

Recorder Reporter

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

October 2019

Volume 61, Number 2

Chicago Chapter

Well! We enjoyed an excellent season in 2018-2019, and we are well on our way toward similar success in this new season. Lisette Kielson directed 18 recorder players on September 15 in three decidedly non-Renaissance pieces, the first being the exquisite choral work, the *Abendlied*, or evening song, by Josef Rheinberger (1839-1901). A restful progression of chords, sounding beautiful on recorder, and a fine way to launch the year!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ziNQ7CrUMIA>

We also played *Huckleberry Duck* by classical composer Raymond Scott (1908-1994). Born Harry Warnow to Russian Jewish immigrants in Brooklyn, Scott graduated from the Julliard School of Music in 1931 and began his career as a pianist for the CBS Radio house band. But his older brother Mark was the conductor of the CBS Orchestra, so Harry adopted the name Raymond Scott to avoid having his brother being accused of nepotism when the Orchestra started performing his compositions. Today he is best known for his works that were adapted for over 120 Bugs Bunny, Porky Pig, Daffy Duck, and other Looney Tunes cartoons that we watched in our misspent youth. But *Huckleberry Duck* was great fun, really hard to play, a blend of rhythmic wrangling that led to a very satisfying result.

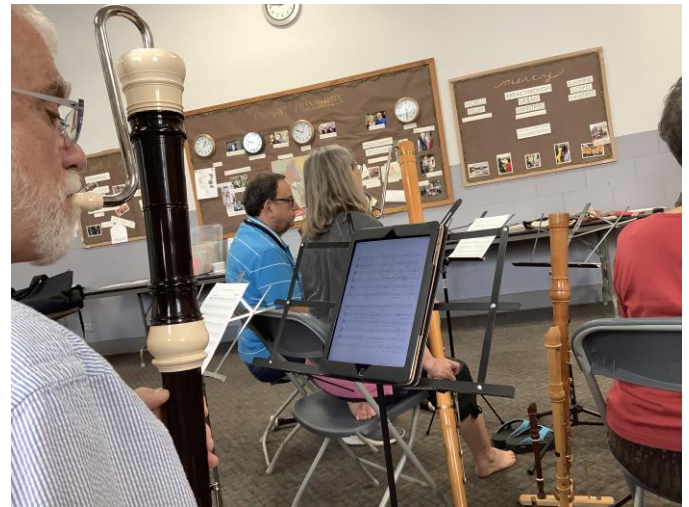


The Chicago chapter opens the 2019-2020 season

We closed with a recorder orchestra piece by Glen Shannon, his *Friendship Canzona*, composed to mark 33 years of friendship between the Community High School

District 99 in Downers Grove, Illinois, and the Musikschule im Schloss in Bietenheim-Bissingen, Germany. Shannon composed the piece to work for any and all ensembles from the two schools that participate in the musical exchange, the string orchestra, recorder orchestra, guitar orchestra, jazz band, and concert band. Here are all of these young musicians playing together:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aPA8YGZuSo>



We loved playing Shannon's work. Lisette doubled the parts, high and low choirs, with seldom-used great bass and contra bass on bringing out the lowest parts. We sounded as good on recorder as the Youtube recording

Join us on October 20th, when Gail Gillespie brings a program of music by the "Lost Generation" of early Renaissance composers, between Josquin and the era of Lassus and Palestrina. Gail will lead us in exploring pieces by Gombert, Clemens, and Willaert, plus early madrigals. A nice contrast with our September meeting, that featured all modern composers; don't miss it!

After that, Lisette returns in November to lead us in music by Henry Purcell, Ludwig Senfl, and Tomás Luis de Victoria, and we will be getting ready for our Yuletide Concert. There was talk of playing the Rheinberg piece as a chapter. It's not too early to start thinking about what you would like to play for December 15.

The Chicago chapter is delighted to welcome new members Peter Beck, Ruth Dunnell, and Bob Rotenberg, who all joined the chapter for the coming year.

West Suburban Early Music Society

The WSEMS met on September 8. Nancy Chabala led us in our first meeting of the year. She started with warm ups and the *Agnus Dei* by Heinrich Sinck. We then played two Chanonnes by Purcell and two Bach fugues. Following a break, we separated into two groups, the Da Capo group and the Alternative Altos. The Da Capo group is geared toward recorder players who play only one instrument, are learning a new instrument, or enjoy a more relaxed pace. The Alternative Altos is a smaller group who play duets and trios on altos and sometimes on other instruments and like more challenging music.

