



AMERICA'S CLASSICAL MUSIC

BY DR. JEFF MCLELLAND, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & FINE ARTS, AND LINDA NELSON, IPC MEMBER

Jazz is a music genre that originated in the African-American communities of New Orleans and elsewhere in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, developing from roots in blues, marching band music, and piano music like ragtime. Since the 1920s Jazz Age, jazz is commonly recognized as "America's classical music" and has become a major form of musical expression linked by the common bonds of African-American and European-American traditions. It has emerged as an independent traditional and popular music style.

As hard as it is to believe, our Religious Arts Festival began 48 years ago. In each of all those years, the Festival has brought artists, performers and lecturers from all over the nation and world to Independent Presbyterian Church to celebrate the arts in religious life and thought. We've seen plays, heard operas, absorbed lectures, bathed in music, gazed at paintings and sculptures, and had our horizons expanded by this synthesis of worship



DURHAM, NC A CAPPELLA GROUP, AVANTE VOCAL JAZZ, WILL PERFORM. THEIR REPERTOIRE RANGES FROM CONTEMPORARY CHORAL WORKS TO CUTTING EDGE JAZZ.

and artistry.

This year is no different. The 48th Annual Religious Arts Festival is February 3-10, and we'll celebrate Jazz and the Arts. Perhaps some of you may

raise an eyebrow-- or two-- at the idea of combining jazz and religious performance. But in fact, there has been a serious interest in a synthesis of jazz

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FEATURING

A look at IPC Foundation grant process **PG 4**

FEATURING

A snapshot of holiday giving **PG 6**

LEARN

How to grow your faith in the new year **PG 7**

MISSION

How new STEAM program is soaring to success **PG 5**

UPCOMING events

See complete calendar online
including details and updates:
ipc-usa.org > [connect](#) > [calendar](#)

JANUARY

- 1 **Tue** New Years Day. Offices Closed ❖
- 2 **Wed** No chapel
- 6 **Sun** CE classes resume ❖ ❖
- 9 **Wed** Dinner/classes resume, 5:15 pm ❖
Children's Musical rehearsal, 5:45 pm ❖ ❖
- 13 **Sun** Second Sunday Lunch, 12 pm ❖
Second Sunday Supper, 6 pm ❖
- 14- 18 IPC Day School Fall 2019
Registration
- 15 **Tue** Scotland Interest Meeting, 5:30 pm ❖
- 18-21 **Fri- Mon** Youth Gatlinburg Retreat ❖
- 27 **Sun** Focus on Faith speaker Dr. Serene Jones, 10 am, Highland Hall, and guest preacher at 8:45 and 11 am worship ❖ ❖
Evensong, 4 pm, Sanctuary ❖ ❖

FEBRUARY

- 3 **Sun** Congregational Meeting, 11 am ❖
- 3- 10 **Sun- Sun** Religious Arts Festival ❖ ❖
- 10 **Sun** Mercedes Marathon. No 8:45/11 am worship or Second Sunday. ❖
Kirkwood Valentine's Party (K- 6) ❖
- 24 **Sun** Evensong, 4 pm ❖ ❖

MARCH

- 1 **Fri** Member registration for VBS/
BTMP opens ❖
- 6 **Wed** Ash Wednesday Service, 12 and 6:30 pm ❖
- 10 **Sun** Children's Sedar (K-6) ❖
Second Sunday Lunch, 12 pm ❖
Second Sunday Supper, 6 pm ❖
- 17 **Sun** Children's Musical, 10 am ❖ ❖
- 20 **Wed** Final Wednesday Night ❖
- 23-31 **Sun-Sun** Chiapas Mission Trip ❖
- 31 **Sun** Evensong, 4 pm ❖ ❖

- ❖ Major Events
- ❖ Learning/Education
- ❖ Children/Youth
- ❖ Service Opportunity
- ❖ Adults/Seniors
- ❖ Music Ministry

CONSIDER THIS

Make 2019 the Year of Engagement



heart of all of these ministries. You are the hands and feet of Christ allowing us to carry His mission into the world year after year. You can see the impact you made on our community during the holidays on page 6.

How hard can it be? Or as 2018 Foundation Grantmaking Chair Susie Abbott, asks in her article in this issue, "How hard can it be to give away money?" Extremely difficult. While we are continuing to find new ways to meet the needs of our neighbors, the demand is great. Susie details the IPC Foundation grant process and how it enables our church to share the love of God on page 4.

