

Recorder Reporter

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

Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society

March 2012

Volume 53, Number 7

Chicago Chapter News

Those of us with the Chicago Chapter who gathered on February 19 felt sorry for Louise Austin because we could not provide her with a blizzard or ice storm to drive through from Wisconsin this year. It was no challenge at all, really, sunshine, 40 degrees or so, quite unlike other February meetings in this odd winter of 2012. So all we could do was to enjoy playing recorder together, and Louise has been quite skilled at managing that, regardless of climate trends.



The Baron's Noyse, practicing before the meeting



Louise Austin directs the Chicago chapter

Louise started by offering some traditional Welsh melodies arranged for recorder by Alyson Lewin, with

names like *Hela'r Ysgyfarnag* and *Bugeilio'r Gwenith*. "This to me is a prime example of good contemporary recorder music," Louise said.

The Baron's Noyse provided variations on two themes, *A Solis Ortus* and *Browning, my Dear* (or "The Leaves be Green"). Some 20 different variations on the popular tune of *Browning My Dear* exist from the 16th century.

A solis ortus cardine is a poem written by the 5th century Italian philosopher and cleric Coelius Sedulius, narrating the life of Christ with each line starting with the next letter of the Latin alphabet. The poem was used in the Middle Ages and Renaissance as a hymn, also with many versions produced. Martin Luther translated the text into German in 1524, and added it to his published collection of Protestant hymns.

March 18 Andrew Schultze, director
Music Institute of Chicago Recorder Orchestra
Food Dale
Drinks Larry
April 15 Patrick O'Malley
Ridgeway Consort
Food Mark
Drinks Larry

West Suburban Early Music Society

The WSEMS February meeting was led by our director Laura Kuhlman. We spent the meeting going over our pieces for our concert THIS MONTH! If you've been paying attention, you've probably seen most of the pieces we will be playing, and if you haven't, I'm not going to spoil it for you now. You'll just have to come and listen, March 11 at 3:30 PM at the Naperville Covenant Evangelical Church. WSEMS members gather at 2 PM. The concert will include performances by the Grand Consort, the Library Group, and the Leftovers under Jim Heup (we need a better name.) You and your breakout early music group could also be performing. Contact Jim Heup before March 5 with the particulars of your group and your pieces to be added to the program.

Don't forget our workshop coming up March 31. Information has been sent out in previous newsletters and is available on the web at www.ars-naperville.com. Please get your registration to Kathy Hall-Babis, 245 Indianwood Lane, West Chicago, IL 60185 by March 21. We hope to see everyone there.—Eric Stern

WSEMS Recorder Workshop, March 31

Join the West Suburban Early Music Society on Saturday, March 31 at 9 AM for a day of recorder playing under the skilled direction of Rotem Gilbert. Please register now! We need to know how much music to copy and how much food to provide. You can find more information, and download a workshop flyer, from www.ars-naperville.com or at www.ChicagoARS.org.

The topic of the workshop is Music of German and Italian Masters and is open to musicians who play recorder, strings, and historical wind instruments. The event is at the WSEMS regular meeting place, the Naperville Evangelical Covenant Church, 1150 Hobson Road, at the SW corner of Naper Boulevard and Hobson. The \$65 fee includes music, lunch, refreshments, and a great time with friends.

ARS Festival, July 5-8, Portland, Oregon

The ARS has now distributed the brochure for the festival planned for Portland this July. You can also find out about the event from the American Recorder web site:

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

This website offers a full schedule of events, information about presenters and concerts, and MP3 music files of the performers playing their music. The event offers three days of concerts, playing sessions, classes, round table discussions, and coaching on the grounds of the beautiful Reed College. Also, Portland is a delightful city, and you would be within easy reach of many of the natural wonders of the Pacific Northwest. It's time to make plans now for this remarkable event!

A Letter to the Editor

Nancy Chabala contacted Dennis Sherman to reflect on some issues facing the Chicago chapter. We print her email here as requested, and Dennis' response.

I have a number of points that I would like to make concerning the Bylaws and a change of venue for May.

First point: Your link to review the bylaws cannot be viewed unless you are member of/or join Yahoo-which I don't plan on doing.

Second: You still speak of changing the terms to one year when they've always been one year.

