

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

Andrew Schultze led our March 18 meeting, discussing the Italian composer and choirmaster Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643). We talked about and played music from his 1607 opera *L' Orfeo*, as well as from his last work, from the opera *L'Incoronazione di Poppea*, written in 1642 when Monteverdi was 75 years old. Monteverdi served as the maestro di capella at the cathedral at Mantua, and later held the same position at St. Mark's Basilica in Venice. Born in Cremona, Italy, the son of a doctor, apothecary, and surgeon, Monteverdi grew up in a town known for violin makers the likes of Guarneri and Stradivari and flourished early as a musician. He published his first works, a set of motets and sacred madrigals, when he was just 15 years old and joined the music staff at the cathedral of Mantua when he was 22.



Newberry Consort fundraiser, Evanston, March 17

The Venice of Monteverdi was a city with an opera hall in every parish, and with eager audiences that continually demanded new work. Each new opera had to outperform the most recent competitor, so Venice was an excellent environment for the innovative Monteverdi. In fact Monteverdi could be considered the first modern composer. He experimented with bizarre rhythms and dissonant chords, and cast aside medieval modal scales in favor of major and minor keys. Also, if Monteverdi didn't quite invent opera, he is the first opera composer that most people remember. His popular work *L' Orfeo*, appearing just seven years after the first opera was performed in Florence, was the first opera to be published and the oldest

opera that still survives. Monteverdi could also be considered the first modern classical composer because he is the earliest composer who is still commonly performed today. Orchestral and choral groups and opera companies large and small schedule Monteverdi with Beethoven and Mozart. Even celebrated contemporaries Giovanni Palestrina, Domenico Scarlatti, William Byrd and Tomas Luis de Victoria, who created works of genius and beauty, represent a select taste. In using so many rhythmic changes in his work Monteverdi's music has a youthful energy that recalls Leonard Bernstein, and in living for 76 years through a time of musical revolution and political upheaval, while adapting to constant change and always looking for new ideas in his compositions, Monteverdi's life recalls another 20th century composer, Igor Stravinsky.



The action inside a replica 1810 forte piano, built in the Czech Republic in 2017

Lisette returns for the last time this season on April 15. Our season closes on May 20 with our annual spring concert. We still need volunteers for food and drink for our April meeting. Please contact Larry Johnson.

West Suburban Early Music Society

The West Suburban Early Music Society welcomed, on March 11, the time change that gives us more sunlight from driving home from our meeting! We also welcomed Nancy Chabala as our director with gems from her excellent and eclectic music library.

We started with a four-part round for C instruments appropriately named "Welcome to our Music Fest." We

tackled some Purcell next with How Blest are Shepherds. Daniel Heiman, one of our members, arranged a piece by Orlando de Lassos, "Suzanne un Jour." Then we musically visited Spain with an adaptation of a traditional Spanish Melody, *La Spagnola*, arranged by Stan Davis, as well two movements from Handel's *Bouree*. After the break, two of our members tackled some duets. The Da Capo group went Irish with a couple of Gigues. The first one was from the ARS library 2016 publication of "Gigue" by Thomas Van Dahm, a lilting rhythm in a minor key for SATB voices. The other one was also named Gigue but from a few centuries earlier by Corelli. It also has a lilting rhythm but in contrast is in a brighter major key for 3 instruments.

We meet again on April 8 with Nancy Chabala as we prepare for our May 6 spring concert. All are welcome—this includes you, Chicago Chapter! We are also planning our summer picnic playing session on a Sunday in August. We will keep you posted.—Joanne Miller

Music and More Coming Up

Andrew Schultze is working with the **Chicago Sinai Congregation** on "To Lenny with Love," a 100th anniversary celebration of the music of Leonard Bernstein on Friday May 18 at 8 PM. The congregation is at 15 West Delaware Place. To learn more visit <http://www.chicagosinai.org>.

I had assumed during the Oscars on March 4 that the film *Phantom Thread* would win the Academy Award for best film in 2018 because Jonny Greenwood, who wrote the score for the film, is a recorder player. But they were denied, we were all denied, because of modern musical prejudice. Really, that's it. Greenwood is also the lead guitarist for RadioHead, but he found his way into classical music, and into composing, by starting with the recorder.

"Instead of hanging out in pool halls and going out drinking, I ended up playing recorder rather seriously, well into my teen years," Greenwood said. "In fact I still play recorder. I just kept playing recorder and was lucky enough to be in recorder groups. In fact I just joined one in Oxford. I'm pretty excited."

He also talked about how he drives to his recorder group with his recorder tucked under his arm to warm it up "to make it less squeaky," and he visits "an amazing recorder shop" when he is in Chicago (Performer's Music?). Here is a link to an [interview](#) of Greenwood on National Public Radio's Morning Edition on February 26 with Rachel Martin (www.npr.org). Thanks to Hyacinth Egner for finding this. And this is a lesson to us all, the life benefits of recorder playing over hanging out in pool halls.