As with the start of every year, I challenge you to make a resolve to become more engaged within our faith community. Consider taking a new class, volunteering, serving as part of a mission team or joining a group, like the Guild. If you haven't actively participated in the Religious Arts Festival, make this your year to do so. You'll find the information you need to become more engaged within the pages of this *Window*.

Finally, I will continue the series on Jesus that I started in Advent. January and February's sermons will continue the homiletical examination of Christology. Then, during Lent we will march through the Beatitudes in Matthew, which will end with Easter. See you all in church!

All the Best,

Bill

William J. Carl III, *Senior Pastor*



2018 IPC FOUNDATION GRANTMAKING COMMITTEE CHAIR SUSIE ABBOTT VISITS THE HORIZONS SCHOOL WITH IPC FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DENISE MOORE TO SEE A NEW PROGRAM FUNDED BY A FOUNDATION GRANT.

and worship in recent years, and our festival will show why and how this is so. Beginning on Sunday, February 3, our first event is a jazz brunch at the Birmingham Museum of Art followed by a lecture/tour of Jazz in American Art led by BMA curator Katelyn Crawford. On Monday, local jazz expert and host of Tuxedo Junction on WAJH-FM Bart Grooms will speak on *Jazz All Over the Place: A Look at Jazz's Influence on Various Types of Music*.

An academic and theological look at the subject will be given at the Tuesday lecture by Professor Dr. Jason Bivins of North Carolina State University, who has written a book on the subject called *The Lord is Heavy: Can Jazz and Religion Jam Together?* Then on Thursday night at the festival banquet, the culinary and decorative arts of our cradle of jazz, New Orleans, will be featured. A jazz trio will play traditional favorites.

With their bold fusion of jazz and contemporary a cappella singing, the Avante Vocal Jazz Ensemble of North Carolina will present the Friday concert, performing repertoire that pays tribute to the great masters of vocal jazz while adding a new twist to familiar standards. Our final event will be a Service of Jazz Vespers with the IPC Camarata and a jazz trio during 5 pm Sunday worship.

We offer the Religious Arts Festival as a gift to the community of Birmingham. Performances and events, except the brunch and banquet, are free. Everyone is welcome!

See full schedule on back.



BMA CURATOR KATELYN CRAWFORD TO GIVE FIRST RELIGIOUS ARTS FESTIVAL LECTURE
PHOTO: BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM OF ART

welcome TO IPC



Tina Baltimore
New Member



Zachary MacLean
New Member



Margaret Rushton
New Member



Joyce and Joe Limbaugh
New Members



Rachel and Blake Phillips
New Members



Mary Beth, Holland and Margaret Walls
New Members



HOLIDAY HOUSE RAISED MONEY FOR IPC MINISTRIES THANKS TO THE HOMEOWNERS AND HUNDREDS OF VOLUNTEERS. PHOTO: PAIGE ALBRIGHT



PHOTO: BILL MCKELVEY

The Window is a quarterly publication of Independent Presbyterian Church 3100 Highland Avenue South. The Window is published for church members and friends.

SHARING THE LOVE OF GOD

BY SUSIE ABBOTT, 2018 IPC FOUNDATION GRANTMAKING COMMITTEE CHAIR

As any lifelong Presbyterian, I have served on my share of church committees. One of the highlights has been my six years serving with the IPC Foundation. Each year, the Foundation awards grants for “the benefit of mankind, the education of youth, the relief of human suffering, and propagation of the Christian religion.”

I came in somewhat knowledgeable about the process since in a previous position as a development director for a nonprofit, I had written grants and received funding from the Foundation. The grantmaking process is very structured with its guidelines, deadlines and follow up reports. Foundation staff, Denise Moore and Marsha Harbin, do a great job of answering any questions for nonprofits applying.

We are divided into three teams: general education, mission support, and general charitable and medical services to the needy. We visit all the agencies making new requests and choose a few old ones to visit as well. Site visits are my favorite part of the process. You learn so much about the needs in our community and the creative ways the people in the trenches are meeting them. With domestic violence being such a major problem in our area, I was particularly impressed by the work of One Place Metro Alabama Family Justice Center. It recently opened to provide coordinated services to victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. The Jefferson County District Attorney’s Office, Birmingham Police Department, YWCA of Central Alabama, and the Crisis Center all have employees in the center offering the victims support services in one place. The staff we met are passionate about what they do.

