

Recorder Reporter

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

Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society

November 2014

Volume 56, Number 3

Chicago Chapter Meeting

Lisette Kielson directed the Chicago chapter in her first meeting for 2014-2015. We did a lot of jamming on Klezmer and ragtime works with names like “I Love Fried Potatoes” and “Tango Melancolico” and the “Champagne Rag.” The pieces were all from a book of compositions by Uwe Heger, published in 2002.

After lots of 8th notes and fancy fingering we played Christmas carols together, to get ready for our holiday performance. Originally our plan had been to play in December at the Harold Washington Library Center in downtown Chicago in early December, as we did last year. But we are looking at playing at the Oak Park Public Library instead. Look for details below.

	<i>Food</i>	<i>Drinks</i>
November 16	<u>Ben Eisenstein</u>	<u>Esther Schechter</u>

Recorder orchestra

December 21

Yuletide concert

January 18	<u>Nadine Petersen</u>	_____
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To be determined

February 15	<u>Mark Dawson</u>	_____
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Masters of the High Baroque

March 15

**Play the Recorder Month
Performance/open meeting in Oak Park**

April 19	_____	_____
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To be determined

May 17

Spring concert

We will be using the following collections of music for future chapter events. Some will be available to borrow at the October meeting, or members can purchase copies:

1. Joyful Tidings: Seventeen Beloved Christmas Carols [Sweet Pipes 2348]
[Holiday concert](#)
2. Early Dance Music for Recorders, volume 1 by Andrew Mayes [Magnamusic Distributors RMP0001]
[Folk Music Festival at the University of Chicago in February](#)
3. Shake and Jake Collections by Claude Simpson [E.C. Schirmer Music No.2009 and No.2010]
[Make Music Chicago on June 21](#)

Recorder Orchestra

Next month, November 16, we are seeking recorder players. Lots of recorder players. Our plan is to play through several multi-choir and orchestra works, pieces that may have as many as 10 or 12 parts. So, our friends with the West Suburban Early Music Society, please feel free to join us! And those of you who live in the area and who have been thinking about attending a Chicago chapter meeting for some time but have not managed to appear, we know you feel guilty. But all will be forgiven if you appear in November. We will provide the music, just bring your instruments and stands. We will look forward to welcoming you, jamming together, and making beautiful—and louder than usual—harmonies.

Holiday Concert

This year we look to supplement our annual Yuletide concert on December 21 with another holiday concert, played for the general public. In 2014 we performed in the lobby of the Harold Washington Library Center on State Street in downtown Chicago. That venue is not available to us this year, so this year we plan to perform at the Oak Park Public Library on Saturday, December 20 at 11 AM. Please feel free join us.

Yuletide Concert

Our annual Yuletide Concert approaches on December 21. 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. Please plan to bring food or drink to share. You can reach Mark at msjddawson@sbcglobal.net or call him at 773-334-6376.

Recorder Concert in April

The Recorder Music series at St. Luke's continues, featuring two of our own, John Langfeld and Mirja Lorenz. John plans to offer *Liturgiana: Liturgical Music for Recorders* on Sunday, April 26 at 4 PM, at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Luke's, 1500 West Belmont Avenue in Chicago. John and Mirja will be performing a variety of modern works, including a set of arrangements of several pieces by Leonard Bernstein and two world premier pieces by Randall Snyder.

West Suburban Early Music Society

Our October meeting was led by Chicago Chapter member Dennis Sherman. Dennis introduced us to the *In Nomine* form popular among English composers from 1400 to 1600. *In Nomine* refers to a four-part choral section of a mass, first written by John Taverner. His melody became very popular; every English composer of standing used it as a basis for variations. The tune features long notes carried by a Cantus Firmus line, usually tenor or alto, with embellishments from the other parts. Each piece started simply, but grew more complex as they progressed. Dennis shared many beautiful examples of the *In Nomine* form. Towards the end of the meeting, the variations became extremely complex, with rhythms reminiscent of *The Leaves by Green*.

