

# Recorder Reporter

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

April 2013

Volume 54, Number 8

## West Suburban Early Music Society

Laura Kuhlman began the session with “When the Lord Turned Again,” a piece by Adrian Batten, an early-16th century English composer. We then practiced two pieces from the 1553 Francesco Bendusi collection *Opera Nova de Balli*. “Pass’ e mezzo ditto il Romano” and “Bella foresta.”

We then moved on to our Giovanni Gabrieli Christmas motet for double choir, “Hodie Christus natus est.” Finally, the group played Stan Davis’ adaptation of Irving Berlin’s “Puttin’ on the Ritz.” We are doing this in memory of Bob Lisk, a longtime, devoted member of the WSEMS. We plan to play all these works in our May concert.

After break we spent the last 45 minutes in our small groups. The altos continued to persevere on Gottfried Finger’s “Sonata III in C.” The Krumhorn group got together and had an enjoyable time. The Library group finished the Baroque Debut book, concluding with a Sarabande, a Rigoudon, and a Menuet. Unlike a lot of the Renaissance dances we played last fall which could probably be danced to, we found that dances from Baroque suites are more for listening--the purpose of the music had changed. In addition, our alto-up learners are coming along well. They find that it's hard to stay in the right octave when you have large jumps or when you go to another page. Yes, that's true for most of us! We will probably perform a set from the Renaissance book for the concert in May. We'll practice that in April, plus go over any difficulties in the large group pieces.

Both the large ensemble and the small groups will perform at the May 5 concert. Please consider taking a risk and being part of this program in another way—perhaps as a soloist or member of a consort.

Our next meeting will be at 2 PM on April 14 at the Naperville Covenant Church. Hope to see everyone there!—*Kathleen Hall-Babis*

Make plans to join the West Suburban Early Music Society on Sunday May 5 at 2 PM for their spring concert. Find them at Naperville Evangelical Covenant Church, 1150 Hobson Road, at Naper Boulevard.

## Chicago Chapter

The *Bohemian Rhapsody*, a 1975 song by the British rock group Queen, is one of the most popular hits ever produced, and is also widely considered by critics to be one of the finest. This remarkable ballad more than stands out in an era mostly noted for its musical mediocrity, everything from tedious pop/rock love songs to atonal classical works that sound like instruments tuning, or worse. But does a work like *Bohemian Rhapsody* belong on recorder? John Langfeld thought it was worth finding out, and trying a type of music that we would rarely touch otherwise. He brought along pianist Don Mead and string bass player Cory Biggerstaff to his own special—and unique—arrangement for the piece for recorder and continuo.



*Chicago Chapter, extremely modern and hip*

We enjoyed John Langfeld’s energetic leadership and sound counsel yet one more time. Once again he stressed the importance of rhythm. Get the counting down and the notes can follow later. “Nobody should make rhythm mistakes. Rhythm is everything,” John said. He related a time he spent as a music teacher years ago drilling struggling junior high band members on counting. He had them clap through the note stems, instruments left in their cases. When these young musicians could finally count well, the music flowed effortlessly.

Join us on April 21. Laura Osterlund joins us as director for the first time! Dennis Sherman & Mirja Lorenz will offer a performance.

## Boston Early Music Festival

The Boston Early Music Festival returns June 9 – 16. Here is an opportunity to hear concert after concert of terrific Renaissance and Baroque music and explore an historic and walkable city. The *Times of London* calls the Boston Early Music Festival “The world’s leading festival of early music.” BEMF was launched in 1980 and is offered every two years; for 2013 they have scheduled over 25 concerts including Handel’s opera *Almira*, dozens of “Fringe” concerts for up and coming ensembles, and master classes, lectures, and workshops, as well as the Exhibition, one of the largest early music trade shows in the world. Also, the American Recorder Society is sponsoring a series of events in Boston this year:

- The Next Generation Concert on Friday June 14 at 9:30 AM, featuring pre-professional recorder players from North America
- A Coached Playing Session on Friday June 14 at 11:15 with Frances Blaker
- A Master Class with Paul Leenhouts, Saturday June 15 at noon
- The Royal Wind in concert on Sunday, June 16 at 12:30

The ARS will also have a table at the exhibition at the Revere Hotel throughout the event. Visit [www.bemf.org](http://www.bemf.org) to learn more.

