

Recorder Reporter

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

April 2012

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West Suburban Early Music Society

The WSEMS offered an almost-springtime afternoon of splendid music on March 11 in Naperville. They saved the highlight for the end, with the “Large Group,” an ensemble featuring a name far less elegant than the 15th and 16th century works of Holborne, Obrecht, and Praetorius they produced. Otherwise, the name fit the 23 musicians crowded on stage and playing recorder, rebec, lute, and gamba. The Large Group also sang, offering chorus and solo voice to the tune *Riu, Riu, Chiu*.



The appropriately named “Large Group”

In fact it looks like the entire West Suburban Early Music Society could use some marketing flair. As a name for a musical community the “Alto Group” is a step up from the “Leftovers,” an ensemble of members who remain behind when everybody else breaks out on Sunday afternoons for specialized practice sessions. The concert also featured the “Library Group,” a “Quartet,” and three “Duets.” Great music, though. Other highlights included Daniel & Jineen Heiman offering anonymous medieval folk songs on recorder, Renaissance guitar, and voice. Their whooping during *Tomorrow the Fox will come to Town* could set a standard for all recorder players. Karen Owen sang and played rebec with Laura Kuhlman for two works by the Flemish composer Gerard de Turnhout (1520-1580), and we enjoyed some noisy celebrations on krumhorn. Laura noted that the beloved “uglies” in fact did not last long, and most of them ended up in museums, replaced by other instruments that weren’t as painful to

listen to. We, however, as modern Early Musicians, have restored the krumhorn to its rightful place, assuming it ever had one.



Chris Culp, Dave Johnson, Judy Stephens, and Laura Kuhlman offer krumhorn quartets



Daniel & Jineen Heiman

Many thanks again to the West Suburban Early Music Society for their music making. **The WSEMS April meeting would normally fall on Easter Sunday, and with the workshop planned for March 31, the group decided to cancel their gathering for next month.** Their next meeting will be Sunday, May 20 at 2 PM. **Note the change in date, as the regular date, May 13, is Mother’s Day.**

ARS July Workshop Scholarships

You can find out about the July Festival in Portland at the American Recorder web site:

www.americanrecorder.org/events/Festival/2012_Festival.html

The event offers three days of concerts, playing sessions, classes, round table discussions, and coaching on the grounds of the beautiful Reed College. If you need financial support to attend the ARS 2012 Festival submit an application by April 15. Find a downloadable form at www.americanrecorder.org/resource/scholars.htm.

Also, the Portland Recorder Society is offering a scholarship to attend the July Festival. This application must be postmarked by May 1. The generosity of those attending the recent Columbia Gorge Early Music Retreat has made it possible for Portland Recorder Society to offer scholarship awards (up to \$300) to those interested in attending the 2012 ARS Festival. Educators and students are our primary, but not exclusive, preference. There is no geographical limitation on applicants, nor is ARS or PRS membership required.

Chicago Chapter News

The category of Early Music tends to leave out the Midwest. We don't find too many medieval composers from Wisconsin or Indiana. But English Baroque and recorder music appears in the colonies before 1700, including the *Synopsis Musica*, or the *Musical Inventory* published in England in 1693, with some 60 songs, some intended for recorder. After independence—and after the effective end of the recorder era—we quickly start to see what is termed “American” music, though what we played on Sunday were mostly patriotic tunes and derivative works, music that followed the European standards of the time.



We played four tunes from *The American Musical Miscellany* (Massachusetts, 1798), including two “Odes

for the Fourth of July,” “How Cold it Is,” and “Adams and Liberty.” We also played some works from *The Dancing Master* by John Playford, a popular dancing manual first published in 1651. *The Dancing Master* provides music for English country dances and was reprinted and expanded repeatedly until 1728. It certainly would have been available in the colonies, and the tunes played on these shores, using recorders. I bought my copy on a visit to Colonial Williamsburg in 2009.