Our next meeting will be on November 9 at 2 PM at the Naperville Covenant Church. Darlene Kay will lead us in arrangements of Jazz and Blues favorites for recorder. Hope to see everyone there!—Eric Stern



Dennis Sherman directs WSEMS in October

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).” We will be reading through pieces from the 13th century through the 20th, all related to religious and political events, and featuring works as diverse as a love song by the 13th century trouvère Adam de la Halle, a motet and a funeral song by English Renaissance master William Byrd, a five-part setting of *Susanna Faire* by Alfonso Ferrabosco the Elder, music for a patron by the Danish composer Jørgen Presten, a humorous love song by Josquin des Prez, and South African freedom songs.

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.

You should receive a copy of the flyer this winter. To ask for a flyer contact Mark Dawson at (773) 334-6376 or at msjddawson@sbcglobal.net. The workshop fee is \$75 for ARS members or \$85 for non-members and includes lunch, music, and snacks at breaks.

More Recorder Music Available

A friend of the West Suburban Chapter, Ann Richards, once a part of Bill Nelson’s recorder ensemble at Waubensee Community College, is now offering her instruments and sheet music to a good home. Her collection includes an instrument stand and a tenor, alto, soprano, and sopranino, and a variety of books of recorder music. You can reach Ann Richards at nortannr@msn.com or call her at 630-406-6113.



Vi and Earl Manning join an ensemble playing at George Williams College in 1967. Vi is on the harpsichord, Earl is standing, with the bass.

Music Institute of Chicago Auction

Generous friends of the Music Institute of Chicago have donated recorders, sheet music, and books for an auction on Saturday, December 6 from 3 to 6 PM. The Music Institute is at 1490 Chicago Avenue in Evanston, an easy walk from the CTA Purple Line stop at Davis, and the Davis Street Station on the Metra North line. This is just in time for holiday gift giving. All donations benefit the Music Institute. At 4 PM Patrick O'Malley, the Campus Director of the Music Institute and an old friend of the Chicago chapter, will offer a demonstration on cleaning and oiling instruments. Payment can be in cash, check, credit or debit cards, though checks are preferred.

A Few Internet Resources

Recorder players are encouraged to join Early Music America, www.earlymusic.org. Founded in 1985, the EMA's goal is to expand awareness of and interest in music of the Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, and Classical periods. Members receive their quarterly magazine, access to Grove Music Online and the Naxos Music Library Online, discounts, and other benefits.

The Medieval Music & Arts Foundation has a fine web address, www.medieval.org. Their site offers a lot of valuable information about early music. Check out their Early Music FAQ.

Dolmetsch Online, www.dolmetsch.com, offers a list of early music links. A very long list. Meet people with the Belgian Lute Society, or the German Lute Society, or the Lute Society of New France, or the Swedish Guitar and Lute Society. Learn about hurdy-gurdy or Gregorian Chant or the Cittern early dance or historic percussion.

Music Coming Up

Mirja Lorenz directs a new ensemble known as **Black Tulip**, featuring Mirja on recorder and Josefien Stoppelenburg, soprano, Joel Spears, theorbo, and Phillip Serna, viola da gamba. The Black Tulip symbolizes perfect beauty, and a beauty that is beyond reach. Tulips that looked black commanded high prices in Renaissance Holland, but in fact tulips are never really black, just very dark. Hence the Black Tulip ensemble strives for perfect music, a most noble but unobtainable goal. November 7, 7:30, the Evanston Art Center, 2603 Sheridan Road in Evanston, playing pieces by Handel, Telemann, Bononcini, and Purcell. To learn more visit evanstonartcenter.org or call 847-475-5300.

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 60th Street. They offer *The Galileo Project; Music of the Spheres*, featuring music of Monteverdi, Vivaldi, Bach, and Handel along with poetry readings & choreography.

The **Newberry Consort** offers *Music from the Mexican Baroque: Music from the Cathedral Archives of Durango, Mexico*, featuring 18th century New World treasures with lute, harpsichord, voice, and cello. Performances are on Friday November 7 at 8 PM, Church of the Ascension, 1133 North LaSalle Drive in Chicago, Saturday November 8 at 8 PM at the Logan Center for the Arts, 915 East 60th Street, Chicago, and Sunday November 9 at 3 PM, Alice Millar Chapel, 1870 Sheridan Road in Evanston. Visit newberryconsort.org.

