

Recorder Reporter

Newsletter of two chapters of the American Recorder Society (ARS),
Chicago Recorder Society & the West Suburban Early Music Society

May 2026

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Chicago Chapter News

For our April 19 meeting, Lisette led the chapter through a rehearsal of our spring concert. The chapter opens the concert with Handel's *Sarabande*, and closes with Lully's *Chaconne des Africains*. The gathering featured 29 participants, yet another excellent turnout.

I was sad to miss making music with you, but it has been a grand privilege for me to sing with the Oak Park Concert Chorale. Now I get to perform with you. But you clearly you didn't need me on April 19, an excellent feature of the Chicago chapter in 2026 along with strong turnouts and terrific music making. When I became president three seasons ago I almost set a record of being the only member of the board. These days we have an energetic group of leaders, and I am most pleased to work with them, and let them work without me.



We plan to vote at our May meeting for our officers for the 2026-2027 season:

President	Mark Dawson
Vice President	Michael Kuby
Secretary	Jacob Schermer
Treasurer	Carl Foote

We will also vote to make Irene Claude, Hyacinth Egner, and James Watts to the board as members at large.

A lot of music coming up after our spring concert on May 17. We will likely need to pull together an ensemble to provide music for one more Sunday service

at St. John's this summer; we want to welcome the new rector at St. John's, to be installed in July.

Lots of other opportunities for the chapter in the near future. Chapter members were invited to provide a few recorder players and singers to join the Early Music Ensemble of the University of Chicago on May 17 in Hyde Park, immediately following our spring concert. We plan to participate in performing Andrea Gabrielli's *Alla Battaglia* at the Logan Center at 7 PM.

Sunday June 21, 2026, is [Make Music Chicago](#), an annual event where hundreds of soloists and groups offer music for free in venues all over the city. In 2015 the chapter played in a sunny plaza at Lincoln Park Zoo.



Make Music Chicago, June 21, 2014, Lincoln Park Zoo

We would like to offer music again at a venue in the Loop or near north side. In years past Make Music Chicago has been a delight, lots of great music making all over the city, a great many musicians eagerly taking part, a full day pulsing with energy and skill. Since the pandemic the festival has struggled to recover. The festival has felt a lot less vital over the last two or three years, fewer participants, fewer venues. But in 2026 Make Music Chicago falls on a Sunday, and I would like to see the chapter provide recorder players again to make great music for a welcoming public. My hope would be for the festival to return to the joyful exuberance I celebrated in years past.

Then we also look to apply to a street festival in August, and possibly playing in a public library and an art gallery this summer. Talk to Mike Kuby if you are interested in these ventures.

For next season, we look to recruit chapter members to lead or contribute a favorite piece of music to our monthly meetings during our third hour. Nancy Chabala plans to manage this initiative. And the Recorder Orchestra of the Midwest would welcome new members next season (see below).

This is our last monthly meeting, and our last newsletter, for the season. But we will be in touch for summer jam sessions, and to make plans for the events listed above. We look forward to having you join us for the opening of our 68th season on Sunday, September 20.

Meanwhile the Early Music Festival at the University of Wisconsin Whitewater approaches, and we are already making plans for a recorder workshop next spring.

For now, we look for musicians:

- A summer service at St. John's Episcopal
- Make Music Chicago
- Summer festival and public playing
- Third hour sessions at next season's meetings



The chapter supplied recorder players to play for St. John's Episcopal for their Sunday service on April 11

Recorder Orchestra of the Midwest

After 16 years in Bloomington, Indiana, the [Recorder Orchestra](#) moved to Chicago for their 17th season, closing with a concert on April 25 at Grace Church in Oak Park. Music from the 14th century to the 21st, works by Machaut and Telemann and some very cool new compositions as well, and featuring 12 Chicago chapter members. So I was a little jealous, but the Recorder Orchestra is eager to welcome more of us Midwestern recorder players next season. Both Lisette and Seven offered solos, and Mona Mann directed students from the Recorder Club of the 4th grade class at Lincoln School in River Forest. Lots of terrific music making in a church with stunning stained glass windows.



Recorder Orchestra of the Midwest, April 25, Grace Episcopal in Oak Park



Seven Dindra solos with the Recorder Orchestra

Kathy Sherrick (1953 – 2026)

We have learned of the recent death of Kathy Sherrick, a longtime member of the Recorder Orchestra of the Midwest and the Administrative Director of the American Recorder Society until she retired in 2015.

Kathy had lived in St. Louis, Missouri, and managed the ARS from there. “She was part of ROMW for many years,” Clea Galhano said, “served on the board, helped with bookkeeping, and supported us with her beautiful energy and dedication.” Many of us also remember working with Kathy in her role as a leader of the American Recorder Society. The April 25 concert of the Recorder Orchestra was dedicated to her memory.

Spring Concert

We gather on May 17 to close our 67th season with our annual spring concert. 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 Mark Dawson at msjddawson@sbcglobal.net. Join us for a reception after the concert, and then we close our season with our traditional jam session directed by Nancy Chabala. As with our recent practice, the whole chapter playing together will plan to open and close the concert. We would also welcome you to bring food and drink to share for our reception after the concert. One more opportunity to do something entirely human to close our season—making real music with real instruments!

