

Recorder Reporter

Newsletter of two chapters of the American Recorder Society (ARS),
Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society

December 2015

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Chicago Chapter News

We had a solid crowd for recorder orchestra in November, and we happily welcomed Lisette back. We played works by Lully and Handel, as well as Ravel's "Pavane for a Dead Princess," or more properly *Pavane pour une infant defuncte*, before working on a set of Renaissance dances. Some lovely Renaissance and Baroque works, too. It was an afternoon of most agreeable jamming, and we prepared for our Yuletide Concert. For December 20, we plan to perform, as a chapter, *Chaconne: l'Amour Medecin* by Jean-Baptiste Lully (1632-1687).

Next up, our **Yuletide Concert**. Please plan to join us. January 17 we will have Patrick O'Malley directing us in playing jazz works arranged for recorder.



Baron's Noyse, at All Souls in Roselle, November 2



And the Pippins singing



November meeting, recorder orchestra with Lisette



Recorder Opportunity, at the Clearing

Holiday magic and madness surround us and soon the doldrums of winter will challenge our resilience. Is it too early to think of summer? Or a Christmas present for yourself? Or a New Year resolution for yourself of more music in 2016? Have you heard about The Clearing?

This is a weeklong resident or commuter workshop for recorders and other varied instruments in a wooded retreat setting on the bluffs of Door County.

Adrianne Paffrath directs the group; she started the event and has taught the group for over 30 years. Because there are enough people attending each year, we always do large orchestra selections, with great basses and a contra bass.

Musical selections for the class are across time periods, cultures and styles, and can be very eclectic. Many historical periods and genre of music are represented.

Early music and Bach SATB arrangements traditionally start us off for the morning session and tuning. Other works include double and triple choir pieces, folk melodies like jigs, laments and waltzes from many traditions, and music from the Irish, English, Scotland, Welsh, Norwegian, Finnish, German, Swedish, and Latin American traditions. Modern and contemporary composers and arrangers also appear, such as big band jazz, PDQ Bach, Allison Lewin, and Glen Shannon.

Student offerings of cool compositions/arrangements brought to share help us keep current with what new things are happening for recorders. The closing concert for 2015 included works by Henry Purcell and Gabriel Faure, as well as modern pieces and a Stan Davis arrangement of a Moises Simons piece. Over the years the groups has performed works by Bizet, Mozart, Grieg, Sousa, and Scarlatti.

Visit www.theclearing.org to learn more about the Clearing, or contact me at wan1@sbcglobal.net or call 847-345-9267.—Joanne Miller

St. Luke's Recorder Series

John Langfeld treated us to the 15th and last concert in the Saint Luke Recorder Series at St. Luke Church, 1500 West Belmont, on Sunday November 22. The series, which started in 2006, closed with *Liturgiana: Liturgical Music for Recorders*, which was typically challenging for John Langfeld as in fact there is no liturgical music written for recorders.



John Langfeld & Mirja Lorenz play in the final concert in the St. Luke's Recorder Series

So he arranged some of his own and performed modern works, including the world premiere of two pieces by Randall Snyder, including *New Tropes* (2014), medieval chants arranged for recorder and played (with great difficulty) by John himself and by Mirja Lorenz. In years

past many members and friends of the Chicago chapter have joined John on stage, including 28 of us in April of 2009 for John's own arrangement of the *Dies Irae*, a 13th century poem about the Day of Wrath, and in April 2014 for an arrangement of Queen's 1975 work *Bohemian Rhapsody*. It was a fine afternoon and a fine end to a musical adventure. Thanks to John Langfeld for his creativity, and for a generous reception to follow.

Chicago Chapter events coming up

Yuletide Concert

Our annual Yuletide Concert approaches on December 20. Please let Mark Dawson 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. Please plan to bring food or drink to share. You can reach Mark at msjddawson@sbcglobal.net or call him at 773-334-6376.

Membership Meeting

Please join us on Sunday, January 17 after the break for a special member's meeting. The board would like to talk with the members about future plans for the chapter in 2016-2017 and beyond, and in particular some financial challenges we face.

West Suburban Early Music Society

Laura Osterlund was the guest conductor for our November 8 meeting in Downers Grove. We played mostly English Renaissance works, including two Pavaues, one by Augustin Bassano and the other by Alfonso Ferrabosco. We also played an anonymous Allemande, *Wolsey's Wilde* by William Byrd, *Come Away, Death* by Vaughan Williams and a mid-14th century, Machaut-like setting of *Agnus Dei* from Mass of Barcelona by an anonymous French composer.



Laura Osterlund directs WSEMS at their November meeting

The board has decided to offer Laura Osterlund the position of music director for the spring of 2016 and she has accepted. If you do not regularly attend our meetings please drop by and play with us. We meet at 2 pm on January 10, February 14, March 13, April 10 and May 1 of 2016. To learn more about Laura and listen to some of her performances visit earlymusicchicago.org, and click Musicians and Winds.

Our next meeting is December 13. Thanks to Marguerite and her husband we have binders full of holiday music to play. Please bring a snack to share with the group.—

Joanne Miller

Exceptionally Cool Feature of Living in Chicago number 478

One of the grandest buildings in downtown Chicago is the Fine Arts Building at 410 South Michigan Avenue, the home of Performers Music. This handsome Victorian era landmark was built in 1886 to serve as a showroom for the carriages built by the Studebaker brothers of South Bend, Indiana, and was converted into a home for artist and music studios in 1898. Sculptor Lorado Taft rented a studio at the Fine Arts, Frank Lloyd Wright had an office there, as did William Denslow, who illustrated *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, and Harriet Monroe, the founder of *Poetry Magazine*. Today the Fine Arts is graced with elegant art and woodwork, and old-fashioned manual elevators that are great fun to ride. Every month the building hosts the Second Friday open house, where studios and stores on all 10 floors are open to visitors. Friday December 11, 5 to 9 PM, is the annual holiday party. Enjoy some free food and drink, fine art, and fine music in the Fine Arts. After spending time at the Christkindlmarket at Daley Plaza, walk over to the Fine Arts Building for the rest of an excellent evening.