Third: Succession was never a goal, it just was what happened because of too few candidates and people who were willing to hang around on the board for years. Maybe if people knew they only had to serve for one year you'd interest a few more. You don't have to change a thing, unless it is to drop 2nd VP.

Fourth: Most board meetings should be held at the start of a monthly meeting so that all can be involved.

Fifth: On the change of venue for May - You forgot to mention the price for this venue, I believe \$180. The board can't just go willy-nilly spending money without a vote from the membership, especially when there will likely be no benefit from the expense. Maybe we should try to get more of our own members to show up at our venue (in November less than 10 and 5 of us were performing, in January, 9, and 2 performed) before we spend money on people who just might want to listen.

Sixth: It does not make good sense to move a venue. People who don't normally pay attention to newsletters will remember "Third Sunday at Covenant." They show up and we're not there. Not good.

Seventh: This one is to me the reason I will not be there if the venue is changed. Those of us who are not in good health don't wish to have to wander around searching out a parking space, trek a block or more and navigate stairs while carrying instruments and stuff. It is just not worth it to me. The walk from the lot and the stairs are all I want to handle. It is short enough that I can make more than one trip if necessary.

I've been a Chicago Chapter member for almost 40 years and served on the Board for around 10. I know that I am only one person and others won't share my opinion, so thanks for letting me express them.

Hi Nancy,

Thanks for your thoughts. I appreciate hearing them.

My opinion is that on a careful reading of the bylaws you'll see that there is more that should be changed than just dropping the second VP, but I'll leave that to you to decide. Having an alternative delivery method other than Yahoo is a good idea. Anyone interested should just email me, and I'll send them a copy.

Nothing is a done deal as far as changing venue, and the more opinions we hear the better the final decision will be for all concerned. We're looking at ways to find and draw new members, and this is one possibility. The cost of the venue was not forgotten, it was left out intentionally. We have too many members that have an automatic "no" reaction to anything that costs money, and should we decide to use this venue, there are some options to cover the cost that don't involve the chapter's funds. The cost of the venue should be a separate discussion from the idea of changing venues, and there's no point in having it if we decide not to pursue moving the recital.

I suspect that there are other people who will share at least some of your opinions, and you taking the time to express them may help them to come forward. Thank you.

Dennis Sherman

Recorder Workshop, April 6, 2013

The board is starting to make plans for the Chicago chapter's next recorder workshop at Concordia University in River Forest, Illinois. We could use one person to be responsible for planning and managing this event. We have detailed procedures in place, a standard contract with Concordia and a template for a brochure, and members with plenty of knowledge and a willingness to help. But it would be great if a volunteer would step forward to direct the process from beginning to end. Please contact Mark Dawson or Dennis Sherman if you are interested.

Early Music Festival, Whitewater

The Early Music Festival returns June 1-3 at the University of Wisconsin Whitewater. We don't have to tell most of you about the event, the evenings jamming on recorder, the classes, the concert, the food (not too bad, actually), the dance party. Most of you have been attending for years, part of an annual tradition that extends back to 1961. Brochures will be in the mail at the end of the month, but you can also download the brochure, class schedules and summaries, and registration form online. Visit the Chicago chapter web site, www.chicagoars.org or the Whitewater site, www.whitewaterearlymusic.org.

We will again have some surprises and a great lineup of classes. Dale Taylor will be on hand for repairs, and music will be provided for sale by Honeysuckle Music, Todd Wetherwax, Unicorn Music (Charles Fischer), and Mark Davenport. If you want to ask Dale questions about repairs before the festival email him at dale@taylorhistoricmusic.com or call (505) 553-3458.

Both the Chicago Chapter and the West Suburban Early Music Society have scholarship funds available. We want everyone to feel free to attend, and in particular we offer scholarship funds to encourage beginning recorder players to join us. To ask about scholarships 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].

A New Baroque Opera Company

The new Haymarket Opera Company had its debut in late February with three performances of a rare French Baroque work, Marc-Antoine Charpentier's "La Descente d'orphÉe aux Enfers." The company found demand for tickets so high that they added a third performance. The Company seeks to offer historically accurate performances of 17th and 18th century operas for Chicago audiences, specializing in the Age of Reason

and the Enlightenment. "The board of directors, donors, and volunteers of HOC believe that the company will become a cultural gem of the city and region. HOC seeks to engage audiences of all ages with passionate performances of familiar as well as forgotten works."

