

Recorder Reporter

Newsletter of two chapters of the American Recorder Society (ARS),

Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society

May 2011

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Chicago Chapter News

We closed out our season on April 17 with Patrick O'Malley teaching us about maintaining our recorders. He demonstrated how to clean the wind way for an alto, and how to oil an instrument. Then several of us worked on our own recorders, removing the blocks with a dowel and sanding them lightly, and cleaning them. We also watched Patrick show how to replace crumbling cork with threading. Cork is a modern method for matching joints; Patrick wound thread around one instrument and it worked just as well. After gentle treatment of our own recorders, they sounded better after the break.



Patrick shows Ann Greene how to remove a block



Par Tre, Dennis Sherman, David Holland & Craig Shupe

Following Patrick, Par Tre' offered music of the innovative French medieval composer Guillaume de Machuat (c 1300-1377). Alas, we won't be able to enjoy the three tenors any longer, at least not here in Chicago. Par Tre will only meet rarely in the future, as David and Craig are moving to New York City. We wish them all of the terrific early music that New York has to offer, and prosperity there as well.

Chicago Chapter Spring Concert

The Chicago chapter Spring Concert is Sunday, May 15 at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2012 West Dickens. We welcome any music on recorder or early music on any other instrument, and performed by individuals or ensembles. We would also encourage our participants to consider choral works, or pieces offering gamba, lute, shawm, dulcian, or other Renaissance instruments.

Please send your program to Ben Eisenstein at beneisenstein@comcast.net by May 9. You can also contact me at msjddawson@sbcglobal.net. We need:

- Name of the piece(s) you plan to play
- Composer name, nationality, and dates (if known)
- Movement names (if any)
- Performers' names, instruments, and name of your group

Please limit your performance to last five or six minutes.

Tom Zajac Leads at Concordia

I'm jealous. Really.

Almost 45 of you turned up with recorders, krums, voices, gambas, and other instruments to make really great sounds with Tom Zajac. He provided an excellent stack of music from 16th and 17th century New Spain that nobody had ever heard before, and that you got to take home when the day was done. The music sounded wonderful with so many players (and singers) taking part, and with so many different kinds of instruments. We got back 39 surveys and every single one of them said Tom Zajac was outstanding, every single one would enthusiastically recommend this workshop to others. One friend told me it was perhaps the best workshop she had ever attended. About the only problem had to do with unclear directions about parking. At least, this is what I learned later. While all of you were having a

great time, and making great music, I had to endure a weekend in Portland, Oregon.



April 9 Workshop with Tom Zajac at Concordia University



Actually, Portland was exceptionally cool too (more on that later) but as I am an intermediate grab-all-the-gusto-you-can-in-life SATB recorder player, I wanted to play recorder with the Portland ARS chapter on Friday night

April 8 and then hang out with all of you at Concordia the next day. I think we should bring Tom Zajac back in April 2013. Or maybe April of 2012.

ARS Board Meets in Portland, Oregon

When I arrived in Portland I fit right in. I rented a bike, took it on the light rail line to Goose Hollow, and pedaled uphill to Washington Park. The park itself is graced with many towering trees, and I think even the stop signs and rocks were in flower. But the best part of all was the magnificent Portland Japanese Garden in the park, a wonder of Japanese landscaping set among ancient fir and cedar trees. I did manage to attend the board meeting sessions, but I also wandered around both downtown and in a delightful historic neighborhood graced with colorful century-old homes and gnarly trees cloaked in moss. I looked for hobbits but didn't see any. Moss grows everywhere in Portland. Homeowners have to scrape it off their roofs. I think if I were to stand still long enough moss would grow in my beard. Now that would make me look *really* authentically medieval!

Oh yes, the meeting. We enjoyed a most productive three days, approving a variety of changes to our bylaws to allow us to conduct business more efficiently. We talked about plans to improve our web page and other members' services, and spent a lot of time talking about and making plans for our 2012 festival, where we hope to inspire at least 100 members to join us. We thought about how to mark the Society's 75th anniversary, about boosting participation in Play the Recorder Month, about fund raising and publications. The new ARS Chapter Handbook is now complete (!) and we considered drafts of upcoming ARS member music editions. It was an excellent gathering; I remain deeply impressed by the skill, experience, and heart of my colleagues on the board, and delighted that we get to keep making music together.

Meet us in Portland! July 5-8, 2012

I hoped I inspired you about Portland, Oregon. Portland is a beautiful, amazing place. And those of us on the board of the American Recorder Society would like to invite you to join us there in the summer of 2012.

Following our wonderful ARS Festival in St. Louis in July of 2009, the ARS is making plans for another festival on the west coast. The theme will be the recorder as an instrument with a future, as well as a past, and we will play both great medieval and Renaissance works and modern pieces. The festival will feature classes, lectures, playing sessions, and concerts, and we look forward to Clea Galhano and Paul Leenhouts among our presenters and performers. School teachers can gain credit for taking part while learning how to teach recorder to children.



