

Recorder Reporter

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

Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society

December 2024

Volume 66, Number 4

Chicago Chapter News

Another excellent turnout for our November 17 meeting. Nancy Chabala opened the meeting, and once more shared her collection of crumhorns with us, a second session playing these Renaissance capped reed instruments.



The crumhorn has a pair of reeds, and these reeds were protected under a wooden cap because they were often played while traveling on horseback or in carts on rough roads. The cap protected the reeds from bumps and the musician from an unplanned tonsillectomy, as Nancy put it. The crumhorn asks for a lot more wind to play than a recorder, but not too much—blow too hard and they start to squeak. But if you lack enough of a gust of air, the crumhorn won't sound at all. We played a delightful *Remember O Thou Man* by Ravenscroft on the buzzies, and Heinrich Finck's *In Gottes Namen faren wir* so well that we wanted to play it again.

Then Lisette Kielson returned to direct the group in *Suite à 5* by German composer Johann Christoph Pezel (1639 - 1694). We will be playing this piece as a chapter for the Yuletide concert on December 15. Most of the chapter plans to participate, reflecting the strong interest we have enjoyed in our monthly meetings this season. When Susan Dawson suggested that she might just sit out Pezel's work and enjoy the piece as a member of the audience, the other members present started chanting "Play with us! Play with us!" So she relented. That was very cool.

The session closed with a setting of Bruckner's *Locus iste*. This is a really beautiful piece, and the best known setting of this medieval church processional. We played it at the Early Music Festival at Whitewater. Another wonderful afternoon shared; so much beautiful music made, so much hope for the chapter as we keep gathering in the future. And our move to St. John's Episcopal has turned out very well indeed for us, though sometimes the sight lines remind me of Wrigley Field:



Join us in December for our annual Christmas concert!

Yuletide Concert

Our annual Yuletide Concert for the Chicago Chapter is in a few weeks, Sunday December 15 at 2 PM.

The Baron's Noyse plans to play a piece called *Hoc largire*. I noticed that "Auff Krummhomer" appeared on the top of the first page of the sheet music. First glance it looked like "Auff Krummhomer" to me. Who was Auff Krummhomer? A Google search told me nothing. So I asked for more detail about his presumably 16th century German composer at a Monday night meeting, and I was told that in fact *Hoc largire* is an anonymous traditional work, and that *Auff Krummhomer* is German for "with crumhorns." Ah.

Thank you to all of you who sent me the names of the pieces you plan to perform, the participants, and the correct names of the composers. We look to share a fine afternoon of music making together. Contact Mark Dawson if you would like to perform. We will be playing in the sanctuary of St. John's Episcopal Church

for the first time, and after the concert we will move downstairs for our traditional reception and jam session to close 2024, directed by Nancy Chabala. We might need to start later than usual, around 2:15, as a recital will be finishing in the sanctuary around 2 PM. Join us to make music and to enjoy the festivities. Please plan to bring food to share.

If you haven't renewed your membership for the 2024-2025 season, please plan to [renew](#) now. We would also encourage you to renew your membership separately in the American Recorder Society.

We would also welcome someone to volunteer to serve as vice president on the Chicago chapter board. We boast an excellent virtual board, lots of smart people and talented musicians we can count on to help out in a variety of ways. But we need to have a full official board, and to return to holding officer elections at our May 2025 meeting.

West Suburban Early Music Society

The West Suburban Early Music Society met on November 10th at 2 PM at the Friends Meetinghouse in Downers Grove. We welcomed Pat Badger from Racine, the director of the Woodland Consort at The Clearing Folk School, a summer festival in Door County. Pat Badger is also a trumpeter with the Racine Symphony and a member of the Choral Arts Society.

The session started with three chorales from Bach's Christmas Oratorio, followed with an English folk tune *Forest Green*, arranged by Susan Lindville in memory of Marian McGarry and William Byrd's sacred work *Sing Joyfully*, written in 1590. Interspersed among these pieces, the group also played a piece published by the American Recorder Society, *Blue Toots*, dedicated to the memory of Joanne Miller. WSEMS and The Woodland Consort jointly commissioned this piece.



