

# Recorder Reporter

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

April 2015

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## Chicago Chapter News

We returned to the Oak Park Public Library for the third time in March, jamming in their lobby for Play the Recorder Month and happily sharing music with students from Roosevelt Middle School in River Forest and Longfellow Elementary in Oak Park. We played together on *Excellentia*, a piece composed for the ARS for Play the Recorder Month by Gary Gazlay, and then did a pair of Renaissance dances.



*Students who joined us at the library*

We followed that with a regular meeting in an irregular (but most agreeable) place, Lisette directing us through works by Gabrielli, Dowland, Scarlatti, and de Lassus.



*Play the Recorder Month with Lisette*



We meet again April 19 at 2 PM, with Lisette directing.

At the Chicago Chapter April Meeting (full of energy after Tish's wonderful workshop the day before!) we will celebrate and honor Alice Maguire, playing her composition that won the chapter's Composition Competition. Nancy Chabala will provide the music.

Also at the meeting, we will decide whether we would like to perform a couple of pieces at the May Meeting's Spring Concert and/or perform in June at Make Music Chicago. The performances will comprise of music from the October Meeting, "Klezmer, Tango," and the "Greatest Hits" from the January Meeting. Look on the chapter web site <http://chicagorecorders.org/events> for the music. Scroll down to Meeting Downloads. We might also possibly play some selections from our two Recorder Orchestra sessions from last November and this Play the Recorder Month Event in Oak Park. Lisette will bring parts.

## West Suburban Early Music Society

The West Suburban Early Music Society met on March 8 with Nancy Chabala directing. Nancy led us through our now familiar pieces, *Excellentia*, *Porque Llorax*, *Mille Regretz*, and *Fonerier*. We also dipped into the WSEMS archives to play an early Richard Eastman work" *Sonata in C Major* and *Bergerette Savoyene* by Josquin des Prez.

The Library Group played through an early Renaissance piece, Palestrina's Canzonet *Tell Me What Master Hand*. It turned out to be harder than it looked, but sounded

good when we managed to hold together. Then we worked on two later Renaissance pieces, by Shein (1586-1630): *This, Shepherd, Is Thy Happy Day* and *Coridon, Play Thy Pipe Merrily*. Switching from 2/4 to 3/4 timing was difficult, especially with the lilting phrases. It would have been helpful to have more people on each part. Finally, Darlene Kay brought an early blues progression written out, and we took turns ad-libbing a solo over the simple chord structure.

The Alto group made great progress playing Glen Shannon's piece *Gin Rickey*. We paid attention to playing with feeling and also worked how the parts fit together by playing all the notes as short as possible.

Our next meeting will be on April 12, followed by our spring recital on May 3, both at 2 pm at the Downers Grove Friends House, 5710 Lomond Avenue in Lisle. Hope to see everyone there! *Kathy Hall-Babis & Eric Stern*

## Workshop!

Please register, not soon, but now, 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. The workshop fee is \$75 for ARS members or \$85 for non-members and includes lunch, music, and snacks at breaks.



*Baron's Noyse, playing at the Sulzer Regional Library*

## Exceptionally Cool Feature of Living in Chicago #427

Architectural Artifacts, 4325 North Ravenswood in Chicago, offers a showroom with 80,000 square feet of historical treasures plus 15,000 square feet for the Museum of Historic Chicago Architecture. This is the place to find vintage treatments for your home or business; come here if you want to buy stained glass windows, fireplace mantels, carved statuary, French

ironwork from the 1920s, lighting fixtures. Find doors, windows, wood trim. For your next horror movie, look for limestone gargoyles and griffins, or find enough terra cotta and marble from historic theaters to outfit your own movie house. I went there to find a replacement door knob for my 1914 Chicago two flat. I found a 1950s vintage Fiat pickup truck:



You can rent the facility for special events. And you can easily reach Architectural Artifacts on the Metra north line to Kenosha (get off at the Ravenswood stop) or on the Brown line, at Montrose. You might want to ride public transit there if you decide to buy, and drive home, one of the antique Porches the owner has on site. Visit [www.architecturalartifacts.com](http://www.architecturalartifacts.com).

