

# Recorder Reporter

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

Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society

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## Chicago Chapter News

Well. Another amazing weekend brought to you by your leaders in the Chicago chapter of the American Recorder Society. You really ought to present us with flowers and bottles of wine at every monthly meeting. Boxes of chocolates and gift certificates would be fine, too.

Andrew Schlutze directed us in playing music of the Hapsburgs, 16th century music from Spain, Italy, and Austria. In Europe of the time the Hapsburgs ran everything and owned everything. Judicious marriages made a 13th century family from Switzerland lords over Austria and Naples, Spain and the Netherlands, large stretches of France, islands in the Mediterranean, vast colonies in the New World. Charles V, the ruler of the Holy Roman Empire, would have needed a jumbo sized business card to list all of his titles, and he reigned over some four million square kilometers. It was too much for him in the end, costly wars and the burdens of state; after 34 years on the throne Charles retired in 1556, yielding his holdings to his sons, and he died in a monastery in 1558. The last Hapsburg, Charles I of Austria, abdicated his throne too, over 360 years later, but not willingly. He was the hapless monarch who survived World War I, but not for long. This Charles tried to become King of Hungary in 1921 and was packed off to Madiera instead, an island realm and the farthest possible outpost that can still be considered part of Europe. He died in 1922.

marrying or fighting, the Hapsburgs were patrons of the arts. Andrew brought a group of singers with him to join us in making some of the elegant melodies of the Hapsburg's finest era, the 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.



The day before, 15 Chicago chapter members took part in the recorder workshop at the University of Chicago Folk Music Festival on Saturday, February 14. We performed a pair of Baroque works and then joined the crowd to play through a series of Renaissance dances under Lisette's direction.



*Playing at the University of Chicago*

Join us on Sunday, March 15 at the Oak Park Public Library. We begin at 1:15 PM with Pam Wiese directing children from local elementary schools, who will then join us in playing "Excellentia" by Gary Gazlay. Find a copy in the winter 2014 edition of *American Recorder* or download it from the Play the Recorder Month 2015



*Andrew Schlutze directs the Chicago chapter in February*

Interspersed between history lessons about Habsburg rulers and their often bizarre tastes and infirmities, Andrew directed us in period music. When they weren't

page of AmericanRecorder.org. Lisette Kielson will then direct the chapter in a recorder orchestra playing session. All are welcome, including our friends from WSEMS.



*Jamming with the crowd at the recorder workshop*



Those of us who decided to hang around all day Saturday February 14 at Ida Noyes Hall had a chance to learn how to yodel, hear folk songs from Russia and the Republic of Georgia, dance, and listen to Irish fiddle and bluegrass.



*Swedish dance*



*Bluegrass in the window well*

Continuing in the theme of an amazing weekend, if I had not felt guilty about taking pictures of Laura Osterlund and Mirja Lorenz playing at the Harris Theater Monday night, February 23 (they played Sunday night too) in Handel's Concerto grosso in B flat Major with the Music of the Baroque, I would put one of those pictures here:

And beneath that another pair of contraband photos of Lisette Kielson and Patrick O'Malley playing at Grace Lutheran Church of River Forest on Sunday afternoon, as part of their Bach Cantata series:

Well, we can legally provide a link to the YouTube video of the Chicago chapter playing *Le Brouree* by Michael Praetorius (1571-1621) at our January meeting (yes, there is a period in "youtu.be"):

<http://youtu.be/dOhIIadYCSk>

## Chapter Events

Please register soon for our Chicago Chapter workshop, Saturday, April 18 at Concordia University. The flyer is available on our web page, if you don't have one. To ask for a flyer contact Mark Dawson at (773) 334-6376 or at [msjddawson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:msjddawson@sbcglobal.net). The workshop fee is \$75 for ARS members or \$85 for non-members and includes lunch, music, and snacks at breaks.

Start making plans for the Chicago chapter's annual Spring Concert, May 17 at 2 PM. If you would like to perform, please contact Mark Dawson at [msjddawson@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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! 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.

## West Suburban Early Music Society

The West Suburban Early Music Society met on February 8 under the direction of Nancy Chabala.



### *The West Suburban Early Music Society, in February*

Nancy guided us through “modern” (post-1750) works. We really enjoyed playing the new piece *Excellentia* by Gary Gazlay in observance of Play the Recorder Month. We also played an ARS Members Library Edition piece that I’ve recently come to appreciate, *Belmont Street Bergamasca* by Scott Nolan. The Belmont Street in the title refers to Portland, but we can pretend that it’s our own Belmont Avenue. Other favorites were *Pineapple Rag* by Scott Joplin and *Fonerier* by Björn Hagvall.