Johnson Wax Landmark Tours

The Chicago Architecture Biennial and the SC Johnson Company are offering free tours of the Johnson Wax Administration Building and Research Tower, and of Wingspread, the Johnson family home in Racine, Wisconsin, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through Sunday January 3. All of these celebrated buildings were designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. The remarkable 1939 Administration Building is considered one of the most important buildings of the 20th century. Not only are the tours themselves free—the tour also offers free round trip transportation to the sites by charter bus, leaving from the Chicago Cultural Center, downtown, 78 West Washington Street. To register visit SCJohnson.com/WrightNow. The Cultural Center is easily accessible by both the CTA elevated train and Metra suburban rail lines.

Music Coming Up

Second Presbyterian Church (2ndPresbyterian.org) offers a Sing-along Messiah at their church at 1936 South Michigan Avenue, Sunday December 6 at 3:30 PM. The concert is free. The church is worth the trip by itself; come enjoy one of the most beautiful interior spaces in the city. While you sing, admire the Tiffany stained glass windows and intricate woodwork.

The **Pippins** will be singing at the Holiday Walk and Festival of Windows event in Forest Park on Friday night, December 4, starting at 6 PM. Look for them at the Centuries and Sleuths Bookstore, 7916 Madison Street, just west of Harlem Avenue. The next week, Thursday night December 10, they will be singing at Christkindlmarket in Daley Plaza downtown, at Washington and Clark, at 7 PM. Visit www.christkindlmarket.com.

The **Rembrandt Chamber Players** offer “Holiday Baroque,” featuring Bach’s Brandenburg Concerti #1 and 4 and Handel’s *Laudate pueri Dominum* on Sunday, December 6 at 3 PM. Alice Millar Chapel, Northwestern University, 1870 Sheridan Road in Evanston. The Chapel is easily accessible from the Metra north line and from the CTA Purple line. The Rembrandt Chamber Players have been offering a wide range of chamber music for over 25 years. Call 312 360-3145 or visit rembrandtchamberplayers.org.

The **Oak Park Concert Choral** offers an Early Music Choral Festival at the Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake Street, in the Veteran’s Room, Saturday May 14 at 10 AM. The first session, lasting until noon, will feature madrigals, canons, and other early choral music. Session 2, starting at 1:30, provides an opportunity to work in smaller groups, and will address more difficult pieces. Session 2 is optional, but you must attend Session 1 to attend Session 2. The festival is free and open to the public. After each session, a short concert will be performed for the public. To learn more visit www.oakparkconcertchorale.org.

The choral ensemble **Bella Voce Camerata** presents “The Three Sch’s” Music by Scheidt, Schein, & Schutz,” collaborating with the early music ensemble Rook to perform works by three celebrated German composers of the 17th century, Heinrich Schutz, Samuel Scheidt, and Johann Hermann Schein. Saturday, March 5, 7:30 PM, St. Clement Parish, 642 W Deming in Chicago, and Sunday, March 6, 3:30, St. Luke’s Episcopal, 939 Hinman Avenue in Evanston. To learn more visit bellavoce.org.

The **Music of the Baroque** holiday brass and choral concerts are on Thursday, December 17 at 8 PM at

Grace Lutheran Church in River Forest (7300 West Division, near Division & Harlem), Friday, December 18 at 8 PM at St. Michael's Church in Old Town in Chicago (1633 North Cleveland, near North Avenue), and Saturday and Sunday, December 19 and 20, at 3 PM at the Divine Word Chapel in Northbrook. To learn more visit Baroque.org, or call (312) 551-1414.

Baroque Band performs "Duel at the Devil," featuring Handel's Concerto Grosso #2 in B flat Major, and works by Johann Christoph Pepush, Michael Festing, and a variety of their contemporaries, Friday January 15 at 7:30 at the Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Avenue in Evanston, Saturday January 16 at 7:30 at Augustana Lutheran Church, 5500 South Woodlawn Avenue in Hyde Park, Chicago, and Sunday January 20 at 7:30 PM at the Chicago Symphony Center Granger Ballroom, 220 South Michigan Avenue. Next month, January 24 & 25, join them for Handel's Water Music, Bach's Brandenburg Concerto #1, and symphonies by Mozart and Haydn. Visit www.baroqueband.org for more.

The **Bach Week Festival** returns in April. The Friday evening candlelight concert, April 22 at 10 PM, will feature our own Lisette Kielson and the L'Ensemble Portique in the lobby of Nichols Hall. Last year it was Mirja Lorenz playing recorder late at night. The Festival also offers concerts Friday April 22 at 7:30 and Saturday April 24 in the Nichols Concert Hall at the Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Avenue in Evanston, and on Friday May 6 at 7:30 at Anderson Chapel, North Park University, near Lawrence & Kedzie in Chicago.

Chapter Information

Visit <http://chicagorecorders.org>.

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: The 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.

Chicago Chapter ARS (ChicagoRecorders.org)

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WSEMS meetings: Second Sunday of each month, September through April, first Sunday of May, 2-4:30 PM at the Downers Grove Friends meeting house, 5710 Lomond Avenue in Lisle. The church is located near Maple Avenue and 355. From 355, take the ramp and go east on Maple for 4/10 miles and turn right (south) onto Lomond street. The church is on the right.

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