

# Recorder Reporter

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

Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society

September 2014

Volume 56, Number 1

## Chicago Chapter Meeting

Join us on September 21 for our first meeting of the 2014-2015 season, directed by our own Mirja Lorenz. Lisette Kielson returns as music director in October.

We had a lot of fun under Lisette's leadership last season, and we plan to build on that success. For the year ahead, we continue to work on efforts to attract new players to the chapter, to seek publicity, and to find ways to be heard and noticed. We welcome your ideas. We will also plan on our traditional concerts in December and May, though we plan to promote these events more thoroughly. Many of us were busy with other events last spring, including playing with John Langfeld at St. Luke's in April, as well as preparing for Make Music Chicago. Still, Chicago chapter members have been producing Yuletide and spring concerts every year since 1959, but interest in the spring concert especially has faded in recent years. We would like to reverse that trend for the 2014-2015 season.

	<i>Food</i>	<i>Drinks</i>
October 19	<u>Arlene Ghiron</u>	<u>Lynette Colmey</u>
	<b>Klezmer, Blues, Ragtime, and Latin-folk</b> <b>Practice holiday music for Harold Washington Library</b>	
November 16	_____	_____
	<b>Recorder orchestra</b>	
December 21	_____	_____
	<b>Yuletide concert</b>	
January 18	_____	_____
	<b>Masters of the High Baroque</b> <b>Practice for University of Chicago Folk Music Festival</b>	
February 15	_____	_____
	<b>To be determined</b>	
March 15	_____	_____
	<b>Play the Recorder Month</b> <b>Performance/open meeting in Oak Park</b>	
April 19	_____	_____
	<b>Andrew Schultze directs</b>	
May 17	_____	_____
	<b>Spring concert</b>	

We also plan to return to the special events that we tried last year for the first time, including:

- Playing holiday music at the Harold Washington Library in December
- Leading a class at the University of Chicago Folk Music Festival in February

- Playing at a different venue for our March meeting as a part of Play the Recorder Month (probably at the Oak Park Public Library again)
- Taking part in Make Music Chicago on June 21, though at a different venue this time

For the new season we will build a standard repertoire that we can use for these events, relying on simpler and more familiar music. This will allow us to devote more meeting time to learning new music, along with a quick review of performance pieces. Each meeting will focus on a special theme. And plan to join us in November: we are inviting players from all over the Chicago area to take part in a recorder orchestra session, a mass gathering of players to perform 8 and 12 part works.

Finally, the chapter is much better off financially today than the board had expected when we starting making plans in the summer of 2013, thanks to a number of generous donations. We couldn't have done it without you. Please keep your contributions coming!

## West Suburban Early Music Society

The officers for WSEMS for the coming year are Kathy Hall-Babis, convener, Marguerite Re, vice-convener; Nancy Good, treasurer, Nancy Finley, secretary/membership, and Nancy Culp, hospitality. We are pleased to have Pam Wiese, of the Oak Park Recorder School, lead our group for our first meeting September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2 PM.

Dennis Sherman of the Chicago chapter will lead us on October 12<sup>th</sup>, and Darleen Kay, a fellow member, will lead us in jazz for the recorder on November 9<sup>th</sup>. We would like all members to come prepared with holiday music on December 7<sup>th</sup> so that we can share in the fun. Nancy Chabala agreed to direct our group from January to May and will help us prepare for a May 3<sup>rd</sup> concert!

All meeting dates continue to be on the 2nd Sunday with the exception of May which is the 1st Sunday. We intend to continue the same format of playing together as a large group from 2 until 3:30 or 3:45. We take a break and then go to the smaller groups. Nancy Good will continue directing the "library" group. This group is designed for newer players, those who want to learn an additional instrument, or those who desire a more relaxed pace. Nancy Chabala has agreed to facilitate the loud band. Eric Stern will direct the alto group.

Marguerite is heading up a committee for outreach. Please contact her if you would like to help with this. Change in our snacks! We are asking members to sign up to bring drinks. Food will not always be available, but members are welcome to bring food to any meeting.

