

Recorder Reporter

*Newsletter of two chapters of the American Recorder Society (ARS),
Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society*

January 2023

Volume 64, Number 5

Chicago Chapter News

At the end of each year I start making entries into Turbortax for my IRS filing, and archive my financial files for Quicken. But one of my year-end rituals is distinctly analog, when I retire my At-a-Glance pocket calendar to the bottom desk drawer with its brothers and move on to the calendar for the year ahead. Why rely on an iPhone app when you can use a calendar that relies on pen and paper? And so my preserved 2002 At-a-Glance features an entry on December 15, "ARS 2 PM OPRS concert." Our Yuletide gathering on December 18 was my 20th Christmas concert with the Chicago chapter.



The Baron's Noyse



Closing the year jamming on holiday music



A modest turnout, but an afternoon of pleasant music making, ending with a traditional and cheerful time of jamming on holiday melodies directed by Nancy Chabala. And we got to stand around and eat, too. The last time we managed that for Yuletide was in 2019. Besides time for music making, one of the purposes of our monthly gatherings is to provide opportunities for fellowship.

Join us on Sunday January 15 at 1 PM. Lisette Kielson returns to bring in the new year with a celebration of French music from the 14th to the 20th century. Machaut will represent the Middle Ages, Dornel and Charpentier the Baroque and Poulenc the early 20th century, with a nod to the late Renaissance. All following, of course our non-French Rooda scale warmups. Happy New Year!



Nancy Chabala and Larry Johnson on a Renaissance canon

And we close 2022 bidding farewell to another old friend, Marilyn Linden. I have been producing this newsletter for 17 years, and in that time I have written 14 obituaries. These together tell a story of our musical travels, a list of old friends who once shared evenings and afternoons with us, creating works of great beauty. So many memories for me, late night jam sessions at Whitewater, the garage band gatherings that Laura used to host for us in Winfield, playing recorder before Shakespeare in Austin Park for the Oak Park Festival Theater, providing music for church services and Make Music Chicago. And I remember thankfully playing recorder a few times with Marilyn Linden, or hearing her take part in holiday concerts with WSEMS at Naperville Evangelical Covenant in years past.

Marilyn Linden, 1928 – 2022

The West Suburban Early Music Society lost another old friend and long-time member on November 19 when Marilyn Linden, 94, died quietly. She had been active, living at her home in Batavia until the day before her death, and was happy to attend several Naperville Municipal Band concerts with her son-in-law David Good last summer.



Marilyn Linden with a recorder, 1970s

Born Marilyn Riordan in Miami in 1928, Marilyn worked for the United States Navy in Washington DC during World War II while her future husband, Richard Linden, served in the Navy in the Pacific. They met after the war at Martin Aircraft Corporation in Baltimore, where Marilyn worked as a computer. That was back in the days when a computer was a young woman good at math instead of a device you put on your desk and yelled at periodically. Richard and Marilyn settled in raising their family there. And when we say “building a house” in Naperville, that doesn’t mean they hired a contractor. Richard and Marilyn did the work themselves, Marilyn swinging a hammer as needed. Richard worked in several Defense positions, ending as an engineer with the Army Corps of Engineers. Their marriage, launched in 1948, lasted for 71 years, until Richard died in December of 2019.

Marilyn’s granddaughter Eleanor Good remembers that she and her mother, Nancy Good, and grandmother formed the Linden Trio, performing sometimes before Shakespeare in the park. Many times Eleanor would visit her grandmother’s home with her mother, and see a music stand set up, ready for a planned jam session or left over from a previous gathering of recorder players. Marilyn regularly hosted a group of three or four friends for recorder playing, and also attended the Whitewater Early Music Festival with her daughter and granddaughter and the Fox Valley Folk Music Festival in Geneva, Illinois. Richard and Marilyn spent their winters in Florida after Richard retired, and when not taking their boat out into the Gulf of Mexico, Marilyn hosted a recorder ensemble in their home there.



Marilyn Linden playing with her daughter Nancy Good after the winter WSEMS concert, January 2011

Marilyn stopped attending WSEMS meetings after her daughter, Nancy Good, died in 2014. “She certainly still liked music a lot,” Eleanor recalled. “She was listening to

music all the time.” Besides recorder music and classical works, Marilyn liked folk and Irish music, and Latin music, as well as more eclectic material, like an album of Beatles favorites recorded in Bossa nova style. She did have standards, however. “I never heard her listen to rock music in my life,” Eleanor said.