Patrick O'Malley joined and directed the Music Institute of Chicago Recorder Orchestra in a varied concert, opening with an aria from Handel's opera *Rinaldo*, and closing with the *Suite for Recorders* by contemporary composer Olive Endres (1898-1995) of Wisconsin. The program ended with a piece by a woman, and featured also *The Girls* by Dietrich Schnabel (Yvonne, Rebecca, and Tanja) and more tunes named after women by Erasmus Widmann (Margaretha, Johanna, Magdalena, and Anna). Besides Patrick the ensemble also included Mark Cleveland, Anne Cook, Joanne Miller, Kate Todd, Nancy VanBrundt, and Lise Weisberger.



Join us April 15 for a session directed by Patrick O'Malley, & featuring music from the Ridgeway Consort.

Make Plans for the Spring Concert

Please join us for another festive season-ending afternoon of music making on Sunday, May 20 at 2 PM, at **Covenant Presbyterian Church**. Please limit the playing of your ensemble to five to seven minutes. Any kind of music is welcome on recorder; you can introduce other instruments like gamba or lute or keyboard, or offer choral works, but these must be early music. If you would like to perform, please contact Ben Eisenstein at BenEisenstein@comcast.net or Dennis Sherman at drsynj-chicagoars@yahoo.com and provide:

- Name of the piece(s)
- Composer name, nationality, and dates (if known)
- Movement names (if any)
- Performers' names and instruments

Or contact Mark Dawson at msjddawson@sbcglobal.net. Don't forget to bring holiday treats to share!

ARS Board Meeting, St. Louis

The board of the American Recorder Society held their spring 2012 meeting in St. Louis again this year. The discussion mostly addressed the budget and the festival in Portland this July. With a slowly improving economy the ARS budget is looking better; small donations are picking up again, and the President's Appeal fundraiser in 2011 did pretty well, allowing us to make plans to eliminate the Society's remaining debts. A successful Festival in Portland will help our fiscal outlook. In St. Louis in 2009 we had 80 participants in a much more troubled economy. Also, Portland is a stronger draw, especially for the large chapters and Early Music groups on the west coast and Colorado. We break even with 72 registrations, and have a reasonable goal of reaching 90, and recently we found some ways to reduce costs for this event. The board also talked about plans for continue to publish music, and about the upcoming 75th anniversary of the ARS in 2014, with a variety of events centered around Regis University in Denver. But we are all focusing on the Festival, and actively seeking out sponsors, advertisers, and friends and members to attend.



Matt Ross of Orange County, California, Mark Dawson of Chicago, Mary McCutcheon of Montreal, and Willard Cobb of St. Louis play a quartet at the last ARS Board meeting. Mr. Cobb, a member of the St. Louis chapter, joined the Boston chapter of the ARS in 1959.

One of the best parts of the board meeting every six months is the recorder playing session with the local chapter members. In these events I reach the pinnacle of my artistic experience as a recorder player, great music followed by free food. Also, for the last four meetings Lisette Kielson, Laura Kuhlman, and Mark Davenport have all lent us their astonishing skills in directing diverse groups of musicians in sight reading. In particular I enjoyed Mark Davenport leading the group in a double choir piece, *In Dulci Jubilo* by Michael Praetorius. It's like being invited to a free workshop.



Recorder Players Needed

Tying the Knot (www.tyingtheknot.biz), a wedding service, is looking for recorder players for a Renaissance wedding and reception at the Janesville Renaissance Faire in Wisconsin. Saturday, May 19 at 1 PM, with all activities ending by 6 PM. You can reach Brooke at (630) 794-0825, extension 2. She invites interested players to call and talk about fees and availability.

Some Notes

We will vote on our slate of offices at the May meeting:

Ben Eisenstein	President
Mark Dawson	Vice President
Ann Greene	Secretary
Esther Schechter	Treasurer

Copies of the proposed revised bylaws will be available at the April meeting, or ask Mark Dawson to send you one.

Thank you for all of you who responded regarding our idea to move our spring concert to a more public venue. We aren't going to be moving the concert for May 20, but we are still considering the idea for a concert next season.

