

Recorder Reporter

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

October 2012

Volume 54, Number 2

West Suburban Early Music Society

The first meeting of the West Suburban Early Music society of 2012-13 playing began with a beautiful performance by Kristina Power of movements I and IV from *Sonata #1 for Alto Recorder and Basso Continuo* by Ignazio Sieber, a contemporary of Vivaldi. Kristina was accompanied by her voice instructor Robert Holst, Associate Professor of Music at Lewis University. Then in a reverse of our usual order we broke up into our smaller groups. Laura led the krumhorn group in pieces from several collections. Jim Heup led the AA session (Advanced Altos) reading selections from a new book of alto duets by Jonathan DeLoach, which combines assorted movements of sonatas by Jean Baptiste Loeillet de Gant and Esprit Philippe Chédeville with French Christmas carols. Nancy Good led the Library Group. After our break Laura led the large group in several pieces culminating in grand style with a Gabrielli double choir piece using bass and great bass in the second choir.



Kristina Power accompanied by Robert Holst playing the Sonata in A minor for Alto Recorder by Ignazio Sieber

If you haven't already done so, please send in your dues for 2013. Our next meeting will be on October 14 at the Naperville Covenant Church (usual place.) Laura promises us more work on the Gabrielli and more great 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

For our season-opening meeting, the Oak Park Recorder Society offered a series of modern works, Chicago contest winners and ARS editions. Every piece but one was written in the late 20th or early 21st century. Glen Shannon's "Fugue," from *Wanderlust*, was particularly fine, both as a composition and in performance. Other composers who were represented included Richard Eastman, Karl Stetson, and Nancy Bloomer-Deusen.



Oak Park Recorder Society, September meeting

For our October 21 meeting our old friend Louise Austin joins us as director. As we are shy an ensemble to perform for October at this point, we look forward to jamming the afternoon away.

We also plan on a board meeting at 12:30 before we start playing. Anyone who is interested in participating is welcome to join us. Ann and Ben will provide food and drinks for October. Note that we need our friends to sign up to bring refreshments for upcoming meetings, and we need to recruit some more ensembles to perform.

Our annual Yuletide concert will be on December 16, and the Spring concert on May 19. Here's the schedule we have been able to work out so far for the year ahead:

November 18	Director	Gail Gillispie
	Ensemble	After Coffee Players
	Food/Drinks	Nadine/Larry
January 20	Director	Andrew Schultze
	Ensemble	Open
	Food/Drinks	Open
February 17	Director	Andrew Schultze
	Ensemble	The Baron's Noyse
	Food/Drinks	Dale/open
March 17	Director	John Langfeld
	Ensemble	Open
	Food/Drinks	Open
April 21	Director	Laura Osterlund
	Ensemble	Dennis Sherman, Mirja Lorenz
	Food/Drinks	Open

Chicago Chapter Workshop

The Chicago Chapter announces our next workshop at Concordia University, River Forest, on April 6, 2013. We have invited Bob Wiemken, the Artistic Co-Director of Piffaro. Bob focuses on recorder and double reed instruments from the Medieval and Baroque periods. With Piffaro he has toured all over the world, and he has also performed with many other ensembles, including Early Music New York, the Boston Early Music Festival Orchestra, the Folger Consort, King's Noyse, Parthenia, and the Newberry Consort and Brandywine Baroque.

The theme for the event will be "Puzzles, Canons and Renaissance Unica." Bob notes, "Composers from the late 14th through the 16th centuries loved to create puzzles and canons either as a challenge to the performer or just as musical games, or simply to prove it theoretically possible. Many of these works are as entertaining as they are fascinating, laced with humor and evincing wink-of-the-eye feats of compositional mastery. Included will be Machaut's *Ma fin est mon commencement*, a circular canon by Bartolomeo Ramos, some single, double and triple canons by Josquin Desprez, Antoine Busnois, Johannes Ockeghem, Jacob Obrecht, and William Byrd."

Children's Clinic Holiday Housewalk

The 14th Annual Holiday Housewalk and Market, sponsored by the Infant Welfare Society of Oak Park, is scheduled this year for Thursday through Saturday, November 29 through December 1. This popular event raises funds for the Children's Clinic, devoted to providing quality dental, medical and mental health services to the children of Oak Park and River Forest. This not-for-profit clinic charges fees on a sliding scale based on the family's ability to pay, and has been serving the community for 95 years.

The Holiday Housewalk chair, Lisa Gillis, is inviting us to provide music for the event, as we did last year. Musicians and groups are asked to commit to one or more one hour time slots on Friday, November 30 from 5 to 9 PM and on Saturday, December 1 from 1 to 5 PM.

"Music has been a large part of the Holiday Housewalk for over a decade and our music program is increasingly called out as a major highlight of the event," Lisa says.

Let me know if you are interested, and your date and time preferences. Feel free to contact Lisa Gillis directly, at Lisa@Gillis-Direct.com, or call 708-488-1070 (home) or 708-359-1109 (cell).

Haymarket Opera Company

Wow! I took my sons to see the Haymarket Opera Company's performance of Handel's *Clori, Tirsi, & Fileno* at the Mayne Stage in Rogers Park last September 1. The singing and the musicianship of the orchestra were wonderful. I'm not generally much of an opera fan but all three of us were enchanted that Saturday night by the fine soprano voices, the acting, the theater space, and the skill and energy of the musicians in the orchestra. Recorder playing, too. Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* will be showing at the Mayne Stage in Rogers Park on February 15 and 16 of 2013. Visit <http://haymarketopera.org>.

