

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 News

Andrew Schultze returned for our November 20 meeting, leading us in a lot of English music from the 17th century. He also brought his choir again.



In 1680 composer A.B Philomusicus, too modest to use his real name, published *The Synopsis of Vocal Music*. We drew many of the songs we played on Sunday from this treatise. The full name of the *Synopsis* is, more precisely, *The Synopsis of Vocal Music, containing the rudiments of singing delivered in a method so solid, short, and plain that this art may now be learned more exactly, speedily, and easily than ever heretofore*.

In fact AB was an amateur musician of modest talents, and a lot of the material found in his treatise was borrowed from other composers in an era when copyright law was considered quaint. And music was not this scholar's only talents, as two years earlier a Latin grammar guide was published, *Rudiments of the Latine Grammar, formed according to the desire of the most learned, in a way so solid, short, and plain that the Latin tongue may now be learned more exactly, speedily and easily than ever heretofore*.

Wonderful music from England's seemingly endless array of musical talent, gifted composer after gifted composer from the time of John Tavener (1495 – 1565) until the death of Henry Purcell in 1695. We played several works by Purcell, including selections from *Dido's Lament* and *Bonduca*, as well as pieces from Shakespearean composer Robert Herrick and John

Wilson, as well as many other composers of the 1600's, an era when England was confidently moving forward in European, and world, affairs. London grew from 40,000 in the middle of the 16th century to 250,000 by 1600 and 400,000 by 1640, a very wealthy city and a center for culture that drew talent from all over the continent.

Next up, our annual Yuletide Concert. And we could use a few members to bring food and drinks for our March meeting, plus drinks for April.

Yuletide Concert

Our annual Yuletide Concert approaches on December 18. 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.

West Suburban Early Music Society

The WSEMS monthly meeting for November was ably led by Nancy Chabala. We played through some excellent selections from her vast Christmas repertoire of really good tunes! Some favorites included "I saw three ships," "Carol of the bells," "Cradle song," and "I wonder as I wander." Some lesser known selections include "The Boar's Head," "Wonderous Cool, thou woodland quiet," "O Heiland reiss die Himmel auf," and "Quand Dieu naquit." Nancy will also lead on December 11 at our next meeting. We provide music (and snacks) and fellowship so just drop in and add your part!—Joanne Miller



Nancy Chabala directs WSEMS

Texas Toot

“Deep in the Heart,” or “I had a hoot at the toot!”

The Texas Toot happens each year in Palestine, Texas, 41 years and counting, a two hour drive from Dallas. This year I attended for the first time with recorder buddy (and former WSEMS member) Hildy Auciello. The Toot is a weekend workshop for a variety of instruments, including recorders featuring but not limited to early music. What a fun time and wonderful learning experience! Among the classes I took from Frank Shirley were: Music of Henry Purcell; French Chansons and the Instrumental Genre They Influenced; and Fun Arrangements for Recorders (Liberty Bell March by Sousa); exercises to improve sight reading. I learned from Frances Baker’s class about recorder technique and differences between Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque recorder music. In Jennifer Carpenter’s class (mixed in with strings and harp) we played different versions of *L’Amoroso Ero*. This wonderful weekend takes place on a spacious Methodist property, wooded and quietly restful, with a lake and very nice accommodations. All the people were friendly and the teachers were outstanding. I highly recommend this workshop!—Joanne Miller

Spring Recorder Workshop, April 2017

We are pleased to welcome Anne Timberlake for our next recorder workshop on April 8, 2017. We are currently making final arrangements for a meeting place. We will play all day, starting at 9:30 and ending at 4 with a break for lunch, and will start with an hour or two of work on how, where, and why to articulate with recorder, and then move into the workshop theme, “Bad Boys.”

Does character count? Can you be both tuneful and badly behaved? We’ll sample the music of spies, lechers, debtors, drunkards, murderers, and cranks. It’s malfeasance through the ages!



