

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

One of the features of the study of human history is a profound loss of information. The entire civilization of the Hittites, once a rival to the ancient Egyptians in Anatolia and Syria, collapsed around 1200 BC and effectively vanished until modern times. We know virtually nothing about music from the Roman Empire; of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, only the Pyramids of Giza survive, and even they lost their gleaming limestone surfaces some 700 years ago, dismantled for use in other building projects. We could grieve over the destruction of the great Library of Alexandria, but in fact that represents the norm, as some 95% of all of the texts written in ancient times have disappeared. And that silent narrative continues. Possibly 95% of the movies created during the Silent era have also been lost. They were made using silver acetate film, an expensive material that was often recycled, when it didn't otherwise decay. Or burn. That old film was highly flammable, too.

Moth and rust and war and folly and prejudice and simple forgetfulness have robbed us of countless treasures over many generations, countless ideas, countless memories of legions of heroes and artists and scholars. We are fortunate to enjoy Early Music from texts that were forgotten, sometimes for centuries, but safely hidden away where they might be recovered later.

But many works were not so fortunate. In 1630 Mantua, Italy was ravaged during a siege by the Hapsburgs, in response to a dispute over succession to the throne over Mantua and Monferrato. The cannon fire and looting also destroyed most of the court records, and thus we have only fragments left of a Jewish musical culture that flourished in that court in the early 17th century, as well as some 25 years of the compositions and operas of Claudio Monteverdi. And Salamone Rossi (c 1570-1630), by far the greatest star in a vibrant community of Jewish musicians and artists in the Mantua court, himself died as a result of the siege.

The Jews of the Europe by then had long experience with being expelled (England 1290, France 1397, Spain 1492), robbed, and tormented. When granted a place to rest in Mantua, a place where they didn't need to fear violence, and where Rossi himself was held in such high esteem he was not even required to wear the traditional yellow Jewish badge, they turned the court into a center of robust

artistic life. We thankfully have preserved several published volumes of Rossi's compositions, and for our October meeting Andrew Schultze directed us in playing some of his works, as well as those of other celebrated Jewish composers in southern France and northern Italy during the 17th and early 18th centuries.

The Gonzaga court of Mantua welcomed Jewish scholars and musicians to his court, mandating their fair treatment by decree in 1602. Rossi, a celebrated violinist and composer, served the court from 1587 until 1628, writing music for plays, banquets, sacred services, wedding ceremonies, and other events. Rossi was joined by his sister Europa, possibly the first Jewish woman to be employed as an opera singer, and a variety of other composers. We played a number of pieces of Rossi, and by other Jewish composers from Mantua, Avignon, and Casale Monferrato. Andrew brought along some of his singers again, too.



Singing Jewish works from the 17th century

For our November 15 meeting Lisette Kielson returns, with plans to direct us in music for recorder orchestra. Bring your friends; we would also welcome our friends from the WSEMS in Naperville. We need volunteers to provide food and drinks for our April meeting. For our Yuletide and spring concerts, we traditionally all contribute. For chapter meetings with Lisette, including music to download, please visit the Chicago chapter web page (chicagorecorders.org) for details regarding music or the schedule. Email Lisette at LisetteKielson@gmail.com.

Bach Week Festival, 2016

The Bach Week Festival returns—next spring. But it is not too early to plan for this event. The Friday evening candlelight concert, April 22 at 10 PM, will feature our own Lisette Kielson and the L'Ensemble Portique in the lobby of Nichols Hall. Last year it was Mirja Lorenz playing recorder late at night. The Festival also offers concerts Friday April 22 at 7:30 and Saturday April 24 in the Nichols Concert Hall at the Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Avenue in Evanston, and on Friday May 6 at 7:30 at Anderson Chapel, North Park University, near Lawrence & Kedzie in Chicago. The 2016 festival features four cantatas, the Concerto in A minor for Violin and Orchestra, the Chaconne in D minor, and other works.

West Suburban Early Music Society

Darlene Kay directed the West Suburban chapter at the October meeting, bringing her own arrangements of jazz standards. She also joined the Oak Park Recorder Society on the evening of October 27 to direct playing of pieces like "Five Foot Two and Eyes of Blue."