We welcome two new members—Norm Adams and Suzanne Faikus! Marguerite Re, our ARS representative, shared promotional materials from the ARS and three individuals expressed interest in joining the Society. Our next meeting is October 13th and Laura Osterlund will be directing the group.—*Kathy Hall-Babis*



Le Fluteur (The Flutist), from an original by the French artist Alexis Grimou (1676-1733), Oxford University Bate Collection of Musical Instruments.

Some historical content

The American Recorder Society was founded in New York City in 1939. To celebrate 80 years of music making they have created a photo gallery of members and friends. You should see a few familiar faces in this collection. The administrative director Susan Burns asked for three

pictures from each chapter. I sent her 19; it seemed to me that she might eagerly receive 27 more. Maybe we should set up our own Chicago chapter/WSEMS online gallery of historic photos. If you have some, let me know.

For now, visit the ARS web site:

https://americanrecorder.org/ars_is_80_faces_of_ars_through.php

Here's a useful list of biographies of Baroque era composers, provided by Music of the Baroque:

<https://www.baroque.org/baroque/composers>

And a helpful page about the history of the recorder in the Renaissance and Baroque eras from the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York:

https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/recd/hd_recd.htm

And here is a very cool talk by Jason Moy, a local performer of Early Music and a professor at DePaul University, about playing harpsichord:

<https://vimeo.com/49769991>

Revival Clothing sells medieval fashions, mostly to re-enactors. Lots of excellent garb, but of possible greater interest would be the historical resources they offer on their web site as well. Besides a description and images from the Jean Duc de Berry's 14th century Book of Hours, the web site offers extensive content on armor and military history, medieval clothing, and other articles about medieval history. Visit

<https://revivalclothing.com/research-and-how-to-articles/>

Music coming up

The **Newberry Consort** welcomes **Piffaro**, the Renaissance band from Philadelphia, for a series of concerts to honor Isabella d'Este of the Italian Renaissance, featuring music of Josquin des Prez and Bartolomeo Tromboncino. Friday February 7 at 8 PM, Ruggles Hall of Newberry Library, Saturday February 8 at 8 PM at the International House of the University of Chicago, and Sunday February 9 at 3 PM at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Evanston. Visit www.newberryconsort.org.

The **University of Chicago Folk Music Festival** returns February 14-15 of 2020, their 60th annual event. We can plan on hosting another recorder workshop on Saturday.

Ars Musica offers "Bach to Bach" on Friday November 8 at 7:30 PM at All Saints Episcopal Church, 4550 North Hermitage in Chicago. This candlelight concert features the composer's complete sonatas for viola da gamba and harpsichord, featuring Anna Steinhoff and Jason Moy. The concert is free but donations are accepted. The concert will last an hour, with a reception to follow.

Friday March 20 at 7:30 **Ars Musica** performs their fourth annual Bach Coffeehouse Concert at St. Chrysostom's Episcopal Church, 1424 North Dearborn Parkway in Chicago. One of Bach's joys in life was directing and writing chamber music for the Collegium Musicum, a group of professional colleagues and students that regularly presented informal concerts at Gottfried Zimmermann's coffeehouse in Leipzig. This concert seeks to recreate one of these coffeehouse events, and on the eve of Bach's 335th birthday, with music of Bach, Handel, and Telemann. Enjoy a cup of tea or glass of wine by the fireside. Free admission, donations accepted.

More information may be found on their website, www.arsmusicachicago.org, and Facebook page: www.facebook.com/arsmusicachicago.

In 2020 the Harris Theater in Chicago offers Sir John Elliot Gardiner directing the *Orchestre Revolutionnaire et Romantique* in performing the complete Beethoven Symphonies. All performances are at 7:30 PM:

- February 27, Symphonies #8 and 9
- February 28, Symphony #1 and Creatures of Prometheus
- February 29, Symphonies #2 and 3
- March 2, Symphonies #4 and 5
- March 3, Symphonies #6 and 7

The Harris Theater is at 205 East Randolph Drive in Millennium Park, near Michigan Avenue. The theater is easily accessible by public transportation. To learn more visit <https://www.harristheaterchicago.org/>.



