

# Recorder Reporter

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

Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society

**Our 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year!**

**October 2023**

**Volume 65, Number 2**

## Chicago Chapter News

After a fine start to our new season on September 18, an excellent gathering of 18 players under Lisette's direction, we would encourage you to join us for our next meeting on October 15. A lot of solid playing, starting with exercises, talking about holding the instrument and fingering. Lisette mentioned that we can skip notes in order to keep up with the group, and she also said that playing fast pieces demands articulation and rhythm, but not playing louder! Long runs of 8<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> notes tempt us to increase the volume. It is important to concentrate on your breath pressure.



Then, music by Richard Deering (1580–1630), his *Almaine*, followed by *Missa Brevis* by Dietrich Buxtehude, the Kyrie and Credo. Solemn sacred music for the mass yielded to a fast Spanish folk tunes from Pedro Rimonte (1563-1627), based on the Spanish form of Villancico. We finished with a modern work, Raymond Harvey's *Suite #1*.

For our October meeting, Nancy Chabala will provide her own music as she leads us for our first hour of playing together. Nancy will also lead before the February 2024 meeting, as well as after our Yuletide and spring concerts, part of chapter tradition. For the 2-4 PM playing session, Lisette will lead us in a pair of Renaissance trios (SAT/ TBgB optional), a 21st century Fantasia (SATB) by Will Ayton based on 14th century Guillaume de Machaut's *Douce Dame*, Johann Strauss

Jr.'s Persian March (SSAATB), and our own Chicago Chapter member Peter Beck's *La Marche des Rois* (SATB). We will plan to perform Beck's piece at our Yuletide Concert in December! Please join us for music making on October 15.

The rest of our meetings for the 2023-2024 season:

- November 19
- December 17, Yuletide Concert
- January 21, 2024
- February 18
- March 17
- April 21
- May 19, Spring Concert

We also plan to lead a workshop at the 64<sup>th</sup> annual University of Chicago Folk Music Festival in Hyde Park on Saturday, February 9.

**Please renew your membership today!**

Please note that after November 1 we will no longer accept membership payments for the national ARS with your regular chapter dues. Please renew your ARS membership at <https://americanrecorder.org/>.

## West Suburban Early Music Society

The West Suburban Early Music Society met on Sunday, September 10th for our kick-off meeting of the season. A small but enthusiastic group played Renaissance through modern music. The Renaissance pieces included three movements from *Lowener Tanzbuch* by Pierre Phalese (1571, three English country dances from the book of music, Playford Dances, and *Kommt, Seelen, dieser Tag* by Bach. We enjoyed playing St. Augustine Rag, a recent release from ARS; the piece was written by William Ruthenberg. We played *A minuit fut fait un reveil* by Anthony St. Pierre and *Giddy-up!* a cowboy song medley of traditional tunes arranged by David Kemp. We attempted to play *S-O-S* by Anthony St. Pierre with its 12/8 time signature and quick tempo. It was a challenging piece!

We are looking forward to the direction of Dennis Sherman at our October 8th meeting at the Friends Meetinghouse in Downers Grove. Dennis reported the

following: "We will look at Nightingales: whether the English "Nightingale," Italian "Rossignol," German "Nachtigall," or some other language, there have been many pieces titled "Nightingale" over the centuries. We'll take a look at several of them, and see if we can detect any similarities." Hope to see you at the October meeting!--Kathy Hall-Babis



### West Suburban Early Music Society Celebrates 40 years!

West Suburban Early Music Society (WSEMS) has been a member of the American Recorder Society for 40 years! Bill Nelson, the first director of the group, supplied the following information about WSEMS. "The chapter was formed about 1980. The prime mover was Doris Van Pelt (now deceased). We agreed to move ahead, so an application was done, a charter was offered, and a number of us signed it. Doris was insistent that it not be called "recorder society, but an Early Music Society", and so the name came to be. Meetings began shortly after that and the Chapter has continued non-stop since then."

Our small but enthusiastic group celebrated with cupcakes, a balloon, and a fun selfie picture. Chris and Nancy Culp joined WSEMS in 1983 and Chris has been a faithful member for 40 years. Nancy took a break due to family responsibilities but has been a member for many years. Congratulations WSEMS!

### Recorders in the United Kingdom

The London *Guardian* published a remarkable article about the recorder in the United Kingdom in August:

<https://www.theguardian.com/music/2023/aug/15/its-vastly-complex-even-dangerous-in-defence-of-the-recorder-the-marmite-of-the-woodwind-world>

The author noted another recent article in the *Guardian* saying the number of children playing recorder in England has dropped by 80% over the last ten years, and the instrument faces the possibility of disappearing from English schools entirely. The recent pandemic hastened the decline of the recorder in the UK, but also of woodwinds in general, as the instruments were seen as vectors for spreading the disease. That's ironic, as we were told the opposite—in some places recorder playing increased in 2020 and 2021 here. The recorder was seen as a perfect apartment instrument for those avoiding crowds, and it in fact playing recorder was thought of as considerably safer than singing in an ensemble.



