

Recorder Reporter

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

November 2013

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Ann Greene, 1936–2013

When Ann Greene needed to be hospitalized late last May she was quite upset that she was going to miss out on Whitewater for 2013. She had just bought a great bass and wanted to try it, and anyway Ann had been attending the festival regularly for three decades. But the doctors offered good news, in that it was likely that she would recover fully after several months of rest and patience. So we waited for her. Later that summer, whenever I would carry my bike down the steps at Pilgrim Church in Oak Park on a Tuesday night, I looked forward to seeing Ann there, busily unpacking her instruments. Sadly, Ann's friends at the Oak Park Recorder Society never played recorder with her again. She died on Thursday afternoon, October 24, at age 76.



George and Ann Greene at their daughter Karen's wedding

Ann Whittemore was born in New York City on December 13, 1936, and grew up as an only child in the Chicago area, having lost her mother when she was 13. She graduated from Bloom High School in Chicago Heights and went on to take a degree in English Literature from Northwestern University in 1958. After finishing an MSW at the University of Chicago, Ann worked as a social work administrator at the Madden Mental Health Center in Maywood, until she retired early to devote herself to her children.

Ann met George Greene, a software engineer and a talented musician in his own right, when they were both performing with the Old Town Renaissance Consort (OTRC) in Chicago. They were married on April 11, 1980. Her son Alan Scott was born in 1976, and after

she married George they adopted two daughters, Karen, from China, and Reena, from India. Alan and Reena are both teachers, while Karen develops web applications and online training tools.



Ann joins the After Coffee Players, May 2010

Ann and George shared a love for music, and for a variety of musical forms. She was an active member of the Oak Park Recorder Society and of the Chicago Chapter of the American Recorder Society since the early 1980s. She sang alto, played guitar and piano, and after she married George she inherited his collection of early music instruments and his passion for them. She was known to practice diligently. In more recent years she had studied dulcimer, and she was a part of the Bellissimo Hand Bell Choir in St. Charles. Ann taught swimming when she was younger, and shared a love for movies with her son Alan, traveling each year to the Roger Ebert Film Festival in Champaign-Urbana.



Ann and friends at the Medieval Faire, about 1987



Spring concert, May 2011

Those of us who played recorder with Ann remember her as a skilled musician and a loyal friend. If you have your own photos and memories of making music with Ann Greene over the years, send them, and we will plan to publish them in the next issue of this newsletter

George Greene and his family plan a memorial gathering and open house for Ann's friends and relatives Saturday, December 14, noon to 4 PM, at the Maggiano's Little Italy Restaurant in Schaumburg, 1901 East Woodfield Road. The restaurant is just south of Woodfield Mall in the Streets of Woodfield shopping center, near the corner of Higgins and Route 53 (I-290). Bring your recorders, krumphorns, and loud band instruments, and a viol or lute if you have one, plus stands and any music you would like to play. "I can't think of a nicer way to pay tribute to a fellow musician," George says. Please let him know at georgegreene@att.net if you plan to attend, and how many people will be joining you. —Mark Dawson



August 2012, playing for the Oak Park Festival Theater

Chicago Chapter

At our October meeting we continued to collect and read through holiday music for our December 13 concert at the Harold Washington Library Center. So we have a lot of music! Some of the tunes are carols and holiday favorites like *Silent Night*, *I Saw Three Ships*, *Cradle Song*, *Greensleeves*, and *I Wonder as I Wander*, pieces that are always popular with audiences and that also happen to sound great on recorder. But we have also worked on pieces by Orlando de Lassus and Bach, as well as a 16th century Latin hymn, "O Sanctissima." Please tell your friends and coworkers about this event. The library will publicize their lunchtime concert series starting next month, but we can help to draw a crowd. Our next meeting on November 17 will be a dress rehearsal for this event, so please join us and bring your music.

Besides our upcoming Yuletide concert on December 15 and performing in downtown Chicago two days before that, this is what we are planning, or thinking about:

1. The 54th annual University of Chicago Folk Music Festival is on February 14-16, 2014 in Hyde Park. This event features three evening concerts plus two days of free workshops, all day Saturday and Sunday, at Ida Noyse Hall, 1212 East 59th Street. We would like to participate this year by offering a class on recorder playing. on Saturday February 15. We need some chapter members to join us for the event, and bring their instruments.
2. A public open rehearsal for Play the Recorder Month in March.
3. Members are invited to take part in a performance of Queen's *Bohemian Rhapsody*, John Langfeld directing, on April 27 at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Luke, 1500 W Belmont.
4. And we will be building a repertoire for Make Music Chicago on June 21, 2014.
5. We continue to work on offering a beginners' class, open to all ages, meeting for one hour before our monthly meeting.

Yuletide Concert

Our annual Yuletide Concert approaches on December 15. With all of our other plans for this holiday season, let's not neglect our annual Yuletide recital!

Please let Mark Dawson or Ben Eisenstein know if you would like to perform, and provide the name of the pieces, the composer, and the names of the members of your group. As always a variety of music is welcome; we would be delighted to hear choral works, pieces on gamba or shawm, or keyboard works, and in the past we have

enjoyed recorder and harmonica. Please plan to bring food or drink to share. You can reach Mark at msjddawson@sbcglobal.net or call him at 773-334-6376.

