

Recorder Reporter

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

Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society

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Nancy Good, 1955-2014

The recorder is a welcoming instrument. It asks to be played in an ensemble, and invites ordinary folk to join in and make elegant harmonies. A Beethoven concerto or a Mozart symphony is magnificent, but made only at great expense, not just for fair wages for the musicians, but also in terms of in lifetimes invested in education and in costly instruments. The recorder requires skill and discipline, but it also implies old shoes and jeans and coffee and jamming in a living room or church basement for the sheer pleasure of pastimes with good company. So when we recorder players lose one of our own, we lose more than someone whom we can count on to carry a part. We lose an old friend.



Nancy playing with her mother Marilyn Linden after the winter WSEMS concert, January 2011

Nancy Good was an old friend to many, and taken from us too soon. She was just 59 when she died on November 19 as the result of a brain aneurism. Ed Green, who once played in the Western Winds Ensemble with Nancy, remembered her for “three C’s”: She was Caring, Competent, and Cheerful. “Everyone loved her,” he said, and noted in particular that Nancy was gifted with tact. She always knew the right thing to say to motivate and encourage, to relieve tensions, to keep people working together. Her best friend Marge Reneker agreed, saying at the memorial service on December 6 that “Nancy always had a kind word for everyone,” and when Kathy Hall-Bab is returned to the West Suburban Early Music Society after being away for a number of years, she found “gentle

Nancy there to welcome me back!” Nancy’s sister Betsy observed “My sister was great, not just Good,” and Marge considered the standards offered by the apostle Paul in his letter to the Colossians, chapter 3, where he tells the reader to “clothe yourself with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.” She said, “Nancy seemed to have all those virtues woven in.”



With her daughter Eleanor, and mother, Marilyn Linden, at the January 2010 concert of WSEMS

Nancy Good was a remarkable person, friend to many, and with an extraordinary range of talents and interests. Born in Naperville and raised there, Nancy Linden met David Good at the University of Illinois, and they were married after she graduated in 1976. They returned to Naperville after Nancy finished her PhD in Analytical Chemistry in 1981. They were married for 38 years and raised two children, Andrew and Eleanor.

Nancy stopped working as a research chemist at Corn Products Corporation in Argo, Illinois in 1987 to care for her family, but she was never idle. An active member of Naperville Evangelical Covenant Church, she expressed her deep Christian faith as a careful student of Scripture and in many gentle words and acts of kindness offered to friends and people in need. She taught Bible studies and Sunday School classes, sang in the choir, taught Vacation Bible School, and served on several committees. Nancy joined the West Suburban Early Music Society in the early 1980s and directed the “library group.” She also regularly served as an officer. Besides recorder she played guitar and dulcimer. She helped found the Old Fezziwig’s

Band, providing live music for English Country Dances at Fermi Laboratory and elsewhere, and she arranged many of the pieces the group plays. She also volunteered with the Naperville Central High School Band, serving as the music librarian, as a board member for the Whitewater Early Music Festival, with the Girl Scouts, and at Morton Arboretum, and she spent countless hours exploring the trails there. In recent years Nancy served as Copy Editor for the journal *Systematic Botany*.

Nancy read broadly. Her house was noted for its piles of books, each one read and then discussed energetically. She liked novels, but she could be a skilled science nerd, too. "One snowy evening, I arrived at a rehearsal for *Old Fezziwig's* with a violin, viola, and other equipment," Eric Stern remembered. "She helped me out by taking the two stringed instruments and asked what she should do with them. I said she should put them in their lowest energy state, thinking she would just set them on the floor. She out-nerded me by pointing out that then the axes should be anti-aligned like in para-hydrogen."



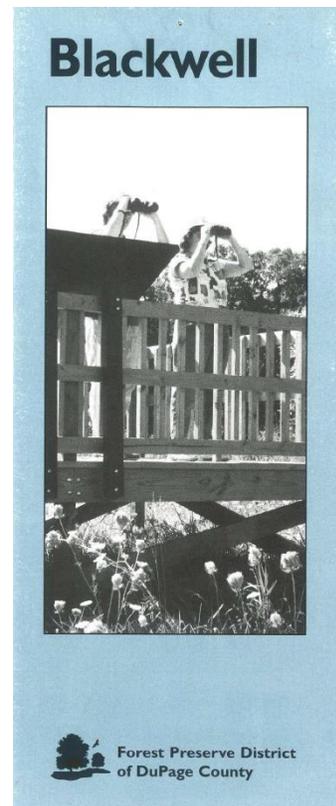
Performing at the January 2010 concert, WSEMS



