

Recorder Reporter

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

Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society

October 2013

Volume 55, Number 2

Chicago Chapter

Well! The members of the Chicago Chapter were delighted to welcome our new director, Lisette Kielson, to our September meeting, and she got right to work.



She handed out music for several upcoming events for us to work on in October and November, and beyond, and to practice at home. What's coming up?

1. The Harold Washington Library Center at 400 South State Street in downtown Chicago offers free concerts in their first floor lobby at noon every day for the first two weeks of December. We signed up to perform at noon on Friday, December 13. So far eight of our members plan to participate; we will gather by 11:45 and play for an hour. The HWLC has its own Loop L stop and is close to all of the suburban Metra stations.
2. We are also inviting members to take part in John Langfeld's concert on April 27 at 4 PM at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Luke, 1500 W Belmont. The plan is to perform a transcription of Queen's *Bohemian Rhapsody* for recorder orchestra, with string bass and keyboard and as many recorder players as we can fit on the stage.
3. We are probably going to make plans to hold an open rehearsal as a chapter in March, for Play the Recorder Month, at a public location.
4. And we will be building a repertoire for Make Music Chicago on June 21, 2014. This annual

event featured 180 free performances from 1000 musicians in 2013, in venues all over the city, all day long.

For our October 20 meeting, we will play through our holiday music from 2 to 3:15 for our performance opportunity at the Library on December 13. From 3:30 to 5 PM we will continue to work on a broader range of music as part of Lisette's "Music through the Ages" theme, for June 21. Lisette will hand out new music for both events; those of you who joined us in September, please bring your copies of the music along.

For the coming year we will meet on these dates:

	<i>Food</i>	<i>Drinks</i>
October 20	Arlene Ghiron	Nadine Petersen
November 17	_____	_____
December 15	_____	_____
January 19	_____	_____
February 16	Dale Fitschen	_____
March 16	Mark Dawson	_____
April 13	_____	_____
May 18	_____	_____

Lisette says "I am so excited to work with all of you this season--already I can't wait until October 20th!" Tell your friends to join us.



And that's not all! The Chicago Chapter is now organizing a beginners' class, open to all ages, meeting for one hour before our monthly meeting. Interested participants in the above events or in the beginner's class

are encouraged to contact Ben Eisenstein or Mark Dawson, or to join us at our October meeting. You can also visit our web page at ChicagoRecorders.org, or like us on Facebook, www.facebook.com/ChicagoARS.

Note that we will be meeting on April 13 rather than April 20, as April 20 is Easter Sunday. Also, on October 20, we will be meeting in the All Saints Room in the church basement across the courtyard from the Parish hall.

We will need people to sign up provide food and drink for break for our meetings this season.

West Suburban Early Music Society

The West Suburban Early Music Society started off our 2013-14 season by ratifying our new board. Officers are Convener: Laura Kuhlman, Vice-Convener: Marguerite Ré, Secretary and Membership: Kathy Hall-Babis, and Hospitality: Chris Culp.

For our big-group playing, Laura introduced us to two pieces by the 16th composer Salamone Rossi. We played a setting of the Jewish prayer *Barchu* and a *Simfonia*. The pieces were beautiful, and it looks like we have more chances to explore this under-appreciated composer. After the break, we split up into our three groups. Jim Heup led the "alto leftovers" in a three part Waltz-Canon he brought back from the Boston Early Music Festival. The piece was composed in 2008 by Melika M. Fitzhugh. We spent the rest of the time working on a two part sonata by English compose William Croft (1678-1727).

Our next meeting will be on October 13 at 2 PM at the Naperville Covenant Church. Hope to see everyone there!—*Eric Stern*

The library group was also busy. Nancy Good sent this report. Last year, the Library Group looked at Renaissance and Baroque music, namely, their characteristics and what makes them different. We found fun-to-play music, and enjoyed both familiar and new (to us) pieces. This year, we're looking at music from around the world. In September, we started with Latin America, including South America, Mexico, and the Caribbean. The arrangements were not hard, but the rhythmic nature of this music came through, especially when we added some percussion. Jamaica is a happy place to start. We played "Yellow Bird" and the "Mango Walk". When the Spanish came to Mexico, they brought the tune "La Cucaracha" with them. Before the Spanish, Portuguese, and all the other colonial powers came, the Incas had their own music. We played "Little Finch," which definitely has a different sound. I brought lots more music, including a dance, a lullaby, and a set of Renaissance music written in Guatemala. Never enough

time! But in October, we move on to Eastern Europe. If anyone knows of simple music from Asia or Africa to add to my collections so far, let me know.—*Nancy Good*

Memberships Due

Membership fees for 2013-2014 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 musical resources. Please consider being generous for the coming year!

