

Recorder Reporter

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

Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society

January 2020

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Chicago Chapter

We enjoyed another excellent Yuletide concert to close out 2019, about 35 musicians, including a group of young people from Roosevelt Middle School in River Forest, Mona Mann, director. Bela Sandkuehler played saxophone in a trio with his parents Mirja Lorenz and Olaf Sandkuehler, and the Chicago Recorder Quartet offered a 20th century work. With the audience we had about 60 people present. Lisette Kielson returns in January to lead us in music by William Byrd, the six-part “Christ Rising Again” and our own Peter Beck’s four-part arrangement of the English ballad “Willy O’Winsbury.” And we plan to continue work on our spring concert selection, Glen Shannon’s “Friendship Canzona” as well as the “Abendlied” piece for the Folk Music Festival in February.



... practicing before the concert started

West Suburban Early Music Society

A small but merry group met to play holiday songs on Sunday, December 18. Nancy Chabala led the group as we played from our holiday binders. Special thanks to Joanne Miller and Kathy Hall-Babis for adding and collating the music in the binders. We enjoyed playing music ranging from contemporary arrangements to music based upon a 13th century plainsong. Eric Stern added to the sound by playing his newly-acquired contra bass!



Bela, Mirja and Olaf

Our next meeting is January 12 at 2 pm and will be led by Mary Anne Gardner. Please join us as we bring in the new year with recorders and other early music instruments!—*Kathy Hall-Babis*

Yuletide Concert



Students from Roosevelt School . . .



Dave Fisher



The chapter playing together at the end of the concert



Mona and her students

Blind Services of Chicago

On Monday December 16 members of the Oak Park Recorder Society performed at the offices of Services for the Blind in downtown Chicago. Some of the blind service recipients are being taught recorder playing by chapter members Valerie dePriest, Esther Schechter, Lynette Colmey and Rebecca McLane.



Several students, Sonia, Bobbie, and James

Several of these blind players also performed on the program. We played a variety of well-known Christmas tunes, in interesting arrangements, and a number of non-seasonal favorites, like "Pop Goes the Weasel."



OPRS also played at the Pilgrim Congregational church service on Sunday, December 29, the host of our Tuesday night meetings. We performed a prelude and postlude of holiday music, and a new favorite, "On Jordan's Stormy Banks" for the Anthem and an old favorite, "All on a Starry Night" for the Offering.

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. Contact Larry Johnson at lj_johnson1239@sbcglobal.net.

Make Music Chicago returns on June 21, and this year, the event is on a Sunday! The Chicago chapter seeks to recruit members to take part in a free public performance in the city. On June 21, 2015, a group of us played recorder on a sunny plaza at Lincoln Park Zoo. Contact Mark Dawson or Larry Johnson if you are interested.

The **Milwaukee Area Recorder Society** (MARS) hosts the spring meeting of the national board of the American Recorder Society this year, and area chapters are invited to join them on Saturday April 25th for a pot luck supper & playing session at 6 PM. Let us know if you're interested; we will arrange a convoy for the trip to Wisconsin.

The Chicago chapter needs your help

The Chicago chapter would like one or more volunteers for Board member positions for next season, September 2020 through May 2021. The election will be held this May. Please let us know if you're interested. Being on the Board is a rewarding experience, and you will have the chance to influence how the chapter operates, what activities we enjoy and what future goals to pursue.

The Chicago chapter is also looking for one or more volunteers to work on our 2021 workshop plans. This includes choosing a date in April, 2021, deciding on a leader, developing a topic, and publicity. Volunteers will be guided and joined by Board members in planning activities. There is a roadmap to follow from previous workshops, so there is an existing general outline of tasks and timelines. And it's fun!

Finally, the chapter needs at least one volunteer to manage our web site, chicagorecorders.org. Our current administrator, Ben Eisenstein, past President and Vice-President, will (alas!) be moving out of state in early 2020. This involves regular maintenance, such as monthly updates for meeting information, newsletter archiving, and posting music. We'd like to start working with Ben to turn over the web site this month, so please let us know if you are interested. Contact Larry Johnson at ljohnson1239@sbcglobal.net.

Music coming up

Handel Week Festival returns for their 21st 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 to learn more.

Andrew Schultze will be teaching a seminar at the **Newberry Library** on the Buffoon War, Wednesdays, February 12 to March 4, 2020, from 2 to 4 PM.

<http://www.newberry.org/WS20Opera>

"The Buffoon War was a singular phenomenon in music history. Erupting in Paris in 1752, it pitted partisans of French Opera against supporters of Italian Opera, leaving a flurry of pamphlets and bruised egos in its wake. In this seminar, we will study the causes and major battles of the War by listening to music by Pergolesi, Rameau, and Jean Jacques Rousseau and reading a selection of pamphlets."

The Newberry Library is a private non-circulating research library at 60 West Walton Street, an easy walk from Chicago subway stop on the Red line, and in general principles an extremely cool place. Come early to check out the gift shop, and to look at the rotating exhibit gallery of treasures of the Newberry Library.

Bach Week returns in May. The first event is on Friday May 1, 7:30 at Anderson Chapel at North Park

University in Chicago, featuring two cantatas by Bach and a motet, and Telemann's Concerto in G Major for Flute, Strings and Continuo.

All of the other events are at the Music Institute of Chicago in Evanston. Tuesday May 5 at 7:30 PM, a solo recital of piano works by Chopin, and Friday May 8 at 7:30 PM, two works by Bach, Vivaldi's Concerto for Four Violins in B Minor, and Telemann's Orchestral Suite in D Major. Visit <https://bachweek.org>.

The Music Institute is at 1490 Chicago Avenue in Evanston, Anderson Chapel is at 5149 Spaulding Avenue (Foster and Kedzie). The Music Institute 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.

Lisette Kielson has two performances in February and May of 2020. She joins the Handel Week Festival on Saturday, February 22nd at 7:30 PM at Pilgrim Congregational Church, 460 Lake Street in Oak Park. She will be playing Sonata in Bb Major for Recorder and Basso Continuo. Then, she joins Jason Moy on harpsichord for Bach Week at the Music Institute of Chicago, Friday May 8—at 10 PM! The Music Institute is at 1490 Chicago Avenue in Evanston. This the Bach Week annual candlelight concert, an event that includes champagne and Belgian chocolates. Both venues are an easy walk from nearby CTA L stops and local Metra stations Visit <https://bachweek.org> and <https://www.handelweek.com>.

On Sunday March 22 at 5:30 PM Bach Week offers the Gallery Gala Benefit at the Evanston Art Center, 1717 Central Street, Evanston. Your \$60 includes a music program plus light food and drinks, and helps support this excellent annual festival. Visit www.bachweek.org.

Bach in the Subways is on Friday March 20 at 12:30, in Chicago. Probably the Rookery Building on LaSalle Street, but we don't know yet. The idea is to offer free the works of JS Bach in a way that is accessible to all, in an event that features thousands of performances all over the world, including in subway stations and on trains. Look to <https://bachweek.org/bach-in-the-subways>.

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>.

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 (jttlkd@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.

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)

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, 2-5 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.

Like us on Facebook: 

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

Visit us at chicagorecorders.org

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Serpentarium, September 2019, Dorchester England. Our own Paul Schmidt is the second serpent player from the right.

Imagine 10 serpent players all playing at the same time.