

# Recorder Reporter

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

*Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society*

**September 2009**

**Volume 51, Number 1**

## Chicago Chapter News

We open the 2009-2010 season with a new venue, the education building of Covenant Presbyterian Church at 2012 West Dickens Avenue. This church, close to Damen & Armitage Avenues in Chicago, is near an exit on the Kennedy expressway and offers a large first floor space with windows, only three stairs, and excellent acoustics. The church has a parking lot with room for 24 cars, and more could squeeze in the middle of the lot. Street parking is available on the side streets around the church, on Damen, and east of Damen. Members of the church find parking in the neighborhood for two Sunday morning services, so we shouldn't have a problem finding parking on Sunday afternoons.

Louise Austin will lead us at our first meeting in September, and the Oak Park Recorder Society will offer their traditional season-opening concert. Our meeting dates for 2009-2010 include September 20, October 18, November 22, January 17, February 21, March 21, and April 25. Our Yuletide concert will be on December 20, 2009, and our spring concert on May 16, 2010. Note our meetings for November and April will be on the fourth Sunday of the month so that they will not conflict with concerts John Langfeld plans at St. Luke's, 1500 West Belmont, on November 15, 2009 and April 18, 2010.

The costs for the space will about the same, but we plan to put out a donation jar and ask non-members who participate to contribute \$2 per month. ARS members of any chapter will be welcome to play for free, and the chapter will also cover the cost for our directors and for the musical groups we invite to perform.

## New Music Book

Please plan to buy a copy of the new music book to be used at the Chicago chapter meetings this season. The board selected **The Recorder Consort**, Volume 3, by Steve Rosenberg, originally published in 1986 by Boosey and Hawkes. The work offers some 40 different recorder compositions from the medieval period through the Baroque era, including duets, trios, quartets, quintets and sextets. Copies will be available at the September meeting for \$20.35. The chapter ordered 20 copies for sale and to use as loaners. The music directors each month will be invited to provide their own music as

well, but the board wanted to offer a standard volume of sheet music so that everyone who comes to our monthly meetings can practice these works at home if they like. This also eliminates a need to photocopy music.

## New Online Mailing List

Maybe it's odd to announce a new electronic mailing list and web site for the Chicago chapter in a printed newsletter sent out by US mail. About 50 of you want your newsletter delivered by hand, but, if you like, go to the Yahoo group <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ChicagoARS>.

Anyone with an interest in the recorder in the greater Chicago area is welcome. To join, send a blank email to [ChicagoARS-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:ChicagoARS-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). That's all it takes to join, and you will then receive email from anyone that posts to the list. We expect that will be announcements and requests for participation, concert announcements, and whatever else the members of the mailing list want to talk about. There is also an associated web site, which has facilities for file sharing, photo gallery, and archives of the mailing list.

## Chicago Early Music Festival

The City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs is making plans for its first annual Early Music Festival April 20-25, 2010. The festival will feature free and ticketed concerts, lectures, and master classes by world-class musicians and in venues throughout the city. The festival will also offer exhibition space to vendors, educators, and organizations in the Grand Army of the Republic Hall at the Chicago Cultural Center on Michigan Avenue at Washington Street, April 24 and 25. The Chicago chapter is looking at hosting a table at the exhibition hall. Participants will be listed in the festival events brochure and on the web site. To learn more visit [www.explorechicago.org/earlymusic](http://www.explorechicago.org/earlymusic).

## West Suburban Early Music Society

Several dozen recorder players and other musicians gathered on Sunday August 9 at Richard & Laura Kuhlman's home in Winfield and were not deeply disappointed that they didn't get to join a garage band at all. We were obliged to take part in a more sedate living room band instead. With temperatures past 90 for the afternoon, air conditioning trumped tradition.