Note that the American Recorder Society has a new Member Management System that allows members to renew online with a credit card. Many members of the Chicago Chapter and WSEMS renew their local and national memberships jointly each year, but it is easy to deal directly with the ARS as well.

Also, dues will increase in January of 2014. Current members are welcome to lock in the current rate for two years if they like. This is the first dues increase for the ARS since 2007, and it helps the Society keep pace with increases in postage and printing costs. The increase will also help finance several new projects, such as the newly reworked web page.

- For the USA, regular membership is \$50 for one year and \$90 for two years.
- For Canada, \$55 for one year and \$100 for two years (the difference is justified by the increase in US postal rates to Canada).

You can contact the American Recorder Society at 10000 Watson Rd Suite 1L7, Saint Louis MO 63126. You can call toll free 800-491-9588 or call 314-966-4082, or email ars.recorder@americanrecorder.org.

Music for Sale

Performers Music has just received about 80 recorder pieces, collections, and methods from Coulson's Music Matters at 77 West Van Buren Street, now closing after 32 years. Some of the music is being added to their website performersmusicchicago.com. You can browse at the store at 410 South Michigan, or contact them for at (312) 987-1196 or performersmusic@yahoo.com.

Also, Dr. Gerda Moehler, a musician and psychologist who teaches at Alverno College in Wisconsin, was asked to sell the instruments owned by the college and used by the Alverno College early music program. She joined us

at our September meeting with several boxes of music to give away for free, and some instruments offered for sale since last summer are still available. Most are for sale on consignment at two stores in Chicago, Sherry-Brener at 226 South Michigan Avenue, and A440 Violin Shop, 2222 West Roscoe in Chicago, 773-348-4949. Note that most of the instruments are at A440 Violin Shop.

To ask for more information contact Gerda T. Moehler, Psy.D, at gmoehler@sbcglobal.net. You can also contact her through the A440 Violin Shop.

The Chicago Chapter Kroesen Fund

About 15 years ago the Chicago chapter set up the Kroesen Education Fund, intended to help finance scholarships and outreach efforts. Bob & Diane Stehman, a couple active in the chapter at the time, provided the initial capital, and members were encouraged to contribute. The board has sought to make prudent use of these funds over the years. The chapter's general operating income and expenses were handled separately.

The chapter's income is mostly in the form of membership contributions, and our expenses mostly involve covering the costs for our meeting place and monthly director. Sometimes we also turn a "profit" from our April workshops at Concordia University, though for the 2013 event we needed to subsidize it by about \$240. If you are a chapter member, we will provide you with a detailed financial statement on request.

Recently the board voted to merge the Kroesen fund into our regular operating fund, to help finance chapter operations for the next two years. We also encourage members to consider contributing beyond their regular dues. The board voted to donate \$300 to the American Recorder Society out of this balance in memory of Harry & Jean Kroesen. The Kroesens were among the earliest members of the Chicago chapter, which was formally chartered in January of 1963 by the American Recorder Society. Chicago is the third oldest chapter in the nation; the Chicago chapter held its first concert in May of 1959, and last month the ARS recognized the chapter's 55 years of service.

Jeanne Hyde Kroesen (1911-1999) was an avid recorder player who joined the Oak Park Recorder Society and the Chicago chapter in the early 1960s. She was initially hired as a proofreader by Commerce Clearing House, Inc., a legal publishing firm, and eventually worked her way up to become a vice president. She developed a grammar and punctuation test for editors and proofreaders, but it was so difficult that no one could complete it perfectly. She married Harry Kroesen and took his surname, but her employees at CCH insisted on referring to her, until the very end, as Miss Hyde.

Harry and Jeanne regularly traded the secretary and treasurer positions on the board every two years, alternating so as to comply with the rules that no person could hold the same board position for more than two years in a row. Jeanne provided refreshments (complete with a table cloth) at every meeting and she and Hildé Staniulis always called all the members to recruit new officers and to remind others to pay their dues. Harry was most comfortable on bass and great bass, Jeanne liked alto, sometimes played tenor and, rarely, soprano.

