

Recorder Reporter

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

Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society

March 2018

Volume 59, Number 7

Chicago Chapter

More helpful teaching from Lisette on Sunday February 18. Lisette talked about technique, but first we defined technique—everything physical about playing the recorder, posture, air pressure, tonguing, and fingers, all well-coordinated. Skill at technique involves thinking about it before we start playing, and thinking about what gets in our way. That would include tension—to play well, we need first to relax. Other problems with sound technique come from a lack of knowledge or experience, and not enough practice or practice the wrong way. We ended up running through exercises, this time not for tuning but to consider how to finger notes better, up a scale and starting with a series of quarter notes, then eighth notes, triplets, sixteenth notes, and then back again.

We have invited Andrew Shultze to direct for our March 18 meeting, offering music from Claudio Monteverdi and featuring selections from *L'Orfeo* and *Scherzi Musicali*, both from 1607, as well as *L'Incoronazione di Poppea* from 1642 in honor of Monteverdi's 450th birthday. We will discuss early Italian Baroque ornamentation, recorder technique, and performance practice, as found in the writings of Monteverdi, Giulio Caccini, Francesco Rognoni and other contemporary sources.

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 March and April. Contact Larry Johnson.

West Suburban Early Music Society

The West Suburban Early Music Society February meeting on the 11th started out on a slippery note! At the last minute everything was in place and we decided "Chaconnes before shovels!" as Mirja Lorenz led us in music by Louis-Antoine Dornel.

We played his Chaconne from his Sonate VII (1713) and Mirja had us delve into the subtleties of the French style of this time period. Like much music of this era, some musical interpretations would have been "understood" by the playing community and not necessarily written down in sheet music that survives. These include emphasis on certain notes of a trill, with the top note leading into the trill, played staccato, and a bit of emphasis so this "wrong" dissonant note so the resolve is more satisfying. Other conventions included "inegal"

(unequal) which means a running set of eight notes played rubato or syncopated with dotted eighth note followed by a sixteenth rhythm. To help us "feel" the music Mirja had us stand up to play. We would then step forward while playing to emphasize the note that was the start of the melodic phrase. By stepping into the melody it resembles more of the dance and we would more naturally give it the emphasis it needed. It was a great experience for us having Mirja help us focus on shaping and polishing this beautiful Chaconne and learn this insider knowledge of more expressive playing.



We also played the *Air en Gigue* from the same Sonate VII. After our break, the Da Capo group played Bach (*Wachetauf, ruft uns die Stimme*), Thomas Morley (*April is in my Mistress' Face*), and then, in honor of Valentine's Day, we all played *Now What is Love* by Robert Jones from a book of recorder madrigals.

For March 11 meeting, we'll be Irish! The Da Capo group will turn to a couple of jigs. Grab your copy from your ARS library 2016 publication of "Gigue" by Thomas Van Dahm, and the handout "A Jig" provided at our last meeting. Let me know if you don't have them. We can either bring extra copies or put them on the website. It will be time to start planning for our May 6 concert meeting. Nancy Chabala will return to conduct three meetings before the end of our season.

You can now register for Clearing's Recorder Week, for July 22-28. After the class is filled, applications for the waiting list will be accepted. To learn more contact me or visit www.theclearing.org.—Joanne Miller

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, David Echelard directing choral music, and a new group, Third Coast Viols, offering classes on Viol da Gamba. Keep an eye on the festival web site, <http://www.whitewaterearlymusic.org>.



Dennis Sherman invited friends to jam on February 17



Senior Symphony Orchestra Recorder Group, playing Christmas carols at the Monarch Landing in Naperville on December 18, 2017. Linda Schub, Vivian Quam, Gary Chippman, and Darleen Kay

Folk Music Festival

After a slow start on a snowy Saturday morning in Hyde Park, we welcomed a hearty crowd of people to jam with us at the University of Chicago Folk Music Festival, our fifth straight recorder workshop at Ida Noyes Hall. As before we had children participating, but this time several girls came forward to provide rhythm with a drum. And for the first time, we were asked for more. One mother wondered if we could provide workshops in the future, just for children. In the past we have played for elementary school groups, but what about advertising

a special youth recorder workshop, and hold it at a public library or a park district field house? The board will consider the idea.



Views from the recorder workshop



Music and More Coming Up

Laura Osterlund will be playing recorder in concert at the Chicago Cultural Center, Preston Bradley Hall, on Monday July 23 at 12:15, as part of the Musicians Club of Women Award Winners in Concert series. The Cultural Center is at Washington and Michigan Avenues downtown, and easily accessible by CTA and Metra. Her concert is called "The Codex Faenza and the Tradition of Improvisation." The Codex Faenza is a 15th century Italian manuscript containing some of the earliest keyboard music known, as well as some vocal pieces.

The **Haymarket Opera** offers its third annual Lenten Oratorio Thursday March 8 at 5:45 PM at the Chicago Temple, 77 West Washington Street, and Saturday March 10 at 5 PM at the Church of the Atonement, 5749 North Kenmore. This year's performance features the earliest known Passion oratorio, *Oratorio per la Settimana Santa*

attributed to Luigi Rossi. Rossi wrote this compact masterpiece in Rome in the 1640s, featuring 17th century instruments with soloists and chorus. To learn more visit www.haymarketopera.org.