Our next meeting will be on Sun, November 8 at the Friends Meeting House, 5710 Lomond Avenue, Downers Grove. As usual we begin playing at 2 PM as a large group and separate into the alto and library groups after the break. Feel free to bring a small snack for all to enjoy.

Laura Osterlund will be our guest director in November. Laura has a degree in Early Music Performance and Music History from MacGill University in Montreal and is currently working on a Masters degree in performing arts administration at Roosevelt University. You can learn more about Laura and listen to some of her performances by visiting YouTube.com and searching on "Laura Osterlund." You can also visit EarlyMusiChicago.org, click on Musicians and Wind, and find pictures and videos of Laura there. Or you can visit Laura's own

website, LauraOsterlund.com. Hope you can make our meeting! And if you know of anyone who might be interested in joining our group, bring them along.—
Nancy Finley

Chicago Chapter events coming up

Recorder Orchestra

This month, November 15, we are seeking recorder players. Lots of recorder players. Lisette will continue with this season's theme, "Shall we Dance!" Repertoire will include music by Bach, Handel, Lully, Ravel, and more. So, our friends with the West Suburban Early Music Society, please feel free to join us! 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.

Membership Meeting

Please join us on Sunday, January 15 after the break for a special member's meeting. The board would like to talk with the members about future plans for the chapter in 2016-2017 and beyond, and in particular some financial challenges we face.

We worked hard to reach out during the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 seasons. We enjoyed two excellent years, and we had a lot of fun together as well, playing for the public at the Harold Washington Library and the Oak Park Public Library, at the University of Chicago Folk Music Festival and Make Music Chicago, besides offering a recorder workshop and seeking to improve our Internet presence. But now we need to consider our progress, and what we should do next. We look to talk for at least an hour together, and we hope that all of our members and friends will plan to take part.

Yuletide Concert

Our annual Yuletide Concert approaches on December 20. 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.

A highlight for us this year: Lisette Kielson, Patrick O'Malley, Mirja Lorenz, & Laura Osterlund have formed a new recorder ensemble, and plan to perform for us at the 2015 Yuletide Concert. Also, the Pippins look to return to the Yuletide Concert, with some new Advent melodies.

Memberships are now due! See the form on the next page.

Performers Music, Aura Recorders

Now that Magnamusic has closed its virtual doors, there is no wholesaler for Aura recorders in the United States. Performers Music can special order them directly from the manufacturer. If you are interested in an Aura recorder, contact Lee Newcomer at Performers Music, 410 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 904, Chicago 60605. Email performersmusic@yahoo.com or call (312) 987-1196. You can also visit performersmusicchicago.com.

Made in Holland by Coolsma, the Aura line of recorders are intended for older students and for musicians looking for performance quality instruments offering excellent craftsmanship, intonation, and sound.

Music Coming Up

The **Haymarket Opera** offers a 300th anniversary staging of Handel's *Amadigi di Guala* (featuring recorders in the orchestra, too) Friday, November 6 at 7:30, Saturday November 7th at 5 PM, Sunday November 8 at 3 PM, and Monday November 9 at 7:30 PM. All performances are at the Mayne Stage, 1328 West Morse Avenue in Rogers Park. Walk to this lively space from the Morse Avenue L stop. To order tickets call (866) 468-3401 or visit www.haymarketopera.org.

The choral ensemble **Bella Voce Camerata** presents "The Three Sch's" Music by Scheidt, Schein, & Schutz," collaborating with the early music ensemble Rook to perform works by three celebrated German composers of the 17th century, Heinrich Schutz, Samuel Scheidt, and Johann Hermann Schein. Saturday, March 5, 7:30 PM, St. Clement Parish, 642 W Deming in Chicago, and Sunday, March 6, 3:30, St. Luke's Episcopal, 939 Hinman Avenue in Evanston. To learn more visit bellavoce.org.

