

# 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

An excellent turnout for our annual Yuletide Concert December 18 at Covenant Presbyterian, nearly 30 musicians and a crowd besides. The Chicago Recorder Quartet distinguished themselves again, but all around the quality of the music making was excellent, with a lively mix of Renaissance and 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century works, Hassler and Holst, Poulenc and Coprario, Glenn Shannon and anonymous works written 700 years ago. After the reception eight of us joined Nancy Chabala to jam for another 45 minutes, before we closed another pleasant set of concert memories.



*Dennis Sherman opens the Yuletide concert with bagpipes*

This was my 11<sup>th</sup> Yuletide; I think I have biked home from each one. These days my bike features a trip computer with a built-in thermometer. I remove the computer attachment when I lock up, so that it won't be stolen, so the computer spent the afternoon resting warm and comfortable in my pocket indoors. As a result, as I started the ride home the trip computer told me the temperature was 60° F. After riding about two miles the speedometer stopped working because the battery could not handle the cold, but the computer continued to provide temperature readings. By then, the thermometer reading had fallen to 1° F. No matter. There had been some suggestion that we cancel the event due to the weather, but instead we made ourselves warm with good playing and cheerful fellowship. Join us on January 15 for our next monthly meeting, Lisette Kielson directing. We

will be working on the same music for January and April, including *Festival Music for Recorders* by Peter Seibert, *Kemp's Jig* (from "Four Fantasias on Traditional British Melodies" by Andrew Charlton), *Come hither* and *Tantz* (both Rowland, from "English Ballad Tunes in Polyphonic Settings," and *Fuga secunda* (Rowland) by Valentin Haussmann. If we have enough participants, we will also work on the *Second Suite in F for Military Band* by Gustav Holst.



*Music Institute of Chicago Recorder Orchestra*

## University of Chicago Folk Festival

Good news from Hyde Park. The 57<sup>th</sup> Annual University of Chicago Folk Music Festival is scheduled for February 10-11 of 2017, and we have confirmed for a 10:30 recorder workshop on Saturday morning in the first floor library in Ida Noyes Hall. We are looking for recorder players to participate, as we have each year since 2014.

## West Suburban Early Music Society

WSEMS December's meeting was cancelled due to winter weather. We now have a procedure for our group in place if we need to cancel a meeting again. We will notify everyone primarily by email, asking those who receive it to respond back. Those who fail to respond we will call, as well as those without email. Here's hoping we rarely need to use this policy!

We'll meet on January 8, the second Sunday of the new year, with Nancy Chabala directing. Please bring Nancy's music passed out in November (if you took home a copy) as we'll play a few favorites as well as a

couple arrangements of Nancy's. Members, if they'd like, are also invited to bring a piece for the group to play. This could be an old favorite or new piece to try out. In February and March we will welcome Dennis Sherman as our guest director.

Happy Holidays to all!—*Joanne Miller*



*After Coffee Players*



*The Pippins, singing at Christkindlemaket in Daley Plaza, Wednesday December 14, 6 PM. 5° F.*

## Spring Recorder Workshop, April 2017

We are pleased to welcome Anne Timberlake for our next recorder workshop on April 8, 2017 at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2012 West Dickens. This is our regular monthly 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 malfesance 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.

Workshop brochures are available on the Chicago chapter web site, [ChicagoRecorders.org](http://ChicagoRecorders.org).

Covenant Presbyterian Church is at 2012 West Dickens in the Bucktown neighborhood of Chicago, near Damen and Armitage and near exit 47 on the Kennedy expressway. Street parking is available, and a lot behind the church on Charleston may have spaces. The church is also easily accessible by public transportation. Take the Blue line elevated train to either Damen or Western Avenue and walk ([www.transitchicago.com](http://www.transitchicago.com)), or take either the #49 Western Avenue Bus or the #50 Damen Avenue bus. The church is also near the Clybourn stop on the Metra Union Pacific North and North West train lines ([www.metrarail.com](http://www.metrarail.com)).



## Music Coming Up

**University of Chicago Presents** offers two early music concerts early in 2017. The first involves dueling lutes played by Paul O'Dette and Ronn McFarlane in *Two Lutes: Virtuoso Duets from Italy and England*. Logan Center of the Arts, 915 E 60<sup>th</sup> Street, on Sunday January 8 at 3 PM. Join a pre-concert lecture at 2 PM. Tickets are \$35, and available at the University of Chicago box office or at their web site, [chicagopresents.uchicago.edu](http://chicagopresents.uchicago.edu).

