Recorder Reporter

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

Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society

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Chicago Chapter Events

We were happy to welcome Patrick O'Malley back to the Chicago Chapter for our January 19 meeting. He brought with him a collection of recorder pieces from the American Recorder Society's composition competition, in honor of the Society's 75th anniversary. We only managed to fit in one prize-winner, Robert Agnew's *Song of the Heather*; the recorder community must be doing pretty well if the American Recorder Society receives 79 submissions for a competition and the entries that lose are still great fun to play. So we tried out pieces with names like *Keep Dancing Like a Wave* and the very cool *Jabber the Wock.* A trio of works, *Riverside*, *Hopscotch*, and *Field of Dreams* all sounded Chinese. We figured the river in mind in *Riverside* was the Yangtze, not the Wabash.

The winning entries in each category will be published and provided with an upcoming issue of the *American Recorder* magazine. The others, I hope, are published elsewhere, as they would make for some most agreeable jamming on Tuesday nights in Oak Park.

January is not so cold with recorders

Next up, February 16 will also be extremely cool (and well, maybe extremely cold too) as Andrew Shultze leads us in a session devoted to music of the German Baroque.

We have a few gaps to fill in for refreshments:

	Food	***Drinks***
February 16	Dale Fitschen	_____
April 13	Rosalie Guttman	_____

For our March meeting—

Don't come!

Play the Recorder Month, in Oak Park

That is, please don't show up at our regular meeting venue, Covenant Presbyterian Church near Damen and Armitage on March 16. We are looking at holding our March 16 meeting at the Oak Park Public Library, 834 West Lake Street, as part of the Play the Recorder Month. We will gather in the lobby, starting at 2 PM, and Lisette will lead an open rehearsal. Our friends from the West Suburban Early Music Society are welcome to join us.

The Oak Park Public Library is a handsome modern building, easily accessible to the disabled, and with parking in the basement. You could also take the L to Ridgeland Avenue and walk a few blocks, or walk from the Metra stop in Oak Park. This is all part of our continuing efforts to help other recorder players in the area find us. And we are pleased to note that we are already starting to see newcomers visiting our monthly meetings or emailing us for more information.

Note that the format for our March meeting will differ from our regular meetings. We will plan on taking a break but we won't be able to provide refreshments. Instead, some of us are likely to head out for dinner together after we pack up our instruments.

Correction: The photo from the January issue of the newsletter omitted Nancy VanBrundt from the caption of the photo of recorder players at the Ann Greene Memorial in Schaumburg.

University of Chicago Folk Music Festival

The Chicago chapter has confirmed that we will provide a workshop at the 54th Annual University of Chicago Folk Music Festival on Saturday, February 15 at 10 AM. We will be meeting in the West Lounge on the second floor of Ida Noyes Hall, 1212 E 59th Street. This is in Hyde Park, on the campus of the University; you can park on the side streets near the Hall or on the Midway, visible from the front of the building. You can also take the Illinois Central from the Loop or the #6 Jackson Park bus, and walk a few blocks. Ida Noyes is across the street from Rockefeller Chapel. Lisette Kielson will

lead the class, and we hope to turn it into a general playing session, as we are encouraging participants to bring their recorders. The festival will provide music stands and advertising.

As of February 1st five members were signed up, and we plan to open the hour-long session by demonstrating two pieces, one Medieval, the other, Baroque. We would welcome other recorder players to join us. The festival itself is great fun. Visit their web page, uofcfolk.org.

The workshops on Saturday & Sunday at Ida Noyes are free, and the schedule will be published online close to the event. I know that the Hurdy Gurdy Society will offer a class (featuring our own Dennis Sherman in years past) and the Russian folk choir, Golosa, will be singing. You can buy music and food at the event, and if you like you can walk from there to the Oriental Institute or the Smart Gallery of the University of Chicago, or to the Museum of Science & Industry (cool bicycle exhibit!).

A Hurdy-Gurdy workshop (with recorder) at the 2011 Folk Music Festival

West Suburban Early Music Society

The WSEMS January meeting was led by Nancy Chabala. We warmed up with *Weinactsbitte* and then continued with our Rossi pieces *Barechu* and *Hashivenu Elohim*. On the *Barechu*, we experimented with playing in high and low choirs. After the break, Jim Heup led the Leftovers with two new modern canons for two altos. One canon sounded modern but with idiomatically baroque figures. When the two parts were both in a forest of notes, it was tricky to hear how the two parts fit together in time. The Library group seems to have had a lot of fun. Nancy Good reports:

From Asia in November, we traveled west this month to Southern Europe, playing folk and folk-inspired music from the Balkans, Italy, Spain, and Portugal. Much of the music from these regions is melodic rather than harmonic, so some of the music was all of us on sopranos or tenors playing in octaves. For this type of music, the Clark Kimberling books are very useful both for playable music and historical commentary.

