

# Recorder Reporter

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

Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society

December 2012

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## West Suburban Early Music Society

Since I missed the November meeting, I thank Kathy Hall-Babis, Nancy Good, and Jim Heup for their reports. Nancy Chabala led our meeting on November with a program of mainly choral music. We played Will Ayton's setting of the Sephardic song *Porque Llorax* from the November issue of the American Recorder magazine. Everyone seemed to enjoy the piece for its accessible and melodic material for all parts. By the way, I didn't know how to pronounce it, so I listened to a recording by Jordi Savall's group, and the title is pronounced "por kay yor-ash." In addition, we played *Nunc dimitis* by Thomas Tomkins, *Ein guter Wein* by Orlando de Lassus, and an Aria for three voices by Thomas Morley.

Jim Heup continued in the Advanced Alto group with French carols and added *Masters in the Hall*. The Library group finished reading through the **Renaissance Debut** book by Maurice Whitney. Several members experimented with percussion, trying drum patterns for the pavane, galliard, and the regular beats of the allemande and intrada. Tambourines for one piece brightened up the tone. Nancy says, "Good job, everyone!" They also discussed thinking about the music in the context what was happening artistically and historically at that time.

In December, Nancy Good and Eric Stern will join the Old Fezziwig's Band to perform Welsh music for the Red Dragon Welsh dancers for the Christmas around the World Festival at the Museum and Science and Industry. (See *Music Coming Up* below). LeAnne Herrington will lead WSEMS members in a Christmas music program at the Alden Gardens of Waterford assisted living facility on December 14. WSEMS meets next December 2 at the Naperville Covenant Church at 2 PM and plan to feature seasonal music. Hope to see everyone there!—*Eric Stern*

## Membership

Membership fees for 2012-2013 for the American Recorder Society are now due. The national dues are \$45 a year; for the Chicago chapter the dues are \$25, and for West Suburban, \$15. For both memberships send \$70 to Esther Schechter (**6747 S. Constance Ave., Chicago, IL 60649-1015**) for Chicago or \$60 for West Suburban to Nancy Good (**741 Willow, Naperville, IL 60540-7421**).

Members are listed in the ARS directory, and receive *The American Recorder* magazine, music, and access to services to help you improve your playing skills. Local dues also help support local chapter activities.

## Chicago Chapter News

If I play recorder for another 30 years I guess I might start to get tired of William Byrd (1540-1623). But I have been listening to Beethoven for about that long, and to Beethoven I always return. William Byrd, the finest composer of the English Renaissance and Baroque, and a giant in an era known for giants, remains a consistent source of delight for those of us who play his works. We spent a pleasant afternoon with Gail Gillispie, talking about William Byrd and playing a number of his pieces, including *Siderum Rector*, *Terra Tremuit* ("the Earth trembled"), and *O Salutaris Hostia*.

We don't know much about Byrd's early years, where he was born or educated. We do know that he was a Catholic, in an era when practicing Catholics in England were persecuted. Byrd learned to be discreet, though court records indicate his family paid fines regularly for failing to attend Protestant services. Henry VIII (1491-1547) created the English church and seized church assets in 1534 largely as part of an attempt to divorce his wife Catherine of Aragon and marry Anne Boleyn in her place. In response, in 1570 the pope declared their daughter Elizabeth I (1533-1603) illegitimate and excommunicated her. This led to a series of Catholic plots to dethrone Elizabeth during her reign. All of the plots were crushed, but they inevitably provoked a backlash, where Catholics were examined and punished, and priests executed, sometimes brutally. But Elizabeth personally was tolerant of other peoples' religions, famously saying of Catholics "Let them all go to hell in their own way." She could also recognize genius in William Byrd and thus not only made sure that he was left free to compose, but also granted him the royal charter for publishing music in England during his lifetime. Byrd, in turn, produced some of his most sublime efforts to be sung or performed in secret masses, held in parishioner's homes. And, pointedly, Byrd made use of passages from the Hebrew scriptures of the suffering of the people of Israel in bondage in Egypt, or in exile, a fertile source of artistic inspiration that has been tapped by oppressed peoples for generations.

Following the music of Catholic William Byrd, the After Coffee Players, Nancy Chabala, Dale Fitschen, Arlene Ghiron, and Ann Greene turned to Protestantism. They offered a program of music of the Reformation, featuring 16<sup>th</sup> century pieces by Thomas Thompkins, Heinrich Isaac, Michael East, and Martin Luther.



