

# Recorder Reporter

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

Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society

May 2025

Volume 66, Number 9

## Chicago Chapter News

We gathered on April 13 to prepare for our spring concert, playing through *Lachrimae Tango* by John Dowland and *Now's the Time* by Charlie Parker. We opened with Nancy Chabala directing us in Josquin's *Bergerette savoyene*, followed by *Nous semmes de lordre dsaynt babyun* by Loyset Compère (c. 1445–1518). Over 20 joined us for the afternoon of music making.

We also played *Funeral Music for Queen Mary* by Henry Purcell (1659 – 1695), played after the death of Mary II in March of 1695, and then played again for Purcell's own funeral a few months later, and once more for the funeral of Lady Diana Spencer 300 years later, in 1997.



At our May 18 concert we will also close our 66<sup>th</sup> season with a brief annual meeting and election of officers:

President	Mark Dawson
Vice President	open
Treasurer	Carl Foote
Secretary	Cheryl Kreiman

Our entire board is re-elected every year, and the three of us on the board plan to run again.

We need to ask you for some help.

We would welcome new board members to join us, including members at large. I would also encourage more of you to join us in providing music for St. John's Episcopal for their services in 2025-2026.

We are committed to play in their parish services four times each season, and that's been great fun. But the

ensemble tends to be the faithful few. I hope we can welcome some more members to take part.



## Spring Concert

We gather on May 18 for our annual spring concert. You know the drill—make beautiful music, bring food, have a good time. We follow our free concert with a reception, and then close the year jamming with Nancy Chabala as director. To take part, send the names of the people in your ensemble, and the name of the piece or pieces you plan to perform, to [msjddawson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:msjddawson@sbcglobal.net).

In December we welcomed a crowd, as I put it in our January newsletter, “11 ensembles and 28 different musicians, two solos, four duets, and more, a vital expression of talent and enthusiasm.”

And that was splendid, but also something of a problem. **We would ask, for our May 18 event, that you seek to limit your playing time to 5 minutes.** That will leave time for our traditional year-end recorder playing circle after the reception. Please plan to bring food or drink to share. Invite your friends and relatives to join us.

## West Suburban Early Music Society

Mary Anne Gardner led us on April 13th with—spring! We played a number of Renaissance pieces, including *All in a Garden Green*, *Under the Greenwood Tree*, *The Chirping of the Lark*, and *The Chirping of the Nightingale*, all from the Playford collection, as well as other spring celebrations, like the Scottish tune *A Lusty May*. We enjoyed playing two 20th century pieces, *Carousel* by LaNoue Davenport—the late father of

Mark Davenport, an instructor at Whitewater in the past, and the director of the Recorder Music Center at Regis University in Denver, and *Fluturas* by Cesar Bresgen. Mary Anne also led us in *Bluebells of Scotland* and *Dona nobis Pacem*.



Please join us on Sunday, May 4th at the Friends Meetinghouse in Downers Grove for our final meeting of the season. Elaine Gillies will lead us in collection of music that she has chosen for our large group playing that begins at 2 PM. WSEMS is also making plans for meetings over the summer months. We will send out email messages to notify everyone when we have dates and times.—Kathy Hall-Babis

## From the President

Another excellent season as a chapter for 2024-2025. We enjoy a solid group of leaders and a fine artistic director, and best of all, strong turnouts for monthly meetings. I keep counting 20 people, and more, a crowd of fine musicians. It's been a grand privilege for me to make music with you, and to serve as president. We have enjoyed the welcome of a fine host, St. John's Episcopal, and our March 22 workshop was crowded and great fun. We now have official not-for-profit status for the chapter, and we preserved the chapter's 66-year history by donating hundreds of copies of newsletters, concert programs, and other documents to the Recorder Music Center at Regis University in Denver, materials dating back as far as September of 1960.

Our treasurer, Carl Foote, reports "We've welcomed seven new members for a total of 35, played a lot of music, hosted a wonderful workshop with Liza Malamut, and good news from the financial side—made significant progress to recovering from last season's deficit. If you haven't made a donation to CRS recently, consider doing so now. We're starting to think and plan for next year. As with so many things in life, the money

we have available determines the scope and quality of what we can do."

We welcome your ideas. Should we try anything new? How do you view our monthly meetings, and our meeting venue? How would you rate the leadership of the chapter board, and what do you think of our chapter newsletter, web site, Facebook page, and YouTube channel?

How can we build on our success? How should our 1950s-vintage volunteer society gathering to play music from the 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries speak to our 21<sup>st</sup> century culture? Our online presence serves as a means to attract new people. My son observed that with a web site, YouTube channel, and Facebook page, the Chicago chapter of the American Recorder Society has caught up to 2006. Well, with over 3 billion Facebook pages and one billion Internet sites worldwide, our virtual presence remains an effective way to reach out. But it looks like passion for social media is starting to fade. In recent years young people are reportedly switching to cheaper cell phones with fewer options, limiting their posts and time spent online, looking for real community. Owners of blogs and YouTube channels have seen visits and revenue sag over the last seven years as ad spending has fallen. It seems online marketing has grown less effective. Meanwhile the market for mobile apps has grown saturated—and stale.



