

Recorder Reporter

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

Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society

April 2014

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Chicago Chapter Meeting

In March, we traveled to Oak Park, to hold our monthly meeting at the Oak Park Public Library as part of Play the Recorder Month. We had a most agreeable crowd of recorder players, 18, including some who were joining us for the first time. About 40 or 50 people at various times dropped in to listen, and best of all, Pam Wiese brought a group of 15 third and fourth graders from Holmes, Hatch, and Longfellow Elementary Schools from District 97, the Oak Park Public School System. We demonstrated Handel to them, and then a group of young people from Holmes Elementary performed a piece called *Silver Sphere* for us. After that chapter members and new recorder players teamed up for two pieces, *Bouffons* by Arbeau (1519-1595) and *Bransle de Champaigne* by Gervaise (c 1550).



The view from the circulation desk



A bright, sunny space to share our music with the public



Students from Holmes School waiting to perform

It was also working session, as we played through Queen's *Bohemian Rhapsody* for the April 27 performance with John Langfeld, and looked at some pieces for the Make Music Chicago event on June 21. These included LaNoue Davenport's *A Day in the Park*, Susan Lindvall's *All through the Night*, and Mozart's *Rondo*. We played in behind a glass wall in the first floor lobby, near the circulation desk.

Thanks to Lynette Colmey for a great idea and for pursuing that idea, and to Pam Wiese for bringing a crowd of fine young recorder players to the library, along with their teachers and parents.

For our next meeting don't come on the third Sunday, April 20. That's Easter. We will be meeting on April 13. Lisette will lead us again, and John Langfeld will join us too as we work on his arrangement of Queen's *Bohemian Rhapsody* for the April 27 performance.

We are also working on much for the upcoming Make Music Chicago event on Saturday, June 21. We are planning to perform at noon together, but we have not confirmed a venue yet. You might want to plan to spend a Saturday hearing a wide variety of music, even if you can't join us (www.makemusicchicago.com).

Spring Concert

This year's concert on Sunday, May 18 (2 PM) will be a little different. We will still provide about 30 minutes for a recital, but the bulk of the meeting will be devoted to practicing for Make Music Chicago on June 21. We are likely to select fewer groups to perform for the event. If you would like to perform, please contact Ben Eisenstein at BenEisenstein@comcast.net or Mark Dawson at msjddawson@sbcglobal.net soon, and provide:

- Name of the piece(s)
- Composer name, nationality, and dates
- Performers' names and instruments

Don't forget to bring treats to share! The meeting is at **Covenant Presbyterian Church**. Any kind of music is welcome on recorder; you can introduce other instruments like gamba or lute or keyboard, or choral works, but they must be early music.

Hyde Park's "I Freschi Baldi"



I Freschi Baldi members David Currie, Steve Berry, John Roberts, and Stan Fischer, ca 1974, meeting in Hyde Park

Every Sunday morning "I Freschi Baldi," a group of friends who have been playing early music together since the early 1970s, meets to play recorder in the Hyde Park home of Steve and Carla Berry. Sometimes there are only four players, and sometimes as many as nine. Over the

decades, Steve has collected enough music to keep the group sight-reading for a year without having to re-visit any composition more than a few times. Recently the group has included viols and voice, but the principal instruments have always been recorders.

The Berry's living room inspires artistic ambition. Corners and surfaces are stacked with sculpture, many pieces with musical themes. But Steve's musical instrument collection is like an installation piece itself. The baby grand piano is covered with exotic wind instruments from all over the world, including sets of crumhorns, Asian flutes, cantors, cornettos of all sizes (including a serpent), a dulcian, a rankett, and enough recorders to build a log cabin. This collection includes a contrabass and a sub-contrabass recorder that Steve plays regularly with the group.

John Roberts, a nuclear engineer at Argonne National Laboratories, regularly played the recorder with legal scholar David Currie and his wife Barbara Flynn Currie, now the Majority Leader in the Illinois House of Representatives. David taught Barbara to play the recorder when they lived for a year in Washington, DC, while David clerked for Justice Felix Frankfurter. Steve already knew John from some work they were doing together, so when the Berry's returned to Chicago in 1974, Steve joined the group, along with neighbor Julie Antelman from the National Opinion Research Center, and graduate student Stan Fischer. That was also the year that noted musicologist Howard Mayer Brown returned from Oxford to the University of Chicago. Brown's influence generated an interest in early music across the campus. Two of his former students, Sonia Cszaszar (retired Wright College professor) and Marjorie Benson (retired university administrator) are now regular members of the Hyde Park group. Brown was also the founder of The Newberry Consort. Its co-directors David Douglass and Ellen Hargis direct the University Early Music Ensemble, which includes more recent "I Freschi Baldi" regulars Jim Fackenthal (molecular geneticist) and Aenea Raskin (undergraduate student).

The group plays the music enjoyed by many other recorder groups, including the renaissance masterworks from England, Italy, Germany, and France, and the Low Countries. One particular favorite collection is the arranged works of Frescobaldi, the group's namesake. Each week, after a couple of hours of playing, the group moves the Berry's dining room for conversation and a wonderful lunch graciously provided by Carla. For recorder players on Chicago's south side, there's no better way to spend a part of each Sunday.—*thanks to Jim Fackenthal for this material. Note that Rosalie Guttman recently joined the I Freschi Baldi.*

Concert & performance opportunity

The University of Chicago Modern Minstrelsy will present a concert of Medieval Music on Sunday May 18 at 7 PM. The concert, free to the public, will be at the University of Chicago Logan Center 9th floor penthouse. It will feature a performance of the 13th century *Li Gieus de Robin and Marion* (the Play of Robin and Marion) by Adam de la Halle, secular songs from the Carmina Burana, and medieval dancing.