*Gail Gillispie leads the Chicago Chapter*



*The After Coffee Players*

Here is our schedule for 2013:

January 20	Director	Andrew Schultze
	Ensemble	The Pippins
	Food/Drinks	Lynette/Larry
February 17	Director	Andrew Schultze
	Ensemble	The Baron's Noyse
	Food/Drinks	Dale/Mark
March 17	Director	John Langfeld
	Ensemble	Open
	Food/Drinks	Rosalie/Open
April 21	Director	Laura Osterlund
	Ensemble	Dennis Sherman, Mirja Lorenz
	Food/Drinks	Arlene/Open

## Yuletide Concert

The year is coming to a close, and our Yuletide Concert is coming up on December 16 at Covenant Presbyterian at 2 PM. Please join us for another festive year-end afternoon of holiday music making. 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 Mark Dawson and send him the following:

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

You can reach me at [msjddawson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:msjddawson@sbcglobal.net). Don't forget to bring holiday treats to share!

## Performers Music Online Store

Performers Music still has its Loop address and its very cool store in the extremely cool Fine Arts Building, 410 South Michigan Avenue, ninth floor. But for those of you who remain hunched in front of your computer for days on end, pallid, shunning human contact and fresh air, Performers Music now offers a newly redesigned web page, and an online store.

Visit [www.performersmusicchicago.com](http://www.performersmusicchicago.com). The store also posts on Facebook, [facebook.com/performersmusic](https://www.facebook.com/performersmusic).

Better, visit the old store in the Fine Arts Building. This Art Nuveau treasure on South Michigan Avenue was once a great place to buy a carriage (you had to provide the horse) as it was built for the Studebaker Company as a show room in 1885. In 1898 it was remodeled into an artist colony, of sorts. Their annual Christmas open house will be on Friday, December 14 from 5 to 10 PM. Wander through ten floors of art studios, hear some fine free music, enjoy free food and drink, and admire a building that, like the music we also enjoy, reminds us of an earlier, and lost, elegant age.

## Other Recorder Resources Online

### *Choral Public Domain Library*

The Choral Public Domain Library ([www2.CPDL.org](http://www2.CPDL.org)) provides options to download choral and vocal scores, MP3 files, texts, translations, and useful information. This site has been providing free music since 1998, and is one of the largest sites of its kind. Most of the scores available are modern arrangements of older pieces of music where the copyrights have expired, with over 10,000 different works from over 500 contributors. Feel free to copy and use this material; the Choral Public

Domain wiki makes no restrictions for distributing, duplicating, or performing the music it offers.

### ***The New Eagle Recorder***

Dutch musician Adrianna Breukink has been making recorders for over 30 years. She is known for Renaissance Consorts and Ganassi recorders for ensembles and soloists all over the world.

Adriana recently introduced her new Eagle alto recorder, an instrument with a much wider bore and wind way than a standard alto Baroque recorder, making the sound much stronger. The new Eagle allows the performer to play a robust, stable sound over three registers.

You can contact Adriana through her web site, [www.adrianabreukink.com](http://www.adrianabreukink.com), call 00 31 53 4354951 (free), or write to her at:

Nieuwe Schoolweg 28  
NL-7514CG Enschede  
The Netherlands

### ***The Helder Recorder***

Another Dutch recorder maker, Maarten Helder, also offers a recorder with a broad three-register range. But unlike Adriana Breukink's Eagle with the wide bore, his instrument offers an adjustable block with a wind way that is interchangeable. This allows the performer to adapt the instrument to the setting, softer for ensemble play, or more robust for solo work.

Visit [www.mollenhauer.com](http://www.mollenhauer.com) and search on Helder alto.

### ***Red Priest and Vivaldi***

Music in person is better than Youtube, but for those of us who don't have travel plans for Europe soon, here is Piers Adams and Red Priest playing Vivaldi. Visit [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search on "Red Priest – Red Hot Baroque." A variety of videos of Red Priest playing are available online. To learn more about this remarkable Baroque ensemble, and to order CDs or download sound tracks, visit their web site at [redpriest.bandzoogle.com](http://redpriest.bandzoogle.com).

## **Music Coming Up**

**Nancy Good and Eric Stern** of WSEMS will join the **Old Fezziwig's Band** and the Red Dragon Welsh Dancers for a performance at the annual Christmas around the World festival at the Museum of Science & Industry. Saturday, December 8 at 3:15 PM. Free w/ admission.

The madrigal ensemble the **Pippins** will be singing at the Christkindlmarket in Chicago on Thursday, December 20 at 6:30. The Pippins have joined the Chicago Chapter regularly in recent years. Christkindlmarket Chicago is every day in Daley Plaza in Chicago, Washington & Clark, until December 24. This traditional German holiday market features food, music, and plenty of gift

ideas. Visit [www.christkindlmarket.com](http://www.christkindlmarket.com) or call (312) 494-2175. The festival and its entertainment are free.