*Providing music for St. John's Episcopal, Sunday morning April 27. The rector later asked Cheryl how she might go about starting recorder lessons, and one member, the rehearsal accompanist for the Lyric Opera, said we sounded great. "On Jordan's Stormy Banks" was well received.*

Hence our opportunity. I like to brag about how what we provide—real musicians making real music in person with real instruments, playing pieces written by candle light 500 years ago—is so grandly superior to gathering to play video games online with people you never meet and who identify themselves as ungluedspring or fungibungie. If our neighbors are starting get tired of "social" media



isolation, we can offer an alternative. What works best, when we think in terms of attracting new musicians to join us, is our oldest technology of all, getting together once a month in a church basement and jamming from sheet music. *That* will continue, along with some impromptu gatherings to make music together this summer. Look for email messages from us coming up, and notes on our web site.



*Jamming at the Dawsons, February 28*



*Dinner and music making*



## Early Music Festival, Whitewater

Registration for the [annual music festival](#) at the University of Wisconsin Whitewater is now open. This annual gathering runs Friday night May 30 through Sunday afternoon June 1. **If you have never attended before, Whitewater is a great time for jamming and classes in recorder, singing, and viol da gamba for all talent levels, a terrific weekend of fellowship and music making.** We would strongly encourage you to join us.

Whitewater is about 100 miles from downtown Chicago. Scholarship funds are available.



*Paul Schmidt plays an antique Martinshorn, a German brass instrument invented by Max Berryharist Martin in 1880*

The Martinshorn was intended to be easy to for band members learn how to play, as the key system opens a single one of eight pipes for each note. The instrument was popular in parades and festivals in Germany in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. In the 1920s it was commonly featured in rallies sponsored by German Marxists, and then was regularly used by the Hitler Youth in the 1930s. The Martinshorn was finally embraced in the German Democratic Republic after World War II, played by bands from factories and mines. The instrument was readily available and didn't cost much.

## Music and More

The [summer 2025 schedule](#) for the Grant Park Symphony Orchestra is now available. Beethoven coming up, Tchaikovsky, Mozart, Brahms, and more, with a highlight for me, Saint-Saens grand Organ Symphony on August 13.

Paul Schmidt has a set of [early wind instruments](#) he would like to sell, including crumhorns and shawms.

Contact Paul at [ocleide@earthlink.net](mailto:ocleide@earthlink.net). He can bring some of the instruments with him to our May 18 concert or can meet potential buyers individually.

Close spring 2025 with magnificence. That is, beyond our May 18 spring concert. [Music of the Baroque](#) offers Celestial Voices, an evening of exquisite Renaissance and Baroque sacred choral works. Sunday May 10 at Faith Hope and Charity Church, 191 Linden Street in Winnetka, and Monday May 11 at Fourth Presbyterian Church, Michigan Avenue and Delaware Place in Chicago. Both concerts are at 7:30 PM and feature works by William Byrd, Henry Purcell, Thomas Tallis, Giovanni Palestrina, and more.

The Chicago Cultural Center offers a [free film series](#), presenting past works from the Chicago International Film Festival, May through September.

Here is a fine performance of Antonio Vivaldi's [Gloria](#), as it would have been staged Ospedale de Pietà girl's orphanage in Venice in the early 18th century. Vivaldi worked at the orphanage, writing compositions for the school's excellent all-female chorus and orchestra, from 1703 to 1740. The orphanage drew tourists from all over Europe. This performance and documentary, "Vivaldi's Women," was created by the BBC.

This Hyde Park Herald [article](#) describes the Newberry Consort performance at Bond Chapel, the University of Chicago, on February 15.

This [article](#) written by Liza Malamut looks at Madama Europa, the sister of the celebrated Jewish composer Salamone Rossi. Both had dominant roles in the Gonzaga court in Mantua, Italy in the late 16th century, but Europa Rossi is the first Jewish woman professional singer to gain fame outside of the Jewish community. The article appears in *Min-Ad: Israel Studies in Musicology*, the peer-reviewed journal of the Israel Musicological Society.

The Music Institute of Chicago offers a free [concert](#) on Friday, May 2 at 7:30 PM. The One Composer, One Community concert honors Florence Price (1887 – 1953), a pianist, organist, and music teacher active in Chicago, and the first African American classical composer to have her work played by a symphony orchestra. Past concerts in this series have honored William Grant Still, Heitor Villa-Lobos, and Reena Esmail. The chapter's own Patrick O'Malley teaches at the Music Institute.

## 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 Recorder Society and West Suburban dues are paid in September for each new season. Dues include membership in your local chapter, this newsletter, and a welcome to attend the meetings of both chapters. 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	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 <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, 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](http://westsubems.org))

Convener/Chapter Representative:	Kathy Hall-Babis ( <a href="mailto:kathy.hallbabis@gmail.com">kathy.hallbabis@gmail.com</a> )
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Treasurer	Stephanie Duesing ( <a href="mailto:stephdusing@gmail.com">stephdusing@gmail.com</a> )
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**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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