

Recorder Reporter

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

Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society

December 2013

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Chicago Chapter

For our November meeting we played recorder.

We are getting ready. To prepare for our December 13 performance at the library, Lisette devoted the November meeting to running through our Christmas music. So we played through 19 different pieces, mostly traditional Christmas melodies. We can still make room for new participants if you would like to join us.

We are looking for members interested in participating in an hour-long class in the afternoon of February 15 for the Saturday workshop of the University of Chicago Folk Music Festival. The annual Folk Music Festival has been delighting crowds of musicians and music lovers for over 50 years, offering concerts and classes featuring Cajun dance, Russian folk choirs, blue grass, gospel and Irish fiddle ensembles, English Country Dance, and much more, besides spontaneous jam sessions. The free workshops are offered all day on Saturday and Sunday at the wonderful Ida Noyes Hall, 1212 East 59th Street in Hyde Park. Lisette Kielson will direct the class, and we plan to invite participants to join us in a general jam and coaching session. We would like some chapter members to take part to demonstrate our instruments and play several pieces for whoever drops in.

We are also recruiting members and friends to join John Langfeld in performing an arrangement of Queen's 1975 master work "Bohemian Rhapsody" for recorder at on Sunday, April 27 at 2 PM at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Luke, 1500 West Belmont in Chicago. John is trying to recruit as many recorder players as he can to form an orchestra for this piece. Our own Lisette Kielson, Patrick O'Malley, and Laura Kuhlman will be taking part in the concert as well. John looks to have one rehearsal and then a dress rehearsal on Saturday April 26. You can reach John at langfeldjohn@gmail.com. He will be happy to send a score—38 pages!—by email, for two soprano, two alto, two tenor, and two bass recorders, plus harpsichord.

Further, the board is considering a performance or an open practice session for Play the Recorder Month in March. We may move the monthly meeting site to a more public venue; one idea that we are considering is performing at the Oak Park Public Library on Lake Street. We hope this would be easily accessible to all of

our members, and it would give us another opportunity to share our music with a larger audience.

Patrick O'Malley will open 2014 by directing the group for our January 19, and will help us work on the music we are planning to perform for Make Music Chicago June 21. Andrew Schultze directs on February 16, this time teaching about the music of the German Baroque era, and he plans to bring several singers along.

Finally, keep in mind plans for the memorial gathering for Ann Greene on Saturday afternoon, noon to 4 PM, December 14 in Schaumburg. We have been invited to bring music and our instruments to remember Ann by playing some of her favorite melodies. The event will be at the Maggiano's Little Italy Restaurant in Schaumburg, 1901 East Woodfield Road, just south of Woodfield Mall in the Streets of Woodfield shopping center.

	<i>Food</i>	<i>Drinks</i>
January 19		
February 16	Dale Fitschen	
March 16	Mark Dawson	
April 13	Rosalie Guttman	

Yuletide Concert

Our annual Yuletide Concert approaches on December 15. With all of our other plans for this holiday season, let's not neglect our annual Yuletide recital!

Please let Mark Dawson or Ben Eisenstein know if you would like to perform, and provide the name of the pieces, the composer, and the names of the members of your group. As always a variety of music is welcome; we would be delighted to hear choral works, pieces on gamba or shawm, or keyboard works, and in the past we have enjoyed recorder and harmonica. Please plan to bring food or drink to share. You can reach Mark at msjddawson@sbcglobal.net or call him at 773-334-6376.

This year we plan to perform in the church sanctuary, a beautiful and resonant space. We would also like to try to promote this event more broadly. So those of you who have Facebook pages, could you post notices to let your online friends about the event, and invite them to join us?

Also, we plan to put out a basket to ask members and friends to donate to the chapter at the concert, to help cover our expenses for the coming year.

A Season of Excellent Music

Members of the Chicago Chapter will gather in the lobby of the Harold Washington Library Center, 400 South State Street, on Friday December 13 at noon to perform holiday music for library patrons. The Chicago Public Library will publicize this event. For those who are performing, please be ready to play by 11:45. The multi-purpose room on the lower level will be available for storing coats and bags and for tuning up before the event. Make sure you bring your music and music stands.

The library has its own Loop elevated stop, and is easily accessible by Metra train from the suburbs. If you prefer to drive, the library web site offers a list of 16 lots and garages within a few blocks, including CPS Parking at 651 South State, Park One at 18 E Van Buren, and four Park One sites between 410 & 605 South Wabash.

