



THE BIRMINGHAM CHIFF

...off the old blockflute

The Birmingham Chapter of
the American Guild of Organists

Fall 2019

A Word from the Dean

Greetings, friends and colleagues,

The 2019-20 year opens **September 9th at St. Luke's Episcopal Church**. This is a change from our original published schedule in which we had hoped to have the Southeast RCYO winner as a recitalist for the program to be held at St. Mary's-on-the-Highlands Episcopal Church. Nicholas Stigall, the winner and one of our POEA 2017 students, was eager to come, but his schedule as he begins his freshman year as an organ major at Indiana University did not make it possible. We hope Nicholas will be able to present a recital in our 2020-21 program year.

The Executive Committee considered several alternate programs for September. The final decision was to hold another potluck dinner and take the opportunity to renew relationships within our chapter - as one member said "We just don't have enough time to visit!" This will also be an opportunity to include potential members we've not invited to chapter activities before, so that they can learn what our chapter has planned for the year and what the national organization provides. While we will hold a business meeting, the evening will be informal to allow ample time for conversation and sharing.

Due to the ongoing renovations at St. Mary's that make dining there not possible, the venue has been moved to St. Luke's. We look forward to visiting St. Mary's the following year.

A separate article on the September 9th meeting describes how to make your dinner reservation and notify Natalie Tally, dinner coordinator, what food dish you're bringing. Another newsletter item lists the Standing Committees members. We appreciate those who've accepted responsibility for planning and executing each month's events and those who serve on the executive and standing committees. There is a variety of programs planned for the year, and we invite you to share ideas for future programs.

Hope to see you on the 9th!
Sherelyn

Comings and Goings

Congratulations to **Jim Dorroh** on being named organist at South Highland Presbyterian Church. Jim has previously served as Organist and Director of Music at Canterbury United Methodist Church in Mountain Brook and later in the same capacity at Saint Luke's Episcopal Church in Mountain Brook. More recently, Jim retired as organ professor and University Organist at Samford University.

September 9 Chapter Meeting

This month **Jamie McLemore** is hosting us at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 3736 Montrose Rd, Mountain Brook, AL 35213. We'll begin the year with potluck dinner at 6 p.m. followed by the business meeting and informal conversation. **Natalie Tally** is again coordinating our **Pot Luck Dinner**.

To share the benefits and opportunities available to AGO members and as an introduction to our chapter, *the Executive Committee encourages each member to invite one potential new member to join us for all of the evening's activities.* (This guest may be in addition to a member's spouse, though spouses are welcome to join the chapter, too!)

Please reserve Monday, September 9th for what promises to be a fun and rewarding evening. We look forward to seeing you and your guest there!

Mystery Organ Shoes

The shoes pictured at the right were unanimously selected by an august (i.e., not in September) panel of judges as **representing the quintessential qualities of the true church organist:** practices a lot, values substance over style, and chooses a job for aesthetic rather than pecuniary considerations.

Identify to Win a Prize!

Correctly identify the owner of the shoes in an email to newsletter@birminghamago.org before the September 9 Chapter Meeting. The first person to email the correct name will win a prize at the September 9 meeting. (You must be present to win!)

Details for reservations and potluck:

1. Please indicate on the reservation form's memo line **what dish you are bringing** to avoid duplication, along with the **name of your guest** when you make your online dinner reservation.
2. Natalie asks that you **bring your item ready for the table** with a serving utensil (labeled with your name).
3. **Meat** dishes are encouraged.
4. Please remember to take into account potential **guests** when preparing your dish so that we have **sufficient food** for all to enjoy.
5. Online **reservations will open Sunday, September 1, and will close at midnight Friday, Sept. 6th.**
6. **Log on** to the chapter website, **email Mike Burt** at treasurer@birminghamago.org, or **call (205) 201-3838** to make your reservation.



Please check before Sept. 1st!