Schola Antiqua, "Sounds of Faith of Medieval Jerusalem, March 9 at the Oriental Institute of Chicago



Marion Consort, March 10, Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Bridgeport, Chicago

Bach Week Evanston returns on April 27 at 7:30 at the Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Avenue, Evanston, featuring Brandenburg Concerti #3 and #5, a cantata, and the Keyboard Concerto in D minor. A Candlelight Concert is offered at the same place and the same date, but at 10 PM in the lobby of the Music Institute of Chicago, offering cello sonatas. On Sunday April 29 at 3 PM, also at the Music Institute, hear selections from the Well-Tempered Clavier, plus two Mozart piano sonatas. The festival ends on Friday May 4 at 7:30 PM at Anderson Chapel, North Park University, 5149 Spaulding Avenue, including one of Bach's motets, a solo violin partita, and a cantata, and Telemann's Concerto in D Major for three trumpets, two oboes, timpani and orchestra. The Music Institute of Chicago is an easy walk from Purple line L stop at Davis Street and from the Davis Street station on the Union Pacific North Line, and North Park University campus is likewise an

easy walk from the Kedzie stop on the Brown line L, or you can reach the chapel on the Foster Avenue bus. Visit www.Bachweek.org for more.

The **Marion Consort** offers medieval dance music accompanied by hurdy gurdy! Hear them on Saturday May 5 at 7:30 PM at First United Methodist Church, 1903 Euclid in Arlington Heights, and Sunday May 6 at 4 PM at Christ Church United Church of Christ at 915 East Oklahoma, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Tickets are \$15, \$20 at the door. Visit www.marionconsort.org. Click on the Music link to hear free recordings of some of the elegant harmonies the Marion Consort produces, and see for yourself why I mention their concerts in this newsletter. And you have to hear them play hurdy-gurdy. That's your duty as a recorder player.

Spring Concert

Our annual spring concert is next month, May 20 at 2 PM. If you would like to perform, please contact Larry Johnson at ljohnson1239@sbcglobal.net and provide:

- Name of the piece(s)
- Composer name, nationality, and dates
- Performers' names and instruments

Don't forget to bring treats to share! Any kind of music is welcome on recorder; you can introduce other instruments like gamba or lute or keyboard, or choral works, but they must be early music.

Early Music Festival, Whitewater

Save the date, Friday through Sunday June 1-3, 2018. The festival offers 30 classes this year, including Karen Snowberg with the loud band, and David Echelard directing choral music. A new group, Third Coast Viols, will join us, merging their workshop with ours. Find the festival on Facebook, "Whitewater Early Music Festival," or visit www.whitwaterearlymusic.org. The schedule and forms are available for download. You can also register online using PayPal. Visit <http://vdgs3rdcoast.org>, the site of the Gamba Society, to learn more about them, and to see a photo of a grand gaggle of gamba players.



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.

Chicago Chapter ARS (ChicagoRecorders.org)

President	Larry Johnson (ljohnson1239@sbcglobal.net) (773) 631-6671
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Webmaster	Ben Eisenstein
Music Director:	Lisette Kielson lisettekielson@gmail.com

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.

West Suburban Early Music Society (westsubems.org)

President/Chapter Representative:	Joanne Miller (Wan1@sbcglobal.net) (847) 359-8750
Vice President:	Darleen Kay (630) 679-1506
Secretary:	Nancy Finley (nfelma3@comcast.net) (630) 554-4363
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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 Downers Grove. 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.

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.

Like us on Facebook: 
<https://www.facebook.com/ChicagoARS>

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Ancient Recorders In Revival; Faculty Quartet Toots With Gusto; Proctors, Gault, Vincent Blow

by Helen Farrow

The embryonic Hiram band and orchestra have been the recipients of much publicity lately, but now a new musical group is emerging from its bushel—an ensemble composed of Mr. and Mrs. Proctor, Mrs. Gault, and Miss Vincent. Their

instruments are known as "recorders," wooden, flute-like instruments, forerunners of the modern flute, but less difficult to learn to play. They are unique to the average person but they were well known in Queen Elizabeth's day and were often referred to by Sam-

uel Pepys and Shakespeare. Composers such as Hayden and Mozart have written parts for the recorder. Recently they have been revived and their popularity is growing in this country.

Mrs. Gault Starts Group

The participants received their impetus from Mrs. Gault who brought several instruments with her to Hiram, and they have spent the fall and winter playing informally until now they are ready for their debut.

The group, under the direction of Mr. Proctor, will give a recorder concert for the Cleveland Hiram Club at the Franklin Circle Church in Cleveland, March 11, at 8 p. m. The program will consist of some quartets, duets, and songs by Miss Vincent, with recorder accompaniment. The selections will include some dance tunes, and popular tunes of Pre-Elizabethan, Elizabethan, Restoration, and Jacobean periods.

Faculty Indicate Interest

Several faculty members have expressed their interest in this budding project, Miss Patterson being the most enthusiastic one, who will probably soon join the ensemble.

Reliable sources warn that anyone meeting a member of this Vincent-Gault-Proctor combination is likely to be asked, "Wouldn't you like to learn to play the recorder?"



Newest musical group on campus is this faculty recorder quartet composed of Miss Mary Louise Vincent, Mrs. Lynn Gault and Mr. and Mrs. Francis Proctor. The group has a Cleveland concert planned and is scheduling other performances. A Hiram appearance may follow the Cleveland recital.

Recorder playing 75 years ago

An article in the Hiram College Advance student newspaper, Hiram, Ohio, March 5, 1943