothly, if that could be possible! I am also very grateful for the tireless service of Jamie McLemore as our Dean for the past two

years, and for the service of our wonderful officers and Executive Board members.

We conclude our season with a Guild Service at Independent Presbyterian Church on the new Dobson organ on Monday, May 14, which will be a hymn festival arranged along the lines of the liturgical year, much as we did for our Guild Service at Ascension in September 2010. Various chapter members will participate as organists and readers, and we will have the installation of officers for 2012-2013. Dinner will be served at 6:00, with a brief business meeting following at 6:30, and the service in the church at 7:00. The cost of the dinner will be \$10. **Please send your reservations to Jamie by noon on Friday, May 11, by emailing Jamie at jamiemcl@centurytel.net or jmclemor@samford.edu, or by calling him (Cell: 706-0536 or SU: 726-2440).**

In addition to the exciting events celebrating the new Dobson organ at Independent Presbyterian Church (already listed in detail in Jamie's article), I draw your attention once again to the spring choral concert at the Cathedral Church of the Advent on Sunday, May 6 at 4:00 p.m. – *A Trio of Te Deums* (music by Charpentier, Haydn and Dvorak) – performed by The Cathedral Choir, members of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra, with guest soloists Christina Villaverde (soprano) and Won Cho (bass), conducted by Stephen G. Schaeffer. This is the final music event for the season and for the tenure of Dr. Schaeffer, who is retiring from the Advent in August after 25 years of faithful, dedicated service. I can attest that this is truly fantastic music – a concert not to be missed!

I look forward to seeing many of you at our final meeting of the season, and at many of the exciting music events for the month of

May! I also hope to see many of you at the AGO National Convention in Nashville, which promises to be a marvelous convention!

Charles M. Kennedy, Sub Dean

Programs and Events 2011-2012

Monday, May 14, 2012

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

A Reminder from our Treasurer.....

Dues letters for the 2012-2013 year will be mailed to current members during the month of May, 2012. Please be looking for the letter and remit your dues at your earliest possible convenience. If you know of someone who is interested in joining the Birmingham Chapter, please contact me so that I can send them information about joining our Chapter.

Greg Roberson, Treasurer