

Recorder Reporter

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

Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society

January 2016

Volume 57, Number 5

Chicago Chapter News

Yuletide! We had an excellent concert, with over 30 musicians performing in eight ensembles, including 17 members of the Chicago Chapter in a recorder orchestra piece, Jean Baptiste Lully's *Chaconne, L'Amour Medecin*. We had nearly 50 people join us for the event, good music, good food, good fellowship. We didn't manage to arrange for a blazing Yule log in a stone fireplace (or spiked punch) but we will set up a committee to pursue that for next year.



The Catalpa Quartet premiere, featuring Mirja Lorenz, Laura Osterlund, Lisette Kielson, and Patrick O'Malley

Four of our finest, Lisette Kielson, Patrick O'Malley, Mirja Lorenz, and Laura Osterlund, provided a world premiere of their new ensemble, the formerly Nameless Quartet. They also provided a green box and Post-it notes for suggestions. They recently announced that they will call themselves the Catalpa Quartet, and we will look forward to promoting their concerts in the future. Lisette is our current music director, and Laura, Mirja, and Patrick have all directed the Chicago chapter in the past, and have performed with groups like Bach Week, the Haymarket Opera, Music of the Baroque, and the Chicago Chamber Orchestra. So we get to brag about them and hear them again in months to come.

Welcome back to Mark Cleveland, Laura Osterlund, and Nancy VanBrundt; welcome to Kate Todd and Jeff Collins, of the Music Institute of Chicago Recorder Orchestra. In January Patrick O'Malley joins us, leading

us in playing jazz on recorder, followed by a special member's meeting.



Music Institute of Chicago Recorder Orchestra, featuring Mark Cleveland, Jeff Collins, Joanne Miller, Kate Todd, Nancy VanBrundt, and Patrick O'Malley



The Pippins

We will also make plans to provide another recorder workshop at the University of Chicago Folk Music Festival at 10 AM on Saturday, February 13, in Ida Noyes Hall, 1212 East 59th Street in Hyde Park, as we did in 2015 and 2014.

I think.

As of this writing the last time the Folklore Society updated their web page was in May of 2015.

The February 2016 date comes from a FaceBook posting in October or earlier. Repeated email messages to the Society have gone unanswered. Normally the Society offers information about the workshop schedule in mid-January, but the home page for the Festival itself should have been updated months ago. I assume the 56th annual Folk Music Festival is going to happen in February, but I have no details to offer about the festival at this point. Look for more information in the February newsletter.



The Baron's Noyse



The Chicago chapter—and a big crowd of guests—close the concert with a piece by Lully

For now, we can celebrate an excellent Yuletide Concert, and enjoy being part of a sturdy tradition. The Chicago chapter's first concert was in May of 1959. In May of 2016 I celebrate ten years since my first lesson on recorder. But I am still something of the new kid in the classroom. Even so, I delight in being a part of a community that recalls harmonies from an elegant, long-ago age, an age so different from ours with its reinforced concrete, grocery store Christmas music, and vinyl siding.

West Suburban Early Music Society

Nancy Chabala led the WSEMS for our December meeting playing music in our new holiday binders. We thank (in no particular order) Nancy, Nancy, Chris, Nancy, Kathy, Darleen and Marguerite for collecting and contributing music and assembling the books. We had a lot of fun especially with Darleen's arrangement of *Feliz Navidad* with Nancy Chabala and Mike Diaz giving us a Latin beat on woodblock and maracas.

After the break, Jim Heup returned to lead the alto duet group. We played selections from Jonathon DeLoach's *Baroque Christmas*, 12 English Carols which was enthusiastically reviewed in the November 2006 ARS Magazine. In these pieces, DeLoach has cleverly interpolated English carol tunes into alto duets by baroque English composer Robert Valentine. The result is a highly pleasing baroque piece with pop-up Christmas tunes.

For our next meeting on January 10, we will welcome Laura Osterlund, who will lead our meetings for the spring session. Our meeting will take place at 2 pm at the Downers Grove Friends meeting house. Hope to see everyone there!—Eric Stern



Marguerite Ré on garklein, and her mother Andrea Anderson

National Kazoo Week

Recorder players everywhere will be thrilled to know that January 24-30 is National Kazoo Week. Join the Old Town School of Folk Music for a week of jamming, performances, and kazoo specials, including a blow-out sale in the music store, Kazoup offered in the café, and the administration of the Kazoo Oath. In their press release, the Old Town School of Folk Music writes:

This Kazoo Oath, a closely held document of the National Society for the Kazoo (NSK), is administered to students and staff who agree to "carry a kazoo on their person" and to accept

certain voluntary stipulations. Upon completing the Oath, participants are shown the secret hand-signal by which kazooists may identify each other. Under the confidentiality rules of the NSK this signal cannot be described, but it can appear to the uninitiated as if the person is scratching their ear or the back of their head.