## Sitka Center Recorder Residency

The Sitka Center for Art and Ecology is a non-profit workshop and residency center located in Otis, Oregon, on the central Oregon coast. They were founded in 1970 and have been offering residencies in art, writing, and music since 1981. They offer a four to six week long recorder residency program for professionals each April to mid-May, sponsored by the American Recorder Society. This year five recorder players are in the Sitka recorder residency program: Frances Blaker, Louise Carslake, Frances Feldon, Gayle Neuman, and Phil Neuman. All are active recorder educators, performers, and recording artists.

To be eligible, applicants must earn part of their income from recorder performance or composition, although individuals at the beginning of their career are as welcome as mature artists. Residents receive living and work spaces – free of charge – at the Sitka Center which is located on the central Oregon coast.

To learn more about the recorder residency and related programs, visit [www.sitkacenter.org](http://www.sitkacenter.org) or call (541) 994-5485. Residency applications are accepted online. The submission deadline is **April 19, 2013** for 2014 and 2015 residencies. Residencies may be scheduled up to two years in advance.

## Early Music Festival, Whitewater

The Early Music Festival returns May 31-June 2 this year at the University of Wisconsin Whitewater. Recorder players of all levels, gamba players, and singers have been gathering for a weekend of classes, jamming, dance, and performing every June since 1960. We will also have vendors on site providing music, instruments, musical supplies, and repairs. The first event is 7 PM Friday night May 31, and the weekend concludes with a Sunday afternoon concert. The University of Wisconsin Whitewater is about 45 miles southeast of Madison and about 150 miles from Chicago.

Both the Chicago Chapter and the West Suburban Early Music Society have scholarship funds available. Contact Pam Wiese at [gcaosapam@gmail.com](mailto:gcaosapam@gmail.com) or call (708) 386-1297. Please try to register by May 18. For more information, contact Nancy Chabala [(708) 442-6053] or Carol Stanger [[cvstanger@aol.com](mailto:cvstanger@aol.com)].

## Spring Recital coming up

Please join us for another festive season-ending afternoon of music making on Sunday, May 19 at 2 PM, at **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](mailto:BenEisenstein@comcast.net) or Mark Dawson at [msjddawson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:msjddawson@sbcglobal.net) and provide:

- Name of the piece(s)
- Composer name, nationality, and dates (if known)
- Movement names (if any)
- Performers’ names and instruments

Don't forget to bring treats to share!

## Chicago Chapter Workshop

The Chicago chapter was delighted to welcome Bob Wiemken of Piffaro to lead us in a workshop on April 6 at Concordia University. We had 30 participants for a day of talking about and playing works by Josquin Desprez, Guillaume de Machaut, William Byrd, and other celebrated composers of the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The medieval mind delighted in puzzles, mathematical wizardry, and musical games. With Machaut’s *Ma fin est ma commencement*—“my beginning is also my end”—the original music score featured the lyrics for vocalists printed upside down and backwards relative to the notes for recorder or shawm. Singers would start at the end of the piece and work their way back to the beginning, accompanied by instrumentalists moving in the other

direction. Exercises like these delighted the medieval mind and showed off the mastery of both composer and musician to audiences who knew how to read music and who could also appreciate this sort of technical virtuosity.

Other Renaissance composers liked their rounds, sometimes literally. In *Circular Canon* by Bartolomeo Ramos de Pareja (1482), musicians played in a circle, thus the music had no beginning or end. They could start at any one of the four winds shown, and play in either direction:



We enjoyed a lot of lively conversation about music in the Renaissance and played some fascinating works. We were delighted with Bob's direction, and he in turn complimented our sight-reading.



Another successful workshop for the Chicago chapter. Thanks to Esther Schechter, Ann Greene, and Ben

Eisenstein for their help in making it happen. We will close our season with our spring concert May 19. Join us!

### Exceptionally Cool Feature of Living in Chicago #479

A splendid University of Chicago tradition is their weekly Carillon Festival, the *Bells of Summer*, Sundays from June 23 through August 25. Sit out on the lawn of the chapel and enjoy a free carillon concert, starting at 5 PM. Show up at 4:30 and get a free tour of the carillon tower! Be prepared for a medieval experience in that event; you are obliged to climb over 200 steps up narrow, winding passages to reach the carillonneur's chamber, and watch guest artists from around the world perform. You also get a great view from the top of Rockefeller Chapel. [www.rockefeller.uchicago.edu](http://www.rockefeller.uchicago.edu).

### Exceptionally Cool Feature of Living in Chicago #522

The Savoyaires are an opera company serving the north shore that has been performing the works of Gilbert & Sullivan for decades. Their next effort, *Mikado*, is set for October 11-13 and October 18-20 in Evanston's Chute Auditorium, 1400 Oakton Street. To learn more visit <http://www.savoyaires.org>.