Ars Antqua, noted for skilled performances of Renaissance works offered on period instruments, performs in the lovely St. James Chapel at the Quigley Center in Chicago, November 8 at 2 PM. The concert is free. Come and admire the exquisite, and recently restored, stained glass windows. To learn more visit ArsAntiquaPresents.com.

The choral group **Bella Voce** offers Handel's *Messiah* with period instruments on Saturday, November 22 at 8 PM at St. Clement Church, 624 West Deming Place in Chicago, near DePaul University, and Sunday November 20 at 3:30 PM at St. Luke's Episcopal 939 Hinman Avenue in Evanston. For their holiday concert, they offer Advent classics from the Renaissance on Saturday December 20 at 7:30 PM at St. Procopius Abbey, 5601 College Road in Lisle, and on Sunday Dec 21 at 3:30 PM at St. Luke's Episcopal in Evanston.

Find the **Alba Consort** at the Logan Center for the Arts, 915 East 60th Street, Chicago on Friday, January 30 at 7:30 PM. This four member ensemble plays music of medieval Europe featuring vocals, oud, lute, hurdy-gurdy, vielle, and more, and offers *Earthly Love, Divine Love*, music of medieval Spain for this trip to Chicago. To learn more visit chicagopresents.uchicago.edu.

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. Visit chicagopresents.uchicago.edu.

Schola Antiqua, with lutenist Ryaan Ahmed, present music from the era of Pope Leo X, who reigned from 1513 to 1521, one of the most important patrons of the arts in the Renaissance. Part of the program will be devoted to sacred works that Leo "the Lion" would have encountered in the Sistine Chapel, an institution known for producing the most luxurious music of the time. The second half of the program will feature secular music from the pontiff's esteemed lute player, Francesco da Milano. Friday, February 20, 2015, 7:30 PM, Bond Chapel, University of Chicago, and Saturday, February 21, 8 PM, St. Clement Church in the Lincoln Park neighborhood, also in Chicago.

The **Newberry Consort** performs Polish works in *Music from the World of Copernicus* featuring Tom Zajac on bagpipe for Polish dances, folk tunes, and sacred choral works. March 22 at 8 PM at the Logan Center for the Arts, 915 East 60th Street, and Sunday March 23 at 3 PM at the Alice Millar Chapel, 1870 Sheridan Road in Evanston. Contact newberryconsort.org to learn more.

The **Newberry Consort** closes their season with an evening of songs by John Dowland accompanied by lute and violin, *Mr. Dowland's Midnight*. Friday, April 24 at 8 PM, Ruggles Hall, Newberry Library, 60 W Walton Street in Chicago, Saturday, April 25 at 8 PM, Lutkin Hall, 700 University Place, Northwestern University in Evanston, and Sunday April 26th at 3 PM at the Logan Center for the arts, 915 East 60th Street in Chicago. Spend an evening at an Elizabethan pub.

Benjamin Bagby, medieval scholar and musician, recites the epic poem *Beowulf* while accompanying himself on the harp, Friday, May 1, 7:30 PM. Logan Center for the Arts, 915 East 60th Street, Chicago Logan Center. Visit chicagopresents.uchicago.edu.

Handel Week Festival returns in 2015 in Oak Park. The concerts are on Sunday February 15 at 3 PM, Saturday, February 21 at 7:30 PM, and Sunday, March 1 at 3 PM, all at Grace Episcopal Church, 924 Lake Street. The February 15 concert features orchestral works and concerti, while February 21 the festival offers music for small ensembles with voice and harpsichord. March 1, join them for the Mass in B Minor by JS Bach. To learn more visit handelweek.com or call (708)386-8036.

Chapter Information

Visit <http://chicagorecorders.org>.

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: 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.

Chicago Chapter ARS (ChicagoRecorders.org)

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West Suburban Early Music Society (westsubems.org)

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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

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