At Jeanne's funeral in September of 1999, at the Third Unitarian Church of Chicago, the Oak Park Recorder Society performed several pieces, including "Ever Loving Shepherd" by Handel, an arrangement dedicated to Harry & Jeanne by the Chicago Chapter in 1961.

Music Coming Up

The **Savoyaires** of Evanston offer Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Mikado* October 11-13 & 18-20 at Chute Auditorium, 1400 Oakton Street in Evanston. Tickets and details are still pending, but visit www.savoyaires.org or email info@savoyaires.org to learn more.

Andrew Schultze leads **Chicago Syntagma Musicum** in "Musick by Henry Purcell" Sunday, October 27 at 3 PM at the Harris Theater, 205 East Randolph in Chicago. Tickets \$35, \$25 for students and seniors. Call (312) 334-7777 or visit HarrisTheaterChicago.org. You can also contact Andrew at aschultze@comcast.net.

The **Haymarket Opera Company** performs Telemann's *Pimpinone* on October 26 at 5 & 8 PM and October 27 at 3 PM. All performances are at the Mayne Stage, 1328 W Morse in Chicago. Visit haymarketopera.org.

Ars Antigua Presents (arsantiguapresents.com) offers these two concerts in November:

- Ars Antigua presents "A Baroque Bestiary" November 1 at 7:30 PM at the University of St. Francis in Joliet, Illinois, November 9 at 2 PM at St. James Chapel at the Archbishop Quigley Center, 855 North Rush, Chicago, and November 10 at 4 PM at Byron Colby Barn in Grayslake, IL.
- Bella Voce and Callipygian Players perform Handel's *Messiah* at November 23 at 7 PM at St. Clement Church in Chicago and November 24 at 7 PM at St. Luke's Church, in Evanston.

The University of Chicago offers the **Newberry Consort** for the Howard Mayer Brown Memorial Concert, Saturday October 19 at 8 PM at the Bond Chapel. They will be playing music from the Italian Renaissance and early Baroque period, featuring Ellen Hargis, soprano, Mark Shuldiner on harpsichord. Preferred seating \$45,

\$35 at the door. Visit newberryconsort.org. If you've never seen the Joseph Bond Chapel before, this gothic gem is a fine place to contemplate the joys of life while enjoying great music. Built in 1926 as the chapel for the University of Chicago Divinity School, the chapel borders Swift Hall in the main quadrangle of the University, officially 1025 East 58th Street. One summer afternoon, while waiting for a lecture to start at the Oriental Institute, your editor spent a pleasant hour in the quadrangle outside Bond Hall, writing a letter amid medieval splendor and shaded by century-old oak trees.

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.

Chicago Chapter ARS (ChicagoRecorders.org)

President	Ben Eisenstein (BenEisenstein@comcast.net) (847) 998-0198
Vice President	Mark Dawson msjddawson@sbcglobal.net (773) 334-6376
Secretary	Lynette Colmey (Eljacee@hotmail.com) (708) 366-7720
Treasurer	Esther Schechter (Alandes1@sbcglobal.net) (773) 667-0934
Webmaster	Ben Eisenstein/Dennis Sherman

Outreach

Hildé Staniulis
(773) 363-7476 and
Arlene Ghiron (afghiron@aol.com) (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

Convener/Chapter Representative:	Laura Kuhlman (laura@thekuhlmans.com) (630) 462-5427
Vice Convener:	Marguerite Re (margueritere@comcast.net) (630) 968-5967
Secretary:	Kathy Hall-Babis (khababis@yahoo.com) (630) 293-1494
Treasurer:	Nancy Good (Good-Naperville@wowway.com) (630) 355-6690
Membership:	Kathy Hall-Babis (khababis@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.

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Membership Form

Membership fees for 2013-2014 for the American Recorder Society are now due.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

- \$25 Chicago chapter
- \$15 WSEMS
- \$45 National ARS Membership
- \$70 Chicago chapter *and* National ARS
- \$60 WSEMS *and* National ARS
- \$_____ Donation to Chicago chapter WSEMS

Please mail this form to:

Chicago Esther Schechter
6747 South Constance Avenue
Chicago, IL 60649-1015

WSEMS Nancy Good
741 Willow
Naperville, IL 60540-7421

Total amount enclosed \$ _____