Anne Timberlake has appeared across the United States performing repertoire from Bach to twenty-first-century premieres. She holds degrees in recorder performance from Oberlin Conservatory and Indiana University, where she won the 2007 Early Music Institute Concerto Competition. She has also received awards from the

American Recorder Society and the National Foundation for the Advancement of the Arts, and was awarded a Fulbright Grant. With Musik Ekklesia, Anne has recorded for the Sono Luminus label, and is a founding member of the Wayward Sisters, specializing in music of the early baroque. In 2011 the Wayward Sisters won Early Music America’s Naxos Recording Competition.

Anne enjoys teaching as well as playing. Besides her own studio, Anne has coached through Indiana University’s Pre-College Recorder Program, the Amherst Early Music Festival, the San Francisco Early Music Society, and the Virginia Baroque Performance Institute. Students have ranged in age from age 5 to 83, and from beginning to pre-professional.

The fee will be \$65 for members and \$75 for non-members. Lunch is on your own, but we can walk to any one of several restaurants near the site of the workshop.

A Future Meeting Place for Chicago

The board of the Chicago chapter met on November 20. We decided to abandon plans to move the chapter’s monthly meetings to a new location in Oak Park. We have been thinking about the matter, and came to see that we would likely enjoy little or no net gain in attendance as a result. Our goal was to make it easier for some suburban friends to join us at our meetings, but by moving west we are likely to discourage some of our current members from participating as well.

We are considering moving to another venue next season, however, and are looking at other churches on the north side of Chicago. We also considered a meeting room at a Chicago public library. The chapter is actually in good shape financially at the moment, thanks to some generous gifts lately, but to be sustainable in fiscal terms over the next few years we need to find a less costly meeting place. We would like to be able to do without paying \$500 a year for liability insurance, and a free monthly meeting place would be even more welcome. **If you have any ideas on a regular meeting place for 2016-2017, please talk to one of the board members.**

Music (and More) Coming Up

To celebrate the 7th annual Beethoven Birthday Bash for the **International Beethoven Project**, and the great composer’s 246th birthday, you are invited to take part in a special concert at the Chicago Cultural Center on Friday December 16 starting at 5 PM. The Cultural Center is at Michigan and Washington downtown, easily accessible by the L and suburban rail. Enjoy music by Beethoven and music of other genres inspired by Beethoven. The event is free, but donations would be welcome to help the

festival continue. The IBP has been at working providing an annual festival for Chicago, though they have struggled financially in recent years. Their first event, five days in September 2011, launched an extraordinary annual series of musical and artistic gatherings all over the city.

And if a birthday party is not enough, join the after party from 9 PM to midnight at Heaven Gallery in Wicker Park, 1550 North Milwaukee Avenue, second floor, for more music, art, food, and fun. For more detail, visit FaceBook and search on "International Beethoven Project" or visit internationalbeethovenproject.com.

The **Rembrandt Chamber Players** offers Holiday Baroque on Sunday, December 11 at 7:30 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. This year's concert features Bach, Handel, and Corelli, including Handel's Organ Concerto in B Flat Major and Corelli's Christmas Concerto. Call 312 360-3145 or visit rembrandtchamberplayers.org.



Playing recorder at the Bristol Renaissance Faire, mid 1970s. Ann Greene and Dale Fitschen on the left, on the right, Carol Stanger, Nancy Chabala, & David Fitzgerald

This **Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival** returns January 19-29, 2017. This biennial event premiered in 2015 and features 20 performances across the city, with workshops and a symposium. Directed by Blair Thomas, master puppeteer and former director of the now sadly departed Red Moon Theater, the festival seeks to establish Chicago as a cultural center for puppetry.

The Chicago Reader writes "Little-known fact: Modern American puppetry was born in Chicago, along with the very word 'puppeteer.' According to several sources (including a learned 2010 piece for Huffington Post by Reader contributor Robert Loerzel), it was the astonishing Ellen Van Volkenburg who first turned European

marionettes to New World uses while performing and teaching at the Chicago Little Theatre during the 1910s." In 2015 organizations as diverse as the Field Museum, the Art Institute, the University of Chicago, and Chicago Shakespeare Company took part producing events, mostly directed at adult audiences.