West Suburban Early Music Society

The October WSEMS meeting was led by Nancy Chabala. We played several pieces from the Odhecaton including *Nous sommes de l'Ordre de Saint Babouyn* by Loyset Compère and *James, James, James* by Mouton, followed by *Elohim Hashivenu* by Salamone Rossi. After the break, Jim Heup led the Leftovers group. We continued working on the Sonata Op. 3 no. 2 for two altos by William Croft. Jim led us with suggestions on shortening tied notes so we wouldn't be late with the following pickups and shortening notes at the end of phrases when one voice is handing off the other.



The Library Group traveled to Eastern Europe in October. We started with Polish polkas and a mazurka, played through sacred music from Georgia (in the Caucasian mountains) and folk songs from Armenia. Heading north, we played songs from the highlands of the Ukraine, some Jewish music and Russian songs, including a lullaby played as a round. Hungary was our last stop: there is a tradition of setting Hungarian folk songs for recorders or other groups of instruments. The American Recorder Society "Recorder Sampler" published trios by Bela Bartok in 1962, reprinted in 1986. Another source book was "Solos for Soprano Recorder, Collection 8: Eastern European and Jewish melodies" by Clark Kimberling (Mel Bay). Kimberling's collections are designed partly as solo performance pieces and partly as etudes to improve high notes, breath control, and rapid tonguing. However, many of the themes for these sets of variations are not difficult and introduce lots of interesting tunes. Most of the other music was from public domain music websites, such as IMSLP.org and ScoreExchange.com (not all public domain). For our November 10 meeting,

we plan to visit the Middle East and Africa at 2 PM at the Naperville Covenant Church. Hope to see you there!

Music Coming Up

Hear **Us** perform. The Chicago Chapter of the American Recorder Society will be playing in the first floor lobby of the Harold Washington Library Center, 400 South State Street, on Friday, December 13 at noon. A Loop L stop is next to the library, and the library is near several Metra stations. The concert is free.

Before that, the madrigal group, the **Pippins**, will be singing at the Harold Washington Library Center at noon on Thursday, December 12, offering a selection of 16th century sacred and folk tunes, including William Byrd's *Ave Verum Corpus* and the Italian song *Lirum Lirum*. The Pippins have performed for the Chicago Chapter several times in years past. They will also be singing the evening of December 12 at Christkindlmarket in Daley Plaza in downtown Chicago, at 6:30. Both performances are free.

Chicago chapter member **Mirja Lorenz** will be playing recorder on Saturday December 7 at 6 PM as a benefit for Families of SMA, "Music for McKenna." McKenna is a child afflicted with Spinal Muscular Atrophy. Mirja will join Joel Spears on theorbo to perform music by Bach, Frescobaldi, Telemann, and other Baroque composers. The event is at the Norge Ski Club, 100 Ski Hill Road, Fox River Grove, Illinois. To learn more visit <http://www.fsma.org/MusicForMcKenna>.

Mirja also joins the Harper Symphony Orchestra of Harper College on Sunday, February 9 at 3 PM, 1200 West Algonquin Road in Palatine. She will be playing Bach's Brandenburg Concerto Number 2 and the Vivaldi Concerto in C major for Soprano Recorder and Orchestra. Visit the calendar at harpercollege.edu.

The **Ensemble Caprice** will perform "Salsa Baroque," a blend of 16th and 17th century European polyphony with Latin American traditional music, on flute, recorder, baroque guitar, cello, and percussion. Friday, November 15 at 7:30 PM, Northeastern Illinois University Recital Hall, 5500 North St. Louis in Chicago. Call 773 442-4636 or visit <http://boxoffice.neiu.edu/caprice.html>.

In February the **Newberry Consort** offers *The Feast of the Pheasant; a 15th-Century Burgundian Banquet*, featuring a variety of historic instruments (rebec, lute, vielle, harp, bagpipes) and our own Tom Zajac. The event recalls a banquet offered by Philip the Good, Duke of Burgundy, in February of 1454. It features music by Guillaume Dufay, Giles Binchois, and others, but, alas, not the elephants and musicians enclosed in enormous pastries that Good Philip also provided for his guests.

Each concert features a lecture one hour before the music starts. February 7, 8 PM, Ruggles Hall, Newberry Library, February 8, 8 PM, Lutkin Hall, Northwestern University, February 9, 3 PM, Bond Chapel, University of Chicago. Newberryconsort.org or call 773-669-7335.

The **Baroque Music Ensemble**, Stephen Alltop, conductor, perform Handel's *Concerto a due cori* No. 1 and arias and duets from his operas plus music by Telemann, Zelenka, and others. Sunday, November 17 at 7 PM, Alice Millar Chapel, 1870 Sheridan Road, Evanston. Tickets are \$8, and the venue is an easy walk from both Metra and CTA Red line stops. To learn more visit www.pickstaiger.org or call (847) 467-4000.

The **Haymarket Opera** just completed a delightful series of performances of Georg Philipp Telemann's comic opera *Pimpinone* (1725) at the Mayne Stage in Chicago, 1328 West Montrose. This exceptional new company focuses on 17th and 18th century works using period instruments and historically informed performances. Their next feature will be *Le Judgement de Pan/Acteon* by the Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1643-1704). It is worth writing this one in your calendar for March 7 at 7:30 and March 8 at 5 and 8 PM because this work will feature our own Lisette Kielson and Mirja Lorenz on recorder. Visit Haymarketopera.org to learn more.

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.

Like us on Facebook: 

<https://www.facebook.com/ChicagoARS>

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Visit us at ChicagoRecorders.org

Tuesday Night Recorder Sessions

The Oak Park Recorder Society meets 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 (ChicagoRecorders.org)

President	Ben Eisenstein (BenEisenstein@comcast.net) (847) 998-0198
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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.

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
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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.