

# Recorder Reporter

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

Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society

March 2022

Volume 63, Number 7

## Chicago Chapter News

The Chicago chapter gathered on February 20 with Joseph Lill directing for our first hour. Joe is Professor of Music at North Park University and a professional trumpet player. He is also married to chapter treasurer Cheryl Kreiman. As a trumpet player Joe was somewhat more drawn to Paul Schmidt's serpent than to our recorders, but he is skilled at directing regardless the instruments involved. And we had a great time playing a pair of double choir works from the Italian Renaissance together, *Canzone La Negrone* by Pietro Lippi (1575 – 1630) and *Canzone XII* by Giovanni Gabrielli.

Who's Pietro Lippi? One of scores of fine medieval and Renaissance composers that nobody has ever heard of. Lippi was a choirmaster in Brescia, known for his sacred music. Gabrielli is more familiar, maybe thanks to us recorder players. He was one of the most influential composers of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, but Gabrielli joins a list of other composers like Anthony Holborne, Michael East, and Orlando de Lassus who had been mostly forgotten by 1930. The Early Music movement restored to us many treasures.

Both double choir pieces were beautiful, and Joe recognized that we were old enough to know both that Gabrielli can be hard to play and how to find our way back in when needed. He talked about a student from about 25 years ago, a gifted freshman horn player. "She was almost as good as she thought she was," Joe observed. He warned the student brass ensemble that they might lose their place while playing Gabrielli. "She looked at me like, 'I'm never going to get lost,'" Joe recalled. "Every rehearsal I was praying that she would get lost." He wanted her to learn, and eventually she did—during a chapel performance at the University. She might have avoided tears on stage if she had found herself lost in a practice session in the band room instead. But we have been around long enough with the Chicago chapter to be used to falling down and getting up again, and that experience serves us well today.

Lisette led starting at 2 PM, and we spent two hours working on Glen Shannon's new work, *Petite Sweet Flute Suite*, in honor of Hilde' Staniulis. We plan to perform this at our spring concert on May 17, and 12 players or more have agreed to take part. We will practice the work again at our April meeting. The February meeting was great fun, the music was beautiful, and we played well together.

For our **March 20 meeting** Andrew Shultze joins us to lead a session on American music from 1775 to 1850. We will explore the influence of English and European music, as well as French, Spanish, Native American, and African-American cultural influences, tracing how an American musical style emerged and gained global popularity. Among the works we will play through are Native American melodies in arrangements by an unknown 17th century Frenchman, Creole plantation songs, a Scotch lament, and some popular music by Teodora Gines. We will plan to perform compositions by William Billings, Signor Lardino, Frank Johnson, Anthony Phillip Heinrich and Stephen Foster. Andrew has provided some 27 pages of music, which we will post for download on the chapter web site.



Several members have reported receiving electronic mail messages supposedly from the Chicago chapter president asking for money. These are scam messages—the board would never send anyone a request like this. If you see a message from the board that doesn't seem legitimate, that means it isn't, and you should delete it.



*True Colors Baroque, February 6, part of Rendezvous Arts, at Artifact Events in Chicago, Jason Moy on harpsichord*

## Opportunities for the Chicago Chapter

We want to encourage all members to participate in running our chapter, so please consider serving as a member of the board. Terms can be for as little as one year, and we are also looking for advisors at large. The election for the board for next season will be at our May meeting. You would have the chance to help shape and promote our chapter activities, including decisions on our meeting leaders and topics. Lack of experience is no problem, as we are looking for new perspectives. Please think about serving—we need your help.

We are also making plans for a spring workshop in 2023. Every two years we present a one-day workshop on a Saturday in the spring. Although we canceled in 2021, we need to plan for our next opportunity next year. We welcome your ideas and suggestions on possible workshop leaders and topics. We usually choose a date in April, but other options can be considered. As the date approaches, we will be looking for volunteers to help plan, market, and run the event. Please send us your ideas and suggestions, and let us know if you'd like to participate. Thank you!

## Recorder Oiling Party

Patrick O'Malley is inviting anyone interested to the 2022 recorder oiling party (the first since 2019!) on Saturday March 19 at the Music Institute of Chicago,

1490 Chicago Avenue, Evanston, 10 AM to noon. The content will also be offered on Zoom at the same time.

Plastic instruments can be washed with dish soap and rinsed in the sink, except parts with keys/pads. Wood instruments require special care. Regular oiling protects against cracks and makes the instrument look and sound better. Bring your wooden recorders, don't play them the day or two before. Patrick will provide for each person a piece of fabric, almond oil, thread for loose joints, petroleum jelly or cork grease, scissors, plastic swabbing stick, and paper towels. Please RSVP to Patrick at [pomalley@musicinst.org](mailto:pomalley@musicinst.org) whether you plan to attend, or if you prefer to join the Zoom session, as well as the number of recorders you plan to bring and any special concerns.