July Recorder Festival, Portland

The Recorder Festival in Portland in July of 2012 was "a resounding success on every level," according to ARS board member Matt Ross. The event drew over 75 participants and featured a wide range of classes, lectures, and gatherings. The faculty and concerts were superb, members of the community showed up in large numbers at public offerings, and the event was distinctive in that it featured some fascinating and unusual material about the music of ancient Rome, Greece, and Sumeria.

ARS board members and friends worked hard for a year and contributed generously to create the festival, and the effort demonstrated that the ARS can meet goals and accomplish something grand. Moreover, in recent years we have seen a proliferation of early music events, festivals, and workshops. That we were able to do so well in the face of a weak economy and growing competition speaks well of the people who contributed in many ways, of the skill of the faculty and performers, and of Portland, Oregon, an excellent destination for a summer holiday. We learned a lot from this Festival and will apply our wisdom gained to the next effort. The board is considering another festival to follow in a few years.

Because so many of our members, chapters, and consorts contributed to making the ARS Festival a success, we

are excited to announce that a large portion of the Festival proceeds, together with funds from a special gift to the ARS known as the Daniel Morris Fund, will be used to create an account devoted specifically to chapter grants. The board decided that the criteria for chapter grants will be changed and the purposes for which a chapter grant may be sought will be expanded. Chapters will be encouraged to apply to the board for help in funding special efforts, such as a workshop, or a chapter brochure, or to design a new web page. Also, festival proceeds and money from the Daniel Morris Fund will be used to overhaul and upgrade the ARS website, pay off our remaining debt, and create a cash reserve. These efforts will place ARS in a stronger financial position and enhance member services.

Another Online Recorder Resource

I was recently told of another web page of interest to recorder players, www.recorder-fingerings.com. From the home page, click a type of fingering, including Renaissance, English, German, Trill, Gemshorn, and others. Select an instrument, a fingering for that instrument, and then click on a note.

Point to any note with your cursor and the fingering for that note shows up, digital magic.

You can also print out fingering charts, or select an instrument maker and choose a fingering for one of their products.

Music Coming Up

The Chicago Syntagma Musicaum, Andrew Schultze, director, joins the Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra in *The Worldly Bach: Leipzig 1730* at the Harris Theater of the Performing Arts in Chicago's Millennium Park (205 East Randolph) on Sunday, October 14 at 2 PM.

Regular tickets are \$30 to \$35, with a \$5 discount for students and seniors. Call (312) 334-7777 for the Harris

Theater box office. The music will feature selections from Anna Magdalena Bach's Notebook, Cantata BWV 203 "Amore Traditore," The Coffee Cantata, and the Suite in B Minor.

Rook, a mixed instrument ensemble dedicated to the music of the Renaissance and Early Baroque, offers *the Chamber Music Heritage of San Marco* on Friday, October 12 at 7:30 PM at St. John Cantius Church, 825 North Carpenter Street in Chicago. This elegant Polish baroque landmark is a few blocks from the Chicago Avenue subway stop on the Blue line. Tickets are \$15 for adult, and \$10 for students and seniors. To learn more visit www.rookearlymusic.com.

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 Woodland, Chicago (Hyde Park). All concerts are at 7:30, all are readily accessible by public transportation, and the tickets for all are from \$15 to \$35. To learn more visit www.baroqueband.org, and look at their new season schedule.

In October, the Baroque Band offers music for the English Chapel Royal, including works by Handel and Purcell. These performances are on October 19 at the Music Institute of Chicago in Evanston, October 20 at Augustana Lutheran Church in Hyde Park, and October 24 at Symphony Center, all at 7:30pm

Help Bach Week Evanston and enjoy some good food and wine and beer *and* music by attending the Bachtobertfest, fundraiser for Bach Week on Saturday October 7 at 1490 Chicago, Evanston. The doors at the Music Institute of Chicago open at 5:30 PM, with a concert following at 6 PM. Pay \$50 for admission, and \$100 will get you two free drinks. To learn more, visit www.bachweek.org, or call 847-293-6686.

The celebrated choral group Bella Voce offers William Byrd's *Mass for Four Voices*, set next to the *Stabat Mater* by modern American composer Frank Ferko. Saturday, October 13, 7:30, Grace Lutheran Church, 7300 Division, River Forest, Sunday, October 14, 4 PM, Rockefeller Chapel, Chicago, Saturday, October 20, 7:30, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 939 Hinman Avenue, Evanston. \$15 for students, \$30 general admission. To learn more call (312) 479-1096 or www.bellavoce.org.

Schola Antiqua offers *Tidings True: Advent Music from Long Ago* on December 7 at 8 PM, Sacred Heart Parish, 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 stop on the State Street subway.

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*. Schola Antiqua just completed a successful Kickstarter campaign over the Internet to raise funds to finance a recording of this obscure but beautiful medieval and Renaissance Advent music, and thus they are in a very good mood. Learn more by visiting Chicagochant.org.

Ars Antiqua also appears at the St. James Chapel (835 North Rush Street in Chicago) on Saturday, November 10 at 2 PM for a free concert featuring David Schrader on harpsichord. They will perform at the Byron Colby Barn in Grayslake, IL on November 11 at 4 PM. To learn more visit ArsAntiquaPresents.com. The page also offers a series of free monthly web casts of programs of music from the Renaissance, Baroque, and Classical eras performed on period instruments with commentary by Peter Van De Graaff. Each program focuses on a single composition or a few short works.

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	Ben Eisenstein (BenEisenstein@comcast.net) (847) 998-0198
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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:	James Heup (jamesheup@aol.com) (630) 851-5364
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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 October 25.