

Recorder Reporter

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

Our 65th Anniversary Year!

September 2023

Volume 65, Number 1

Chicago Chapter News

We closed our 64th season on Sunday May 21, with 27 people attending our spring concert. The Chapter had been practicing Marc-Antoine Charpentier's *Le Malade Imaginaire* for a while, and we opened the concert. The Baron's Noyse offered music by William Byrd (1540-1623) and the Oak Park Recorder Society, Uwe Heger (1957 -). Beyond that we had music from 13th century Spain and 14th century France matched against recorder Haiku from Charlotte Van Ryswyk (2012) and Orlando de Lassus against a 20th century gigue by Angelo Zaniol. Then we had an agreeable return to eating and drinking together after the concert, followed by 12 of us jamming the rest of the afternoon away, with Lisette directing.

And now we open our 65th season on Sunday September 17 at 1 PM, with Lisette Kielson directing. 65 years. We are older than Barbie!

focusing on tone, articulation, and finger work. Then traditional playing sessions follow from 2 to 4 PM when Lisette leads us in in-depth work on small and large-scale compositions from the Middle Ages to the present.



The Oak Park Recorder Society



Nancy Chabala and Larry Johnson

For the new season, Lisette plans to direct all seven of our regular monthly meetings, and plans to direct a recorder workshop at the University of Chicago Folk Music Festival in February. She will also direct each meeting for the full three hours, from 1 to 4 PM. She will offer warm up techniques from 1 to 1:50 PM where Lisette, with her helpful hints and gentle humor, will guide us through ensemble exercises and repertoire



Lynette Colmey and Rebecca McLane

Our first meeting on September 17 will include new excerpts from Rooda's *Dexterity Exercises and Dances*, 3- to 5-part music from the Renaissance and Baroque, Buxtehude's *Missa brevis*, and Raymond Harvey's *Suite*

No. 1. All exercises and music will be posted on the website for you to print for each meeting. Practicing ahead of time is optional! Join Lisette and the Chicago Chapter on September 17 at 1 PM as we gather for inspired leadership and joyous music-making in celebration of our big 65!



Our last time making music together for the season, at the end of the concert

Please plan to renew your membership

<https://chicagorecorders.org/about/new-draft-become-a-member-now/>

West Suburban Early Music Society

The West Suburban Early Music Society begins a new season on September 10 at 2 PM at the Friends Meetinghouse in Downers Grove, playing jazz arranged and directed by Darleen Kay. Darleen plays string bass in the West Suburban Concert Band and in an 18-piece jazz ensemble called the Free Notes. She plays cello in a string trio with the Senior Suburban Orchestra and is the leader of the recorder quartet that plays in that group.

Following a break, members can join a breakout group. The DaCapo group plays at a lower intermediate level, and is good for learning a new instrument. The Alternate Altos play more challenging music, often alto duets or trios, but also other arrangements.

Our dues for this year are \$45 and are due at the first meeting. This is the rest of our season:

October 8	Dennis Sherman
November 12	Mary Anne Gardner
December 10	Self-directed with Holiday music
January 14	Directed by members
February 11	Mary Anne Gardner
March 10	Dennis Sherman
April 14	Directed by members
May 5	Directed by members

We have three retired music directors in WSEMS who can lead our meetings.

Note that our meeting place might change. Please contact Kathy Hall-Babis at kathy.hallbabis@gmail.com if you are not a member of WSEMS and want to participate.

WSEMS Spring Concert May 7

Laura Osterlund led the West Suburban Early Music Society in our Spring Concert, opening with a solo, *Fantasia No. 1 in C Major* by Georg Philipp Telemann. She then led the group in playing an arrangement of *Artsa Alinu*, an Israeli folk song, followed by a modern piece, *Pifferi Suite* by Edmund Knollys. Finally, the large group played the jazz number *A Taste of Honey* arranged by Darleen Kay. The DaCapo group played Renaissance music, *Loth to Depart*, by Giles Farnaby, and then Prelude on "Be Thou by Vision", arranged by David Kemp. This is a traditional Christian hymn of Irish origin and the words are based on a Middle Irish poem.

We enjoyed hearing a Baroque piece played by the Alternate Altos, Fugue from Sonata IX by Johann Mattheson. Finally, Kathy Hall-Babis and Janet Fitchuk played a duet that was recently released in the Member's Library of the ARS. They played *Umulan o Umaraw* (Rain or Shine) by Jaymar Joshua Calayag, a Filipino musician and multi-instrumentalist living in Manila.



Many thanks to Laura Osterlund for her skilled direction of our group last season!

A Message from the President

We open our 65th season after another excellent year. We are playing well together and drawing new people, we have strong turnouts for our meetings, we enjoy Lisette's splendid leadership, and we have cash in the bank. Our April workshop was one of the best I can remember, and I personally am deeply thankful for over 20 years of wonderful memories I can savor. Many of you can remember much farther back than that.