Marilyn Linden (back row, middle) with her daughter Nancy Good and her granddaughter Eleanor at the January 2010 concert of WSEMS

Marilyn and Richard loved animals, frequently caring for several dogs and cats, and leaving food for strays. Richard even built a back yard shelter to keep them warm in the winter months. Marilyn loved golf, keeping scores for a local women's golf club and watching golf on TV. Richard and Marilyn went on cruises regularly, including on the Mississippi and Ohio rivers, down the Amazon and across the Atlantic to Portugal, around Cape Horn from Chile to Uruguay. They also visited “every island in the Caribbean.” Marilyn married young, but she did eventually finish a bachelor's degree in Art at North Central College—in 1984. She was 56 years old. Her daughter Nancy was 29, and already had a PhD in Chemistry by then.

“She liked life, she liked music, she liked having big family parties,” son-in-law David Good said. “It was a pleasure to know her.”

West Suburban Early Music Society

We met December 11 to play holiday music from our binders. Linda Schub played her hammer dulcimer and several members of the Friends Meetinghouse gathered to listen to us play. It was an enjoyable time together!

The West Suburban Early Music Society will have a new permanent director beginning in January 2023. Laura Ostjerna Klehr will lead our group for the January 8th meeting and the remainder of the season. We are excited about her direction and the challenges that we will take

with this addition to West Suburban. Please plan to join us on January 8th at 2 PM at the Friends Meetinghouse in Downers Grove.—*Kathy Hall-Babis*



Music and More

The **Chicago Recorder Trio** (CRT) presents a joyful, eclectic program in 2023. From the soprano recorder that we knew in elementary school to the sub great bass recorder, which you must play while standing, from 14th century sacred music from Spain to the improvisatory 20th century, from suites and sonatas to swinging jazz, from chirping birds to braying donkeys. Join CRT as they span centuries, styles, and 5 octaves! Music by JS Bach, Mattheson, Hoffmeister, Pete Rose, Patrick O'Malley, and more! Sunday, February 12 at 3 PM at St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 North Kostner Avenue, Chicago.

You might enjoy the **Tiny Desk** concerts offered by NPR, <https://www.youtube.com/@nprmusic>. Launched in 2008, the show has hosted over 800 different groups performing, watched collectively 2 billion times on YouTube.

Paul Schmidt of WSEMS is featured in an article from Tri States Public Radio in Missouri “A different kind of ‘heavy metal Christmas concert’” about a tuba Christmas band. He has played in over 200 Christmas Tuba concerts over the years:

Paul Schmidt was one of the more experienced players in the ensemble, and he played an unusual looking tuba. Schmidt said he has a large collection of “oddball brass instruments” that he likes to share with audiences, and in Macomb he played an ophicleide that dates back to around 1835. It has keys like a woodwind instrument rather than valves like many brass instruments.

At the time the ophicleide was invented, they did not have workable valves yet. The only things you could do to adjust the pitch of brass instruments was to use a slide or to use your lips alone,” he said. Woodwind instruments used

keys, but the ophicleide's system is different. "It's totally upside down from a woodwind system. It's very infuriating to learn the fingering system for ophicleides.

See the article here:

<https://www.tspr.org/tspr-local/2022-12-05/a-different-kind-of-heavy-metal-christmas-concert>

The **Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival** returns January 18-29 (<https://chicagopuppetfest.org/>). The event features over 25 performances and workshops in 2022. This is an extraordinary event, a lot of terrific, innovative theater.



*Patrick O'Malley and Lisette Kielson, recorder,
Brandenburg Concerto #1, Music of the Baroque, Harris
Theater, Chicago, November 21*



*Signing in the rain with the Pippins, Christkindlemarket,
December 14*

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)

President	Mark Dawson
Vice President	Lynette Colmey
Secretary	Jenifer Buckley
Treasurer	Cheryl Kreiman
Facebook	Hyacinth Egner & Cheryl Kreiman
Web site	Larry Johnson & Peter Beck
Members at Large	Ruth Dunnell
Chapter Representative	Larry Johnson
Music Director:	Lisette Kielson lisettekielson@gmail.com

You can contact the chapter through our web site.

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)

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:	Elaine Gillies (Jegillies@comcast.net)
Hospitality:	Norm Adams Norman_adams@frontier.com
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

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