Visit www.chicagopuppetfest.org.

Music of the Baroque offers four holiday brass and choral concerts December 15, 16, 17 and 18, featuring some elegant Renaissance and Medieval music awaits, including *O Magnum Mysterium* by Thomas Luis de la Victoria, *O quam magnum* by Hildegard von Bingen, and the canzon *So sol la sol fa mi* by Michael Praetorius. To learn more visit Baroque.org, or call (312) 551-1414.

The concert is offered on Thursday, December 15 at 8 PM at Grace Lutheran Church in River Forest (7300 West Division, near Division & Harlem), Friday, December 16 at 8 PM at St. Michael's Church in Old Town in Chicago (1633 North Cleveland, near North Avenue and the Sedgwick stop on the Brown Line L train), and Saturday and Sunday, December 17 and 18, at 3 PM at the Divine Word Chapel at 2001 North Waukegan Road, near the Tower Road exit on I-94.

This post at **The Kids Should See This** is cool too:

<http://thekidshouldseethis.com/post/the-wintergatan-marble-machine-music-made-from-2000-marbles>

The **Pippins** will be singing at ChristkindlMarket at Daley Plaza in Chicago at 6 PM on Wednesday, December 14. Visit www.christkindlmarket.com.

The **Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center** plays all of Bach's Brandenburg Concerti on Monday, December 19 at 7:30 PM at Harris Theater, 205 East Randolph Street, in downtown Chicago. Tickets are \$25 to \$35. See <http://my.harristheaterchicago.org>.

St. James Chapel in the Quigley Center, 835 North Rush Street, continues to offer free classical music concerts to complement their elegantly restored Gothic stained glass windows. Each concert is on the second Saturday of the month at 2 PM, with the next one being the KAIA String Quartet, known for their broad classical repertoire, as well as their children's programming and close work with the Latino community. The music the Quigley Center offers is excellent, but visit for the chapel, and especially, the windows. Visit windows.org.

Chapter Information

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*)

President	Ben Eisenstein (BenEisenstein@comcast.net) (847) 998-0198
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Secretary	Nadine Petersen (nadptrs@gmail.com) (630) 654-2629
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Webmaster	Ben Eisenstein

Music Director: Lisette Kielson
lisettekielson@gmail.com

West Suburban Early Music Society (*westsubems.org*)

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Vice President:	Darlene Kay (630) 679-1506
Secretary:	Nancy Finley (nfelma3@comcast.net) (630) 554-4363
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Hospitality:	Nancy Culp (Nlw.Culp@gmail.com) (630) 690-7304
Recorder Reporter contact:	Eric Stern (egstern1@netscape.net) (630) 428-8464

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.

Visit us at *chicagorecorders.org*

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<https://www.facebook.com/ChicagoARS>

Membership Form

Membership fees for 2015-2016 for the American Recorder Society are due.

Name _____ Email Address _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

_____ \$40	Chicago chapter
_____ \$30	WSEMS
_____ \$50	National ARS Membership
_____ \$90	Chicago chapter and National ARS
_____ \$80	WSEMS and National ARS
_____ \$140	Sponsoring Membership

Please mail this form to:
Chicago Chapter ARS
c/o Valerie DePriest, PO Box 2132
Oak Park, IL 60303-2132

\$_____ Donation to ____Chicago chapter ____WSEMS
Total amount enclosed \$_____

Month you would like to sponsor: _____
Kathy Hall-Babis
245 Indianwood Lane
West Chicago, IL 60185-6211

If you are willing to receive publications from the ARS electronically, rather than by US Mail, the membership is \$45.

Please consider supporting the Chicago chapter with an additional donation of \$100 to sponsor a monthly meeting.