Ellen Hargis, the Stage Director, is a soprano with the Newberry Consort. She teaches voice at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland and is Artist in Residence with Northwestern University and the University of Chicago. Craig Trompeter, a celebrated cellist and gamba player, serves as Music Director.

The Haymarket Opera Company home is the Mayne Stage, 1328 West Morse Avenue in the Rogers Park neighborhood on the north side of Chicago. The Mayne Stage, built in 1912 as a vaudeville and silent movie house, offers excellent acoustics and an intimate setting with perfect sight lines for every seat. Street and valet parking are available, and the theater is a short walk from the Morse stop on the CTA Red line. To learn more visit haymarketopera.org or call (312) 523-6945

Music Coming Up

Plan to join the West Suburban Early Music Society on Sunday, March 11, 2012 at 3:30 PM at Naperville Evangelical Covenant Church for their annual Concert. WSEMS will present a concert of groups large and small, including a consort of krumphorns. The event is free and open to the public.

Our own Lisette Kielson has a starring role in Handel's opera *Rinaldo* at the Lyric Opera of Chicago. Lisette plays recorder as one of the stage performers during an aria in act 4. Also, Patrick O'Malley plays recorder with the orchestra. Performances are coming up on Monday, March 12, Friday, March 16, Tuesday, March 20, and Saturday, March 24, all at 7:30 PM. Visit lyricopera.org or call (312) 332-2244, ext. 5600 to learn more.

ArsAntiguaPresents.com offers a monthly Renaissance, Baroque, and Classical concerts broadcast over the Internet. The ensemble Ars Antigua, directed by Jerry Fuller, provides regular world class concerts of early music performed on period instruments. Several concerts are coming up. Hear them at the University of Chicago's Rockefeller Chapel at 3 PM on April 1 for a performance of Bach's St. Matthew's Passion, and 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.arsantiguapresents.com.

The St. Charles Singers of St. Charles, Illinois a professional choir of 32 voices, has been performing since 1984. In March they offer a concert of Mozart's works,

four motets and two instrumental divertimentos, as well as the *Missa Brevis* in C Major. Find them at the Baker Memorial Methodist Church in St. Charles, Illinois on Saturday, March 10 at 8 PM and at Holy Family Catholic Church, Chicago, on Sunday March 11 at 2:30 PM. Tickets are \$40, \$10 for students and \$30 for seniors. To find out about tickets call (630) 513-5272 or visit www.stcharlessingers.com.

The Bach Week Festival has announced its concert schedule for 2011. The event 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.

As always, find details for local concerts and events related to Early Music at earlymusicchicago.org.

Slate of Officers for 2012-2013

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

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.

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.

Chicago Chapter ARS (chicagoars.org)

President	Dennis Sherman (drsnyj-chicagoars@yahoo.com) (773) 797-9506
First Vice President	Open
Second Vice President	Ben Eisenstein (BenEisenstein@comcast.net) (847) 998-0198
Secretary	Ann Greene (anngreene@att.net) (630) 638-0959
Treasurer	Arlene Ghiron (afghiron@aol.com) (773) 525-4026
Hospitality	Nancy Chabala nchabala@mymailstation.com (708) 442-6053
Outreach	Hildé Staniulis (773) 363-7476 and Arlene Ghiron (afghiron@aol.com) (773) 525-4026
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
Vice Convener:	James Heup (jamesheup@aol.com) (630) 851-5364
Secretary:	LeAnne Herrington (nelliejane@att.net) (630) 553-5937
Treasurer:	Marilyn Linden (RMLindisfarne@att.net) (630) 406-8175
Membership:	Kathy Hall-Babis (khbabis@yahoo.com) (630) 293-1494
Hospitality:	Chris Culp (Cg.culp@gmail.com) (630) 690-7304
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.

Mark Dawson, newsletter editor
2425 W. Leland, Chicago, IL 60625-2913
Msjddawson@sbcglobal.net / (773) 334-6376

Content for next issue due March 25