

Recorder Reporter

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

Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society

Our 65th Anniversary Year!

May 2024

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Chicago Chapter News

It was great fun to open our meeting on April 21 jamming on crumhorns. Long a tradition on Tuesday nights in Oak Park, most of us had not touched these 16th century capped reed instruments since before the pandemic in 2019. And several of our friends, including Peter, Carl, and Jacob, had never played a crumhorn before, but they quickly and skillfully adapted to the quirky instrument. For my part I can remember in years past plenty of times gasping for breath after completing a piece on a buzzy, while also knowing that if I blew *too* hard I wouldn't get an awful squawk—I wouldn't hear anything at all. We did some old favorites, including *O Sanctissima* and *Innsbruck*. I have good memories of our Yuletide concert in 2014, when my madrigal group the Pippins sang Claudin de Sermisy's "Tant Que Vivrai," accompanied by the Oak Park Recorder Society playing crumhorns. Thanks to Nancy Chabala for leading us, and for providing the music *and* her instruments to borrow.



Peter and Carl on crumhorn

Then, Lisette. We worked on Glen Shannon's *Friendship Canzonne* to prepare for our spring concert on May 19, and then Giovanni Priuli's 16th century *Canzonne* #7 and Andrew Challinger's *Ballad and Riffs*. Lots of great music making, again. I don't feel like I deserve these splendid afternoons, but I'll take them. And one more afternoon left to share this season, May 19, for our spring concert. Plan to join us there!

Another fine season closes for us in Chicago, a year full of strong turnouts and splendid music making. The Early Music Festival at Whitewater approaches again, and we will look to plan recorder jam sessions for the coming months. Look for email messages from the chapter.



May meeting, chapter members playing crumhorns

West Suburban Early Music Society

Elaine Gillies, one of the retired music directors in our eclectic group, led West Suburban Early Music Society in a variety of music on April 14th. We played pieces from the Baroque period, beginning with *Jesu, Meine Freude*, by Bach. We also played *Almand*, music by James Harding; *Praeludium und Fuge*, by Friedrich Zachow; and *La Paix*, by Handel.

We enjoyed *Serenade* in F for Quartet, by Lerich, a 20th century composer, *La Palabra Del Senor Es Recta*, a Hispanic folk hymn by Juan Luis Garcia, and an arrangement of *Embraceable You*, music by Gershwin.

The DaCapo group played *O Sanctissima*. The tune's origin is unknown and composer are unknown. Some say the melody is from a folk tune from Sicily, and thus it is often called the "Sicilian Mariner's Hymn." The piece was long used by the Catholic Church as a hymn "O Most Holy" ("O Sanctissima" in Latin, the original language) and it was very popular in German language countries, usually with a different set of Christmas-themed lyrics, "O how joyfully" or "O du fröhliche." When Paul Schmidt was living in Germany in the 1970s, he noted that "O du fröhliche" seemed to be the most popular Christmas hymn, more so than "Silent Night" or "Stille Nacht".



The DaCapo group also played Doubles: Aeolian Pair, by Mary Mageau, issued by the ARS. This music alternated between 5/4 and 3/4 time. It was challenging and we may revisit it next season. We also played Gigue, another ARS number from 2015, by Thomas Van Dahm. A pair of enthusiastic members of the Alternate Altos played Bicinium by Gastoldi (1598), and Sonata III by J Mouret.

We meet again on May 5th for our final meeting of the season. Janet Fitchuk, another of our illustrious retired music teachers will lead us at 2 PM at the Meetinghouse in Downers Grove. WSEMS will not hold summer playing sessions at the Meetinghouse this year, but we are making plans for a potluck at a member's home in August.—Kathy Hall-Babis

Spring concert

We close another excellent year on May 19 with our annual spring concert. This time the Chicago Recorder Trio plans to join us, and guests from the West Suburban Early Music Society. A group of chapter members plan to perform Glen Shannon's *Friendship Canzona*.

To take part in the concert, send the names of the people in your ensemble, the name of the piece or pieces you plan to perform, and the composer, to Mark Dawson at msjddawson@sbcglobal.net.

Join us for a reception after the concert, and then for our traditional after concert jam session, directed by Nancy Chabala. If you can, bring some food or drink to share after the concert is finished.