Local dues continue to be \$15, payable in September. ARS dues are \$35-40. We encourage you to renew your dues via the ARS website. However, the treasurer will take your dues and send them on to the ARS office.

Please e-mail me if you have any questions, or visit [www.westsubems.org](http://www.westsubems.org).--Kathy Hall-Babis (see the bottom of the fourth page for the WSEMS meeting place)

## The Texas Toot

This year, instead of attending the Whitewater Early Music Festival, my wife Laurie and I attended the Texas Toot ([www.toot.org](http://www.toot.org)), sharing shared a family vacation with my father (83 and still playing). This week-long workshop takes place on the campus of Concordia University in Austin, a good campus for walking, smaller than Whitewater. About 75 people attended with groups focusing on recorder, viola da gamba, percussion, and harp. There were also a number of classes with singing.

The class schedule was Monday to Friday, with group activities on Sunday evening, and a student recital Saturday morning. Having the Saturday before and Sunday after as travel prep or recovery days was very nice. Every day featured four class sessions that repeated every day. Part of the registration process is selecting those classes, and the expectation is that you'll go every day. A third afternoon session featured special one-time classes. Evening activities included madrigal singing, faculty concerts, and krummhorn playing.

My class schedule started with a daily class with Peter Maund (Hesperion XX, Ensemble Alcatraz) with a focus on percussion and the estampie dance form. Then a class on the English Fantasia with Allison Melville (Toronto Consort) where a highlight was the number of low instruments available, allowing us to play at 8 foot pitch. The level of playing is pretty good when 18 people can play 5 part music and be well in tune!

The afternoon started with a one-time class that varied by day. I took classes in Medieval dances (Al Cofrin), diminution (Saskia Coolen), a drum circle (Peter Maund) and music from the Eton Choir Book (Allison Melville). I regretted missing sessions on beginning harp, Scottish music, and mixed consort, but I couldn't figure out how to be in more than one place at a time.

My daily afternoon classes were a mixed gamba and recorder class on the music of Landini, and a class on modern recorder music with Saskia Coolen that was an

amazing amount of fun. If you ever get a chance to study with her, take it! She's a very good teacher, without being too serious.

Laurie and my father took quite different sets of classes, although we overlapped in the diminution class and drum circle. They report being quite satisfied with the classes they took, and the student recital showed they apparently learned something too. The food and dorm rooms were about what you'd expect on a college campus. If you have a week available for a music vacation, this is a good low-stress workshop to consider.—Dennis Sherman



*Whitewater, 2014*



*Saturday night at Whitewater*

## Membership Renewal

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 \$30, and for West Suburban, \$15. For both memberships send \$75 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 ARS is offering a 2 for 1 membership deal for new members for their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

### Fund Raising Lunch for Hildé Staniulis

Join us for a special fundraising lunch to honor Hildé Staniulis on November 2. Hildé, 93, is a charter member and loyal friend of the Chicago Chapter. We want to recognize Hilde's commitment to the chapter that stretches back before we held our first spring concert in 1959. November 2 at 12:30, at Piccolo Mondo, 1642 East 56<sup>th</sup> Street in Hyde Park. RSVP Mark Dawson at [msjddawson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:msjddawson@sbcglobal.net) if you plan to join us.

### Chicago Chapter Workshop

The Chicago Chapter is pleased to welcome Letitia Berlin as the leader of our next recorder workshop at Concordia University in River Forest on Saturday, April 18, 2015,



with the theme "Forbidden Topics: Music for Politics and Religion (with a little love thrown in)."

Letitia is a member of the Farallon Recorder Quartet, the Bertamo Trio, and Calextone. She has performed and taught in the United States, England, France, Italy and on the Rogue River. She has been a guest performer with the San Francisco Symphony, the Carmel Bach Festival and the Atlanta Baroque Orchestra. She is the director of the Hidden Valley Early Music RoadScholar, and teaches at workshops around the country, including the Amherst Early Music Festival and the Oregon Coast Recorder Society Winds and Waves workshop. Recordings include works by Ludwig Senfl with the Farallon Recorder Quartet, Ladino love songs with Yátan Atán, and *From Albion's Shores*, a CD of English music with Farallon. Ms. Berlin received a MA in early music performance practices from Case Western Reserve University and a BM in piano performance from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She is a three-time recipient of the Recorder Residency at the Sitka Center for Art and Ecology in Otis, Oregon. Ms. Berlin is past President of the American Recorder Society.