### Paul Leenhouts, MARS Workshop

The Milwaukee Area Recorder Society offers a recorder workshop with Paul Leenhouts April 27-28 at Lake Lawn Lodge in Delavan, Wisconsin. Paul, a founding member of the Amsterdam Loeki Stardust Quartet, will direct English Renaissance consort music in a workshop entitled "English Music Lessons from Across the Pond." Download a workshop flyer at [chicagorecorders.org](http://chicagorecorders.org) or contact Diane Kuntzelman at [dkuntzelman@wi.rr.com](mailto:dkuntzelman@wi.rr.com).

### Music Coming Up

Enjoy beautiful works for hurdy gurdy, harpsichord, and viol in the elegant surroundings of Second Presbyterian Church, 1936 South Michigan Avenue. The church, redesigned by Howard Van Doren Shaw in 1900, is one of Chicago's most elegant interiors. Now it will be graced with music from 18<sup>th</sup> century France. **La Belle Vielleuse**: *the Virtuoso Hurdy Gurdy in Baroque France*, Wednesday, April 10, 6 PM. For tickets & information visit <http://2ndpresbyterian.org/sounds-of-the-south-loop>.

**Chicago Syntagma Musicum** presents Sacred Music of the Bach Family on Saturday, April 13 at 7:30 PM, Edgebrook Lutheran Church, 5252 West Devon Avenue in Chicago, and Sunday April 14 at 3 PM at Grace Lutheran Church, 7300 Division Street in Evanston. Tickets at the door, \$30, \$25 for students and seniors. contact Andrew Schultze at [aschultze@comcast.net](mailto:aschultze@comcast.net).

This spring and summer **Rockefeller Chapel**, 5850 South Woodlawn, University of Chicago, offers a variety of musical events of interest. The Sunday morning events listed below are part of the liturgy for the chapel's regular weekly worship services:

- Sunday April 28, 4 PM, Schola Antiqua offers choral works by Guillaume de Machaut, including a complete performance of *Mass for Our Lady*. \$25, \$10 for students and seniors. Chicagochant.org.
- Sunday, June 15, 11 AM, *Cantigas de Santa Maria*, 13<sup>th</sup> century Spain
- Sunday, July 21, 11 AM, Montiverdi, music for two tenors, and other music from St. Mark's in Venice
- August 11, 11 AM, 16<sup>th</sup> century Flemish motets
- August 25, 11 AM, the early 18<sup>th</sup> century *Stabat Mater* by Giovanni Battista Pergolesi
- Also, on Tuesday May 7, 7 PM at the lovely **Bond Chapel**, **The Early Music Ensemble** performs Dufay, Josquin and other early music masters of the low countries. Free.

**Music of the Baroque** offers J.S. Bach's the St. John Passion on Sunday, May 19 and Monday, May 20, both at 7:30 PM. Sunday's concert is at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall at Northwestern University in Evanston, and Monday is at the Harris Theater in Chicago. Visit [www.baroque.org](http://www.baroque.org).

Hear the **Baroque Band** in "The Godfather," featuring works by JS Bach, Telemann, CPE Bach, and Rameau, Friday June 7 at Augustana Lutheran Church in Chicago, Saturday June 8 at the Music Institute of Chicago in Evanston, and Wednesday June 12 at Symphony Center in Chicago. All concerts are at 7:30 PM. Visit [www.baroqueband.org](http://www.baroqueband.org) for more and to order tickets.

## 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](http://ChicagoRecorders.org))

President	Ben Eisenstein (BenEisenstein@comcast.net) (847) 998-0198
Vice President	Mark Dawson msjddawson@sbcglobal.net (773) 334-6376
Secretary	Ann Greene (anngreene@att.net) (630) 638-0959
Treasurer	Esther Schechter (Alandes1@sbcglobal.net) (773) 667-0934
Outreach	Hildé Staniulis (773) 363-7476 and Arlene Ghiron (afghiron@aol.com) (773) 525-4026
Webmaster	Ben Eisenstein Dennis Sherman

**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.

### 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.

### West Suburban Early Music Society

Convener/Chapter Representative:	James Heup (jamesheup@aol.com) (630) 851-5364
Vice Convener:	Marguerite Re (margueritere@comcast.net) (630) 968-5967
Secretary:	LeAnne Herrington (nelliejane@att.net) (630) 553-5937
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.

**Mark Dawson, newsletter editor**  
2425 W. Leland, Chicago, IL 60625-2913  
[Msjddawson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Msjddawson@sbcglobal.net) / (773) 334-6376