We closed 2022-2023 with 22 paid members, leading to \$1100 in membership revenue for the season, against over \$1700 in annual expenses. But we made a modest profit on our April workshop, and with income from donations and music sales, we were only short by \$125 for the season. That's not anything to worry about, in fact. Thanks to your continued generosity we have nearly \$5600 in savings. But our expenses look to increase significantly in the season ahead. Lisette returns for her tenth season as our director, and we are giving her a much deserved raise. She also plans to lead us for all 7 sessions and for a workshop at the Folk Music Festival in February. So I would ask you to be generous again.

We have a lot of cash in reserve against future need; we could subsidize our expenses for quite a while if needed. But in fact I'm not worried about that. We have been in this situation before, and past experience gives me confidence. In September of 2013 we launched a new outreach initiative, and that's when we hired Lisette as our music director for the first time. When we did the math we learned that we could afford to keep going for two years. After that, we would have to regroup. But that's not what happened. Two years passed, and when we looked at our bank balance again, we found we had just as much money on hand as when we started! Our members believed in our initiative and supported it. I am counting on that same vision now ten years later.

So we would ask you to please renew your membership for the 2023-2024 season, and to consider providing a gift beyond your regular dues.

We also open our 65th season with just two officers, Cheryl Kreiman as treasurer, and myself. I have been reluctant to ask any of you to consider joining us as vice president or secretary because so many of you have already served the chapter faithfully, over many years. For all that, we could use the help. I'm quite content to stand for re-election as many times as I need to in the future; I'm not looking for anyone to replace me as chapter president anytime soon. But I would do much better as a leader if I had more people around me who can offer sound counsel, as well as help with the tasks that have kept the chapter prospering for a very long time.

Cheryl and I will work together to lead the organization for now. This problem is hardly unique to the Chicago chapter, and it's not new for us. Much more important, to my way of thinking, than attracting new officers is that we continue to attract new members. The chapter has more than once outdistanced my pessimism in the past. Our web site and Facebook page have worked nicely in the last few years to draw new people to our monthly meetings. That needs to continue; the problem is that we end up being passive, waiting for newcomers to appear.

Past outreach efforts were fun, but not as effective as we had hoped. Still, the board plans to invite the chapter to explore ideas on how we can continue to appeal to musicians across Chicago to join us. You can also help by providing us with content we can post online, photos, videos, and announcements of special events.

For now, what we need from you is to join us at the meetings each month. I would be delighted to greet 18 to 20 people the third Sunday of each month. Let's maintain a strong community of recorder players, a place where we can have fun making excellent music together, and be a place where visitors feel welcome.

I find it a grand privilege to serve as your president. I look forward to the months ahead, starting with our first meeting on September 17.—Mark Dawson

Music and Events

The **Music of the Baroque** offers another terrific season for 2023-2024, starting with Mozart September 17 and 18 and Vivaldi October 15 and 16. Concerts are at the Harris Theater in Chicago and the North Shore Center in Skokie. Visit baroque.org for more.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SqMOR0QsUAo>

The **Newberry Concert** offers their 2023-2024 season, starting with *In the Castle of the Moon*, music composed by Sophie Elizabeth, Duchess of Brunswick-Luneberg (1613-1676), the first woman to publish music in Germany. The concerts are offered September 22, 23, and 24. Visit <https://www.newberryconsort.org/season>.

The **World Music Festival** returns September 22-30, performers from Senegal and Ethiopia, Mexico and France, Brazil, Columbia, more. If you feel like listening to sitar and drums from India all night long in the Cultural Center, Ragamala returns Friday September 29. Watching the sun rise through the stained glass dome in Preston Bradley Hall is pretty cool. If you can't stay up that late, try the Global Peace Picnic in Humboldt Park Boathouse on Saturday, September 30. To learn more:

https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/dca/supp_info/world_music_festival2.html

The **Fox Valley Folk Music Festival** returns Labor Day weekend, September 3 & 4, to Island Park in Geneva, Illinois. Take Metra to Geneva, and enjoy a day or two of blue grass, folk singing, storytelling, and more.

<https://fox-valley-folklore-society.square.site/>

The **Berliner Blockflöten Orchestra** provides a lot of fine recorder playing on their YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@BBOrchester/about>

This amateur ensemble has been performing since 2012.



June 24 at the Dawsons



Jamming with WSEMS, July 16 in Naperville



Lisette Kielson & Patrick O'Malley, April 27

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	Open
Secretary	Open
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 Lgschub@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Stephanie Duesing (stephduesing@gmail.com)
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

Mark Dawson, newsletter editor

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