The day before, the Pippins will gather to sing in the same space, at the same time, and at 6:30 that evening in Daley Plaza, as part of Christkindlemarket. And you can find the Pippins are also singing as part of the Forest Park Holiday Walk on Friday, December 6, in the evening. Madison Avenue in Forest Park, around Circle Avenue (just west of Harlem Avenue) features horse-drawn sleigh rides, face painting, and a visit of Santa, starting at 6 PM.

Members of the West Suburban Early Music Society, including Jim Heup, Bob Blomeyer, Marguerite Re, and Nancy Good, will be providing dinner music on Thursday evening, December 12 for the Children's Christmas Party, Bridge Communities in Naperville. Bridge Communities is a non-profit that provides support for homeless families in DuPage County. They will be performing at the DuPage Children's Museum in Naperville.

Patrick O'Malley will play recorder with the Chorale of the Music Institute of Chicago on December 15 at 3 PM in Evanston, 1490 Chicago Avenue. The works include the Chicago premiere of "Angels from the Realms of Glory," by Richard Webster. Tickets are \$15, seniors \$10, students \$7. Available at the door, or online at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/516094.

West Suburban Early Music Society

The WSEMS November meeting was arranged in reverse order from usual. We began with our small groups. The "Leftovers" enjoyed playing another sonata for two altos by William Croft. Normally, I don't talk about the krumhorn group because they only engage in unspeakable activities, but this month they cleaned up their act. The krumhorns played pieces from the 2nd volume of Music for Krumhorns covering such goodies as *Roma Non Fu* (L. Agostini), *Ohn dick Muss Ich* (L. Lechner) and *Gavotte* (Praetorius). After the break, we

resumed with our large group led by Laura Kuhlman. We played the Hebrew song *Elohim Hashivenu* by Salamone Rossi, *Nous sommes de l'ordre de St. Babuyn* from the Odhecaton and a new piece *Ihr Musici frisch auf* by Hans Leo Hassler.

Meanwhile, the Senior Suburban Orchestra, conducted by Dan Pasquale D'Andrea was founded in September of 2000. The Orchestra recently added a recorder quartet made up of players from within the orchestra, and including WSEMS member Darleen Kay.



Gary Chipman (viola) on tenor, Lois Griffin (clarinet) on soprano, Darleen Kay (string bass) on alto, and Jane Schmidt (bassoon) on bass

The recorder quartet plays during intermission of a regular orchestra concert. "The music never stops," says conductor Dan D'Andrea. They quartet offers music of the Renaissance Baroque, and Classical periods, as well as some jazz arrangements. To learn more, visit their web page at www.seniorsuburbanorchestra.org.

The next meeting of the West Suburban Early Music Society will take place on December 8 at 2 PM at the Naperville Covenant Church. It will almost certainly include playing from Laura's Christmas collection. Hope to see everyone there!—Eric Stern

Save the date! WSEMS is hosting an early music workshop at their meeting site in Naperville on Saturday, March 29, 2014. The presenter is Vicki Boeckman, from Seattle. More details will follow.

Internet Recorder Lessons Available

For those of us who are set up to take advantage of everything 21st century digital networking can offer, including a high-speed Internet access, a web cam, a microphone, and government surveillance, a wide variety of online educational opportunities are available online. For example, Alexa Raine-Wright of Montreal offers music lessons on recorder and Baroque flute. Alexa has a

Bachelor's degree from McGill University in Recorder under Matthias Maute, and a Master's degree in Baroque flute. She won first prize in the Competition for Young Recorder Players hosted by Piffaro, the Renaissance ensemble, and has performed across the United States and recorded on ATMA Classique. To learn more contact her at a.rainewright@gmail.com or alexarainewright.com.

The Chicago Chapter's New Logo

We have been working on a logo for the Chicago chapter, to use with publications, our web site, and marketing materials. We wanted something simple, conveying the easy-to-remember name of "Chicago Recorders," and a logo that tells the viewer something about who we are as an organization. This is what we have come up with:

Chicago Recorders



Chicago Recorders



The color logo would serve for online publications and for our web site.

Let us know what you think. We hope to put these logos to good use soon.

Music Coming Up

Schola Antiqua offers "Thomas Becket: Martyr and Athlete" on January 10 at 7:30 PM, Rockefeller Chapel, 5850 South Woodlawn, near the University of Chicago, and again on January 11 at 8 PM at St. Clement Church, 642 West Deming Place in Lincoln Park (Chicago). The program of music speaks of England's legendary martyr, the Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Becket. After his death Thomas was honored in gestures of cultural expression, including music. Songs for the liturgy were matched by sounds for the saint to be used outside the church's walls. Music from the thirteenth century through the fifteenth century, across a number of genres, retells the story of Thomas as a martyr and "athlete" (a champion of Jesus), as one song calls him.