*The Pippins singing at the Holiday Windows Walk in Forest Park, at Centuries & Sleuths Bookstore*

**Nancy Culp** joins the Elizabethans, a woman's madrigal ensemble, on recorder for a free holiday concert at Gary United Methodist Church, 224 North Main Street, Wheaton. Monday December 10, 7:30 PM. The church is a short walk from the Metra stop in downtown Wheaton.

**Schola Antiqua** offers *Tidings True: Advent Music from Long Ago* on December 7 at 8 PM, Sacred Heart Parish, 1077 Tower Road in Winnetka. On December 9, at 3 PM, find them at the wonderful St. James Chapel, at the Archbishop Quigley Center, 835 North Rush Street in Chicago. The Chapel is on the Gold Coast, just a few blocks from the Chicago Avenue subway stop.

The centerpiece of this Schola Antiqua program will be Pierre de la Rue's *Missa Conceptio tua*. This work for low voices was in demand in the early sixteenth century, but has not been performed or recorded in modern times. La Rue's mass will be complemented by other songs for Advent, including the traditional "O antiphons" and several medieval English carols, including *Nova, Nova* and *There is no rose of sywch vertue*.

Join **Golosa**, the Russian folk choir of the University of Chicago, for their concert "Songs of Good Cheer: Winter Music from Siberia" on Wednesday, December 5 at 7:30 PM at the Assembly Hall of the International House, the University of Chicago, 1414 East 59<sup>th</sup> Street. The music is free, with a suggested donation of \$5.

"Russian folk music, and Golosa's Siberian-flavored repertoire in particular, has a curious relationship with good news. Many songs with the most brilliant, joyous harmonies are those that tell stories of longing, emptiness, or death, as though the sound of music itself



were a bulwark against life's afflictions. So the winter season—a long one in Russia—provides a special opportunity to embrace joy in music wherever we find it.

“In addition to the choir's traditional Siberian songs, this program will include Mykola Leontovich's beloved setting of ‘Shchedrik,’ a Ukrainian carol that has become known in the West as ‘Carol of the Bells,’ as well as the popular Russian folk song ‘Oy, moroz, moroz’—‘Oh, frost!’” The concert will be your first chance to pick up a copy of Golosa's new winter-themed EP, also titled ‘Songs of Good Cheer.’”

**The Baroque Band** is offering a program of recorder music by Vivaldi, Telemann, and Albioni, *Gone with the Wind: Tempestuous Recorder Concertos* in January of 2013. Piers Adams is featured on recorder; the performances are Wednesday, January 16 at the Chicago Symphony Center Grainger Ballroom, 220 South Michigan Avenue in Chicago, Friday January 18 at the Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Avenue, Evanston, and Saturday, January 19, Augustana Lutheran Church, 5500 South Woodlawn, Chicago (Hyde Park). All concerts are at 7:30, all are accessible by public transportation, and the tickets for all are from \$15 to \$35. To learn more visit [www.baroqueband.org](http://www.baroqueband.org).

The Early Music Series at the Byron Colby Barn in Grayslake, Illinois presents the **Wayward Sisters** in concert on Sunday, January 13 at 4 PM. Tickets are \$18 each; children under age 16 are free. Call (847) 543-1202 or email [bcarn@prairiecrossing.com](mailto:bcarn@prairiecrossing.com). The Wayward Sisters quartet features recorder, Baroque violin and cello, and theorbo and guitar. In 2001 they won the Early Music America/Naxos recording competition and have been noted for their “imaginative program and alert, stylish performances.”

## 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 ([ChicagoRecorders.org](http://ChicagoRecorders.org))

President	Ben Eisenstein (BenEisenstein@comcast.net) (847) 998-0198
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Webmaster	Dennis Sherman

**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.

## Tuesday Night Recorder Sessions

The Oak Park Recorder Society offers a fine way to gain regular experience in playing with a group. OPRS members meet Tuesday night, 8 to 10 PM, in the basement of the Pilgrim Congregational Church, 460 Lake Street. Go to the back entrance near the parking lot and ring the buzzer for the basement.

## West Suburban Early Music Society

Convener/Chapter Representative:	James Heup (jamesheup@aol.com) (630) 851-5364
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Recorder Reporter contact:	Eric Stern (egstern1@netscape.net) (630) 428-8464
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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**Deadline for the next newsletter is December 25.**