Then, the British choral group Stile Antico performs on Friday March 3 at 7:30 PM at Rockefeller Chapel, 5850 South Woodlawn. These tickets are also \$35. The concert features works by Catholic composers who left England during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, including John Dowland, Peter Philips, and William Byrd. Tickets for *In a Strange Land: Elizabethan Composers in Exile* are also \$35 and are available at the University of Chicago Presents web site.

**New Comma Baroque**—"Bold Historically Informed Performance. Period." That's what they say on their web site. And I'm confident in this marketing strategy, though I'm not sure about the name (New *Comma*?). But the advertising that clinches the sale for me would be found in their list of guest artists, which includes one Lisette Kelson, as well as regular Philip Serna, a regular member playing gamba.

Enjoy a performance of the Complete Viol Fantasies by Georg Philip Telemann. The collection, a set of works for viola da gamba self-published in 1735, and written for an instrument that had already fallen out of fashion in Europe, was rediscovered in 2014. They perform at North Central College, Naperville, Illinois Tuesday, March 14 at 7 PM (Koten Chapel at Kiekhof Hall). Other performances available at Valparaiso University in Indiana, Peoria, Illinois, and St. Louis, Missouri. All are free and open to the public. Phillip Serna also offers a recital at Jeanne Vail Chapel at Northwestern University in Evanston on Thursday, January 19 at 7:30 PM. For more visit [www.newcommabaroque.org](http://www.newcommabaroque.org) or find them on Facebook at NewCommaBaroque.

March is not just Play the Recorder Month. **Early Music America** has designated March 2017 as Early Music Month, and the **European Day of Early Music** is scheduled for March 21, 2017.

Early Music Month is a national, grassroots campaign sponsored by Early Music America and designed to raise awareness of early music throughout the North American music community. Early Music Month seeks to connect enthusiasts, performers, presenters, scholars, builders, students, venues, and more to bring early music

to its widest audience ever. To learn more visit the site [earlymusicamerica.org/endeavors/early-music-month](http://earlymusicamerica.org/endeavors/early-music-month).

The European Day of Early Music is held every March 21, Johann Sebastian Bach's birthday. For the Day of Early Music over 1000 years of music is represented, written down or transmitted orally, from the Middle Ages until the late 1700s.



"The European Day of Early Music aims to increase awareness of the music from the medieval, renaissance and baroque periods and bring it to the attention of a wider audience." The event regularly features dozens of concerts and events across Europe (and the United States), with the music also being offered by live streaming online. Last year 20 different European countries took part, offering over 80 different events. Visit <https://earlymusicday.eu> to learn more, or search Facebook for European Day of Early Music.

**Bach Week Festival** returns with two concerts at the Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Avenue in Evanston Friday April 28 and Friday May 5, both at 7:30, and a Sunday afternoon concert on May 7 at 2:30 at Anderson Chapel of North Park University, Foster and Spaulding in Chicago. Single tickets are \$30; visit [bachweek.org](http://bachweek.org) or call 800 838-3006. A fundraising house concert is also planned for Sunday March 19 at 5:30 at the Charles Gates Dawes House 225 Greenwood Street in Evanston. Tickets are \$60.

This is the 44<sup>th</sup> annual Bach Week event. The May 7 finale features the choral motet *Jesu, meine Freude* and the Orchestral Suite #4 in D. A pair of keyboard concerti are offered for May 5, and Cantatas 54 and 202 on April 28, along with a pair of soprano duets.

An excellent opportunity to experience **Sacred Harp Singing** approaches on Sunday, January 8. The 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Chicago Anniversary Singing is scheduled for the Kilbourn Park Fieldhouse, 3501 North Kilbourn Avenue on the northwest side, 10 AM to 3:30 PM, registration

starting at 9:30. Besides the amazing (and loud!) tradition itself, enjoy an equally amazing pot luck lunch. Typically this event draws over 100 people to the hollow square, leading to a full-throated sound. Loaner hymnals available. Visit [www.chicagosings.org](http://www.chicagosings.org).



*Jamming on recorder in New York City, with Katy Morgan and Rosanne Levitt, December 26*



*The Baron's Noyse*

## 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.

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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.

**Visit us at [chicagorecorders.org](http://chicagorecorders.org)**

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