The **Haymarket Opera** just completed a delightful series of performances of Georg Philipp Telemann's comic opera *Pimpinone* (1725) at the Mayne Stage in Chicago, 1328 West Montrose. Their next performance features *Le Judgement de Pan/Acteon* by the French composer Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1643-1704). It is worth writing this one in your calendar for March 7 at 7:30 and March 8 at 5 and 8 PM because this work will feature

our own Lisette Kielson and Mirja Lorenz on recorder. Visit Haymarketopera.org to learn more.

Chicago chapter member **Mirja Lorenz** joins the Harper Symphony Orchestra of Harper College on Sunday, February 9 at 3 PM, 1200 West Algonquin Road in Palatine. She will be playing Bach's Brandenburg Concerto Number 2 and the Vivaldi Concerto in C major for Sopranino Recorder and Orchestra. Visit the calendar at harpercollege.edu.

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, 305 Circle Avenue in Forest Park, offers their **Boar's Head Festival**, A Medieval Christmas Celebration, on Saturday December 14th and Sunday, December 15 at 4 PM, with pre-concert music at 3:15. You can order tickets at 708 366-2593, or pay \$18 at the door. This event features our own Mary Anne Gardner. To learn more visit the church web site www.stjohnforestpark.org.

In February the **Newberry Consort** offers *The Feast of the Pheasant; a 15th- Century Burgundian Banquet*, featuring a variety of historic instruments (rebec, lute, vielle, harp, bagpipes) and our own Tom Zajac. The event recalls a banquet offered by Philip the Good, Duke of Burgundy, in February of 1454. It features music by Guillaume Dufay, Giles Binchois, and others, but, alas, not the elephants and musicians enclosed in enormous pastries that Good Philip also provided for his guests. Each concert features a lecture one hour before the music starts. February 7, 8 PM, Ruggles Hall, Newberry Library, February 8, 8 PM, Lutkin Hall, Northwestern University, February 9, 3 PM, Bond Chapel, University of Chicago. Newberryconsort.org or call 773-669-7335.

Rook will perform at the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert, in Preston Bradley Hall at the Chicago Cultural Center, on Wednesday, February 19 at 12:15. The program will include works by Castello, Weckmann, Selma y Salaverde, Willaert and Festa. Rook is a mixed instrument ensemble, including harpsichord, violin, bass violin, and trombone, that plays music of the 16th and 17th centuries. They have been featured at the Boston and Madison Early Music Festivals in 2013. To learn more visit www.Rookearlymusic.com. Sponsored by the International Music Foundation, the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series has been offering free performances of young and promising classical musicians at the Cultural Center once a week since October of 1977.

The **University of Chicago Folk Music Festival** returns February 14-16 at Ida Noyes Hall. Two days of free workshops plus three evening concerts at Mandel Hall, relentless bluegrass, blues, Cajun, Celtic, and world music plus lots of jamming in the hallways. "We aim to keep the living tradition of folk music alive by inviting some

of today's best traditional musicians to the U of C campus every February for three days of music, dance, and more." As this is their 54th annual event, they are almost as old as we are, and this year, the Chicago Chapter hopes to participate. Either way the festival is great fun and well worth a visit. Visit www.uofcfolk.org or Email uofcfolk@gmail.com.

More Online Resources

It's hard to find out much about AncientFM except that it is an Internet radio station that offers music of the Medieval period and Renaissance. They are a volunteer project, funded by patrons. From Canada. Among the items on a recent playlist, we found they offered Fretwork playing John Dowland, Alla Francesca playing "Li nouveaux temps," a Crusader's song, and the Toronto Consort offering the anonymous work "Joan to the Maypole." You can play their works using Windows Media Player or Shockwave. Oh, and it sounds really good. Visit www.ancientfm.com.

You can also look at Live365, an Internet radio broadcasting network where you could create your own station if you like, or listen to thousands of stations created by others. The service charges a modest fee, but one of the offerings is Early Music.Net Radio, provided by Early Music Network, a not-for-profit with a goal to "promote, revive, and support historical performance practice all over the world. Visit www.earlymusic.net.

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. Our meetings, programs and publications help members to come together and to find others with similar interests. 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.

Tuesday Night Recorder Sessions

The Oak Park Recorder Society offers a fine way to gain regular experience in playing with a group. OPRS members meet Tuesday night, 8 to 10 PM, in the basement of the Pilgrim Congregational Church, 460

Lake Street. Go to the back entrance near the parking lot and ring the buzzer for the basement.

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 west of the church and go to the large fellowship hall on the right.

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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.

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