Baroque Band performs "Duel at the Devil," featuring Handel's Concerto Grosso #2 in B flat Major, and works by Johann Christoph Pepush, Michael Festing, and a variety of their contemporaries, Friday January 15 at 7:30 at the Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Avenue in Evanston, Saturday January 16 at 7:30 at Augustana Lutheran Church, 5500 South Woodlawn Avenue in Hyde Park, Chicago, and Sunday January 20 at 7:30 PM at the Chicago Symphony Center Granger Ballroom, 220 South Michigan Avenue.

Visit www.baroqueband.org for details and tickets.

The **Quinta Essentia** Recorder Ensemble plays Friday May 20, 2016 at 7 PM at Northeastern Illinois University's Steinberg Fine Arts Center, 5500 North St. Louis in Chicago. "Quinta Essentia is one of the leading chamber groups in Brazil and are taking the recorder into many different musical realms. Their collection of

recorders includes ancient and modern instruments: from Baroque recorders and a Renaissance consort to the modern square bass recorders, making each concert a rich experience for the audience." Call (773) 583-4050 or <http://neiu.edu/university-life/arts-northeastern/jewel-box-series>.

The **Tenuto Orchestra** offers Bach's Brandenburg Concerto #1 and the Haydn Farewell Symphony Friday, November 6 at 6:30 PM, Gale Auditorium, Stephen Gale Elementary School, 1631 West Jonquil Terrace in the Rogers Park neighborhood in Chicago, and again Saturday at 3 PM at the Blackhawk Middle School in Bensenville. Both performances are free, with donations accepted. Formerly the Bensenville Chamber Orchestra, the Tenuto Orchestra is in its fifth season; you can learn more by visiting tenutoorchestra.org.

The **Music of the Baroque** celebrates their 45th anniversary this year with an array of excellent 17th and 18th century programming. Their holiday brass and choral concerts are on Thursday, December 17 at 8 PM at Grace Lutheran Church in River Forest, Friday, December 18 at 8 PM at St. Michael's Church in Old Town in Chicago, and Saturday and Sunday, December 19 and 20, at 3 PM at the Divine Word Chapel in Northbrook. Hear Mozart, Bach and Handel (including the Water Music) January 24 and 25 (both at 7:30 PM) and Monteverdi's Vespers April 1 -3. In April Music of the Baroque offers an evening of music by Henry Purcell, "Hear my Prayer; Great Purcell Anthems." Sunday April 24, 2016 at 7:30 PM at the North Shore Center in Skokie, and Monday April 25 at 7:30 at the Harris Theater in Chicago. Finally, they offer Bach's Brandenburg Concerto #5, Telemann's Suite from Tafelmusik, and Vivaldi's Concerto for two Horns on Sunday May 22 and Monday May 23, both at 7:30. To learn more visit Baroque.org, or call (312) 551-1414.

There! This is only a small part of the fine Early Music available in the area. No excuse to be listening to Hip Hop.

To learn more, visit earlymusicchicago.org. This web site is an excellent resource to find out about coming events. You will also find on this site photos and videos, information about local musicians, ensembles, vendors, instruments, organizations, and composers, and you can also download sheet music, tutorials, and other educational materials.

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)

President	Ben Eisenstein (BenEisenstein@comcast.net) (847) 998-0198
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West Suburban Early Music Society (westsubems.org)

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Recorder Reporter contact:	Eric Stern (egstern1@netscape.net) (630) 428-8464

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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Visit us at chicagorecorders.org

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

Membership Form

Membership fees for 2015-2016 for the American Recorder Society are now due.

Name _____ Email Address _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

_____ \$30	Chicago chapter
_____ \$15	WSEMS
_____ \$50	National ARS Membership
_____ \$80	Chicago chapter <i>and</i> National ARS
_____ \$65	WSEMS <i>and</i> National ARS
\$_____	Donation to ___Chicago chapter ___WSEMS
Total amount enclosed \$_____	

Please mail this form to:

Chicago	Valerie DePriest 312 North East Avenue Oak Park, IL 60302
WSEMS	Marguerite Re 5117 Lee Avenue Downers Grove, IL 60515

If you are willing to receive publications from the ARS electronically, rather than by US Mail, the membership is \$45.