West Suburban Early Music Society

The West Suburban Early Music Society met Sunday April 12, with 14 players joining director Nancy Chabala with the goal was to prepare for our spring concert. We began with a nod to Easter by playing one of Nancy’s favorites written in the 1500’s, *Easter Sequence: Victimae Paschali Laudes* by Volckman Leisring. This piece is written for two choirs. Next we played *Cloud Jaunt* by Glen Shannon, a new piece included in the American Recorder magazine. *A Song for Japan* by Steven Verhelst was the next piece, followed by *Chaconne* from Dioclesian by Henry Purcell. The last two were *’Twas In The Moon Of Wintertime* and *Bransle de Champagne* by Paulenc.



WSEMS spring concert May 2026

After the break, we separated into the De Capo players and the Alternate Altos group. The De Capo members played *Hornpipe* by Henry Purcell, *Chanson I* by Robert Agnew (2017), and from the Klezmer Collection, *Valodya’s Farewell to Odessa*. The Altos group played *Nightingale*, an English piece from around 1700, *Men of Harlech*, and *Chaconne*, from Sonata #7 in DM by Louis-Antoine Dornel (1685-1765)

Then, on May 3 WSEMS members joined director Nancy Chabala for our **spring concert**. We played 12 pieces, and Nancy described this as playing pieces we liked during the year no matter how well we played them. The performance began with two pieces played by the entire group including *It was a Lover and his Lass* by Thomas Morley (1557-1603) and the *Chaconne* from Dioclesian by Henry Purcell (1658-1659).

Kathy Hall-Barabas and Janet Fitchuk offered a duet, and De Capo played *Chanson I* by Robert Agnew and *Valodya’s Farewell to Odessa* from the Klezmer Collection, as well as Henry Purcell’s *Hornpipe*.

The full group played the anonymous *Pavane and Gailliarde de la Bataille* and *Robin is to the Greenwood Gone* from Ophelia’s Songs from Hamlet by Kenneth Meek. The Alternate altos performed *Chaconne Sonata #7 D Minor* by Louis-Antoine Dornel and a trio consisting of Elaine Gillies, Michael Kuby, and Pat Mahoney played *Scarborough Fair*. The full group finished the concert playing two pieces together. Our next meeting will be on September 13 at the Friends Meeting House in Downers Grove. —Nancy Culp

Whitewater Early Music Festival

The [Early Music Festival](#) at the University of Wisconsin Whitewater returns May 29, 30, and 31. I attended the event for the first time 20 years ago, many of us have been going to Whitewater for a lot longer than that. The festival offers three days of classes and jamming on recorder, viol da gamba, and loud band, as well as singing, and only about 100 miles from Chicago. Bring your reed instruments. If you need a ride, let one of the officers know.

Music and More

The [Chicago Master Singers](#) offer *From Darkness to Light* Saturday May 2 at 7:30 PM and Sunday May 3 at 3 PM at Glenview Community Church, 1000 Elm Street in Glenview. The concert features Morten Lauridsen’s *Lux Aeterna*, Gabriel Fauré’s *Cantique de Jean Racine* and Welsh composer Paul Meallor’s *Stabat Mater*.

The [Lumen Christi Institute](#) of the University of Chicago offers *The Lion and the Lute: Music at the Court of Leo X*, Friday May 22, 5:30 PM at the Rockefeller Chapel,

University of Chicago, and Thursday May 21, 5 PM at the Loyola University Chapel, 1100 Laramie Avenue in Wilmette. Schola Antiqua, the choral ensemble in residence, offers sacred polyphony from the early 16th century. The concert at the University of Chicago opens with a lecture at 5 PM, with the music starting at 5:30. At the Loyola Academy, a reception opens at 5 PM, with the concert at 5:45. Both concerts are free.



Israeli singer Daphna Mor joins Apollo's Fire on recorder for an evening of Jewish and Middle Eastern music at the Old Town School of Folk Music

The [North American Virtual Recorder Society](#) (NAVRS) is an online community of recorder players, a chapter in the ARS, is celebrating their 5th anniversary. Daphna Mor offers a [workshop](#) on music of the Ottoman Empire on May 10 to NAVRS members.

Lisette Kielson joins as a faculty member the 12th annual [Chamber Music Workshop](#) at the Holy Wisdom Monastery in Middleton, Wisconsin, July 7 – 10. Music from the Renaissance, Baroque and Classical eras for singers and instrumentalists of all ages. "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," the web page says, and that faculty includes our own Lisette Kielson.

[Music of the Baroque](#) offers *Celestial Voices* on Sunday, May 17 at 7:30 PM at Faith, Hope & Charity Church in Winnetka, and Monday May 18 at 7:30 PM at Fourth Presbyterian Church on north Michigan Avenue in Chicago. A magnificent evening of choral works, including works of Byrd, Josquin, Monteverdi, and Ockeghem, *Spem in alium* by Thomas Tallis and JS Bach's *Jesu, meine Freude*, BWV 227.

The [Fox Valley Folk Music Festival](#) returns to Wheeler Park in Geneva over Labor Day weekend, Sunday and Monday, September 6 & 7. Take Metra to downtown Geneva and walk from there.

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 Recorder Society and the West Suburban Early Music Society.

Chicago Recorder Society (ChicagoRecorders.org)

President	Mark Dawson
Vice President	Michael Kuby
Secretary	Jacob Schermer
Treasurer	Carl Foote
Facebook	Hyacinth Egner & Cheryl Kreiman
Web site	Larry Johnson & Carl Foote
Members at Large	James Watts, Hyacinth Egner
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 Recorder Society meetings: 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:	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 near Maple Avenue and 355. From 355, take the ramp and go east on Maple for less than a half mile 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