



Furniture

A mixture of news, history, and happenings of interest to the Northeast Tennessee-Southwest Virginia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Volume XXIII No. 2

November 2016

Greetings to All. The holiday season is fast approaching, and I am sure that all of you are busy preparing for the upcoming Advent and Christmas seasons.

I am very excited about our November meeting. I hope that you are planning to attend our Composer's night. We have a great deal of information to share about this wonderful program, so I will make my comments short.

I hope to see all of you at our meeting on November 15th.

Larry

Featured Guests for Our Composer's Night

We are honored to host Kenton Coe, Beth McCoy, and our own Robert Greene, Jr. as our featured guests for this month's Composer's Night. Following is biographical information for each of our featured composers.

Kenton Coe

Kenton Coe, a Johnson City, Tennessee native, grew up in Chattanooga and Knoxville. He studied composition at Yale with Paul Hindemith and Quincy Porter.

He spent three years studying with Nadia Boulanger in Paris. He lived for sixteen years between New York and Paris before returning to Tennessee.

He has written music in almost all formats. His opera, "South", was premiered by the Opera of Marseilles, followed by a new production at the Paris Opera. His second opera, "Rachel", was produced by the Knoxville Opera and performed there and in Nashville.

The overture, "Ischiana", was commissioned by the Baton Rouge Symphony and has been performed by a number of American orchestras, including broadcast performances by the Chicago Symphony. "Purcellular", a suite for jazz trio and symphony, was commissioned by the City of London as part of their 300th anniversary of Purcell's death.

Kenton Coe has written the score for all of Ross Spears' documentary films. Their first collaboration, "Agee", a film biography of the noted Tennessee author James Agee, was nominated for an Academy Award as best

feature length documentary. Their recent collaboration, a 4 part series, "Appalachia: A History of Mountains and People", was shown in 2009 and 2010 on PBS. The latest collaboration is "The Truth About Trees" scheduled for PBS broadcast in 2017.

He has received the Lyndhurst Prize from the Lupton Family foundation. He was given the Tennessee Governor's Artist of the Year Award. He has received a Doctor of Humane Letters degree from East Tennessee State University. His website, "kentoncoe.com", contains further biographical information, critical comments and music samples.

Beth Perkinson McCoy

Beth Perkinson McCoy, Artistic Director Emerita of the Mountain Empire Children's Choral Academy, (MECCA), taught music for forty-one years before retiring May, 2016. For fifteen years the MECCA program was directed by McCoy, of Abingdon, VA, during which time she developed the program from just the East Tennessee Children's Choir (ETCC) to a full choral program in the Tri-Cities for children in second to twelfth grades. As a diaconal minister in the United Methodist Church, she also served as a Music Ministry Consultant in Holston Conference.

McCoy's is a published author and composer and a member of ASCAP. Her works have been recorded by Gloriam Dei Cantore through Paraclete Press and published by Alry Music, Inc., and Hinshaw Music (now Fred Bock Music).

In 2000 McCoy received the *Conductor's Award* from the Johnson City Symphony Orchestra and in 2001 the *Composer of the Year Award* from the Appalachian Music Teachers Association. She has been a featured composer in area concerts, including King College's "Concert of Women Composers" in 2003 and the Greater Tri-Cities Area Composers Consortium's "Artistic Reflections" in 2004. (*Continued on Page 2*)

November Meeting

Tuesday, November 15

Composer's Night

First Baptist Church-6 pm Dinner; Program-7:30 pm
200 West Church Street - Kingsport

Menu – \$15.00

Pork Loin.

Roasted Red Potatoes,

Mixed vegetables

Salad and dessert.

Your choice of assorted drinks, along with coffee.

Deadline for Reservations 11/11/2016 – Noon

Larry@fpcjc.org or call (423) 737-3464

Pipe Organ Encounters

-by Nathan Kyle Lively

People are always talking about the dying art of being an organist. I was always told by my first teacher that organists were like the dinosaurs. This may be true! The organ world as we know it may just be in a phase of transition. Change, can it be? I dare say we all have those voluntaries that we recycle each year for certain feast days, like the Widor at Easter. Those scores are marked, worn, and the corners turned up for when we needed someone to turn pages once upon a time. Playing the organ has become a science to us and we've mastered it. Our world is very comfortable and stable.

We have a collection of our favorite hymn reharms, too, neatly tucked into a work binder. But what do we do when the new hymnal comes out and changes the keys? What could we do instead of making a copy of the old hymn and throwing it in there with the harmonization? What about when they change the text?

The Lutheran hymnal that came out ten years ago changed the text and harmonizations to many familiar tunes. There have been many trials for me to learn to adapt. That's it, change and adapt!

