

# Recorder Reporter

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

Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society

May 2010

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## Chicago Chapter News

On April 25 Andrew Schultze joined us again to talk about Italian music and music instruction in Europe in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Throughout the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries the Italians were “the cat’s meow” for music and art. Every nobleman bragged about Italian musicians in his court or manor, students from across the continent went to study in Florence or Milan or Rome, Englishmen with boring names like John Cooper decided “Giovanni Coprario” sounded better. Italian composers in Dresden in the 1600s were paid twice as much as their German counterparts, and the court of Warsaw, starting with Polish King Sigismund III (1566-1632) hired over 100 Italians to work in the Chapel Royale in the early to middle 1600s. We considered exercises from several Italian practice and training books for recorder from the 1600’s, and played variations and trills.

For our performance session, Da CLaN offered a variety of short works on recorder and krumhorn, including works by Senfl, Purcell, and Telemann.



*Da CLaN, David Johnson, Carol Stanger, Larry Johnson, and Nancy Chabala, at the ARS meeting in April*

Join Andrew Schultze on Saturday, July 10, 2-4:30 PM in his studio (421) in the Fine Arts Building at 410 South Michigan Avenue for a repertoire seminar on Bach, Handel, Pergolesi, Handel, and the Italian Baroque. For \$20 enjoy a lecture and individual performance coaching. Call 773 628-7214 or email [aschultze@comcast.net](mailto:aschultze@comcast.net).

## West Suburban Early Music Society

The West Suburban Early Music Society met on April 11 under the leadership of our music director Laura Kuhlman. We rehearsed the Simpson *Paduana*#1 and the *Scandia Suite* by Andrew Charlton. After our break, the large group also played through a beautiful *Sancte Deus* by Thomas Tallis and *Battaglia* by Andrea Gabrieli.



*West Suburban Early Music Society, Naperville*

The Library group met in a parallel session after the break. They had great fun playing through their two favorite 13th century dances with percussion. They are working on the *Red House* from the Playford Dance books with its tricky rhythms. Each part was played separately so everyone could understand what was going on, then combined in different ways before coming back to the full four-part dance. Our next meeting will be on May 2 to avoid playing on Mother's Day. We hope to see you there.—*Eric Stern*

## Spring Concert

The time for the Spring Concert is Sunday, May 16 at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2012 West Dickens. We welcome any music on recorder or early music on any other instrument. Call Larry Johnson at (773) 631-6671 or email him at [ll\\_johnson1239@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ll_johnson1239@sbcglobal.net), or contact Mark Dawson. We need to know the following:

- Name of the piece(s) you plan to play
- Composer name, nationality, and dates (if known)
- Movement names (if any)
- Performers' names, instruments, name of your group

Please limit your performance to last five or six minutes. We welcome variety, including choral works, string instruments, keyboard, and percussion. Surprise us.

## Early Music Festival, Whitewater

You should have your brochure for the Early Music Festival on June 4-6 at the University of Wisconsin/Whitewater. You can also find festival information at [earlymusicchicago.org](http://earlymusicchicago.org), or pick up information at the concert in May. For scholarships from the Chicago Chapter, West Suburban Early Music Society and the Oak Park Recorder School contact Pam Wiese ([gcaosapam@gmail.com](mailto:gcaosapam@gmail.com)). Registrations can be taken at any time by Nancy Chabala at (773) 442-6053. Address questions to Carol Stanger ([cvstanger@aol.com](mailto:cvstanger@aol.com)).

## Chicago Early Music Festival

The literature from the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs says that "Piers Adams is regarded by many to be the greatest recorder player of our time." Adams, a British musician and member of the Baroque group Red Priest, performed on Tuesday April 20 with Howard Beach on harpsichord to start the first annual Chicago Early Music Festival. He followed his performance on the stage at the Millennium Park band shell with an afternoon master class for two young recorder artists.



*Piers Adams performs at Millennium Park April 20*

The Chicago chapter helped pay for this master class, and Helen Vasey from the Department of Cultural Affairs made a point of mentioning that several times on Tuesday. We contributed so that Amy Pikler and Mee Jung Ahn could study under an early music rock star. Amy is a junior at New Trier High School, and a student of Patrick O'Malley. Her parents, Charles and Ruth, are both members of the violin section of the Chicago Chamber Orchestra, and Amy has soloed with the group in the past on violin. She won the Walgreens National Concerto Competition in 2007 for *both* instruments, violin and recorder. Mee Jung studied music at Seoul National University and currently working on a master's degree in Early Music at Indiana University.