After the site visits, the next step is allocating funds. You may think, “How hard can it be to give away money?” It is extremely difficult because all the



FOUNDATION GRANT IS PAYING FOR CONSTRUCTION OF 750 WATER PUMPS IN TANZANIA THROUGH MARION MEDICAL MISSION. OTHER SUPPORTED MINISTRIES:



ENTRY AND PLAYROOM AT ONE PLACE



YOUTHSERVE URBAN SERVICE CAMP

agencies are deserving and resources are limited. Each team comes to the table with their recommendations then we hash it out over a several hour session where we do all manage to remain civil.

If you would like to see a list of all the agencies being funded, I encourage you to go to the IPC website. You will be amazed by the range of needs being met. We should all

be proud of the resources entrusted to our church giving us the ability to share the love of God.

Learn more about how Birmingham is equipped with the resources to respond to domestic violence at an upcoming Lunch & Learn with One Place. Look for the 2019 date in future eUpdates.

3-2-1.... LIFT OFF

BY CATHERINE GOUDREAU, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S FRESH AIR FARM

After school, the Garage in Highland Hall becomes a STEAM incubator for Hayes K- 8 students. They solve problems by using science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) to design and build. LIFT OFF to Learning launched in November and is already soaring to great heights.

This STEAM and reading based program for Hayes K- 8 fourth and fifth graders was born out of both the need and desire expressed by the school and parents to offer quality programming rooted in the love of Christ. As an extension of the Summer Learning Program (SLP) and part of the year-round ministry of The Children's Fresh Air Farm (CFAF), all STAIR and SLP alumni were invited to participate. Remaining spots were filled based on teacher recommendations.

The program is full, serving 23 students every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoon. These students receive a hearty snack prepared by Kim Martin and her staff and spend an hour engaged in hands-on academics, team-building, character development and fun. Together, we created mock floats for the Macy's Parade, designed gingerbread houses to withstand powerful winds, explored engineering concepts, and participated in a breakout room. The students love this program



STUDENTS WORK TOGETHER AS TEAMS TO SOLVE PROBLEMS AND FINISH PROJECTS INVOLVING A COMBINATION OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ARTS AND MATH SKILLS.

(and so do I). It is a reminder that learning is meant to be fun and the best learning happens when we get our hands dirty and create together.

Thank you for your continued support for the growing ministry of

CFAF. Because of your support for nearly 100 years, CFAF has been able to promote hope and opportunity through quality programming rooted in the love of Christ.

GET INVOLVED



Be a driver. Help shuttle students from Hayes K-8 in an IPC van to IPC than back at the end of the program.



Be a program volunteer or substitute on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays from 3:15-4:45 pm.

IPC FOUNDATION

Grants by the Numbers

The Grantmaking Committee oversees distribution of IPC Foundation grants and distributions. The Committee, chaired by Susie Abbott, completed its annual grant cycle in November. After reviewing more than \$3 million of requests, the Committee approved the following:

- Awarded 112 grants totalling \$1,913,700
- Of that amount, the Youth Grant Team awarded eight organizations with grants totaling \$20,000
- 73% of the amount awarded grant directly impact the Birmingham area
- 23% help developing nations
- 3% provide assistance to other parts of Alabama and the U.S.
- Grants provide support for domestic and global mission, medical services to the needy, education, summer learning and other general charitable assistance

For a list of grant recipients, go to: ipc-usa.org > give > IPC Foundation



YOUTH GRANT TEAM ON SITE VISIT TO LITERACY COUNCIL



IPC DAY SCHOOL STUDENTS MAKE DONATION TO HARVEST FOR HUNGER FOOD DRIVE

SHARING YOUR GIFTS

Snapshot of Holiday Giving

A look at how you gave to IPC ministries and some of our community partners this holiday season. Thank you for your generosity!

- 16 children sang carols at First Light
- 51 coats were donated to STAIR students
- 54 people, including 5 youth, assisted with Advent workshop crafts
- 57 people drove shuttles and helped with parking at Holiday House
- 74 stockings were filled and given to STAIR and LIFT OFF students
- 102 books were given to STAIR students (one book from each tutor)
- 150 new toys were donated to First Light
- More than 150 people served as Holiday House hostesses and chairs
- More than 1,000 cookies were baked by members for Holiday House Tea
- Ornaments sold out, raising \$1500 for Youth Missions
- Thousands of items were donated during Harvest for Hunger Food Drive filling the IPC Food Pantry
- Roughly \$6,000 went to the IPC Choir through fruit sales
- More than \$13,000* was raised for local and international charities through the Giving Tree (*Amount raised as of December 18 publication*)
- \$20,000 was raised for IPC ministries through Holiday House Tour