We played holiday carols from Ukraine including *An Angel Flew Down*, *Abundant Evening*, and *In the Dark Night*, all arranged by Marg Hall, and the session finished

with *Oh, Who Loves St. Nicholas, the Saintly*, published in 1978 as part of The Divine Liturgy, a Book of Prayer.

Then the DiCapo players, led by Kathy Hall-Babis, played *My Boy Willie*, a march of the Royal Tank Regiment, followed by *Yonder Sits a Fair Young Damsel* and *Mowing the Barley*. The players finished the folk songs with *A Newe Northen Dittye of ye Ladye Greene Sleves (Greensleeves)* written by Richard Jones. The afternoon closed with the German *Der Mohren Aufzug* (The Moors' Procession), referring to the traditional parade or festival in parts of Europe, most notably in Spain to commemorate the period of Moorish rule, followed by a series of dances, a French galliard, an Italian pavan for lute, *Pavana Alla Venetiana*, written by Joan-Ambrosio Dalza in 1508, and a Spanish carnival dance, *Ora Baila Tu*.

WSEMS meets next on Sunday, December 8 at 2 PM at the Meetinghouse, 5710 Lomond Avenue in Downers Grove.—Pat Mahoney

Videos of Chicago Chapter Members!

The Chicago chapter has a new [YouTube channel](#).

Anyone can enjoy the videos we offer there, but we don't have very many subscribers at this point. If you have any spent any time on YouTube at all, you would know that everybody who has a channel on YouTube encourages viewers to subscribe and like. Well, we promise we will not try to sell you palm extract pills to cure bunions or a secret Samoan fungal elixir that will make you 75% more—well, never mind. We would like your help, however.

Please open YouTube, search on "Chicago Recorder Society," watch all of the videos, and then click

[Subscribe](#)

We should have at least as many subscribers as we have members. After you subscribe, we will come to your house and ring the doorbell anytime we post a new video. Well, virtually. You will be notified when the channel has new content.

We need to keep adding new content to the channel, and we need to keep attracting viewers and subscribers to prevent YouTube from deciding the channel is moribund and restricting features. If we have a decent number of subscribers, YouTube makes advanced features available. And treats us with respect.

If you have any videos that would find a happy home on the site, please let Peter Beck know. We would welcome your content for our Facebook page too, and for this newsletter. Keep in mind that all of these splendid

newcomers who show up at our monthly chapter meetings find us from our web site, our Facebook page, and our YouTube channel.



Baron's Noyse, Playing at All Souls, November 2

A Letter from the Chapter Treasurer

Members of the Chicago Chapter of the American Recorder Society (CCARS):

I hope this finds you well. I am writing to update you on the workings of our small organization and to inform you of an important vote we plan to hold at our December 15 meeting.

The CCARS Board has decided that it is time to incorporate as a formal non-profit (501c3) organization. Our chapter has a long history of working together and doing wonderful things as an informal association, but it is becoming more and more difficult to operate in this manner. The banking and tax requirements in particular are significantly more restrictive today. We're unable to apply for grants, solicit tax-deductible donations, or fundraise. We can't enter into formal agreements with others, limiting the things we can do or participate in. And board members currently assume personal responsibility for all CCARS activities, which is a barrier to asking people to participate. Recognition as a formal non-profit will ease these limitations.

The Board intends for the incorporated version of CCARS to operate as it has in the past. We will continue to be a membership organization, where all members vote to elect the Board, to modify our bylaws, and make other decisions as needed.

In order to incorporate, CCARS needs to adopt by-laws that are compatible with IRS rules for non-profit organizations, then merge our informal association into the non-profit corporation. The Board intends to call for a vote to do this at our December 15 meeting, and will send you a copy of the proposed by-laws and merger resolution early in December. All attendees of the December 15

meeting whose membership is in good standing for the 2024-25 season are eligible to vote.

The people who have been working on this are happy to talk to you, and hope to answer any questions or concerns you have. They are Mark Dawson, Larry Johnson, Cheryl Kreiman, and myself. Looking forward to wonderful times, making recorder music together.

Carl Foote, Treasurer

Chicago Chapter of the American Recorder Society

Spring workshop with Liza Malamut

We continue to make plans for our recorder workshop on Saturday March 22, 2025. We are welcoming Liza Malamut as the workshop director for the first time. Liza is the artistic director of the celebrated Newberry Consort in Chicago, and she plays sackbut, teaching the instrument at Indiana University. In June of 2024 she joined the Whitewater faculty, offering a class in Renaissance loud band. Under Liza's leadership we will offer a workshop welcoming Renaissance wind as well as recorder, including playing sackbut, crumhorn, shawm, dulcian, and other Renaissance instruments.

