

Recorder Reporter

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

Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society

March 2020

Volume 61, Number 7

Chicago Chapter

Sunday February 16 we had 17 people join us for another grand afternoon of music making under Lisette's leadership. We played Giovanni Priuli's "Canzone a 7" and Sören Sieg's "kinyongo" (from his African Suite #4), and "siku siyo mbali," (African Suite #15) both based on his experience in South Africa. Before the break we went through Glen Shannon's "Friendship Canzona" again which we plan to perform at our Spring Concert in May.



Giovanni Priuli was born in Venice in 1575 and served as the deputy organist at St. Mark's Cathedral until departing to serve the Hapsburg court in Austria in 1614. With Claudio Monteverdi and Giovanni Gabrielli, Priuli represented the Venetian school of music composition in the late Renaissance (1550 to 1620), while Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina represented the Roman school. The Roman school was more conservative and bound to the needs of the Church and Papacy, and thus produced a lot of sacred music. It turns out that Palestrina wrote as many masses as Haydn wrote symphonies.

The Venetian school tended to be more progressive, extending polyphony in multiple directions, such as the use of two or more choirs of voices singing against each other in motets. This was important for the development of the choral components of cantata, opera and oratorio. While the Roman school remained somewhat isolated, the Venetian school style spread north across the Alps and influenced the early Baroque directly. That allowed Priuli to secure employment as the Imperial Master of

Chapel Music in Vienna based on his popular Venetian style of composing.

Note that the story about Palestrina writing the *Missa Papae Marcelli* to influence the decision of the Council of Trent (1545-1563) about the use of polyphony in the mass is apparently a myth. The Counter Reformation used art as a means to convey Catholic doctrine in response to Protestant views, but the Church never created a matching policy for music. More important, Palestrina's wrote the mass before the Council convened! Nevertheless, this tale generally appears in the program notes whenever this mass is performed (thanks to Robert Rotenberg for his insights on Priuli and Palestrina). To close the day, Peter Beck directed us in his work, "Fancy Name for a Three-Part Cannon." He would like to perform the work for the spring concert, three tenor parts, best to double each one.

Andrew Schultze leads us on **March 15** with music from the French Baroque, with plans to mark the 350th anniversary of the collaboration between two 17th century giants of the arts, composer and performer Jean-Baptiste Lully and playwright Moliere, in "Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme." Andrew plans to provide dialogues from the play and invite recorder players to read them aloud (in English) to the accompaniment of music written by Lully specifically for this work. In his program, Andrew will also include music by Louis XIII, Jean Phillippe Rameau, Michel Corrette and other minor composers of the era.



Lisette Kielson plays in the Sonata in D Minor for Recorder and Basso Continuo by George Frederic Handel, Pilgrim Congregational Church Saturday February 22



West Suburban Early Music Society

For the February 9th WSEMS meeting 17 individuals met to play music despite the inclement weather! Nancy Chabala led us in a variety of music that included works by Morley, Britten, and Thomas Arne (When Daisies Pied). We had fun discussing the pronunciation of “pied”! In addition, we played “Christ is Arisen,” a German hymn from 1100. The group also tackled “Ice and Rain and Snow,” the Play the Recorder Month piece from the ARS by Frances Blaker. We were encouraged to take the music home and play through any difficult passages so that, at our April meeting, we can select a few pieces to play for our May concert. Nancy leads us again in April.

Dennis Sherman will lead us on March 8th. The music that he is directing is posted on our website at <http://www.westsubems.org/> –Kathy Hall-Babis



Folk Music Festival

Another successful recorder workshop at the University of Chicago this year, as 13 of our members took part. We had a smaller crowd this time but they seemed to show greater interest, providing us with email addresses and taking part in the general playing session.



The recorder workshop

The rest of the Folk Music Festival featured solid crowds for the Saturday workshops and a nearly sold out evening concert in Mandel Hall.



Kris Truelsen, the leader of the vintage country music group Bill and the Belles, from Johnson City, Tennessee, is also the producer for Radio Bristol. Radio Bristol was

created by the Birthplace of Country Music Museum, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution that opened in 2014. Radio Bristol is a nonprofit community station that promotes and celebrates country traditional American roots music through educational programming and entertainment.

<https://www.birthplaceofcountrymusic.org/radio/>



Blue grass jam



Sacred Harp singing

Upcoming Chapter Activities

Make Music Chicago returns on Sunday June 21. The chapter is recruiting members who would like to participate in offering free music as part of this event this summer. Contact Mark Dawson or Larry Johnson.

The **Milwaukee Area Recorder Society** (MARS) plans to host the spring 2020 meeting of the national board of the American Recorder Society. 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. There is parking in back. The church is close to Milwaukee and about two hours from Chicago. If you are

interested in this great opportunity to meet and play with even more recorder fans, please let Larry Johnson know, ll_johnson1239@sbcglobal.net. Carpooling is an option.



Hurdy-Gurdy



Jug Band—washboard and pink rubber piggy squeeze toy

Joining the American Recorder Society

January is a great time to consider National ARS membership. Think about the benefits of joining the ARS National organization, and of being able to:

- Receive the American Recorder magazine four times a year, which includes the ARS Newsletter and Members Library Music
- Access decades of archived magazines
- Download sheet music from the ARS website
- Find other recorder players and groups
- Buy discounted instrument insurance
- Apply for scholarships to attend workshops
- Improve you playing using the Personal Study Program and instructional videos
- Find music reviews, books, recordings, and method books

To join now, at half price for new members, you can download a printable membership form:

http://www.americanrecorder.org/docs/ARS_Membership_Form_2018.pdf

Music and Events

The Early Music Festival at the University of Wisconsin **Whitewater** returns June 5-7, 2020. Look to the web site, www.whitewaterearlymusic.org, for the schedule for the weekend, class offerings, and faculty. If you have attended in the past you should receive a brochure in the mail soon; registration opens on March 1.

Friday March 20 at 7:30 **Ars Musica** performs their 4th annual Bach Coffeehouse Concert at St. Chrysostom's, 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 colleagues and students that regularly presented concerts at Gottfried Zimmermann's coffeehouse in Leipzig. This concert seeks to recreate one of these coffeehouse events with music of Bach, Handel, and Telemann. Enjoy a cup of tea or glass of wine by the fireside. Free, donations accepted. Look for more at www.arsmusicachicago.org.

The International House, 1414 East 59th Street, hosts **Balkan Rhythms & Dance**, a lecture, workshop, and performance Sunday March 8, 12:30 to 4 PM. This event is free and open to the public. March 20-22 is the 55th annual Spring Festival of the Ensemble Balkanske Igre, offering dance, music, and culture from the Balkans, Eastern Europe, and eastern Mediterranean. To learn more call 847-331-7842 or visit www.balkanskeigre.org.

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 the Grand Army of the Republic Hall at the Chicago Cultural Center, Michigan Avenue and Washington Street in Chicago. Note the change in time, 12:30 PM.

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.

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 (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, 2-5 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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