Early Music Festival, Whitewater

Register online for the annual music festival at the University of Wisconsin Whitewater. This excellent annual gathering runs Friday night May 31 through Sunday afternoon June 2, a great time for jamming and classes in recorder, singing, and viola da gamba for all talent levels. Note that scholarship aid is available.

Several new faculty members join us this season. Liza Malamut is a specialist in the sackbut and historical trombones, and serves as the artistic director of the Newberry Consort in Chicago. She will be providing classes in Renaissance loud band. Liza teaches sackbut at Indiana University. John Mark Rozendaal is artistic director of the Chicago Baroque Ensemble and teaches stringed music from the Renaissance and Baroque eras. He has also played principal cello for both City Musick and Basically Bach, and is in demand as a teacher and workshop instructor. Miyo Aoki has performed with groups in the US, Germany, and Poland and is a member of the Farallon Recorder Quartet and has played with the Boise Philharmonic, Seattle Symphony, Oregon Symphony, and Eugene Symphony. Miyo holds an Artist Diploma from the Hochschule für Künste in Bremen, Germany, and degrees in both early music performance and mathematics from Indiana University.



David Fitzgerald at the Bristol Renaissance Faire, 1990. David was formerly director of the Oak Park Recorder Society and a leader in the Chicago chapter. He died in 2003.



A gathering of recorder players at the Renaissance Faire, 1990. Nancy Chabala appears in front, on the right side.

Darleen Kay, 1937 – 2024

The West Suburban Early Music Society was sad to learn recently of the death of one of their members, Darleen Kay, on March 23. Darleen had been scheduled to lead the chapter's April 14 meeting. A retired music teacher, she was born and raised in Chicago and lived in in Bolingbrook. Besides recorder Darleen played string bass, cello, and several other instruments, and served as a leader in WSEMS. She was a part of the West Suburban Concert Band, the Suburban Senior Orchestra of Lombard, and the Free Notes, a jazz ensemble. She was also known for composing music for recorder and for orchestral performance. Darleen leaves behind two sons and a daughter and four grandchildren.

Nadine Petersen

We recently learned of the death of OPRS and Chicago chapter member Nadine Petersen. She had moved to a retirement center in 2021, and we had not had much contact with her since the pandemic in 2020. In September we would like to publish a tribute to Nadine. Please send me memories of her, and any photos you have.

Madison Summer Workshop

Join the Madison Bach Musician's Summer Chamber Music [Workshop](#) July 9 to 12 at Christ Presbyterian Church, 944 East Gorham Street in Madison, Wisconsin. Lisette Kielson will be one of the faculty offering ensemble coaching and classes, focusing on music from the Renaissance, Baroque, and Classical periods. "It is our mission to provide a place where chamber music lovers can come together and work intensely for a week with highly skilled faculty." Lunch and snacks are included.

Music and More

For **Bach Week**, visit <https://bachweek.org>. Their final concert is on Sunday May 5 at 4 PM at St. Luke's Church, 939 Hinman Avenue in Evanston, featuring the Bach Mass in B Minor. The Bach Week festival ends after this, their 50th annual season.

The **Newberry Library** offers a special exhibit until July 20, *A Night at Mr. Kelly's*, one of the most celebrated night clubs in the world in the 1960s, and the center of a vibrant entertainment scene on Chicago's near north side. It was a destination for jazz and standup comedy, and helped launch the careers of people like Richard Pryor and Barbara Streisand. The exhibit offers a glimpse of Chicago's entertainment culture in the 1960s and 70s.

The **Senior Suburban Orchestra** offers a free concert on Saturday, May 4 at 2 PM at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 5739 Dunham Road in Downers Grove. Besides several pieces by Gustav Holst, and other works, the

concert will feature a composition by Darleen Kay, Tina's Sonatina. To learn more about the SSO visit their web site, <https://seniorsuburbanorchestra.org/>.

At the Night of Ideas on Wednesday, February 28 at the Chicago Architecture Center, I was disappointed to miss hearing tour guide **Sherman "Dilla" Thomas** speak on "Everything Dope about America Comes from Chicago." This of course is completely true. Dilla Thomas speaks of the history of Chicago on his YouTube [channel](#), and offers tours of Bronzeville, North Lawndale, Englewood, Pullman/Roseland, Chatham, and Bridgeport/Stockyards, through his company [Mohagany Tours](#). A fine way to spend a Saturday afternoon this summer.