*Amy Pikler takes a master class with Piers Adams*

The Early Music Festival was full of many other fine moments, and boasted some huge crowds. More than once music goers stood along the walls and sat illegally in the aisles at Preston Bradley Hall to hear afternoon concerts at the Cultural Center, including Baroque music from Italy, Germany and France on Wednesday and the Ensemble Lipzodes on Thursday. Thursday afternoon Wolodymyr Smishkewych from Indiana University led a workshop on singing medieval chants and sacred choral works at Millennium Park.

This event had the marketing and organizing juggernaut of the city of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs behind it. The members of the Chicago chapter ARS had an opportunity not just to enjoy a lot of great music for free, but we were also able to participate in funding the event. As a result we built a relationship with the city that can serve both the Department and the Chapter in the future. And the future is central. If the first annual Chicago Early Music Festival is followed by the second annual Chicago Early Music Festival (and we have reason to believe it will), and if this event becomes a fixture of the city's cultural landscape, like the World Music Festival or the Jazz Festival, recorder players in the area can enjoy both the results of excellent artistry and excellent publicity for many years to come.

## Recorder Playing at Palmer Elementary

Eleven members of the Oak Park Recorder Society, directed by Nancy Chabala, provided a recorder concert on April 16 to the fourth and fifth grade students at Palmer Elementary School on the northwest side of Chicago. We demonstrated everything from the contra bass to the garklein, and offered music on the krumhorn and rankett. The children seemed particularly to like hearing Ann Greene play the garklein; we offered dances, broadsides, early Medieval and Renaissance

works, all with an ear toward what nine and ten year olds might like and could sit through without too much squirming. It was fun for them, and for us.



*The Oak Park Recorder Society performs for Palmer Elementary School in Chicago*



## Recorder Orchestra

Patrick O'Malley directed the Recorder Orchestra in "A Student Early Music Concert on Bach's 325th Birthday" on March 21 at the Music Institute of Chicago in Evanston. The group offered selections from *The Old Bachelor Suite* by Henry Purcell (1659-1695). Joel Spears joined the group on theorbo, and the recorder players included Michelle Ball, Austin Bennett, Mark Cleveland, Anne Cook, Paloma Larremendi, Yuko Nakai, David & Diane Onofrey, Albert Thompson, Katherine Todd, Nancy VanBrundt, and Bernard & Lise Weisberger. To learn more about playing with the orchestra or hearing it perform in the future contact Patrick O'Malley at [PatrickRecorder@mac.com](mailto:PatrickRecorder@mac.com) or visit his web page, [www.patrickrecorder.com](http://www.patrickrecorder.com). You can also visit the Music Institute of Chicago web page, [www.musicinst.org](http://www.musicinst.org).



*Recorder Orchestra, Music Institute of Chicago*

## Knitting a Thumb Protector

Does your thumb get sore after several hours of playing tenor or bass recorder? Mine did; and the situation was made worse because I don't like to play the bass with a neck strap. The solution is to knit yourself a thumb protector! Only beginning knitting skills are needed, and about 30 minutes of your time.



Use a middle weight acrylic or mixed blend yarn with size 7 needles. Cast on nine stitches, leaving an eight inch tail, which you will use later to sew the piece together. For an average sized thumb knit 19 rows. If large, knit 20 rows, small, knit 18. Cast off, using a size 8 needle and leaving a tail. With a darning needle, sew the piece together, hiding the extra yarn on the inside.

If you will be using the protector for performances, choose a yarn color close to your skin tone. Otherwise, the sky is the limit! There are many multi-colored yarns available that are very attractive. Happy painless playing!—Ann Greene

## Music Coming Up

Ars Musica Chicago performs "In the Medieval Month of May" on Sunday, May 23 at 7 PM at the DePaul University Art Museum in the Richardson Library, 2350 North Kenmore in Chicago. The concert includes work

by Machaut, Landini, da Bologna, Dunstaple, Dufay, and others, featuring Stephanie Sheffield as soprano, Joel Spears on lute, and Alison Attar on harp. Tickets are \$20, \$15 seniors, \$5 for students, at the door. Call (312) 409-7874 or email arsmusicachicago@aol.com.