### *The Kuhlman's Living Room Band, August 9*

Members of the WSEMS express their gratitude to Laura Kuhlman for hosting the summer barbeque since 2006 and for her inspiration as our Music Director. Our next meeting will be on September 13 at the Naperville Covenant Church at 2 PM, where we will also elect board members. Volunteers for bringing snacks to meetings should contact Nancy Finley. Membership dues (\$60) need to be paid immediately.—*Eric Stern*

### **ARS 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in St. Louis**

Those of us who went to St. Louis for the American Recorder Society Festival enjoyed a terrific weekend, 2½ days packed with wonderful music making. The event, held at the University of Missouri/St. Louis, featured 70 participants, over 40 classes, seminars, and playing sessions, an exhibit hall, and four amazing concerts. The UMSL began as a late 19<sup>th</sup> century convent, so everything we needed was an easy walk away. The campus also offered a lovely gothic chapel for evening performances, stunning efforts by Marion Verbruggen on Friday and the Farallon Recorder Quartet on Saturday. And we could take a short walk to a train stop on the St. Louis Metrolink line, providing access to the downtown and to the airport. The food did not pleasantly surprise me, but that's OK. I did not take Amtrak to St. Louis for Renaissance culinary festival. This event was all about auditory good taste, and

we got more than enough to leave us stuffed for the rest of the summer of 2009. Many thanks to our friends with the ARS home office in St. Louis for this remarkable event.—*Mark Dawson*



*Louise Carslake leads Renaissance works in St. Louis*



*Nina Stern directs traditional Arab tunes on recorder*



*Marion Verbruggen performing at the UMSL chapel*

**Playing Recorder, Spring/Summer 2009**



*Spring concert, May 17, Mary Anne Gardner & Alice Muciek*

**Playing Recorder—Outdoors!**



*Oak Park Festival Theater, August 15*



*Spring Concert, Dearborn Winds, featuring Arlene Ghiron, Esther Schechter, Susan Ross, and Karen Crotty*



*Woodland Recorder Consort, outdoor performance of "The Taming of the Shrew" in River Park, Geneva, IL July 18*



*Whitewater Early Music Festival, Bob Sturgeon plays racket*



*The Baron's Noyse, Rose Tourney, Lake Villa, IL, May 30*

## Membership

Your membership fees for the 2009-2010 year for the American Recorder Society are due **September 1**. You can buy a joint membership for both the national organization and for your local chapter. For the national ARS the dues are \$45 a year; for the Chicago chapter the dues are \$25, and for West Suburban, \$15. Send \$70 for both memberships to Dale Fitschen (**1029 S. Clinton, Oak Park, IL 60304-1823**) for the Chicago Chapter 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 the newsletter, concerts, and workshops.

## Bloomington Recorder Workshop

Lisette Kielson offers her fall recorder workshop in Bloomington, Illinois, on Saturday, October 3 from 9 AM to 5 PM. The workshop is at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts, 110 East Mulberry Street, and concentrates on the music of English composer Henry Purcell. The fee, which includes music and snacks at breaks, is \$90, or \$85 for ARS members. Register early and get a discount; students can attend for \$35. Email Lisette, LKielson@LEnsemblePortique.com, or visit LEnsemblePortique.com. You can call Lisette at (309) 828-1724 or send a check to 205 West Kelsey Street, Bloomington, IL 61701. Those of us who joined Lisette for her Chicago chapter workshop last April, or went to her workshop in Bloomington in 2008, can speak to the fun and profit from being her student. You can take Amtrak to Normal and catch a cab to the venue.

## 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.

## 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* newsletter 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
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**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

Convenor:	Laura Kuhlman (Laura@thekuhlmans.com) (630) 462-5427
Vice-Convenor:	Ed Green (edwgreen@aol.com) (630) 983-7251
Secretary:	Eric Stern (egstern1@yahoo.com) (708) 594-9243
Treasurer:	Nancy Good (Good-Naperville@worldnet.att.net) (630) 355-6690
Membership:	Carol Stanger (cvstanger@aol.com) (630) 789-6402
Hospitality:	Nancy Finley (nfelma3@comcast.net)

**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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**Deadline next issue September 25**