We will be meeting at the historic Reed College, an easy bus ride to the downtown, where you can visit fine restaurants, gardens, and museums, attend local festivals and green markets, and admire historic architecture. Both the Chamber Music Northwest Summer Festival and the Oregon Bach Festival will be happening while the ARS Festival is under way, and the Oregon Zoo is an easy train ride from downtown. You could also rent a car and visit the Oregon coast, or Mt. Hood, or Mt. Rainier National Park. The southwestern entrance of Rainier is about 130 miles north of Portland, or a 2½ hour drive.

Look for details at www.americanrecorder.org. I can personally tell you that I thoroughly enjoyed the 2009 festival in St. Louis, and I look forward to returning to Portland for this event. Please consider joining us.



Laptops served to prop up sheet music at the ARS Board Meeting in Portland

WSEMS Garage Band, August 21

Grab your instruments for the annual WSEMS Garage Band and BBQ Feast on Sunday, August 21. The music begins at 2 pm and goes until we drop. In between we will have delicious food provided by everyone! Bring a salad or side dish to pass and Rich and Laura Kuhlman will provide the main course. All this happens at our house in Winfield, 1s110 Normandy Woods Lane. Even the neighbors come out to listen. Direct questions to laura@thekuhlmans.com! See you in August!—Laura.

A Music Resource from David Lasocki

David Lasocki recently retired as the Music Reference Librarian of Cook Music Library at Indiana University in Bloomington. A leading scholar on the history of the recorder and woodwind instruments, he was awarded the Distinguished Achievement Award by the board of the American Recorder Society in Portland on April 8.

Dr. Lasocki earned his PhD at the University of Iowa in musicology and is best known for his 1994 title *The Recorder: A Guide to Writings about the Instrument for Players and Researchers*. This is arguably the most comprehensive review of the history of the recorder ever published. He has written 15 books and several hundred articles and other writings, and much of his work is available for free download at www.InstantHarmony.net. Here you can download e-books, articles, and editions of sheet music.



The ARS board joins the Portland Chapter, directed by Laura Kuhlman, April 8

Donald Allured, 1922-2011

Last February 28, one of the great leaders and teachers of the handbell movement passed away peacefully at his home in Pensacola, Florida. Maestro Donald Allured, past President of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers, is revered as one of the greatest handbell teachers of our time. At his passing he left behind many works, including the *Suite for Recorders and Bells*, an as yet unpublished piece. Wesley United Methodist Church, at 14 North May Street in downtown Aurora, Illinois will be presenting the *Suite* in worship on Sunday October 16th, 2011. There will be one rehearsal on Wednesday, October 12 from 7 - 8:30 PM at Wesley Church.

We are inviting recorder players from the area to participate in this special event. The scoring is AATB recorders, and bells, bell part to be played by the Wesley Sanctuary Bells. Any and all interested musicians are

invited to participate, though we can only provide space for 16 players, and this is not a beginner's piece. Please indicate the instrument you prefer to play. If you like we can send you a score and a CD of a performance around June 1. To participate, send a message to Bill Nelson at billnelson@mcleodusa.net or call 630.896.1033 and leave a message.



Venere Lute Quartet, featuring Gail Gillispie, April 2 Ida Noyes Hall, University of Chicago

West Suburban Early Music Society

The WSEMS meeting has been preempted by Mother's day, so our next will be May 1 at 2 PM at the Naperville Covenant Church. Please consider volunteering to serve on the board next year. Nancy Good will be searching for a few good people. We will have a meeting on June 12 (that may include a recital) at the Friends Meeting House, 5710 Lomond Avenue in Downers Grove. Hope to see everyone there!—*Eric Stern*

Whitewater Early Music Festival

Plan to travel to Wisconsin for the weekend of June 3-5 for the 51st annual Early Music Festival. You should have received your brochures by now in the mail. Direct questions to Nancy Chabala (708) 442-6053 or Carol Stanger (cvstanger@aol.com). Download a copy of the brochure at www.chicagoars.org.

Chapter Information

Visit the Yahoo group <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ChicagoARS>.

Our chapters are open to anyone, regardless of musical training, who wants to cultivate and sponsor love and appreciation of the art, history and use of the recorder and related instruments. Chicago Chapter Dues begin September 1, and West Suburban dues cover June 1 through May 31 and are due in September. Both groups include membership in either chapter and in the *American Recorder Society*. Members are listed in the ARS directory, receive *The American Recorder* magazine and this newsletter. The *Recorder Reporter* is published monthly from September to May jointly by the Chicago

Chapter and the West Suburban Early Music Society.

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Chicago Chapter meetings: Usually third Sunday of each month, September through May, 2 PM, at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2012 West Dickens, Chicago. Enter the front door of the parish building immediately west of the church and go to the large fellowship hall on the right.

West Suburban Early Music Society

President/Chapter Representative:	Nancy Good (Good-Naperville@wowway.com) (630) 355-6690
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WSEMS meetings: Second Sunday of each month, September through April, first Sunday of May, 2-4:30 PM at the Naperville Evangelical Covenant Church, 1150 Hobson Road, Naperville, southwest corner of Naper Boulevard and Hobson Road. Exit I-88 at Naper Boulevard and travel south. The church entrance is on a side street, more obvious from Hobson Road.

Mark Dawson, editor

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This is our last issue for the season. Collect your stories and photos for the summer of 2011 and send them to me to publish in September!