The Chicago Choral Artists offers *Dialogue with the Divine; Psalms of Lament, Praise, and Thanksgiving*, conducted by Andrew Fredel on Saturday, May 22 at 7:30 at the Madonna della Strada Chapel at Loyola University in Chicago, and on Sunday May 23 at 4 PM at the Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 203 South Kensington in LaGrange. Featured on this program are Stravinsky's *Symphony of Psalms*, Pärt's *De Profundis*, Allegri's *Miserere*, and one of Schütz's many Psalm settings. Tickets \$20 adult, \$15 senior, \$10 student. Visit [chicagochoralartists.org](http://chicagochoralartists.org) or call 708 848-1762.

The Tiny Mahler Orchestra ([tinymahler.com](http://tinymahler.com)) offers Renaissance and modern choral works with, *Queen of Heaven, Queen of Earth: Choral Music with Marian Text and Elizabethan Poetry*. Saturday, May 22 at 7:30 at the Heaven Gallery, 1550 North Milwaukee, Sunday June 6 at 7:30 at the Rockefeller Memorial Chapel, 5850 South Woodlawn. \$20, \$5 for students at the door.

The Wayward Sisters, the new Baroque ensemble with a punk name, will perform works of Fontana, Locke, Purcell, Uccellini, Rossi, Merula and Castello at the Chicago Temple, Building, 77 West Washington in downtown Chicago. Their concert is on Sunday May 29 at 7:30 PM, \$15. Take the L, or bike, or park for \$5 validated at 172 West Madison. Call 773 458-8220.

## Chicago Chapter Officers, 2010-2011

We will vote on the following slate of officers for the chapter just before our spring concert on May 16:

President	Dennis Sherman
First VP	Larry Johnson
Second VP	Mark Cleveland
Secretary	Ann Greene
Treasurer	Arlene Ghiron

## Chapter Information

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](http://chicagoars.org))

Webmaster	Larry Johnson (lljohns@us.ibm.com) (773) 631-6671
President	Mark Dawson (msjddawson@sbcglobal.net) (773) 334-6376
First Vice President	Dennis Sherman (drsynj-chicagoars@yahoo.com) (773) 764-1920
Second Vice President	Larry Johnson (lljohns@us.ibm.com) (773) 631-6671 <a href="http://www.chicagoars.org">www.chicagoars.org</a>
Secretary	Ann Greene (anngreene@att.net) (630) 638-0959
Treasurer	Dale Fitschen (Fitsch@sbcglobal.net) (708) 386-9114
Hospitality	Nancy Chabala <a href="mailto:nchabala@mymailstation.com">nchabala@mymailstation.com</a> (708) 442-6053
Outreach	Hildé Staniulis (773) 363-7476 and Arlene Ghiron ( <a href="mailto:afghiron@aol.com">afghiron@aol.com</a> ) (773) 525-4026

**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

President/Chapter Rep:	David Johnson ( <a href="mailto:david.johnson@foresitewireless.com">david.johnson@foresitewireless.com</a> ) (630)740-9220
Vice-President:	Judy Stephens ( <a href="mailto:stephens71@att.net">stephens71@att.net</a> ) (630) 740-0880
At Large:	James Heup ( <a href="mailto:jamesheup@aol.com">jamesheup@aol.com</a> ) (630) 851-5364
Secretary:	Eric Stern ( <a href="mailto:egstern1@netscape.net">egstern1@netscape.net</a> ) (630) 428-8464
Treasurer:	Nancy Good ( <a href="mailto:Good-Naperville@wowway.com">Good-Naperville@wowway.com</a> ) (630) 355-6690
Membership:	Carol Stanger ( <a href="mailto:cvstanger@aol.com">cvstanger@aol.com</a> ) (630) 789-6402
Hospitality:	Nancy Finley ( <a href="mailto:nfelma3@comcast.net">nfelma3@comcast.net</a> ) (630) 554-4363

**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, editor**

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**This is the last issue until September.**