*Music fit for the Medici's, Newberry Consort, St. Michael's Church of Old Town, February 18*



*An organetto and a vielle*

This organetto is a portable organ commissioned by and built for the Newberry Consort in 2018. It was popular in Europe in the 15th and 16th centuries, and is one of the earliest keyboard instruments. The organetto was regularly

used in churches to accompany singers, and was also used by traveling minstrels, who carried it with a strap and played while walking or standing.

This instrument weighs about 25 pounds and features pipes made of a tin and lead alloy and a bellows (operated with the left hand) made of sheep skin and cherry wood. The white caps on the pipes are parchment sleeves that can be adjusted for tuning. There are no organettos that survive today to serve as a model. This “replica” is really more of a sculpture, as it was based on hundreds of paintings from the period and carvings found in medieval churches, like this 14<sup>th</sup> century statue of St. Cecilia at Yorkminster in York, England.



## West Suburban Early Music Society

The West Suburban Early Music Society met on Zoom again in February. We used music from the ARS online collection, pieces from the Chicago Chapter online listing, and a couple pieces that a member had played in her online class. The music ranged from Renaissance to modern and included:

- Benedictus, Josquin des Prez
- In Nets of Golden Wyres, Morley
- A Cure for Love, Charles John Stanley (1718-1786)
- When all was Young, Charles Gounod, (1818-1893)
- Seven German Folksongs, arr. by Anthony St. Pierre
- A Thomas Tallis Fancy, arr. By St. Pierre
- A collection of Blues and Klezmer, from the Chicago chapter website

Many thanks to Chris and Nancy Culp, Elaine Gilles, and Kathy Hall-Babis for playing online so that the others could play along. And thanks again to Linda Schub who has provided unlimited Zoom access and spent much time in the past two years collecting and organizing music that we could play online. Dennis Sherman will direct our March 13th meeting at 2 PM at the Friends Meetinghouse in Downers Grove. Dennis plans to explore and sample some of the new music for recorder published on the ARS web site in 2021. Hope to see many of you on the 13th!—  
*Kathy Hall-Babis*

## Whitewater Early Music Festival

The Early Music Festival at the University of Wisconsin Whitewater returns June 3-5 of this year, in person.

We get to jam in the lounge again until midnight, talk with friends over lunch, welcome our favorite faculty members again, enjoy excellent teaching and lots of opportunities to make music together.

If you visit <https://www.whitewaterearlymusic.org> you will see they now have information available about faculty and classes for the weekend. Registration opens April 15, and it is only available [online](#). Recorder music for all talent levels, plus choral works and loud band, music sales, and fellowship with old friends.

## Online Music Classes

The Oregon Renaissance Band Trio offers two mixed consort classes this spring, online, for advanced and intermediate players. Each class session is 90 minutes. Both classes feature playing Renaissance, Baroque, medieval and modern music with the Trio in real time with performance advice, historical information and lively banter. The next 10-week term for the advanced class begins Wednesday March 23rd at 5 PM and Saturday March 26th at 8 AM, while the intermediate 10-week term begins Tuesday March 22nd at 5 pm and Saturday March 26th at 11 AM. All classes are on Zoom, Central time. The cost for each class is \$100 or \$180 for both. For details and to register, go to <https://www.emgo.org/consort-class-online>.

## Dr Who played recorder

The Time Lord joins other little-known recorder players in history, including James Dean, Italian novelist Umberto Eco, Samuel Pepys, and George Bernard Shaw.

English actor Patrick Troughton (1920 – 1987) played the second incarnation of the Doctor in *Dr. Who* from 1966 to 1969. Troughton loved to play the recorder, and periodically Troughton’s Doctor pulled out his recorder and played some tunes as an aid to thinking.

Here the Doctor playing recorder in a market on Atlantis:



But we play better than the Doctor did. Consider this clip:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=4C8Bpl32rl4>

On a swamp planet, the second Doctor used the recorder to ward off some giant mechanical spiders, using the “music” to interfere with the control systems used by the Master of Spiders:



To learn more, visit the [Recorder Home Page](#); the blog [Warped Factor](#) offers a Dr. Who “recordered” history.

## 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 as well as 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 (ll_johnson1239@sbcglobal.net)
Vice President	Lynette Colmey (jttlkd@gmail.com)
Secretary	Jenifer Buckley (jenifer.a.buckley@gmail.com)
Treasurer	Cheryl Kreiman (chekrei@aol.com)
Web site and Facebook	Hyacinth Egner
Music Director:	Lisette Kielson <a href="mailto:lisettekielson@gmail.com">lisettekielson@gmail.com</a>

Like us on Facebook: 

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

**Chicago Chapter meetings:** The third Sunday of each month, September through May, 1 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](http://westsubems.org))

Convener/Chapter Representative:	Kathy Hall-Babis (kathy.hallbabis@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
Web page support	Chris Culp cg.culp@gmail.com (630) 415-8413

**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.

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