



# THE BIRMINGHAM CHIFF ...off the old blockflute

## The Birmingham Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

### Winter 2021

#### A Word from the Dean

Greetings to all!

I hope you, your families and friends are well. It's encouraging that COVID-19 vaccines are now available; perhaps soon we'll see the return of consistent in-person gatherings and life more as we knew it a year ago. What a blessing that will be!

We'll be meeting only virtually for at least the next few months. To that end, **we have adjusted our plans for February and March programming to use Zoom only.** You'll find information about that elsewhere in this newsletter and on the website. *Please join us via Zoom for both the February and March programs.*

You'll also find a section on **this year's election for the next Executive Committee class.** **Members of the chapter are encouraged to submit additional nominations to the slate proposed by the Nominating Committee.** The method to accomplish this and the election schedule are included in the same section.

**Planning for the 2021-22 program year has begun.** Please send your wishes and suggestions for program topics to all or anyone on the Executive Committee. We try to include a variety of topics each year, and your thoughts on what would be helpful, interesting, educational, or just enjoyable and fun are welcome and appreciated. Please share them!

I hope to see you virtually February 8th!  
Shereyn

#### FEBRUARY 8<sup>TH</sup> PROGRAM CHANGE

This month's program was to be **Fred Teardo's presentation on *Continuo Playing and Instruments.*** Unfortunately, the pandemic continues to wreak havoc with our plans, so **we are moving Fred's presentation to the 2021-22 program year when we can meet in person.** The continuo organ and harpsichord at Advent will be much more appreciated seen and heard in person, but the program will still be Zoomed for those unable to attend in person.

**Instead, you are invited to participate in *Coping with COVID,* a virtual forum to share ideas and methods many of you have created to adapt to COVID-19 challenges.**

**Join us Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, for *Coping with COVID.*** The Zoom waiting room will open at 6:45 pm. A brief business meeting and the program will begin at 7 pm.

**The link and additional details will be emailed to you a few days before the meeting.**

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#### MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup> PROGRAM MODIFICATION

**Benjamin Kolodziej will present *Online Resources for the Church Organist* as originally scheduled.** He'll share little known compositions, all available from copyright-free sources, that are particularly useful to church organists. He'll join us from Dallas via Zoom instead of traveling to Birmingham to deliver it in person.

**The link and additional details will be emailed to you a few days before the meeting.**

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## 2021 Election Season Underway

**Nominating Committee Chairman Dan Lawhon, Pat Fitzsimmons, and Paul Mosteller announce the following slate for the Executive Committee Class of 2021-24:**

**Christopher Henley** - Asst. Director, Oxford Christian School Concert Choir; attended our 2011 POE; served on 2017 POEA Steering Committee

**Barry Norris** – Organist/Choirmaster, East Lake UMC; past chapter treasurer and EC member

**Greg Roberson** – Chorister, Independent Presbyterian Church; past chapter treasurer and EC member; on Steering Committee of 2011 and 2013 POEs

**The chapter is invited to submit additional nominations to the secretary by March 31st. Each nomination is made by a petition signed by five members of the Guild. Nominees and petitioners must be voting members in good standing.**

Complete guidelines for nominations and the election process are defined in “Section 4. CHAPTER GOVERNANCE” and “Section 8. ELECTION PROCEDURES” of the Chapter Operating Procedures at <http://www.birminghamago.org/AboutUs.html>.

Nominations from the chapter and the slate proposed by the Nominating Committee will be combined into a single ballot. **Members will elect two (2) of the nominees to serve a three-year term as the Class of 2021-24.**

**Online and absentee voting will begin Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup> and end Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. In-person voting to conclude the election is tentatively scheduled for a May 10<sup>th</sup> chapter meeting. The actual date will be determined in April and announced at that time.**

**Rotating off the Executive Committee on June 30<sup>th</sup> is the Class of 2018-21: Dan Lawhon, Jamie McLemore, and Fred Teardo.**

Please contact Sherelyn Breland at [dean@birminghamago.org](mailto:dean@birminghamago.org) if you have any questions.

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## Welcome New Members

**Marjorie Johnston** is Director of Music at First Presbyterian in Tuscaloosa. She earned her Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance and her Master of Music degree in choral conducting, both from the University of Alabama. Marjorie has vast and varied experience as a church musician and as a singer in a number of professional choral groups. Many of us already know Marjorie, and we are very happy she has joined our chapter!

**Chris Nemeč** is Organist and Associate Director of Music Ministries at Auburn’s First United Methodist Church. His long musical career includes extensive experience as a singer and choral director of choirs of all levels. Prior to his arrival in Auburn, he served as Organist-Minister of Music at Lindenwood Christian Church in Memphis for over 30 years. Chris holds the AGO’s Service Playing and Colleague certifications. He joins our chapter as a dual member with the Montgomery chapter. We are glad to have Chris and look forward to meeting him soon!

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## Upcoming 2020-21 Chapter Programs

### Monday, February 8 Coping with COVID

Forum discussion  
Zoom meeting – links provided via email  
7:00 PM

### Monday, March 8 Copyright Free Music Sources

*Presenter:* Benjamin Kolodziej, Dallas  
Zoom meeting – links provided via email  
7:00 PM

### Monday, April 12 Chapter Recital

*Venue:* TBD  
Dinner 6:00 PM; Business meeting 6:30 PM;  
Program 7:00 PM

### May Didier Grassin, Noack Organ Co.

*Venue:* Cathedral of St. Paul’s  
Dinner 6:00 PM; Business meeting 6:30 PM;  
Program 7:00 PM