

Recorder Reporter

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

Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society

September 2020

Volume 62, Number 1

Chicago Chapter Notes

Welcome to the 2020-2021 Season!

We'd all like to meet and play together again, but reality keeps getting in the way. Who would have thought that we'd still be in pandemic mode six months after our first cancelled meeting in March? But we have also managed to have our first online May concert, attended by over 30 people and definitely a success, plus four online playing sessions with up to a dozen chapter members in July and August. We all seem to agree our chapter activities must continue in spite of all challenges!

This year our vote for the chapter officers will be by email. Look for a note before the September 20 meeting:

President:	Larry Johnson
Vice-President:	Lynette Colmey
Treasurer:	Cheryl Kreiman
Secretary:	Jenifer Buckley
At-Large members	Esther Schechter & Ruth Dunnell

In light of continuing pandemic, we will begin the season with online chapter meetings, while staying open to additional, optional in-person playing sessions, whenever people feel comfortable meeting in safe, controlled situations.

September 20	Lisette Kielson
October 18	Andrew Schultze, French Baroque
November 15	Lisette Kielson
December 20	Yuletide Concert
January 17	Lisette Kielson
February 21	Lisette Kielson
March 21	TBA
April 18	Lisette Kielson
May 16	Spring Concert

This season Lisette takes us on an adventure as she leads us in exploring tales yet untold with "Storytelling 101: extended techniques, free improvisation, & programmatic music." Lisette's chapter meetings will begin with a warmup, with extended technique(s) such as a non-standard fingering, special effect, and more. We then will embark on a free improvisation session (call-and-response style) inspired by the technique of the day. After our short foray into this new language, we will play wonderfully descriptive instrumental music (with standard notation!) spanning the ages with, as is customary with Lisette, a nod to aspects of basic recorder technique and musicality. This season's repertoire may include selections by Lance

Eccles, Jacques-Martin Hotteterre, Clark Kimberling, Thomas Morley, Glen Shannon, Sören Sieg, and more.

Our annual December holiday concert will probably be an online event, like our May concert. We will need to be creative, and possibilities include solo playing, solo playing with recorded accompaniment, pre-recorded performances by one or more players, and other options. If circumstances improve enough by December, some groups may feel comfortable in gathering to play together for the online concert. We will be flexible with our plans, but the important thing is to start thinking of what we'd like to do and begin planning for that.

Also, our biennial workshop originally planned for April 2021 will be replaced by another chapter activity. To be feasible, our workshops depend on a large number of attendees, which is inadvisable at the moment. It also requires a long planning period with some certainty about the future, which we do not have now. The replacement event we hope to present in April will follow whatever restrictions are recommended at that time. Any ideas for this special event, to be scheduled outside of our regular April meeting, are certainly welcome!

Please send in your chapter membership dues for 2020-2021 this month. You can find the membership form in this newsletter, or on our web site:

<https://chicagorecorders.files.wordpress.com/2019/08/membershipform2019.pdf>

While writing your check, adding a small donation would be greatly appreciated!

We had talked about gathering outside in the courtyard at Covenant Presbyterian, between the buildings on Dickens Avenue, on an alternate date. We could offer that, but members and friends of the Chicago chapter (and WSEMS) are welcome to meet at Mark & Susan Dawson's back yard instead, 3½ miles north of the church. Here are a few proposed times and dates:

- Friday September 11, 5 PM
- Saturday September 12, 10 AM or 5 PM
- Friday September 18, 5 PM
- Saturday September 19, 10 AM or 5 PM

If you are interested in joining us for an outdoor playing session, please let Mark Dawson or Larry Johnson know. We will plan on a barbecue after we finish playing.

Thank you, Valerie and Ben

The board would like to express our gratitude to Valerie DePriest for her years of service as treasurer and as a board member at large.