Please remember to check that your directory information is complete and correct on our chapter database. Our members frequently use this to contact each other, and we want to be sure the info we provide is accurate. We would appreciate it if you could do this by September 1st, so that we can update the records you submit before the first chapter meeting. Thanks!

2019-20 Standing Committees

Calendar – **Mark Hayes**

Competition & Scholarship Awards – **Paul Mosteller**

Educational & Professional Concerns – **Dan Lawhon** (chair), **Scott Roberts**

Finance and Fund Raising – **Mike Burt**

Membership – **Debby Holmes**

Newsletter – **Cathy Shelton**

Publicity/TAO – **Jamie McLemore**

Webmaster – **Sherelyn Breland**

Elizabeth's Picks

by Elizabeth Smith, resource specialist at Lois Fyfe Music:

“Best sellers from our summer conferences...”

Organ:

Michael Burkhardt / *Praise and Thanksgiving*, set 8 [Morningstar \$16]. 5 hymn settings. Nicaea can be played as a quiet piece, although it's written as a loud prelude or postlude. Also includes Kingsfold, Nettleton, Salzburg, and Was frag ich nach.

Michael Burkhardt / *Then Sings My Soul* [Morningstar \$21] Contains 3 variants on How Great Thou Art, which are quiet, imaginative gems. Collection also has settings of Ascension, Shades Mountain, Servant Song, and Wairua Tapu.

Charles Callahan / *Two Reflections*. [Egan \$8] Early pieces, freely composed. Beautiful melodies. The first one, called Folktune, is great for preludes or for weddings.

Choir:

Howard Helvey / *Hark! Ten Thousand Harps and Voices*. [Morningstar \$2.25] SATB, organ, new melody.

Mark Mummert / *This Cross*. [Morningstar \$1.95] 2 part mixed, organ. Based on 2nd century text. Wonderful for Holy Week or for Holy Cross day.

Oliver Tarney / *The Wise Men and the Star* [Oxford \$2.90] SATB unaccompanied. Fabulous new text including the line “laid in a manger and haloed with hay.”



2019-20 Chapter Calendar of Events

Monday, September 9

Fall Kick-Off

Host: Jamie McLemore

Venue: St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Potluck Dinner 6:00 PM in Founders' Room

Business mtg and gathering 6:30 PM

Monday, October 14

Organ to Piano Transcription Workshop

Presenters: Tony Pattin, Yakov & Dina Kasman

Hosts: Fred Teardo and Charles Kennedy

Venue: Cathedral Church of the Advent

Dinner 6:00 PM in Clingman Commons, catered

Business mtg 6:30 PM, Program 7:00 PM

Saturday, November 9

Service Music that Connects with Your Congregation

Presenter: Charles Tompkins

Hosts: Jeff McLelland and Greg Roberson

Venue: Independent Presbyterian

11:00 am workshop; noon Dutch treat lunch at area restaurant

Friday, January 10

Epiphany Party 6-8 PM

Venue: Home of Barry Norris

Dinner 6:00 PM, catered

Monday, Feb. 10

Continuo Playing and Instruments

Presenter: Fred Teardo

Hosts: Fred Teardo and Charles Kennedy

Venue: Cathedral Church of the Advent

Dinner 6:00 PM in Clingman Commons, catered

Business mtg 6:30 PM, Program 7:00 PM

Monday, March 9

Music and Technology

Presenters: Faythe Freese and panel

Host: Faythe Freese

Venue: Music Bldg, UA Tuscaloosa

Dinner 6:00 PM, catered

Business mtg 6:30 PM, Program 7:00 PM

Monday, April 20

Chapter Recital

Host: Fred Teardo

Venue: Reid Chapel, Samford University

Dinner 6:00 PM in Reid Commons, catered

Business mtg 6:30 PM, Program 7:00 PM

Monday, May 11

Performance Practice: Leo Sowerby

Presenter: Faythe Freese

Host: Jeff McLelland

Venue: Independent Presbyterian Church

Dinner 6:00 PM in Great Hall, catered

Business mtg 6:30 PM, Program 7:00 PM