Look for a full report on the West Suburban Early Music Society's March 31 workshop in our May issue.

Music Coming Up

The ensemble Ars Antiqua, directed by Jerry Fuller, provides regular world class concerts of early music performed on period instruments. Join them for a performance of Handel's *Teseo* at the Harris Theater in Millennium Park, Chicago, April 21 and 27 and May 2 at 7:30, and April 29 at 3 PM. Call (312) 415-2391 or visit www.arsantiquapresents.com.

Chicago's Schola Antiqua is a premier vocal ensemble devoted to music written before 1600. They offer a concert "Music of the Hours," a program of visual art

showcasing late-medieval devotional guides known as Books of Hours. The art will be set to music sung by Schola Antiqua that was inspired by these books, including polyphony by Binchois, Josquin, Mouton, and Lassus, interspersed with selections of plainchant. Tickets are \$25 general and \$10 for student and seniors. April 20, 8 PM, Rockefeller Memorial Chapel, April 21, 8 PM, St. Clement Church, April 22, 3 PM, St. Isaac Jogues in Hinsdale, Illinois. Advance purchase tickets are available at <http://bit.ly/scholahours>.

The Bach Week Festival opens with a concert on Friday, April 27 at 7:30 at Alice Millar Chapel of Northwestern University in Evanston. Other concerts are on Friday May 4 at 7:30 and Sunday May 6 at 3 PM, both at the Nichols Concert Hall at the Music Institute of Chicago, also in Evanston. Call (847) 293-6686, email info@bachweek.org, or visit www.bachweek.org.

Hear Music of the Baroque perform Bach's Mass in B Minor, First United Methodist Church of Evanston, Sunday April 22 at 7:30 PM and Monday, April 23 at 7:30 PM at Harris Theater in Millennium Park, Chicago. Tickets are selling out quickly. Visit www.baroque.org or call (312) 551.1414.

Early Music Festival, Whitewater

The Early Music Festival returns June 1-3 at the University of Wisconsin Whitewater. Download the brochure, class schedules and summaries, and registration at www.chicagoars.org or the Whitewater site, www.whitewaterearlymusic.org.

Both the Chicago Chapter and the West Suburban Early Music Society have scholarship funds available. Contact Pam Wiese at gcaosapam@gmail.com or call (708) 386-1297. Please inquire by May 18. For more information, contact Nancy Chabala [(708) 442-6053] or Carol Stanger [cvstanger@aol.com].

Chapter Information

Visit the Yahoo group <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ChicagoARS>.

Our chapters are open to anyone, regardless of musical training, who wants to cultivate and sponsor love and appreciation of the art, history and use of the recorder and related instruments. Our meetings, programs and publications help members to come together and to find 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 and in the *American Recorder Society*. Members are listed in the ARS directory, receive *The American Recorder* magazine and this newsletter. The *Recorder Reporter* is published monthly from September to May jointly by the Chicago

Chapter and the West Suburban Early Music Society.

Chicago Chapter ARS (chicagoars.org)

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Webmaster	Larry Johnson

Chicago Chapter meetings: Usually third Sunday of each month, September through May, 2 PM, at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2012 West Dickens, Chicago. Enter the front door of the parish building immediately west of the church and go to the large fellowship hall on the right.

West Suburban Early Music Society

Convener/Chapter Representative:	Judy Stephens (stephens71@att.net) (630) 740-0880
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Music Director:	Laura Kuhlman (laura@thekuhlmans.com) (630) 462-5427

WSEMS meetings: Second Sunday of each month, September through April, first Sunday of May, 2-4:30 PM at the Naperville Evangelical Covenant Church, 1150 Hobson Road, Naperville, southwest corner of Naper Boulevard and Hobson Road. Exit I-88 at Naper Boulevard and travel south. The church entrance is on a side street, more obvious from Hobson Road.

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Content for next issue is due May 25. The next newsletter will be the last until September.