

THE BIRMINGHAM CHIFF ...off the old blockflute

The Birmingham Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

September 2016

A Word from the Dean

Greetings friends and colleagues,

I hope that you have had a wonderful summer with fun travels and lots of time to relax. The start of a new year always brings exciting possibilities as we plan the next year's program, start new jobs or school years, and face new challenges.

Our September meeting at Independent Presbyterian on Monday, September 12 will be a great time to meet new folks or have a chance to talk with people we rarely get the opportunity to visit. Dr. Bill Carl, pastor of IPC will speak on Rhetoric and Music, how sermons are like musical compositions, and what clergy can learn from musicians. I am excited to hear what he has to say on this intriguing subject. There is a wonderful meal planned, as well. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Sincerely,
Dan Lawhon

Membership Renewals

Treasurer Mike Burt encourages those who've not yet renewed to complete this process. If needed, he can assist with payment of dues online via the ONCARD system or by downloading the renewal form and mailing the completed form with your check. If unsure of your membership status or dues amount, contact Mike at 205-201-3838 or treasurer@birminghamago.org for assistance. As always, please invite potential members to join and enjoy the benefits of AGO membership.

SEPTEMBER CHAPTER KICK-OFF: CLERGY MEET AND GREET

Please make plans to join us in the Great Hall of Independent Presbyterian Church on Monday, September 12th as we open the new program year with a Clergy Meet and Greet. Invite your pastor(s) to attend as your guest as we explore the relationship between church clergy and musicians.

The evening begins with a catered dinner at 6:00 PM followed by a business meeting at 6:30 PM. Dr. Bill Carl, senior pastor of IPC, will be our guest speaker for the 7:00 PM program.

The menu is roast beef with gravy, green salad, garlic mashed potatoes, green-bean amandine, and strawberry chesscake. Cost of each meal is \$10.00.

Dinner reservations are due by midnight Wednesday, Sept. 7th and may be made online via <http://www.birminghamago.org/>. You'll find the dinner reservation link on the left of the page. Please remember to include your guest clergy when making your reservation.

We look forward to a large turnout as we come together after the summer break. See you soon!



CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL ORGANISTS AND TEACHERS!!!

Our Birmingham chapter **Minnie McNeil Carr Scholarship** is available again this year to a deserving high school student who is currently studying the organ. The competition for this \$500.00 award will be held on Saturday, April 22, 2017 at 2 PM at The Episcopal Church of the Ascension in Vestavia Hills.

Deadline for applications is April 1, 2017. All competitors must play a piece by J. S. Bach and a piece written after 1800. Competition guidelines and application forms may be downloaded from <http://www.birminghamago.org/Scholarships.html>.

For further information, please consult the above website or email Ms. Natalie Tally at ntally@me.com.

THIS AND THAT

Three job openings posted on our website

Organists are needed at these Birmingham area churches: First United Methodist, Shades Crest Baptist, and Meadow Brook Baptist. Log onto our website for details:

<http://www.birminghamago.org/OpenPositions.html>

Instrument available for purchase

We have notice of a 1932 Steinway Model M grand piano for sale. It was rebuilt in 2000, is 5'7" with a satin mahogany finish, has been tuned regularly, and is well maintained. The piano is now priced at \$25,000. If interested, contact the seller, Kevin P. Boyd, at kevin.p.boyd@gmail.com for details.

The next issue of *The Birmingham Chiff...off the old blockflute* will be published October 1st. Please send items to be included by September 20th to newsletter@birminghamago.org.

Just for Fun



Can you identify this Birmingham church and the builder of the former organ shown in the photograph?



Can you name the church and the organ builder where this photo was taken in the forties? Can you also spot a present Chapter member in the photograph?

Email your answers to these questions to newsletter@birminghamago.org by October 1st. Entries with the correct answers will be entered in a drawing for free dinner at the October chapter meeting!

Thanks to Bill McElwee for submitting this brain teaser!

The Birmingham Chapter Is Chosen to Sponsor a Pipe Organ Encounter Advanced June 25 – 30, 2017



POEA2017 Steering Committee members review plans with the Chapter's Executive Committee

(Pictured: Sam Burke, Alex Benford, Tyler Canonico, Charles Kennedy, Faythe Freese, Leslie Teardo, Dan Lawhon)

Following two extremely successful Pipe Organ Encounters (POEs) in 2011 and 2013, the Birmingham chapter has been selected by National AGO to host a Pipe Organ Encounter Advanced for students entering grades 9 – 12 who've already achieved a high level of success in organ study. Plans for the week's event, which will be held on the campus of the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, are well underway. Here's a preview of some of those working to ensure a successful week for the 14 talented students to be accepted.