Also, many thanks to Ben Eisenstein, chapter president for five seasons (until May 2017) and loyal member since 1970, who moved this summer with his wife Nancy to Tucson. Ben's first meetings were at St. James Cathedral on Huron, during the salad days for early music in the 1970s. "Always lots of attendees," Ben says. They had so many people at the time that the chapter meetings split into three groups, beginners, intermediate, and advanced.



Ben at the Master Class with Aldo Abreu in 1999

Ben's first concert was at the 13th annual concert in 1972, and has been a part of a variety of groups since, including Ars Subtilior, The King's Consort, and the Ridgeway Consort. Ben and Nancy also played at the Renaissance Faire with Dave Fitzgerald.

West Suburban Early Music Society

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, the West Suburban Early Music Society will play outside of the Friends meeting house in Downers Grove on September 13th at 2 PM. Please bring a music stand, clips, magnets, a mask, and a chair. You might want to provide your own water. Masks will be required to enter the building to use the restroom.

Players are asked to bring the music that Nancy Chabala distributed in February, under "sheet music" on our website, <http://www.westsubems.org> (recorder12). Other music is downloaded so please print that out as well. If you bring other music to share please bring 12 copies.

We are pleased to announce the WSEMS board for 2020-21:

- Chris Culp, Convener
- Linda Schub, Vice Convener
- Marguerite Re, Treasurer
- Suzanne Scott, Secretary and Membership
- Nona Freeman, Hospitality

Questions? Contact Chris Culp, convener, at cg.culp@gmail.com or phone # 630-415-8413.

Considering the Pandemic

Here is some Bach for 2020, our modern pandemic era, the motet *Jesu, meine Freude* (BWV 227):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0jq8yWDHA7g>

As May of 2020 progressed, I knew I didn't have to think about this newsletter for a long time. But I also no idea what I would offer in these pages. The September issue traditionally features photos and conversation from the spring concert, from Whitewater, from the St. Cecilia at the Tower medieval music festival, from Make Music Chicago, from the Oak Park Festival Theater, from all the moments that crowd our summer months as musicians.

Curious. During the COVID-19 pandemic this year, the Influenza Epidemic of 1918 could have served as a point of reference. That Epidemic happened a century ago, and nobody survives who would remember the event. But nobody is left alive who would remember the Civil War either, and that hasn't kept the War Between the States from standing exalted as a cultural landmark, subject of endless documentaries, books, memorial sites, movie and TV fiction, re-enactments, arguments, and commentary. Civil War scholars long ago turned to telling the life stories of forgotten lousy generals because they ran out of original subject matter. World War II has the same place in our society. I grew up surrounded by the ghosts of two World Wars and the Civil War, and that continues to this day. For several generations these wars have been the source of endless discussion. A few years ago I saw a Rom Com at the Chicago Cultural Center from the Chicago International Film Festival, set in modern Warsaw. It was in Polish, set in Poland, and it *wasn't* about the Holocaust or the German invasion! I was delighted. In contrast the recent film *Greyhound* qualifies as our monthly World War II movie.

But more Americans died in the 1918 Pandemic than died in the Civil War. More people died around the world from the Flu than died in World War I. In Chicago officials were obliged to dig mass graves in Rosehill Cemetery to bury all the bodies, reminiscent of medieval cities attacked by plague. But I know more about the Black Death. I can't remember any of my older relatives or the World War II veterans I talked to over the years *ever once* speaking a single word about the 1918 pandemic. Why not?

In the mid-1990s I completed an oral history project as a volunteer for the Chicago Public Library, nearly 30 senior citizens in Chicago interviewed on tape, collecting and later transcribing their memories of the 1920s, 30s, and 40s (huge fun!). Not one of them ever mentioned the 1918 crisis either. I asked my 95-year-old uncle and, in like

fashion, his parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles were silent. I saw an article in *Slate* Magazine online that considered this odd anomaly, and as I reflected on the matter I found yet another example of my own remarkable ignorance. But this is an ignorance that should not exist.

