

Recorder Reporter

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

Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society

October 2025

Volume 67, Number 2

Chicago Chapter News

We gathered on September 21, a terrific meeting to open our 67th season. We welcomed 25 participants, and when Lisette Kielson asked how many in the room had never attended a chapter meeting before, five people stood up! And that with six or seven of our regular members unable to join us. I'm holding out for 30 or more people to attend our meetings in October and November. That, I believe, would be our largest turnout for a regular monthly meeting since the Chicago chapter divided to form the West Suburban Early Music Society over 40 years ago.

Lots of great music making, especially Jean Baptiste Lully's *Chaconne des Africains*, a piece we plan to play at the Folk Music Festival in February. For the third hour session, Nancy Chabala directed, and among our efforts, we played Nancy's favorite piece, *Scarborough Fair*, music that gives her chills when played well. She reported that she got chills on the second page, which for her was unprecedented. We were also pleased to welcome Mike Kuby to our board, as our new Vice President, and Jacob Shermer as a board member at large.



A great meeting in September, and we welcomed newcomers

Join us for next meeting on October 19, where Gail Gillispie will direct. We will look at the works of Vincenzo Ruffo (c. 1508 – 1587), an Italian priest and an influential composer during the Counter Reformation. Gail plans to talk about methods for transcribing music from 16th century notation, and how Renaissance composers used pre-existing chansons and madrigals to

create new works. How do we identify mistakes in original source? Join us for an afternoon jamming on Italian Renaissance music, and their forebears.

Note that membership in each chapter, the Chicago chapter and WSEMS, are reciprocal. You are welcome to attend meetings and make music with either group.

Spring Concert

For our spring concert in May, members of the Oak Park Concert Chorale joined us to sing for the first time, two pieces, a Dutch Renaissance work by Sweelinck, and a work by Willametta Spencer, a celebrated African-American composer, based on an early 17th century sonnet by John Donne. A total of 35 instrumentalists also performed in five ensembles, including the Chicago chapter opening the program. A fine afternoon to close an excellent season.



The Baron's Noyse



Rebecca McLane, Pam Weiss and Valerie DePriest



Oak Park Concert Chorale

Whitewater moments

Whitewater in June of 2025 was once again a wonderful weekend of music making. About 80 people attended, making music on recorder and viola da gamba, and singing. We closed with a performance of Vivaldi's *Gloria* arranged for recorder, with a vocal ensemble. That was a terrific way to wrap up the festival!



West Suburban Early Music Society



WSEMS members at a birthday party, August 9

WSEMS held a birthday celebration August 9 for Andrea and Ted Anderson, long time members of the chapter. Ted turned 90, Andrea was 95 in December, and they have been married for 68 years. The musicians included Marguerite Re, Andrea's daughter; Pat Badger, a teacher at the Clearing in Door County, and Kathy Hall-Babis. Andrea can no longer play recorder, but she signed up



Marguerite for recorder lessons almost 60 years ago, using the Trapp Family books.

Then, the West Suburban Early Music Society would normally have opened their season on Sunday September 14. But the Friends Meeting House in Lombard needed the space, so church leaders suggested a meeting for the WSEMS on Saturday September 20 instead. And some visionary leader within WSEMS suggested they hold their first meeting with ice cream. This was the chapter's first meeting with Nancy Chabala as the official music director, and they opened (after the ice cream) with *Scarborough Fair* and a chaconne by Henry Purcell. There were 17 players present. The next meeting will be on October 12 at the Friends Meeting House in Downers Grove at 2 PM.



Recorder players gather with WSEMS in September 2025

Recorder Orchestra of the Midwest

For a number of years the Recorder Orchestra of the Midwest has been based in Bloomington, Indiana, with Clea Galhano serving as the music director over the last 16 seasons. Clea, an internationally respected recorder player from Brazil, has taught at Whitewater and directed a recorder workshop for the Chicago chapter in 2005 and 2019. For 2025-2026, the Orchestra decided to hold some meetings in the Chicago area, in order to better attract recorder players from northern Illinois.

More recently, the [Recorder Orchestra](#) decided to move to the Chicago area entirely! All three rehearsals, November 22, 2025, February 21, and March 21, will be held at the Cantata Senior Center, 8700 W. 31st Street in Brookfield. This is across the street from the north entrance for Brookfield Zoo. The practices start at 10 AM and last until 4 PM. The final concert will be held on April 22 in Oak Park. Please visit the [web site](#) for fees and more details on playing with the Recorder Orchestra.