Well, our safe world is still safe, but it is changing, just like in the economy. There are still fears, but we are safe. This past year I've been humbled to be part of the mentoring process to our two youngest members. It is difficult for me to accept that I'm not the baby of most groups these days; rather, I get to help the next generation. Andrew Counts and Justin Brueggeman have befriended each other and are supporting one another towards performing together. There are many time I go to practice at Holy Trinity and I can't. Why? So often one of these two growing organists is here practicing. I'm always having to lower the organ bench to play because one of them has been there practicing. Folks, the organ world is alive and well! Justin is on the young organists board for the AGO and is helping out at Holy Trinity on an intern-like status. He is growing and making great accomplishments.

Back to my topic of this change. We have these young organists who are coming in and changing things up. I'd like to discuss what we have to offer for them to help them grow. The AGO sponsors POE (Pipe Organ Encounters) in the summer for these blossoming organists. I was asked to be part of the Atlanta POE this past summer and will be part of the Hartford, CT POE in 2017. These are great week-long events.

Andrew Counts was one of two to win a scholarship to the Atlanta POE. Of course, I was very proud, but I was extremely excited for him to have this opportunity.

The POE offers more than organ lessons with world-renowned teachers, and fabulous organ crawls, and practice time on "fun" instruments. There were 24 or so young organists who gathered in Atlanta. We arrived on

a Sunday afternoon and everyone awkwardly registered and checked into the dorms at Agnes Scott. As the students gathered in the main gathering room of the old dorm building, most were very shy to say hello to each other. This attitude quickly changed that first evening. The students attended a demonstration of a theatre organ, a lazy show, aquarium, bowling, swimming, later tag, and several other extremely fun things, even to us on faculty and staff.

Each student received a lesson each morning, practice time, and then we would gather for lunch. The afternoons and evenings were full of musical performances. Our young organists learned concert etiquette and how to be supportive.

By the end of the week, each student performed a piece that they had worked on. Andrew worked hard all week with Dr. Faythe Freese and waltzed through the Buxtehude Toccata in F Major like a veteran perfumer on the mighty Mander tracker organ at Peach Tree United Methodist Church. It was incredible to see the growth in these new organists and the friendships that had been formed that week.

We often get stuck in our ruts and only socialize at guild meetings and the conventions in the summer. We should reach out more and be part of each other's career and support these young organists. Support these POE events. There's always a linger piano student who will make his or her way to the console at the postlude to peak around. That could be a part of our future.

Though we get scared many times with change, embrace it. Support it. And continue to lift up these young musicians. It is a great thing to say we are part of a small chapter that is so active and is doing so much to help our future. Let's all continue to support each other. The organ world is alive and well!

Substitute Organists

Jenny Dougan – (423) 276-2222

Robert Greene, Jr. – (423) 341-0378

Joan Keith – (423) 652-7868

David Runner – (423) 434-0433

Welcome To A New Member

H. Jackson Burress

Email: dj2cats@gmail.com

Home Phone: 423-202-7698

2701 S. Roan Street, #121

Johnson City, TN 37601-1023

Jack, welcome to the Chapter!

Calendar At A Glance

- **Friday, November 11 - 7:00 pm**
Dan Schutte in Concert
St. Mary's Catholic Church
2211 E Lakeview Drive, Johnson City
- **Saturday, November 12 - 9 am - 1 pm - \$10**
Liturgical Workshop With Dan Schutte
St. Mary's Catholic Church
2211 E Lakeview Drive, Johnson City
- **Saturday, November 12 - 2-4 pm**
Bristol Music Club Scholarship Benefit
Paramount Theater - State St. - Bristol, TN
- **Sunday, November 13 - 3:00 pm - 3 pm**
Clarinetist Gene Jones with Friends
First Presbyterian Church
701 Florida Avenue - Bristol, TN
- **Friday, November 18 - 7:00 pm - \$15**
David Browning as "Scrooge"
Central Presbyterian Church
301 Euclid Avenue - Bristol, VA
Program will benefit the organ restoration fund at St. Columba Episcopal Church.
- **Thursday, December 8 - Noon**
Northeast State Community College Faculty Recital
The Bristol Music Club
State Street United Methodist Church
300 W. Valley Drive - Bristol, VA
- **Sunday, December 11 - 6 pm**
"Night of the Fathers Love"
Presented by the Combined Choirs of State Street UMC and Central Presbyterian, Bristol.
State Street United Methodist Church - Bristol, VA

May Each of You Have the
Happiest of Thanksgivings.

Give thanks unto the LORD, call upon his name,
make known his deeds among the people.

1 Chronicles 16:8

