

# Recorder Reporter

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

Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society

December 2019

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## Chicago Chapter

We cannot be stopped. Uniformly splendid gatherings for the Chicago Chapter continue. For our November Meeting, 17 joined us as Lisette continued her musical theme of 'Molto Expressivo'. We first worked on the moderately chromatic but very satisfying *Fantasia No. 3* by Henry Purcell, and then took on *Fortuna* by Ludwig Senfl, which had the cantus and tenor lines play slower variations on the tune, while the fairly ornamented alto and bass lines got a good workout. Finally, we made plans to play the exquisite *Abendlieb, Op. 69 #3*, by Josef Rheinbeger (1839-1901) for Yuletide—and Glen Shannon's Friendship Canzona for our May concert! We plan ahead around here, but mostly, we just enjoy making beautiful harmonies together.



## West Suburban Early Music Society

Dennis Sherman led WSEMS members at the November meeting in music composed by Anthony St. Pierre. Most of the pieces that Dennis introduced us to were based on known pieces. For example, All & Some is based on a medieval carol, Fantasy on Frere Jacques is based on the familiar tune, and Cornefyf is derived from a tune by Purcell. Following the break, Dennis directed us in fun pieces for the holiday written by St. Pierre.



These included Jingle Bell Waltz, Good King What's-His-Name, O Tannen Tree, Wes Hale! and Twelve Days of Christmas Rush. St. Pierre's compositions are available in the ARS Members' Library catalog. Many thanks to Dennis for his time in leading and guiding us!

We will meet again on December 8 at 2 PM with Nancy Chabala as our director. Nancy will lead us in playing a variety of holiday music.—Kathy Hall-Babis

We are making plans to lead a workshop at the University of Chicago **Folk Music Festival** at Ida Noyes Hall on February 15. Lisette will again direct the activities. We welcome all chapter members who are able to join us that Saturday in playing for and among Festival goers who love to participate. This has been great exposure for the Chicago Chapter in the past few years. To volunteer, contact Larry Johnson at [ljohnson1239@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ljohnson1239@sbcglobal.net).



## Yuletide Concert

Our annual Yuletide Concert for the Chicago Chapter is in a few weeks, Sunday December 15 at 2 PM. Send the name of your group, the names of the participants, the

names of the pieces you plan to play, and the composers, to Larry Johnson at [ll\\_johnson1239@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ll_johnson1239@sbcglobal.net).

Note that the Chicago Recorder Quartet is planning to perform! Feel free to bring some snacks to share, and plan to stay after the concert and holiday festivities to join in some jamming to close the season together.

## Public Radio showcases the recorder

Chicago chapter member Valerie DePriest was interviewed in 2017 for a WBEZ Curious City segment called *Little Fingers And Screechy Sounds: Why Do So Many Kids Learn To Play The Recorder?* This program was rebroadcast earlier this month, but can be heard at:

<https://www.npr.org/podcasts/401317007/curious-city>

Look for the above title and click on *Listen*. Curious City accepts listener questions and then investigates and presents a response on the air. This question on recorders in school was asked by an immigrant to the United States who was taught to play in middle school.

## Chicago Area Recorder Activities

The Oak Park Recorder Society will play at the Pilgrim Church morning service on Dec. 29, call time 10 AM. We will perform a prelude, one or two pieces during the service, and then a postlude. Anyone interested in joining the group can contact Nancy Chabala at [nchabala5555@gmail.com](mailto:nchabala5555@gmail.com), for the music and more information. Pilgrim Church is at 460 Lake Street in Oak Park, one block west of Ridgeland; plenty of parking is available. The OPRS meets every Tuesday in the basement of the church, so this congregation really enjoys and appreciates recorder music.



*Jason Moy, harpsichord, and Anna Steinhoff, gamba, November 8*



*Bristol Renaissance Faire, early 1990s. Note Nancy Chabala and Dale Fitschen on the right side.*

## Beethoven. Yes.

A reasonable description of the meaning of life would need to include Stan's Donuts and Ludwig von Beethoven. As Beethoven's 250th Birthday is in 2019, everyone is piling on to play his music. Good for us.