A 14th century carving of St. Cecilia, patron saint of musicians, playing an organetto, Yorkminster, England

This is a fine performance of Vivaldi's *Gloria in excelsis Deo* from the BBC, offered by a female choir and orchestra at the Santa Maria Della Pieta in Venice.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cgaOVV4JQHA>

Vivaldi worked at the Ospedale della Pieta orphanage in Venice from 1703-1740, and he regularly wrote music for the women's choir there. This work was likely written around 1715.



Seen at the Bate Collection, Oxford University

I have been delighted to listen to the European choral ensemble VOCES8 lately. Here they perform William Byrd's *Ne Irascaris Domine* and *Civitas Sancti Tui*:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wo8qfyK9c3c>

And a beautiful modern work, *May it Be*, from the *Lord of the Rings*, composed by the Irish artist Enya.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x7M5ZqFSynQ>

The One Voice Children's Choir offers some great work too. A little sentimental, I guess, but I was still impressed with the voices these young people offered. Here is one piece of interest:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9jAtB_UBWh0

Instruments for Sale

Former Chicago member Barbara Frei recently moved back to Switzerland and generously gave her instruments to the chapter. If you are interested in purchasing one, for a reasonable donation, please let us know. The instruments will be on display at chapter meetings:

- Yamaha Ivory-colored plastic soprano
- Zen-On Stanesby Jr. plastic soprano
- Zen-On Bressan plastic alto
- Gill alto
- Heinrich alto

- Heinrich soprano, German fingering
- Yamaha plastic tenor with plastic keys
- Moeck Renaissance traverso in D
- Kelhorn diatonic bowharp, bow, tuning key, booklet
- Purcell soprano and alto

David Fisher (crumhorn@gmail.com) is selling some instruments he no longer uses.

- SAT Moeck-Steinkopf kortholts, new plastic reeds installed, \$750
- Moeck-Steinkopf baroque bassoon, maple, \$1500
- Zenon 5500 bass, recently cleaned and voiced, cherry, \$700
- Moeck 339 Alto recorder, plum, \$250.
- Mollenhauer 5224 Alto recorder, grenadilla, \$300

Recorder at the Clearing

Several members of the WSEMS attended the Recorder at the Clearing workshop from July 21-27. It was led by Pat Badger of Racine, Wisconsin, and featured two compositions by Muriel Anderson, Artist in Residence. Muriel plays harp guitar and tours internationally. She composed a piece called "The Clearing" which opens with a soprano and sopranino playing bird calls, followed by Muriel and the remainder of the group playing a rendition of the experience at The Clearing. Muriel also composed a lively Irish number, called "Marguerite's Reel," named after her sister. The recorder group performed these two pieces with Muriel on Wednesday evening along with an arrangement of "Yesterday." Muriel also performed several of her compositions on harp guitar for the audience.

The Clearing is a folk school located in Door County in Wisconsin. It was founded by the renowned landscape architect Jens Jenson in 1935.--*Kathy Hall-Babis*

Chapter Information

Our chapters are open to anyone, regardless of musical training, who wants to cultivate appreciation of the art, history and use of the recorder and related instruments. Our meetings, programs and publications help members to come together with 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, September to May by the Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society.

Chicago Chapter ARS (ChicagoRecorders.org)

President	Larry Johnson (ll_johnson1239@sbcglobal.net) (773) 631-6671
Vice President	Lynette Colmey (jttlk@gmail.com) (708) 638-7721
Secretary	Hyacinth Egner (hyacinth_egner@yahoo.com) (608) 316-5486
Treasurer	Cheryl Kreiman (chekrei@aol.com) 773-972-7679
Webmaster	Ben Eisenstein
Member at large	Valerie DePriest
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 either door of the parish building west of the church and go to the large fellowship hall.

West Suburban Early Music Society (westsubems.org)

Convener/Chapter Representative:	Christopher Culp (cg.culp@gmail.com)
Vice Convener:	Marguerite Re (margueritere@comcast.net)
Secretary/Membership:	Suzanne Scott (SIRDS@sbcglobal.net) (630) 605-2326
Treasurer:	Kathy Hall-Babis (kathy.hallbabis@gmail.com) (630) 464-1828
Hospitality:	Nona Freeman (847) 639-4614
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>

Visit us at chicagorecorders.org
Mark Dawson, newsletter editor
2425 W. Leland, Chicago, IL 60625-2913
msjddawson@sbcglobal.net / (773) 334-6376