

Recorder Reporter

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

May 2012

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West Suburban Early Music Society

The West Suburban Early Music society hosted our first workshop in recent memory on March 31 featuring Rotem Gilbert, co-director of the Ciaramella early music ensemble. Dr. Gilbert coached 37 people through varied works of the Renaissance and Baroque periods. A special treat was playing through several Italian double choir pieces by Viadana, Picci, and others that was made possible because of the excellent attendance and multiple low recorders (and serpent) to fill out a solid bass section. The day began with reading a six part piece by Hans Leo Hassler. We continued with the double choir pieces, a six part Schmelzer piece, and concluded with an arrangement of Handel's first Water Music suite for recorder orchestra.



Rotem Gilbert directs the March 31 WSEMS workshop



Participants in the WSEMS workshop

If there was a takeaway theme for the workshop, I would say it was the importance of paying attention to "strong-weak." Different notes in a phrase have different emphasis, with the first note usually more important than the second and later notes. We were also instructed to pay attention to our articulation so that the less emphasized parts of the phrase have a softer and lighter touch than the beginnings of phrases. Just to be complete we also had to pay attention to the endings of phrases, especially the politically-incorrectly-named feminine endings.

We thank the organizers, the volunteers, the attendees, and Rotem for a rewarding and memorable experience.—*Eric Stern*

The next meeting for the West Suburban Early Music Society will be on Sunday, May 20 at 2 PM. **Note the change in date, as the regular date, May 13, is Mother's Day.**

Chicago Chapter News

Patrick O'Malley directed the Chicago chapter meeting on April 15. We started out playing selections from *Tafelmusik* by Johann Fischer (1646-1721). The piece was arranged by Hans Ulrich Staeps (1909-1988), the German composer and music professor who created a variety of pieces for recorder. Staeps was a student of German composer Paul Hindemith (1895-1963), who fled to the US to avoid the Nazis in 1939.



Patrick O'Malley directs the Chicago Chapter Meeting

Following Staeps we played four arias taken from the opera *Rinaldo* by Handel (1711) and then delved into works by the Danish composer Carl Nielson, *Psalms and Other Songs, 50 melodies for Home, Church, and School*.

So we wrap up a successful year of playing together. Our next and final meeting for 2012 is our spring concert on May 20. We will plan to vote on our slate of offices for 2012-2013 at the May meeting:

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

**Make plans to join us for the May 20 spring concert!
We need to know what you are planning to play.**

Our Early Music Friends at the BBC

The British Broadcasting Corporation offers a regular hour-long program, the BBC Radio 3 Early Music Show, featuring music from the middle ages, Renaissance, and Baroque era. Visit this link:

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006tn49

An hour-long program featuring Piffaro was provided on April 12. The program includes an interview with Joan Kimball and a lot of music. To hear it online, visit:

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006tn49/episodes/2012

The Early Music Show offers two different programs per week. Thanks to Jineen Heiman for letting us know about this online resource.

Chicago Chapter Spring Concert

Please join us for another festive season-ending afternoon of music making on Sunday, May 20 at 2 PM, 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 drsnyj-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 treats to share!

Post-Renaissance Era Security Methods

Many of you received emails recently from two of our recorder playing friends, issuing appeals for financial help. One was stranded in Spain, the other, in the Philippines. Both had been mugged.

Right.

A friend sent me an email, "016782 Report" with an attached PDF file that was best left unopened.

Then another friend told me that *I* had been hit by a spam bot myself. Robert forwarded me a message from "me:"

Learn h0w t0 turn successful with y0ur Own h0me business.

We changed our password, and a few days later it happened again! Now I was offering my friends a way to earn \$7500 a month, with a hyperlink for more details.

This seems to be happening a lot lately.

I must confess I'm not sure what a space cadet hacker from Romania or the Central African Republic stands to gain by breaking into a recorder player's email account and using it to send out an emergency appeal for donations. After all, we recorder players are smart as well as talented, and also good looking.