## Spring Concert

Our annual spring concert is next month, May 15 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.

## 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).

## 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.

This year the festival introduces Jonathan Brodie to teach classes on viola da gamba. A classically trained baroque violinist who performs with early music ensembles, Jonathan also plays folk/klezmer fiddle with the Chai Guys and gamba with several Milwaukee-area viol consorts. He has taught music in the Whitefish Bay Public Schools for 25 years.

The class schedule for this year is now available at the festival web site, [www.whitewaterearlymusic.org](http://www.whitewaterearlymusic.org), and flyers for the 2015 event will be published and distributed soon. **Registration is due by May 22.** The University is 45 miles southeast of Madison and about 150 miles from Chicago. Vendors on site providing music, instruments, musical supplies, and repairs. The first event is 7 PM Friday night June 5, and the weekend concludes with a Sunday afternoon concert.

For more information contact Pam Wiese at [pamkenwiese@gmail.com](mailto:pamkenwiese@gmail.com) or call (708) 386-1297, or Nancy Chabala (708) 442-6053.

## 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 **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.

## The Internet, Again

Once, long ago, I disparaged the Web. The province of teenaged techno-geeks with too much time on their hands. Too slow, too strange, lousy design. Sniff.

Well. I am of the generation of typewriters and library card catalogs. For a long time I also thought cell phones were for sinners. But now, graced with wrinkles and a few grey hairs, I find myself listening to an astounding array of terrific podcasts online. The Internet overflows with amazing audio content. I keep adding to my list of podcasts—99% Invisible, RadioLab, StongTowns, BackStory, Hardcore History, Snap Judgement, Pleasure Town (WBEZ), LiveWire Radio, Theory of Everything. When I wondered what sort of early music podcasts were also available, Google rewarded me quickly.

### Lyrichord

The Lyrichord label offers a series of podcast programs about the history, development and performance of early and classical music and instruments.

<http://lyrichord.com/podcasts.aspx>

### Harmonia

Indiana Public Media offers Harmonia Early Music, with a weekly early music podcast and archive.

<http://indianapublicmedia.org/harmonia/>

### Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

The Gardner Museum in Boston, noted for its fine collection of art, also provides an excellent web page. Besides offering an array of historical, artistic, and educational resources, the site also provides hundreds of archived podcasts of early and classical music performances.

<http://www.gardnermuseum.org/music/listen/podcasts>

Next, I thought I would look through Pinterest. I'm still not quite sure what the Pinterest site is *for*, exactly, but it seems sort of interesting, lots of pages and boards and art and photos to satisfy the widest variety of tastes, as

long as your widely-ranging tastes mostly relate to science fiction and fantasy. Amid the pages of Star Trek, Star Wars, and Lord of the Rings fan sites, tricked out cars and trucks, and, um, other pages, I wondered what I would turn up if I searched for “Renaissance Music.”

Takeo Kunishima offers “Neumatic Notations,” a board that features dozens of images of lovely illustrated music manuscript pages from the Renaissance.

<https://www.pinterest.com/kunishi/neumatic-notations/>

Mr. Donn’s Middle Ages for Kids and Teachers offers lesson plans, games, graphics, simple descriptions, videos quizzes, and a variety of other resources related to teaching the history of the medieval period. Of particular interest would be the page related to medieval music, but the site offers a lot of content meant to appeal to young people. And this content could also serve to introduce obscure topics for their parents and grandparents.

<http://medievaleurope.mrdonn.org/index.html>

Martin Schoyen offers online digital images of over 800 historic manuscripts, with the collection of music notation of particular interest. The site has the goal of “giving a comprehensive overview of the main types of musical notation in Europe in the period 9<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> centuries.”

[www.schoyencollection.com/music-manuscripts-collection/notation](http://www.schoyencollection.com/music-manuscripts-collection/notation)

And the Naxos label offers a history of medieval and Renaissance music with recommended recordings:

[http://www.naxos.com/education/brief\\_history.asp](http://www.naxos.com/education/brief_history.asp)

## 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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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.

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