GUILD MEMBER (LEFT) DECORATING SANCTUARY FOR HOLIDAY HOUSE. THE MEMBERS' COMPLETED DESIGN (RIGHT). FLORAL PHOTO: BILL MCKELVEY

GLORIFYING GOD

Behind the Scenes with The Guild

IPC's Guild was authorized by the Session in 1940 to perform duties associated with the care of the Sanctuary and its worship and sacred services. Guild members work behind the scenes to arrange sanctuary flowers, polish brass, bake bread and set up for Holy Communion, schedule acolytes, serve as hostesses for weddings, funerals and baptisms, make palm crosses for Palm Sunday, decorate the Chrismon tree and serve as Holiday House hostesses. This dedicated group of 70 elected women are expected to make their Guild duties a priority.

Meetings are at 10 am on second Mondays, excluding summers. Members must attend four meetings a year. Additionally, each member serves on at least two Guild committees. Many duties are performed on weekends and holidays. New members agree to a five-year commitment, which can be renewed for a total service of 10 years. If you would like to serve through the Guild, please get an interest form at the receptionist desk and return it to the Guild box next to the elevator by March 26.

BRIEFS

New Classes, New Focus on Faith Speaker

Seeking a deeper understanding of our faith in 2019? The Winter Christian Education Term begins Sunday, January 6. New classes include the Theological Reading Group lead by Rev. Brian Lays and a Sunday morning marriage class with Dr. Stewart Jackson in February and March that will include a retreat. Children in K- 6th Grade can "Step Right Up" and join the Spring Children's Musical. Rehearsals are Wednesday nights beginning January 9. The performance is March 17. Register online. Be sure to check the Christian Education brochure or website for details about specific classes.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, January 27. Union Theological Seminary President Dr. Serene Jones will serve as guest preacher during the 8:45 and 11 am worship services. She will preach then speak as part of our Focus on Faith speaker series in Highland Hall at 10 am on "Call it Grace" from Romans 8:38-39. Dr. Jones is the first female to lead the 181-year-old seminary. She is also the Johnston Family Chair for Religion and Democracy and the author of several books, including *Trauma and Grace*. All are welcome!

Scotland Mission Trip

Explore our Presbyterian roots with other IPC members in Scotland September 12- 22. We will visit Edinburgh, Saint Andrews, Dundee, Pitlochry, Inverness, Culloden Moor, Glencoe, Oban and on to the Isle of Iona, Stirling and finally Glasgow. An interest meeting will be held January 15 at 5:30 pm in Room 305. Contact Rev. Susan Clayton at sclayton@ipc-usa.org or 933-3709 for more information or to reserve a spot on the trip!

SAVE THE
dates

- April 12- 14** Three Hermits Opera
- April 14** Easter Egg Hunt
Confirmation
- April 21** Easter Sunday
- May 4** Youth Sunday
- June 3- 7** VBS (Age 3- 5K); BTMP (Grades 1- 5)
- June 27- July 7** Rwanda Mission Trip
- September 12- 22** Scotland Trip



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JAZZ AND THE ARTS

48TH ANNUAL
RELIGIOUS ARTS FESTIVAL
FEBRUARY 3- 10, 2019

WITNESS THE SYNTHESIS OF JAZZ AND WORSHIP

Schedule

Sunday, February 3 at 12 pm, BMA

Birmingham Museum of Art Jazz Brunch at Oscar's
Art Lecture with BMA curator Kate Crawford follows

Make brunch reservations with Oscar's (205) 328-7850

Monday, February 4 at 7 pm

Jazz Influence on Music lecture with WAJH-FM host Bart
Grooms, Great Hall

Tuesday, February 5 at 7 pm

The Lord is Heavy: Can Jazz and Religion Jam Together?

lecture with NC State Professor Dr. Jason Bivins, Great Hall

Thursday, February 7 at 6:30 pm

New Orleans Themed Religious Arts Festival Banquet with
Jazz Trio, Great Hall. **Tickets \$25 per person. RSVP online
or by sending a check to Music & Fine Arts Office.**

Friday, February 8 at 7 pm

Avante Vocal Jazz Ensemble Concert, Highland Hall

Sunday, February 10 at 5 pm

Jazz Mass at 5 pm worship, Highland Hall

Details: ipc-usa.org > worship > music-fine-arts