With the Old Fezziwig Band, Christmas around the World, Museum of Science & Industry, Chicago, December 2013

Nancy loved to laugh, loved to share hours and meals with friends, loved the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Lyric Opera, loved to make music, loved bird watching, loved her husband and son and daughter and parents and sister and brother and many friends. Nancy Good did not love to go shopping. Her friend Marge described both of them as "fashion challenged." Nancy devoted hours to reading and bird watching and music-making and volunteering, but she did not spend hours at Nordstrom's in an effort to make herself more appealing to others. That effort was never needed.

We will continue to make music in Naperville, and in Chicago, remembering what we lost, and wishing Nancy could play with us still. "Nancy was a treasure," Eric Stern said. Farewell, Nancy. We will miss you.



Nancy Good and Marge Reneker, bird watching



With Old Fezziwig at the Museum of Science & Industry

Chicago Chapter News

Well! Our annual Yuletide Concert on December 21 was a good time of recorder playing with friends, featuring a hearty crowd of guests, good food and fellowship to follow, and jamming on holiday music until 5 PM. We are used to quality playing, good food, and companionable jamming to close out each year.

New for 2014 was a collaboration between the Oak Park Recorder Society and the choral group, the Pippins. The Pippins sang the 16th century *Tant Que Vivrai* by Claudin de Sermisy and the early Portuguese tune *Pase el agoa*, accompanied by the Oak Parkers on krumphorns.



Soprano Ilana Shalowitz & alto Megan Sullivan sang de Lassus' duet, *Justus cor suum tradet*. Dennis Sherman & Mirja Lorenz offered duets, including a jazzy 21st century piece by the Dutch composer Guus Haverkate; Nancy Chabala & Lynette Colmey played Telemann.



Lisette returns for our January 18 meeting, with the theme "Masters of the High Baroque: famed greatest hits and lesser-known treats." We will also work on music for the University of Chicago Folk Music Festival on February 13. For our meeting on February 15, Andrew Schultze

plans to offer "A Hapsburger Valentine: 16th and 17th century music from Madrid, Naples, and Vienna." We will play instrumental works by Posch, Flecha, Coopola, Draghi, Schmelzer, and Duron. Andrew also plans to bring a group of vocalists to sing along. Please join us, but make sure you dress like this:



Finally, we plan to hold our March 15 meeting at another venue for Play the Recorder month, as we did in 2014.



West Suburban Early Music Society

For our December meeting we enjoyed playing holiday music shared by several members. Nancy Chabala also shared her extensive library and led most of the pieces.



In the future, we will continue to meet at the Friends Meeting House, 5710 Lomond Avenue in Downers Grove. Nancy Chabala will lead the large group at 2 PM

and we will be breaking into 3 small groups following the break. We are in the process of reimagining the “library group” that our dear friend, Nancy, led for so many years. It continues to be for those players who desire a more relaxed pace or are learning a new instrument. The crumhorn and the alto group also meets at this time.

Twelve members of WSEMS were privileged to play for Nancy Good's memorial service on December 6th. She was a rock in our group and will be greatly missed, as a friend and a fellow player!—*Kathy Hall-Babis*

Chicago Chapter Workshop

The Chicago Chapter is pleased to welcome Letitia Berlin as the leader of our next recorder workshop at Concordia University in River Forest on Saturday, April 18, 2015, with the theme “Forbidden Topics: Music for Politics and Religion (with a little love thrown in).” You should receive a copy of the flyer in January or February.

To ask for a flyer contact Mark Dawson at (773) 334-6376 or at msjddawson@sbcglobal.net. The workshop fee is \$75 for ARS members or \$85 for non-members and includes lunch, music, and snacks at breaks.



Holiday tunes at the Oak Park Public Library, December 20

Chapter Information

Visit <http://chicagorecorders.org>.

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 meetings: The 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 west of the church and go to the large fellowship hall on the right.

Chicago Chapter ARS (ChicagoRecorders.org)

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Music Director:	open

WSEMS meetings: Second Sunday of each month, September through April, first Sunday of May, 2-4:30 PM at the Downers Grove Friends meeting house, 5710 Lomond Avenue in Lisle. 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.

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