Membership

It's time to [renew your membership](#) with the Chicago chapter. Our monthly meetings cost over \$400 each and dues cover roughly two-thirds of that amount. Your [donations](#) balance our budget. Thank you for taking part!



Dinner and jamming at the Dawsons, August 9



Playing for a Sunday service at St. John's, September 14

Music and More

[Bach in the City](#) opens their new season with a concert on Friday, October 3 at 7:30 PM at St. Vincent DePaul Church, 1010 West Webster in Chicago. *Music in Heaven's Castle* features works from Telemann and Bach, including Bach's Violin Concerto in A Minor and Concerto in C Major for three Harpsicords.

[City Voices of Chicago](#) offers a concert featuring Thomas Tallis' *Spem in Alium* on Saturday October 18 at 7:30 PM at United Lutheran Church of Oak Park, 409 Greenfield. The Oriana Singers and City Voices collaborate for Thomas Tallis' rarely performed Renaissance motet for 40 voices, along with other music

for multiple choirs from the past and the present. United Lutheran Church is near Ridgeland and North Avenues.

The University of Chicago Presents concert series offers a [long list](#) of concerts of interest this season in Hyde Park. Two approach soon, the Belcea Quartet plays Friday October 17 at 7:30 PM in Mandel Hall (Reynolds Club), offering Mendelssohn, Beethoven, and Mozart, and Capella Pratensis, celebrated for their 15th and 16th century choral works, performs on Sunday October 26 at 3 PM in the Logan Center for the arts.

More William Byrd. [Ars Music Chicago](#) offers Byrd in the Hand, with Artistic Director Jason Moy offering a solo recital on harpsichord with works by William Byrd, Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck, and other late Renaissance and early Baroque keyboard composers. The concert is free but donations are gratefully accepted. Friday November 14 at 7:30 PM at St. Chysostum's Episcopal Church, 1424 North Dearborn. While you are at the Ars Musica web site, see the other concerts they have planned for 2025-2026.

[Apollo's Fire](#) offers Henry Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* on Saturday October 4 at 7:30 PM at the Music Institute of Chicago, 1590 Chicago Avenue in Evanston, and Sunday October 5 at 5 PM at the Chicago Cultural Center at Michigan and Washington in the Loop. Both venues are easily accessed by public transportation.

The [Oak Park Concert Chorale](#) offers their annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, November 23 at 4 PM at St. John Lutheran Church, 305 Circle Avenue in Forest Park. The concert features music from Benjamin Britten, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, and more, and also welcomes the choir of St. John's Lutheran School of Chicago. The Chorale offered two pieces for the Chicago chapter's spring concert last May.

Our friends Lisette Kielson, Patrick O'Malley, and Mira Lorenz, [The Chicago Recorder Trio](#), perform twice this Autumn, November 2 in Northbrook and November 17 in Evanston. They plan to offer a 30-minute lunchtime performance at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Monday November 17 at noon, 1509 Ridge Avenue in Evanston. Before that, the Trio plays on Sunday November 2 at 2 PM at the Northbrook Public Library auditorium, 1201 Cedar Lane in Northbrook. Both events are free.

Recorder quintet [SELDOM SENE](#), formed in Amsterdam by Stephanie Brandt, Ruth Dyson, Eva Lio, Hester Groenleer, and María Martínez Ayerza are a group of five musicians with a mutual passion for consort playing with a combined interest in the interpretation and performance of both early and contemporary music.

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)

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| President | Mark Dawson |
| Vice President | Michael Kuby |
| Secretary | Cheryl Kreiman |
| Treasurer | Carl Foote |
| Facebook | Hyacinth Egner & Cheryl Kreiman |
| Web site | Larry Johnson & Peter Beck |
| Members at Large | Ruth Dunnell, Jacob Shermer |
| 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)

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| Convener/Chapter Representative: | Pat Mahoney |
| Vice Convener | Nancy Culp |
| Treasurer | Stephanie Duesing |
| Secretary/Membership: | Elaine Gillies |
| Hospitality: | Norm Adams |
| Web page support: | Chris Culp |
| Music Director: | Nancy Chabala nchabala5555@gmail.com |

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
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