But hacker software can be used to guess a password and gain access to legitimate email accounts in order to

distribute spam. You might be more likely to read something coming from a friend or relative. The spam can also be used for fraud. We think ridiculous those email messages coming from the daughter of the now-deceased Finance Minister of Nigeria, who wants to move \$4.2 million out of the country and thought you might be interested in helping out by offering your bank account number. But if the scam artist can send out millions of copies for free, he doesn't need to find very many people to respond in order to make a few dollars.

Here are a few ideas to protect yourself from online threats. Make sure you use strong passwords. Password hacking tools start by searching through words in the dictionary; if your password is "recorder" a hacker will have it in two or three seconds. If your password is "Re{0rd9r" it likely never will. Use passwords with a mix of upper and lower case letters, numerals, and special characters. My current password features seven letters, eight numerals, and a special character. ATT says it is an excellent password. I hope so.

Run virus protection software on your computer and make sure the definitions are kept up to date. Symantec and McAfee are the primary vendors for these products, though Microsoft has some good products too. Also run a firewall to block access to your machine from a hacker who would try to intrude through your network link.

In addition to password control, another way that may add safety to email messages you send is to use the blind copy feature (Bcc on most email programs) for the addresses when sending out an email to a large group of people. This way if an individual message is hijacked, the emails of the addressees are hidden.

ARS Scholarships

The American Recorder Society (ARS) offers summer scholarships for music workshops for the young and the young at heart. If you need financial support to attend the ARS 2012 Festival you are encouraged to submit your application. Find a downloadable form at www.americanrecorder.org/resource/scholars.htm.

Applications must be postmarked by April 15.

Also, the Portland Recorder Society is offering a scholarship to attend the July Festival. This application must be postmarked by May 1, 2012. 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.

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.

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 form online. Visit the Chicago chapter web site, www.chicagoars.org or the Whitewater site, www.whitewaterearlymusic.org.

It's not too late to send in your applications, either by mail to Pam Wiese or directly to Nancy Chabala.

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].

Music Coming Up

The annual summer Garage Band, sponsored by the West Suburban Early Music Society and hosted by Rich & Laura Kuhlman in Winfield, is scheduled this year for August 12!

If you really like Medieval and Renaissance music, a Society for Creative Anachronism event planned for Saturday, May 12 near Ann Arbor, Michigan might appeal to you. St. Cecilia at the Tower is a workshop devoted to music, with four tracks of classes from 10 AM to 5 PM for vocalists, instruments, and lectures. The event also offers an evening concert, a singing circle, and opportunities to sight read music in a group. If you own or can borrow some Renaissance garb, period dress is appreciated during the day and requested for the evening activities. The event costs just \$10 and is at the St. Paul United Church of Christ in Saline, at 122 West Michigan Avenue. To learn more visit:

<http://cynnabar.org/Cecilia>

The Indianapolis Early Music Festival is coming up in June and July. The festival was launched in 1966 and concerts take place at the Indiana History Center in Indianapolis on June 22, 24, 29, and 30, and July 11, 13, and 15. The music sounds worth a drive (or train ride). The season opens with Bach violin concerti on June 22, followed on June 24 by 17th century works for harpsichord. Later concerts feature works for lute and gamba, recorder players from Piffaro joining Yo Yo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble, and 14th and 15th century English fare accompanying a screening of the 1922 silent film classic Robin Hood, starring the ever-smiling Douglas Fairbanks, jr. To learn more visit www.emindy.org.

The Grant Park Music Festival opens this year at Millennium Park on June 13 and runs through August 18. Listen to Mozart and Strauss, Bizet and Stravinsky, Brahms and Rachmaninov, Beethoven and Mendelssohn, and much more. Not much in the way of Early Music, but lots of great music, and it's all free.

Visit <http://grantparkmusicfestival.com>.

Recorder Players Needed, for Hire

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. The wedding will be on 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 player to call and talk about fees and availability.

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 (drsynj-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
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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

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This is the last newsletter for the season. See you in September.