The kazoo and its history is classic Americana. The kazoo is an American instrument, invented in 1840 by Alabama Vest, an African-American, and manufactured by Thaddeus Von Clegg, a German-American. Accordingly, the kazoo is emblematic of American values: freedom of expression and freedom from government repression. As proclaimed by the NSK and other Kazoo adherents, not only should Americans be free to openly carry the kazoo but they should be free from any attempt of the government to require local, state, or federal registration of kazoos. The NSK itself promotes age-old traditions: That children from an early age should be taught safe use of their kazoo, and that no man of any age should pull out his kazoo to show to strangers.

The week ends with one of the great cultural landmarks in Illinois history, "The Well-Tempered Kazoo," on January 30. The ensembles will include jug bands, the Bones Jugs, the Sanctified Grumblers, The Deep Fried Pickle Project, Mr. Mayor and the Highballers, and the Strictly Jug Nuts. Besides kazoos, jug bands play whiskey jugs, wash boards, saws, wash basins, and hand-made banjos and string basses fashioned from travel trunks. I have heard all of these groups save the Bones Jugs, and can testify that they all create fine Early Music, just a different sort of Early Music from what we are used to. Find the Old Town School at 4544 North Lincoln Avenue, close to the Western Avenue stop on the CTA's Brown line. To learn more visit www.oldtownschool.org.



Mike Becker & Kathy Smart, Boxing Day (December 26), Hemingway House, Oak Park

The Clearing, a Recorder Festival

The Clearing is a week-long recorder workshop in northern Door County, Wisconsin, on a secluded retreat setting on the bluffs of Green Bay. For over thirty years this gem of music making has become a favorite of members of the West Suburban Early Music Society. It's the music that is the big draw for most of us, but a week of retreat, nature, camaraderie, and fabulous old fashioned homemade meals make for a unique and fun experience. This year's class runs from July 31 to August 4, 2016. This special opportunity is available for registration come February 25. The spots fill up fast. Learn more at the website theclearing.org. Hope 2016 brings you all you wish for, especially the magic of making music together!—*Joanne Miller*

Email Joanne at wan1@sbcglobal.net or call her at 847-359-8750 (home) or 847-345-9267 (cell).

From the President, Chicago Chapter

Our December Yuletide Concert was a great success and capped a great year! We had multiple groups participating in the concert and an enthusiastic audience. Earlier in the year we played at Lincoln Park Zoo, participated in play the recorder month at the Oak Park library, and had a great time at the University of Chicago Folk Music Festival. And that does not even include the outstanding monthly meetings lead by Lisette and other teachers.

I would like to see the string of successes continue into 2016 and beyond. In order to do that we need several things to occur. For one we need donations. Our treasurer Valerie DePriest pointed out to me that our members are getting monthly sessions with qualified clinicians at about \$3 a session. What a bargain! But to keep our programs going we need to pay rent on our room, pay the instructors and pay liability insurance. So please send to the treasurer donations above the membership fee!

The second thing we need to succeed is member involvement. To this end, we will be having a special session at the end of our meeting to discuss the chapter's future. The board, Mark, Valarie, Nadine and myself, have been busy brainstorming ways to raise membership and money, but we need your help. Please bring your ideas and enthusiasm for the recorder to the January meeting and participate in the discussion.—*Ben Eisenstein*

Music Coming Up

Schola Antiqua will perform February 6, 7:30 PM, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 1010 West Webster Avenue in Chicago, close to the Fullerton L stop. They also perform February 7, 2 PM, Rockefeller Memorial Chapel, 5850 South Woodlawn. Tickets are \$25, and \$10 for students.

Schola Antiqua has performed medieval and Renaissance choral music for 15 years. This February concert will feature sacred choral polyphony from 16th century Prague. Concert commentary will be provided by Erika Supria Honisch, Assistant Professor of Music History & Theory, Stony Brook University (www.schola-antiqua.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. Next month, January 24 & 25, join them for Handel's Water Music, Bach's Brandenburg Concerto #1, and symphonies by Mozart and Haydn. Visit www.baroqueband.org.

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
Vice President	Mark Dawson msjddawson@sbcglobal.net (773) 334-6376
Secretary	Nadine Petersen (nadptrs@gmail.com) (630) 654-2629
Treasurer	Valerie DePriest (themusicalchild@mac.com) 708-524-1625
Outreach	Hildé Staniulis (773) 363-7476 and Arlene Ghiron (afghiron@aol.com) (773) 525-4026
Webmaster	Ben Eisenstein Dennis Sherman
Music Director:	Lisette Kielson lisettekielson@gmail.com

West Suburban Early Music Society (westsubems.org)

President/Chapter Representative:	Joanne Miller (Wan1@sbcglobal.net) (847) 359-8750
Vice President:	Darlene Kay (630) 679-1506
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 (Nlw.Culp@gmail.com) (630) 690-7304
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.

Mark Dawson, newsletter editor
2425 W. Leland, Chicago, IL 60625-2913
Msjddawson@sbcglobal.net / (773) 334-6376
Visit us at chicagorecorders.org

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