Chicago Recorder Quartet playing at Fourth Presbyterian Church Friday February 2

Ensemble **Balkanske Igre** offers their annual Spring Festival of Balkan food and music March 23-25 at the International House, 1414 East 59th Street in Chicago. Enjoy learning about and experiencing dance, music, and singing workshops, as well as the folklore of Bulgaria, Macedonia, Greece, Romania, Serbia, Turkey, and other eastern and Mediterranean lands. To learn more visit www.balkanskeigre.org. The site features information about fees and registration as well.

If you have an interest in the music of Europe before 1600, you might want to consider the **St. Cecilia at the Tower** workshop in Milan, Michigan, near Ann Arbor. The 7th annual event is on Saturday and Sunday, May 12 and 13. This event is sponsored by the Society for Creative Anachronism, so if you don't have any medieval garb you would need to borrow some for the day (that's easy, just ask), but it's free. The event features a wide range of classes and an evening concert drawing artists from across the Midwest. Past events have featured classes with names like:

- Early Modern Notations
- Early Nordic Musical Traditions
- Early Opera
- Guillaume de Machaut: Rock Star of the 14th Century
- Jewish Liturgical Music
- Ockegham: Pendant or Genius?
- Court, Church, and Commoners: Music for Everyone in the 16th century

All this besides classes on playing technique, madrigal sing-alongs, and jamming sessions on recorders and allied

instruments. Food is provided on site for a modest cost (medieval food, too). If you have any familiarity with the SCA you will know that the scholarship behind the teaching is excellent, and the concert performances are a blast. A few videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U3gGykSpDAQ>

Il Bianco e Dolce Cigno by Jacques Arcadelt

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8aRONKc_HUK

Fine Knacks for Ladies by John Dowland

And here's a link to a mass choir performance of *Miserere Mei Deus* by Gregorio Allegri.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iPvVjApyEzA>

Perfect? No. But still beautiful, and a grand privilege to participate in as an amateur musician.

To learn more visit <https://cynnarbar.org/cecilia/#home>.

Party with the **Newberry Consort** on Saturday afternoon, March 17 from 3 to 5 PM at the historic Charles Gates Dawes House Museum in Evanston for a fundraiser. A ticket of \$100 brings an afternoon of Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven, and Schubert, food and drink, and the elegant 1894 mansion. The house is near Northwestern University campus at 225 Greenwood Street, near the Davis and Dempster stops on the CTA Purple L line, and the Davis Street station on the Metra Union Pacific North Line. To learn more visit <https://newberryconsort.org/special-event-march-17>.

As part of the **Tea and Pipes** schedule of music at Rockefeller Chapel, the University of Chicago, attend a Choral Evensong on Tuesday May 8 at 5:30. The Chapel offers music of pre-Reformation England. Visit <http://rockefeller.uchicago.edu/events/organ-recitals> to learn more.

Black Tulip, featuring Mirja Lorenz on recorder along with Josefien Stoppelenburg, soprano, Philip Serna on Gamba, and Joel Spears on Lute, plays on Friday, June 1 at 12:10 PM at Fourth Presbyterian Church, 126 East Chestnut in Chicago, North Michigan Avenue just north of Chicago Avenue. The concert is free. Fourth Presbyterian is an easy walk from the Chicago Avenue subway stop on the Red line. Fourth Presbyterian has a full schedule of concerts, 60 for 2017-2018, from September until the end of June, free and open to the public. Take a Friday lunch break to hear the organ in the Fourth Presbyterian sanctuary, or chamber recitals in Buchanan Chapel. Visit www.fourthchurch.org/concerts.

I have promoted the **Old Town School of Folk Music** in the past, in Lincoln Square in Chicago, close to the Western Avenue L stop on the Brown line. The Del

McCoury Band takes the stage April 22, offering some of the best blue grass available anywhere. Partha Bose and Indranil Mallick play traditional music of India, sitar and tabla, on March 28, and the Northern Illinois University Steelband plays April 4. The Salaam-Shalom Music Project appears on March 21, mixing Klezmer violin, double bass and clarinet with Arabic lute (oud), hand drum (daf) and flute (ney) in providing music from Jewish, Christian, and Muslim traditions from Egypt, Pakistan, Jordan, and Israel. This is a very small part of the music available (www.oldtownschool.org/concerts).



A page from Antiphonary, a choir book created about 1315 in Italy by Neri da Rimini, featuring an illustration of Joseph and his brothers at the well. Art Institute, Medieval World at our Fingertips exhibit.

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 ARS (ChicagoRecorders.org)

President	Larry Johnson (ll_johnson1239@sbcglobal.net) (773) 631-6671
Vice President	Lynette Colmey (ljcolmey@gmail.com) (708) 638-7721
Secretary	Hyacinth Egner (hyacinth_egner@yahoo.com)
Treasurer	Valerie DePriest (themusicalchild@mac.com) 708-524-1625
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
Treasurer:	Kathy Hall-Babis (kathy.hallbabis@gmail.com) (630) 464-1828
Membership:	Nancy Finley (nfelma3@comcast.net) (630) 554-4363
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 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.

Visit us at chicagorecorders.org

Mark Dawson, newsletter editor
2425 W. Leland, Chicago, IL 60625-2913
Msjddawson@sbcglobal.net / (773) 334-6376

Like us on Facebook: 

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