[Make Music Chicago](#), a fine day of music making all over the city, returns on Friday, June 21. We performed with Lisette for Make Music Chicago at the French Market in June of 2014 and at Lincoln Park Zoo in 2015. Maybe we could try again in the future. Make Music Chicago for falls on a Saturday next year, 2025.

The [Rush Hour Concert](#) series returns, Tuesdays at St. James Cathedral, 65 East Huron, from June 4 through August 20. Doors open at 5 PM followed by a lecture, and then the music starts at 5:45. St. James is an easy walk from the Chicago Avenue stop on the Red Line L. The music is excellent, and free. Of particular interest, the Gumpoldskirchner Spatzen children's chorus on August 13, and Mozart's Gran Partita on August 20.

The Chicago Cultural Center, Washington and Michigan, offers a free [weekly series of movies](#) this summer, taken from the Chicago International Film Festival.

A pair of (very) distant relatives of the recorder are found in the Balkans and Turkey. The **kaval**, an end-blown wooden flute is commonly played by mountain shepherds. The **fujara**, also played by shepherds but in Slovakia, has been dubbed the "power flute" because it can be over six feet long, and is noted for its overtones.

Here's a [description](#) of the fujara, and how to play it, and a [demonstration](#). Here is a particularly haunting video of the same artist playing the [kaval](#).

In this [video](#), "**Why Most 'Ancient' Buildings are Fakes**," the author notes that many of the iconic ancient landmarks in Rome were in fact built in the early 19th century, or even later, like the 1920s and 30s, often to serve partisan political goals. The Acropolis in Athens has seen 25 centuries of change; the scholarly community tends to view the modern Acropolis with contempt. "The Acropolis we see today, many archeologists have complained, never existed. It is not restored, it has been invented."

How we manage and restore historic properties speaks to how we think about history itself. Kreuzenstein Castle

near Vienna has been described as “one of the most aesthetically and architecturally impressive and enchanting castles in the entirety of Austria.” That’s because this 13th century castle, nearly destroyed and then abandoned in the middle of the 17th century, was rebuilt in the 1880s as a tourist destination. The owners moved to the site medieval structures scavenged from other castles all over Europe. The same tour guide notes that the goal was to make the castle “look as authentic and medieval as possible” and then, curiously, adds “The Kreuzenstein Castle has a fairy-tale-like appearance, making it feel very magical and otherworldly.” Indeed.

The ancient Roman baths in Bath, England, were rebuilt about the same time for the same reason—the tourist trade—and many of the early 18th century homes and buildings found in Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia, today, were in fact built entirely from scratch in the 1930s or later, as replicas of the buildings that once stood on the site. Williamsburg is still beautiful, and historic, but one scholar dryly observed that in the 1970s, Colonial Williamsburg discovered slavery. Further west, evangelist Billy Graham’s childhood home, built outside Charlotte, North Carolina in 1927, was bought by the PTL Club in the early 1980s, dismantled, moved to an amusement park in South Carolina, and reassembled there. When the park went out of business in 1989, the house was sold *again*, dismantled *again*, moved *again*, and reassembled *again* in 2007 at the new Billy Graham Library in Charlotte.

By World War II the residents and staff at the White House noted bouncing floors and swaying chandeliers. Harry Truman wondered if his bathtub might crash through the ceiling of the banquet room below, leaving him to interrupt a gathering of the Daughters of the Revolution wearing nothing but his reading glasses. And in fact the idea that parts of the building could have collapsed at the time was a valid concern, with one engineer observing that support beams from part of the White House during the 1940s “continue to hold only out of habit.” So the White House was completely demolished in 1950. Historical treatments were labeled, cataloged, removed, and stored, and then the roof was removed and all that remained was bulldozed. The only part of the original building left standing were the four outside walls. Work crews dug out a new, deeper basement and foundation, installed a new steel frame, and replaced the interior. The White House we see today is a good replica of the executive mansion that once stood on the site.

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	Carl Foote
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	Stephanie Duesing (stephdusing@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
 2425 W. Leland, Chicago, IL 60625-2913
msjddawson@sbcglobal.net (773) 334-6376