The **Rembrandt Chamber Players** perform on Sunday, February 16, 2020 at 3 PM at the Nichols Concert Hall of the Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Avenue, Evanston, and on Tuesday, February 18 at the Cliff Dweller's Club, 200 South Michigan Avenue, at 7:30 PM. The works include the Piano Trio in B-flat Major ("Archduke"), the Duet with Two Obligato Eyeglasses for viola and bass (yes, that really is the name of the piece), and the String Trio No. 4 in D Major. To learn more visit <http://www.rembrandtchamberplayers.org/events/>.

The **Beethoven Birthday Bash** celebrates the composer's birthday with four days of music, art, and merrymaking, December 13-16. The Hairpin Arts Center in Logan Square is the primary venue, with the closing ceremony Monday December 16 from 4 to 7 PM at the Chicago Cultural Center, Michigan and Washington streets downtown. The Hairpin Arts Center is at 2810 North Milwaukee Avenue in Chicago, a short walk from the Logan Square L stop on the Blue Line.

- Friday, December 13th, 8pm to Midnight, opening night party and fund raiser
- Saturday, December 14th, 3pm to 1am
- Sunday, December 15th, 3pm to 8pm

The event is organized as a festival, where you are invited to come and go as you please. To learn more visit [www.internationalbeethovenproject.com](http://www.internationalbeethovenproject.com).

The **Chicago Symphony Orchestra** also plans to offer 20 performances of Beethoven's works in 2020, including piano concertos #1 & 4, several violin sonatas,

and all of his symphonies, closing with the Choral Symphony, #9, in June. Visit [www.CSO.org](http://www.CSO.org).

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/>.

The **Milwaukee Area Recorder Society** (MARS) plans to host the spring meeting of the national board of the American Recorder Society in 2020. They are inviting the Illinois chapters to join them on **Saturday, April 25th** for a pot luck supper & playing session, starting at around 5:30 at Trinity Episcopal Church, 1717 Church Street in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. Find parking in back. The church is close to Milwaukee and about two hours from Chicago. We can organize ride-sharing convoys for anyone interested, to avoid driving the distance without company.

## Extremely cool feature of Chicago #427

The Klarimont Collections is a museum of rare and antique automobiles on the northwest side of Chicago, near Belmont and Cicero. They boast over 300 cars in a 100,000 SF facility that doubles as an event space. The cars are amazing, lots of treasures, lots of beautiful historic vehicles from the early 1900s into the 1950s and 1960s, besides toy cars, motorcycles, bikes and other artifacts. I just found out about this place; the museum has been open to the public for about two years. To learn more about this outstanding collection visit <http://klairmontcollections.com/>.

## Music coming up

**Handel Week Festival** returns for their 21<sup>st</sup> season, but this year at Pilgrim Congregational Church, 460 Lake Street in Oak Park, home for many years of the Oak Park Recorder Society. Sunday February 9 at 3 PM, orchestral works and the Organ Concerto in D minor. Saturday February 22 at 7:30 PM, chamber works, including the Sonata in B for Recorder and Basso Continuo, and concluding with the Grand Handel on Sunday March 1 at 3 PM, including the four Coronation Anthems. Plenty of parking available, and

an easy walk from the Ridgeland Avenue stop on the Green Line elevated train and from the Oak Park Metra station. Visit [www.handelweek.com](http://www.handelweek.com) to learn more.

The English choral ensemble **Voces8** performs at Aurora University in Aurora on February 25, 2020. They perform over 100 concerts a year around the world, music ranging from Renaissance sacred works to modern pop pieces, and is a leading selling recording artist with Decca Classics. Learn more at <http://www.voces8.com/tour>.