The library group was directed by Marguerite Re and Joanne Miller. Among others, the group played German songs and dances and “A Bicycle Built for Two,” written with a melody line, a harmony line and chord names. The group had fun experimenting with making up a bass line and additional harmony lines.

**The May 3 meeting will be the spring concert at the Downers Grove Friends Meeting House.** The entire group will play several pieces led by Nancy Chabala, with other smaller ensembles participating, including the library and alto groups. Find them at 5710 Lomond Avenue in Lisle. The next meeting is Sunday, March 8.  
*Kathy Hall-Babis and Eric Stern*

## St. Luke’s Recorder Series

St. Luke’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1500 West Belmont, and John Langfeld offer “Liturgical Music for Recorders” on Sunday, April 26 at 4 PM. The concert will feature modern liturgical works, including new pieces by Randall Snyder, and pieces by Ned Roram, Rayner Brown, and Leonard Bernstein arranged by John Langfeld and Don Mead. The concert is free, and a reception follows. To learn more visit [stlukechicago.org](http://stlukechicago.org).

## Alice Maguire Memorial Service

Friends and family are like notes in the Symphony of Life. Thank you for contributing to Alice Maguire’s symphony! Please join us at her Memorial Service, a musical celebration of her life:

Saturday, March 21, at 3 PM  
The Episcopal Church of the Holy Nativity  
9300 Pleasant Avenue, Chicago, Illinois  
Reception to follow at the same location

## Early Music Festival, Whitewater

The Early Music Festival returns June 5-7 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](mailto:pamkenwiese@gmail.com) or call (708) 386-1297. For more information, contact Nancy Chabala (708) 442-6053 or visit [chicagorecorders.org](http://chicagorecorders.org). The registration form and schedule are available on the web page, [www.whitewaterearlymusic.org](http://www.whitewaterearlymusic.org). Also look for the Whitewater Facebook page. Flyers for the 2015 event will be published and distributed soon.

## Recorder & Double Reed Workshop

The Quincy Early Music Consort of Quincy, Illinois, presents its 20<sup>th</sup> annual Recorder & Double Reed Workshop April 17-19. Louise Austin will lead four workshop sessions on Friday evening, Saturday morning and afternoon, and Sunday morning at the St. Anthony Parish Center in Quincy. Register by April 1. The fee is \$30 a session or \$75 for all four. To learn more email Mecki at [mecki@travelhousequincy.com](mailto:mecki@travelhousequincy.com) or call 217-430-2395.

## Music Coming Up

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 60<sup>th</sup> Street, and Sunday March 23 at 3 PM at the Alice Millar Chapel, 1870 Sheridan Road in Evanston ([newberryconsort.org](http://newberryconsort.org)). The group 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 26<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM at the Logan Center for the arts.

The **Bach Week** Festival performances feature two cantatas, all of the Brandenburg concerti, the Mass in F Major, and the Concerto in D Minor for two Violins. Concerts are on Friday April 10 at the Music Institute of Chicago Nichols Hall, in Evanston (1490 Chicago Avenue) and Friday May 1 and Sunday May 3 at Anderson Chapel of North Park University on the north side of Chicago, near Foster and Kedzie. Mirja Lorenz plays in a Candle Light concert duo with Joel Spears on Friday, April 10 at 10 PM in the lobby of Nichols Hall, and joins Lisette Kielson on Sunday May 3.

**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](http://chicagopresents.uchicago.edu).

**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 60<sup>th</sup> Street, Chicago Logan Center. Visit [chicagopresents.uchicago.edu](http://chicagopresents.uchicago.edu).

Wednesday April 22, at 6 PM, **Black Tulip** is in concert at Second Presbyterian Church, 1936 South Michigan Avenue in Chicago. Hear Black Tulip live on WFMT radio (98.7 FM) from 8 to 9:30 PM on Monday, May 11.

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

President	Ben Eisenstein (BenEisenstein@comcast.net) (847) 998-0198
Vice President	Mark Dawson msjddawson@sbcglobal.net (773) 334-6376
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Webmaster	Ben Eisenstein Dennis Sherman
Music Director:	Lisette Kielson lkielson@lensembleportique.com

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

Convener/Chapter Representative:	Kathy Hall-Babis (kathy.hallbabis@gmail.com) (630) 464-1828
Vice Convener:	Marguerite Re (margueritere@comcast.net) (630) 968-5967
Secretary:	Nancy Finley (nfelma3@comcast.net) (630) 554-4363
Treasurer:	Marguerite Re (margueritere@comcast.net) (630) 968-5967
Membership:	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 Downers Grove Friends meeting house, 5710 Lomond Avenue in Lisle. The church is located near Maple Avenue and 355. From 355, take the ramp and go east on Maple for 4/10 miles and turn right (south) onto Lomond street. The church is on the right.

**Mark Dawson, newsletter editor**  
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