*Jamming at Nancy Chabala's place, August 26*

### Whitewater Early Music Festival 2023

Another wonderful weekend shared in Wisconsin in June. For the 2022 festival, 40 participants made great music together; for 2023, the number jumped to 60, and lots of people raised their hands as first-time attendees at our Friday night meeting.



*The Tiki Bar, hosted by the Sturgeons, returned*





## Music and Events

The **Music of the Baroque** offers another terrific season for 2023-2024, starting with Vivaldi October 15 and 16. Concerts are at the Harris Theater in Chicago and the North Shore Center in Skokie. Visit [baroque.org](http://baroque.org) for more.

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

The **Newberry Consort** offers their 2023-2024 season, Visit <https://www.newberryconsort.org/season>.

**Apollo's Fire** returns to Chicago from Cleveland to offer four concerts this season. Of particular interest would be Nights in Venice, November 11 at 7 PM at the Art Institute of Chicago, and November 12 at 3 PM at the Music Institute of Chicago in Evanston. The evenings feature pieces by Vivaldi and Monteverdi, and in particular, Daphna Mor on recorder. To learn more visit <https://apollosfire.org/windy-city-series>.

Here's a nice piece by **Lully**, offered Midnight Premiere, with the musicians not just playing period instruments, but wearing period costume.

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

The **Vivid Consort** with David Bergmüller offers John Dowland with recorder, *Can She Excuse My Wrongs*,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LB9USv8VYvA>.

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

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

The **Choir of Royal Holloway, 12 Ensemble**, provides *Ecce Novum*, by Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dIE9yZJE\\_I4&list=RDioBgfmzRLUE&index=5](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dIE9yZJE_I4&list=RDioBgfmzRLUE&index=5)



*Images from the Saturday night gathering*



As always, terrific classes, jamming on Friday and Saturday nights, vigorous conversations with friends old and new, and a hopeful farewell gathering on Sunday afternoon before we all headed for home. When we say goodbye to each other on Sunday afternoon, it is always with the understanding, see you again next year.

The Renaissance choral ensemble **Schola Antiqua** focuses on sacred works from before 1600. They are the artist in residence for the Lumen Christi Institute, a fellowship of Roman Catholic scholars at the University of Chicago. They offer a series of concerts next month celebrating William Byrd for the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death. Guest harpsichordist Jason Moy provides keyboard music from *Nevell's Book* of 1589. Donations accepted for admission.

- Friday, October 20, 7:30 PM, Mayslake Peabody Estate, 1717 31<sup>st</sup> Street in Oak Brook, Illinois
- Saturday, October 21, 8 PM, Bond Chapel, the University of Chicago
- Sunday, October 22, 3 PM, Indian Boundary Park, near Lunt & Western in Chicago

Visit <https://www.schola-antiqua.org/season>.

The English choral ensemble **Voces8** returns to St. James Cathedral in Chicago on Friday October 27 at 7:30 PM.

<https://www.saintjamescathedral.org/music-and-art/voces8-live-in-concert>

Voces8 is a terrific ensemble. Find out for yourself:

<https://www.youtube.com/@VOCES8/videos>

This is a compelling performance of Pie Jesu from Gabriel Faure.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o9al6HNOgSo>

The Dutch recorder ensemble **Seldom Sene**, based in Amsterdam since 2009, offers a piece by composer Hermann Robert Frenzel (1850-1928):

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uLKCCnK\\_aMI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uLKCCnK_aMI)

Recorders and bicycles! Could life be better?

These recorder players like bicycles. I provided a link to another video a year ago to demonstrate that:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AazGWpPSCkk&list=RDSgBe4ZOPDC0&index=15>

For a lot of terrific recorder music from this group visit

<https://seldomsene.com/video-gallery/>

Just because, here's some Muppet bluegrass:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YkEpPuFChg4>

## 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	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 <a href="mailto:lisettekielson@gmail.com">lisettekielson@gmail.com</a>

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](http://westsubems.org))

Convener/Chapter Representative:	Kathy Hall-Babis ( <a href="mailto:kathy.hallbabis@gmail.com">kathy.hallbabis@gmail.com</a> )
Vice Convener	Linda Schub <a href="mailto:Lgschub@yahoo.com">Lgschub@yahoo.com</a>
Treasurer	Stephanie Duesing ( <a href="mailto:stephdusing@gmail.com">stephdusing@gmail.com</a> )
Secretary/Membership:	Elaine Gillies ( <a href="mailto:Jegillies@comcast.net">Jegillies@comcast.net</a> )
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Web page support	Chris Culp <a href="mailto:cg.culp@gmail.com">cg.culp@gmail.com</a> (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)  
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