So you can thank your leaders for providing you with an amazing April weekend to close out a splendid season:

- **Blue Heron**, a celebrated Renaissance choral ensemble from Boston, will perform on April 17 at 7:30 PM at Rockefeller Chapel, University of Chicago. They will offer songs of Tudor England Music for Canterbury Cathedral.
- Recorder workshop on Saturday, April 18, Tish Berlin
- Our monthly chapter meeting with Andrew Schultze



*Playing at the French Market, Make Music Chicago*

### Music Coming Up

The choral group **Bella Voce** offers *Faire is the Heaven* on Saturday, October 18 at 7:30 PM at Grace Lutheran Church, 7300 Division Street, River Forest, and again on Sunday October 19 at 3:30 PM at St. Luke's Episcopal 939 Hinman Avenue in Evanston. The concert features some of the most beautiful choral works ever written, drawn from the English cathedral tradition, including pieces by William Harris, Herbert Howells, William Walton, John Tavener, James MacMillan, William Byrd, Thomas Tallis, Peter Philips, and Robert Parsons.

**Tafelmusik** Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Choir of Toronto performs Friday, November 7 at 7:30 PM at the Logan Center of the University of Chicago, 915 East 60<sup>th</sup> Street. They offer *The Galileo Project; Music of the Spheres*, featuring music of Monteverdi, Vivaldi, Bach, and Handel along with poetry readings, choreography, and high-tech images of the cosmos.

**WFMT Radio** is sponsoring the Bach Organ Project, a series of ten organ concerts from September 21 through October 26 on organs across Chicago and the Chicago area. A ticket for the series costs \$175 and is transferrable. Individual tickets are \$25, \$15 for students. To learn more call (773) 279-2120 or email [jmangialardi@wfmt.com](mailto:jmangialardi@wfmt.com). You can also visit [WFMT.com](http://WFMT.com) and click Events.

The **Newberry Consort** offers *Music from the Mexican Baroque: Music from the Cathedral Archives of Durango, Mexico*, featuring 18<sup>th</sup> century New World treasures with lute, harpsichord, voice, and cello, including several newly-discovered works never before performed in the US ([newberryconsort.org](http://newberryconsort.org)).

Friday November 7, 8 PM, Church of the Ascension, 1133 North LaSalle Drive in Chicago, Saturday November 8 at 8 PM, Logan Center for the Arts, 915 East 60<sup>th</sup> Street, Chicago, Sunday November 9, 3 PM, Alice Millar Chapel, 1870 Sheridan Road in Evanston.

## 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	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

**Chicago Chapter meetings:** The 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.

### West Suburban Early Music Society ([westsubems.org](http://westsubems.org))

Convener:	Kathy Hall-Babis (khababis@yahoo.com) (630) 293-1494
Vice Convener:	Marguerite Re (margueritere@comcast.net) (630) 968-5967
Treasurer:	Nancy Good (Good-Naperville@wowway.com) (630) 355-6690
Membership/Secretary:	Nancy Finley (nfelma3@comcast.net) (630) 554-4363
Hospitality:	Nancy Culp (cg.culp@gmail.com) (630) 690-7304
Recorder Reporter contact:	Eric Stern (egstern1@netscape.net) (630) 428-8464
Music Director:	open

**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  
**Visit us at [chicagorecorders.org](http://chicagorecorders.org)**

Like us on Facebook:   
<https://www.facebook.com/ChicagoARS>

## Membership Form

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

_____ \$30	Chicago chapter
_____ \$15	WSEMS
_____ \$45	National ARS Membership
_____ \$75	Chicago chapter <i>and</i> National ARS
_____ \$60	WSEMS <i>and</i> 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_