You can download the arrangements for yourself from www.IMSLP.org; search on Kimberling. The International Music Score Library Project makes public domain music available for free.This month we used Collection 12: Western European Melodies. As a contrast, the ARS Members' Library set of Three Balkan Line Dances, arranged by Emilie George for SATB recorders, allowed us to play in four parts. We managed the 7/8 rhythms quite well after practicing 1-2-3 1-2 1-2 and having a drum lead us through. The Albanian Folk Song and the two Greek dances are fun to play. From Italy, we played some popular songs: *Santa Lucia*, *Funiculi*, *Funicula*, and the *Carnival of Venice*. The variations gave us a chance to practice higher notes than we normally play and try some more 19th century-type ornaments. Grace notes that come before the beat! Glissandos between notes! Imitating Italian tenors!

The IMSLP website also supplied Three Portuguese Regional Songs, with lyrics in regional dialects that Google Translate couldn't help much with. We ended with a Spanish dance from Andalucia. One lesson I'm learning this year is that while we think of just a few nations and their folk music, musical history is based on many smaller regions whose dances, songs, and languages may be very different from nearby regions. And we didn't even have time for Catalonia and Provence!

Our next meeting will be February 9 at 2 pm at the Naperville Covenant Church. Hope to see everyone there!—*Eric Stern*

Note that the Naperville chapter has its own web page:
www.westsubems.org

Dennis Sherman, Laurie Erickson, and Mirja Lorenz at 12th Night, January 18

New York City Early Music Festival

As a devoted Chicago booster, I consistently look for ways to brag about my city, and find them. But I am also a recorder player, and that means that I am talented, good-looking, and honest. And that early-music inspired honesty compels me to concede Chicago's Second City status. New York City is magnificent, a city brimming over with great architecture, great art, great music. Art is at every turn, wonderful surprises not just in museums but in restaurants, in lobbies, in parks, painted on the sides of warehouses. And find lots and lots of great music in New York too. Of particular interest is New York's music from the Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque eras. Check out the Gotham Early Music Scene at www.gemsny.org. And consider the New York Early Music Festival as well, June 12-19 (www.emfnyc.org). Airfare to New York is modest with regular flights from O'Hare to LaGuardia, and the subways make exploring the city easy.

The cast from the* Play of Daniel*, an early 13th century morality play, Trinity Church, Wall Street, December 2013

WSEMS Workshop, March 29

Join members of the West Suburban Early Music Society on Saturday, March 29 for a day-long workshop with Vicki Boeckman, *Around the World in One Afternoon*. Boeckman, a Seattle-based recorder player, teacher, and coach, and has been a featured soloist with the Portland Baroque Orchestra, the Portland Opera, the Philharmonia Northwest Orchestra, and the Skagit Symphony. She performs 17th and 18th century works with her own trio, Ensemble Elctra, and has been a returning guest with the Seattle Baroque Orchestra and the Medieval Women's Choir, led by Margriet Tindemans. She has also traveled across the United States, Canada, and Europe offering concerts and workshops. Boeckman lived in Denmark from 1981 to 2004, where she taught at the Royal Danish Academy of Music in Copenhagen. After moving to Seattle in 2004, Boeckman joined the faculty of the Music Center of the Northwest and the early music program at the Cornish College of the Arts, both in Seattle. She serves as the Music Director for the Portland Recorder Society.

The repertoire for the workshop will be varied and eclectic, spanning countries and eras with lots of room for experimentation. In addition to some American music, participants will visit Spain, France, Germany, Denmark, Norway and Africa.

The event is at the WSEMS regular meeting place, the Naperville Evangelical Covenant Church, 1150 Hobson Road, at the SW corner of Naper Boulevard & Hobson. The $65 fee includes music, lunch, refreshments, and a great time with friends. To learn more visit **westsubems.org** or **ChicagoRecorders.org**.

Music Coming Up

The **Bach Week Festival** returns!

- Friday, March 21, 6:30 PM, celebrate Bach's birthday at a private home in Evanston, great music for a good cause. This is a fundraiser for the festival.
- Friday, April 25, 7:30, three piano concertos and the cantata *Mensch, ich Sundenknecht*
- Friday, May 2, 7:30, several pieces including Brandenburg Concerto #6 and Concerto in D Major.
- Sunday, May 4, 2:30, several pieces including Mass in G Major, and *Cantata Nun is das Heil und die Kraft*.

To learn more, visit bachweek.org or call 800 838-3006.

The **Ensemble Musical Offering** of Milwaukee presents Henry Purcell's *The Olde Bachelour*, with music from The Fairy Queen and the Virtuous Wife, on February 15 at 8 PM at the Cathedral Church of All Saints, 818 East Juneau Avenue, Milwaukee. Tickets range from $10 to $35. You can buy tickets (414) 258-6133 or visit their web page, ensemblemusicaloffering.org.

Schola Antiqua explores chant and polyphonic music for the legendary St. Anne in this program of chant and rich polyphony, including works by Pierre de la Rue and Jean Mouton. Friday May 9, 7:30 PM, Bond Chapel, Ellis Avenue and 59th Street, University of Chicago, and Saturday, May 10 at 8 PM, St. Clement Church, 642 West Deming Place in Chicago. $25 for Adults, $10 students and seniors. Tickets available at the door for cash or

credit, or visit schola-antiqua.org. Several members of this choral group would be familiar to members of the Chicago chapter and WSEMS, including Andrew Fredel and William Chin.

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

The Oak Park Recorder Society, at Dale & Marilyn Fitschen's home, hunkering down in below zero cold on January 28 but still playing!

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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