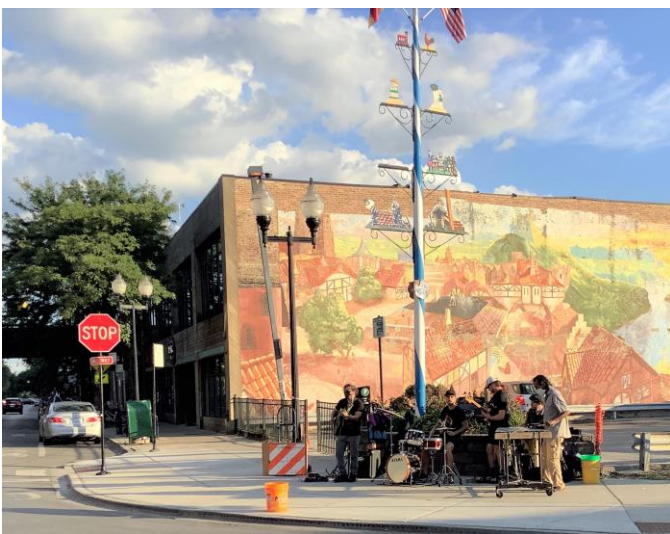
I asked John Barry about this cultural void. Barry is an historian, author, and professor in the School of Public Health at Tulane University, and he wrote *The Great Influenza: The story of the deadliest pandemic in history*. Why is it that the 1918 Pandemic has been so utterly ignored in the 20th century, and until now? His response:

A very common question I get, and I really don't have much of an answer.

Live Music. August 2020. Outdoors. Yes.



Giddings Plaza, Lincoln Square, Chicago, August 15.



Lincoln Avenue, near Western, August 16

We did it too! Recorder players gathered outside to jam in August. It was great. On August 29 we played pieces from Tielman Susato, *Le Clerq's Air* by Richard Wood,

parts of a Renaissance mass, and *Porque Llorax* by Will Ayton, and then closed with *Scarborough Fair* all on Nancy Chabala's back deck in Lyons.



Recorder players, August 25, Mark Dawson's yard!



Recorder players, August 29, Nancy Chabala's yard!

Performers Music Needs your Help

This is from our friends at Performers Music:

We need your help to secure a future. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a sudden and substantial impact on the arts, hitting small businesses, like Performers, hard. Music sales are down drastically with performances and classes being canceled. Since 80% of our profits come from walk-in and in-store sales, during this crisis, our future is uncertain.

Without help, we cannot survive. Thank you to everyone who has shared and donated to our campaign, but we still have a ways to go!

Contribute to the Go Fund Me campaign:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-save-performers-music>

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 Colmery (jttlkld@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	Linda Schub Lgshub@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Marguerite Re (margueritere@comcast.net)
Secretary/Membership:	Suzanne Scott (SIRDS@sbcglobal.net) (630) 605-2326
Hospitality:	Nona Freeman (574) 286-5960
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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"Intending to work with his father on their ranch, Brubeck entered the College of the Pacific in Stockton, California (now the University of the Pacific), studying veterinary science. He changed to music on the urging of the head of zoology, Dr. Arnold, who told him "Brubeck, your mind's not here. It's across the lawn in the conservatory. Please go there. Stop wasting my time and yours."

--the early days of Jazz giant Dave Brubeck

Membership Form

The Chicago Chapter of the American Recorder Society Membership Form, 2020-2021 season

Name _____ Email Address _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

- _____ \$90 Chicago chapter and National ARS (standard membership, online access and print publications)
 _____ \$85 Chicago chapter and National ARS online (online access and electronic publications)
 _____ \$40 Chicago chapter membership dues

I would like to make an additional donation \$ _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Please make checks payable to **Chicago Chapter, American Recorder Society** and mail to Chicago Chapter ARS, c/o Cheryl Kreiman, 5736 North Avondale Avenue, Chicago, IL 60631-3102