

THE BIRMINGHAM CHIFF ...off the old blockflute

The Birmingham Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

November – December 2017

A Word from the Dean

Dear friends,

I hope this finds you well. It is hard to believe that we are getting prepared for Advent and Christmas yet again. It seems to come earlier every year.

We had another fascinating program at St. Paul's Cathedral and First Presbyterian Church on October 16. St. Paul's change ringing team, led by Ted Clark, presented a wonderful program outlining the history of change ringing and then presented a super demonstration of the art. WHO KNEW that with eight bells there are 40,320 different patterns that can be rung or that the bell is actually placed in an inverted state before beginning the ringing? We also enjoyed watching some of our members get to help with the ringing.

Then we walked a couple of blocks to the bell tower of First Presbyterian where Robin Vines, their carillonneur, demonstrated the technic and then allowed us to have some "hands on" experience playing the carillon from a manual console. I think everyone in attendance had a wonderful time, plus a great meal. Both facets of the program were most enjoyable and informative.

Our November meeting will be another of our fun evenings with one of the artists who will be performing in IPC's recital series. Bruce Ludwick will fill you in on the details. Hope to see you there!

Sincerely,
Dan

NOVEMBER 18 CHAPTER EVENT: DINNER WITH JENS KORNDÖRFER

On Saturday, November 1 at 6 PM we will gather at the home of Jeff Johnson and Sonny Williams as we continue one of our chapter's favorite traditions of hosting one of Independent Presbyterian's November Organ Recital Series performers. Our guest this year is Dr. Jens Korndörfer, Director of Music and Organist at Atlanta's First Presbyterian Church and instructor of organ at Agnes Scott College and Georgia State University.

He has worked and studied in France, Japan, the US, and Canada. To preview his playing or learn more of his educational and professional experience, click <http://www.concertorganists.com/artists/jens-korndorfer/>.

Dr. Korndörfer's recital at 4 PM the next day, Sunday, November 19, will include compositions by Rheinberger, Guilment, Wagner, Howard Shore & ENYA, and Reger. To view the recital programs, select "2017 Organ Recital Series Program" on <http://ipc-usa.org/worship/music-fine-arts.html>.

2017 National AGO Convention July 2 – 6 in Kansas City, Missouri

The theme is "Bach, Blues, and Barbecue: Feast Your Ears in Kansas City." More than 70 workshops, 18 recitalists, and 13 composers will be presented in venues located in seven area cities. *Online registration opens November 1 with super-saver rates available through December 31.* Details are in the November TAO or <http://www.agokc2018.com/>.

Items of Note

We offer our sincere condolences to **Bill Richardson** on the recent passing of his father.

Paul Mosteller will perform his last UAB faculty recital with pianist Yakov Kasman on Thursday evening, November 9, at 7:00 PM. The free concert in the Alys Stephens Center will include an opera aria by Haydn, Beethoven's *An die ferne Geliebte*, French songs by Liszt, the *Four Serious Songs* by Brahms, and arrangements of spirituals by Hall Johnson. Paul will keep singing and serving two congregations as organist after retiring from UAB at the end of the year. Hope to see you at the Stephens Center on November 9!

New Job Opening: St. Aloysius Catholic Church in Bessemer

Details with contact info are provided on the chapter website at www.OpenPositions.html.

Looking for Christmas Gift Ideas?

POEA items available

There are 12 POEA 2017 music bags, several t-shirts, and a number of APOBA music bags available. These items are for sale at \$10 per POEA 2017 bag and \$10 per t-shirt. The APOBA bags are free. Contact Dan Lawhon to make your acquisition.

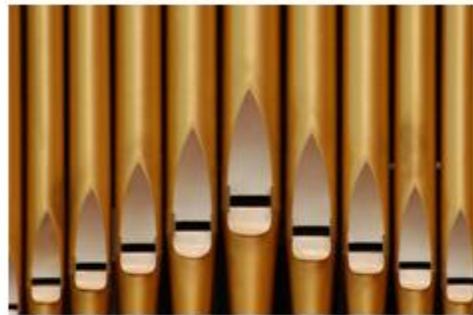
Yamaha GH1 for sale

Jim Garner has his grand piano for sale. This model is 5'3" with glossy black finish and has been well maintained. This would be a fabulous Christmas gift for yourself or your church! Or perhaps you know someone who'd like to surprise their family with this beautiful piano? Contact Jim at 205-930-0039 (home) or 205-335-3392 (cell) or by email buckandpeppin@hotmail.com to arrange to play this well-loved instrument or get further details on this opportunity.

Coming Soon ...

Friday, Jan. 12 Epiphany Party 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Save the date for one of our favorite chapter gatherings: the annual Epiphany Party. **Stephen Schaeffer** has again generously agreed to host this event at his home. Nathan Smock will announce the dinner details, and reservations will be available online in early January. We'll keep you posted on the website home page and with chapter emails as plans evolve.

Young Organist Competition 2018



Sponsored by the
Greater Columbia AGO Chapter

Saturday, March 10, 2018
Columbia, S.C.

Open to Grades 8 – 12

First Prize \$1500
Second Prize \$1000
Third Prize \$750
Hymn Playing Award \$250
Bach Playing Award \$250

For rules and application see
Young Organist Competition 2018
at www.columbiaago.org