POEA2017 Steering Committee Members and Responsibilities:

Faythe Freese – Director and Faculty Coordinator

Alex Benford – Funding Coordinator with Jennifer Benford assisting

Mike Burt – Treasurer

Tyler Canonico – Facilities Coordinator with Christopher Henley assisting

Matthew Edwards – Secretary

Dan Lawhon – Publicity Coordinator

Nathan Smock – Services Coordinator

Sherelyn Breland – Registrar

The distinguished faculty represents all areas of the U.S.:

Joby Bell - Associate Professor of Organ, Appalachian State University (Boone, North Carolina)

Lynne Davis - Associate Professor of Music, Wichita State University (Wichita, Kansas)

Isabelle Demers - Assistant Professor of Organ, Baylor University (Houston, Texas)

Faythe Freese - Professor of Organ, The University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa, Alabama)

Nathan Laube - Assistant Professor of Organ, Eastman School of Music (Rochester, New York)

Shelley Morman-Stahlman - Professor of Music, Lebanon Valley College (Annville, Pennsylvania)

Bruce Neswick - Director of Music, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral (Portland, Oregon)

Fred Teardo, guest lecturer - Director of Music and Organist, Cathedral Church of the Advent (Birmingham)

SEPTEMBER OPPORTUNITIES

See Online Calendar of Events for Complete Listing

September 11, 2016: 4:00 PM

Choral Evensong Service of Remembrance and Recital – Independent Presbyterian Church
IPC Choir Trebles, Jeff McLelland, and James Dorroh
Info: <http://www.ipc-usa.org> jmclelland@ipc-usa.org

September 22, 2016: 7:30 PM

Stephen Tharp, Organ Recital – First Presbyterian, Greenwood, Mississippi
Free concert
Info: Ray Smithee at fpcmusic@bellsouth.net

September 25, 2016: 3:00 PM

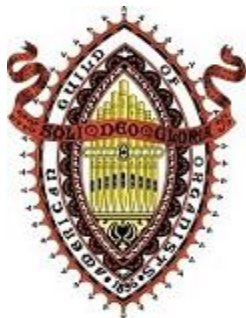
Choral Evensong – Cathedral Church of the Advent
Cathedral Choir, Fred Teardo, Director and Organist, Charles Kennedy, Associate Director and Organist
Info: <http://www.adventbirmingham.org/>
kennedy@cathedraladvent.com

September 25, 2016: 4:00 PM

Jeff McLelland, Organ Recital – Christ Episcopal Church, Tuscaloosa
Info: <http://www.christchurch1828.org/>
Tcanonico@christchurch1828.org

September 30, 2016: 12:30 PM

Mid-Day Music: The Samford String Quartet – Cathedral Church of the Advent
Info: <http://www.adventbirmingham.org/>
kennedy@cathedraladvent.com



2016-17 Chapter Calendar of Events

Monday, Sept. 12 Clergy Meet and Greet

Guest speaker: Dr. Bill Carl
Venue: Independent Presbyterian Church
Dinner 6:00 PM; Business meeting 6:30 PM;
Program 7:00 PM

Monday, Oct. 10 Professional Development Clinics

Choral Work: Brian Kittredge
Children's Music: Beth Middleton
AGO Certification: Leslie Teardo
Venue: Cathedral Church of the Advent
Dinner 6:00 PM; Business meeting 6:30 PM;
Program 7:00 PM

Saturday, Nov. 19 Masterclass

Clinician: Wolfgang Rubsam
Venue: Baptist Church of the Covenant
10:00 AM

Friday, Jan. 13 Epiphany Party

Venue: Home of Stephen Schaeffer
6:00 – 8:00 PM

Monday, Feb. 13 Organ Maintenance and Repair

Speaker: Mark Hayes
Venue: Samford University
Dinner 6:00 PM; Business meeting 6:30 PM;
Program 7:00 PM

Monday, March 6 Student Recital

Venue: Southside Baptist Church
Dinner 6:00 PM; Business meeting 6:30 PM;
Program 7:00 PM

Monday, April 3 Organ Tour and Talk

Speakers: John Schwandt and Barry Norris
Venue: East Lake United Methodist Church
Dinner 6:00 PM; Business meeting 6:30 PM;
Program 7:00 PM

Saturday, May 13 Tuscaloosa Organ Crawl

Sunday – Friday, June 25 – 30 POEA

Venue: University of Alabama School of Music and area churches