The **Rembrandt Chamber Musicians** offer a concert on Sunday, December 8 at 7:30 at Alice Millar Chapel at Northwestern University, 1870 Sheridan Road in Evanston. The pieces include four works by Bach, including Brandenburg Concerto #4 and the Concerto for oboe and violin, with Telemann's Viola Concerto in G Major and Handel's Organ Concerto in F Major. <http://www.rembrandtchamberplayers.org/events/>



*Dale & Marilyn Fitschen, in front of an exhibit at the Brookdale Retirement Community in Oak Park, where they live, of Dale's recorder collection*

## Music Videos

The Consort Counselors offer exercises and ideas to help an ensemble to play better together as a group:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xMfBwcl5pkk&feature=youtu.be>

Here is Laura Osterlund playing variations on la folia by Arcangelo Corelli, with harpist Annette Bjorling for the Musicians Club of Women Award Winners in Concert Series, Chicago Cultural Center, February 25, 2019.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y57OaLILSW0>

This video features the McGill Baroque Orchestra, playing at Early Music America's 2019 Young Performer's Festival, part of the Bloomington Early Music Festival at Trinity Episcopal Church in Bloomington, Indiana.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yGW9WAwcxJ8>

This video offers Vincent Lauzer on recorder at the same event, part of the EMA's Emerging Artists Showcase:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u1xIX3uzLZw>

Serpent player Michel Godard, a friend of Paul Schmidt, offers his composition, *A Trace of Grace*, featuring Azim Qasimov, a legend in Azerbaijan music.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cHkXM-i\\_1MU&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cHkXM-i_1MU&feature=youtu.be)

Patrick Wibart plays *Sonate No.1 - Les Délices de la Solitude* by Michel Corrette (1707-1795), a sonata for serpent—joined by harpsichord, gamba, and theoboro!

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=t9mB72TC8Kw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t9mB72TC8Kw),

Paul Schmidt writes, "Every serpentist and ophicleide player in the world is in awe of the virtuosity of Wibart, and this at his very young age, not many years from graduating the Paris Conservatory. In my very wildest dream, I get to be 1/10<sup>th</sup> as good as Wibart."

## Instruments for sale

Zuckerman 8' single manual harpsichord built from a 1970's kit. We plan on downsizing so do not have the room for it. The instrument is ideal as a continuo instrument or accompanying chamber groups in the performance of Baroque music. It also works for early keyboard music. Price is \$2000. Contact Ben Eisenstein, [beneisenstein@comcast.net](mailto:beneisenstein@comcast.net) or phone 847-998-0198.

The chapter still holds a collection of recorders donated by Barbara Frei, and David Fisher is selling some instruments ([crumhorn@gmail.com](mailto:crumhorn@gmail.com)):

- 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

## 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](http://ChicagoRecorders.org))

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| President       | Larry Johnson<br>(ll_johnson1239@sbcglobal.net) (773) 631-6671)                        |
| Vice President  | Lynette Colmey<br>(jttlk@gmail.com) (708) 638-7721                                     |
| Secretary       | Hyacinth Egner<br>(hyacinth_egner@yahoo.com) (608) 316-5486                            |
| Treasurer       | Cheryl Kreiman<br>(chekrei@aol.com) 773-972-7679                                       |
| Webmaster       | Ben Eisenstein   |
| Member at large | Valerie DePriest   |
| Music Director: | Lisette Kielson <a href="mailto:lisettekielson@gmail.com">lisettekielson@gmail.com</a> |

**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.

## 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.

## West Suburban Early Music Society ([westsubems.org](http://westsubems.org))

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Convener/Chapter Representative: | Christopher Culp<br>(cg.culp@gmail.com)                        |
| Vice Convener:                   | Marguerite Re<br>(margueritere@comcast.net)                    |
| Secretary/Membership:            | Suzanne Scott<br>(SIRDS@sbcglobal.net) (630) 605-2326          |
| Treasurer:                       | Kathy Hall-Babis<br>(kathy.hallbabis@gmail.com) (630) 464-1828 |
| Hospitality:                     | Nona Freeman<br>(847) 639-4614                                 |
| Recorder Reporter contact:       | Eric Stern<br>(egstern1@netscape.net) (630) 428-8464           |

**WSEMS meetings:** Second Sunday of each month, September through April, first Sunday of May, 2-5 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.

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

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