The event will be held at the Old Town School of Folk Music at 4544 North Lincoln Avenue, in Lincoln Square. [Register online](#) for the event. If you would rather pay by check, you can bring your check to the box office at the School, or give it to Mark Dawson to register in person for you. The fee is \$100 for the day, and it includes music, snacks, and lunch. Several parking lots are available, besides street parking, and the Old Town School is an easy walk from the Western Avenue L stop on the CTA Brown line.

Please make plans to sign up for our workshop!

Music and More

Handel Week returns, performances coming up in 2025 on Sundays, February 16, February 23 and March 2. All concerts are at 3 PM at Pilgrim Congregational Church, 460 Lake Street in Oak Park. The February 16 concert features Josefien Stoppelenburg and music for soprano and orchestra, and includes two organ concertos and the *Salve Regina*, among other works. On February 23, join Handel Week for sonatas and quartets for mezzo soprano, violin, cello, and harpsichord. March 3 offers a performance of the rarely performed oratorio *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato* HWV 55. Handel himself considered this to be his finest work. To learn more visit www.handelweek.com.

The **Athanaeum Center** in Chicago, 2936 North Southport, welcomes the [Tallis Scholars](#) on Saturday, April 26 at 7 PM. The ensemble offers an evening of

music by Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina for the 500th anniversary of the composer's birth.

The **Newberry Consort** offers their popular annual [Latin American Christmas](#) concert Friday December 13 at 7:30 St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church (4220 North Sheridan in Chicago), Saturday December 14 at 7:30 PM at St. Luke's Episcopal in Evanston, and Sunday December 15 at 4 PM at the National Museum of Mexican Art in Pilsen (1852 West 19th Street in Chicago). The Consort provides 17th century Advent music from Mexico, Chile, Guatemala, and beyond. A lecture on history of the music starts an hour before each concert.

The **University of Chicago Presents** concert series features Lutenist Thomas Dunford On March 28, 2025 at 7:30 PM at Logan Center for the Arts Performance Hall. The concert will feature works by John Dowland, Bach, Marin Marais, and Erik Satie. Visit <https://Chicagopresents.uchicago.edu> to learn more.

A few YouTube videos of interest. This one is for the [Berlin Blockflöten Orchestra](#), playing Bach's Tocatta & Fugue in D minor, BWV 565.

This one features [16th century crumhorns](#) by Thoinot Arbeau, Branle des Lavandieres.

We also have some links of music performed by the late WSEMS member and friend **Daniel Heiman**. Here is the [Sonata in G](#) by William Croft, played at St James Lutheran Church, Lake Forest, Illinois, with Daniel on recorder and Jineen Heiman on organ. In this video, Daniel and Jineen play the [Sonata in G](#) by Johann Christoph Pepusch. And this video features the St. James Brass playing in September of 2018, the [Sonatella](#) by Antonio Bertali. In this piece Daniel Heiman plays euphonium. You can find more videos like these at the [St. James Brass](#) YouTube channel.

Grace Lutheran Church, 7300 Division in River Forest (at Harlem) offers their 54th annual [Bach Cantata Series](#). These free tributes to Bach open with a lecture at 3 PM, and then an organ prelude at 3:45, before the service begins at 4. The church offers the Bach B Minor Mass on Saturday March 29 at 7:30 and Sunday March 30 at 4 PM (also free). The St. Thomas Boys Choir of Leipzig, Germany—a choir Bach himself directed from 1723 until his death in 1750—performs at the church on Friday March 15 at 7:30 PM.

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 and West Suburban dues are paid in September for each new season. 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	Cheryl Kreiman
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, 2 PM, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 North Kostner. Enter through the side door on Byron and go to your right down a few steps to enter the parish hall, or enter in the front.

West Suburban Early Music Society (westsubems.org)

Convener/Chapter Representative:	Kathy Hall-Babis (kathy.hallbabis@gmail.com)
Vice Convener	Pat Mahoney (Pmahoney2024@gmail.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