The ensemble is inviting recorder players to participate in the performance. All rehearsals would be on the University of Chicago campus, with buildings and rooms to be announced later. Here is the rehearsal schedule:

- Sunday, May 4, in the afternoon
- Monday, May 12 (7-9 PM)
- Wednesday, May 14 (7-9 PM)
- Saturday, May 17 (TBD)
- Sunday, May 18, before the show, 5 PM call

The parts will depend on how many people want to play and their skill level. For more information reach Andrew Schultze at (773) 628-7214 or email him at aschultze@comcast.net. You can also email Jim Fackenthal at fackentl@uchicago.edu.

West Suburban Early Music Society

The WSEMS March meeting led by Nancy Chabala started with a warm-up on a Bach Pastoral. We continued with the Haßler piece *Ihr Musici Frisch auf*; we decided that meant: "Hey! You musicians play or there won't be any drinking!" We continued with Salomoni Rossi's *Elohim Hashivenu* and a piece new to us by John Bennet called *All Creatures Now*.

In February the Library Group played music of Western Europe. Much of the folk music arranged for recorders comes from this area, so there was a lot to choose from. We learned a bit about the geography of the continent in the time that many of these songs and dances became popular. Northern Italian music is very Austrian-sounding. The Trapp Family Trio book and old trio books published by Kalmus gave lots of choices for German-speaking lands, as well as "foreign" tunes such as *Au clair de la lune* and *Flow Gently Sweet Afton. Wine, Women, and Song* arranged by Brian Bonsor was a very different style. Patriotic pieces like *La Marseilles* often have strong tunes, but so can dances like the *Paspie Menuet* from the Netherlands and the *Helston Furry Dance*, a Morris dance from England. Alas, we ran out of time for Wales and Ireland.

In March, the Library Group swept through Africa, Australia, and Oceania. Advancing from our base in Europe, we attempted a piece from Algeria called *Bane*

Cheroff. The sort-of-Arabic sound was very different from our Western European tour. Girl Scout songbooks provided melodies for Africa including, *A Ram Sam Sam* from Morocco, a humorously dissonant round from Zambia, *Simbotwe the Frog*, and the famous *Wimbaway*. *Ipharadisi* represented a large group of South African choral songs of the church and the people. *Yami yami* is a rhythmic work song from central Africa.

Reversing (or perhaps following) history, we performed a European sea shanty, "Australia," on the way to that continent, followed by a couple of melodies said to be from Australian aborigines and Maoris from New Zealand. Not to be forgotten, Antarctica was represented by freely blowing across and through our instruments to portray freezing winds. Our next meeting will be April 13 2 PM at Naperville Covenant Church.—*Eric Stern*

From the Chicago Chapter President

We are well into our first year of chapter revitalization. On behalf of our members, I would like thank all who have supported the group financially.

One of our long time members, Hilde Staniulis gave a generous gift, as did Nadine Petersen. Hilde is a past president, and founded the composition contest and the outreach program. Mark Dawson generously supported our appearance at the University of Chicago Folk Festival. We also received a gift in memory of Ann Greene.

Part of our mission is to educate the public about the recorder and cultivate appreciation for the instrument. These contributions allow us to attract new members and at the same time keep our treasury in a healthy state. Please consider a gift to the Chicago Chapter now or when you renew.

Music Coming Up

Anonymous 4 sings Friday night, April 4 at 7:30 PM at Rockefeller Chapel, the University of Chicago. The offer "Marie and Marion: Motets and Songs from the Montpellier Codex," a codex dating from the 13th century. Visit the web site of University of Chicago Presents, <https://chicagopresents.uchicago.edu>.

For the **Bach Week Festival**, start with three piano concertos and the cantata *Mensch, ich Sundenknecht* on Friday, April 25 at 7:30, and a candlelight concert at 10 PM, both at the Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Avenue, Evanston. On Friday, May 2, 7:30, several pieces including Brandenburg Concerto #6 and Concerto in D Major, Anderson Chapel, North Park University, 5149 North Spaulding, Chicago. On Sunday, May 4, 2:30, several pieces including Mass in G Major, and *Cantata Nun is das Heil und die Kraft*, also at Anderson Chapel. Visit bachweek.org/ call 800 838-3006.

Schola Antiqua explores chant and polyphonic music for the legendary St. Anne in this program of chant and rich polyphony, including works by Pierre de la Rue and Jean Mouton. Friday May 9, 7:30 PM, Bond Chapel, Ellis Avenue and 59th Street, University of Chicago, and Saturday, May 10 at 8 PM, St. Clement Church, 642 West Deming Place in Chicago. Tickets available at the door for cash or credit, or visit schola-antiqua.org.

Consider the **Bach Cantata Vespers** series at Grace Lutheran Church, 7300 Division Street in River Forest. The next concert is Sunday, April 27 and May 16. Call (708) 366-6900 or visit www.bachvespers.org.

Early Music Festival, Whitewater

The Early Music Festival returns June 6-8 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 June 6, 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 pamkenwiese@gmail.com or call (708) 386-1297. For more information, contact Nancy Chabala (708) 442-6053 or visit chicagorecorders.org.

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 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 west of the church and go to the large fellowship hall on the right.

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
Outreach	Hildé Staniulis (773) 363-7476 and Arlene Ghiron (afghiron@aol.com) (773) 525-4026
Webmaster	Ben Eisenstein Dennis Sherman
Music Director:	Lisette Kielson lkielson@lensembleportique.com

West Suburban Early Music Society (westsubems.org)

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

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