

Recorder Reporter

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

December 2017

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Chicago Chapter Notes

Lisette Kielson joined us on November 19, offering tone exercises. We played with varying breath pressure, from 1, with so little pressure that we couldn't hear it at all, to 10, with so much breath pressure that we didn't want to. So once again we proved that the recorder has no dynamic range. But we also showed, again, that with the right control the instrument sounds beautiful.

Once we knew that, we got to work. We played a series of very cool modern pieces starting with Hans Ulrich Staeps work, *Syrinx*. That we followed with *Valse Triste* by another contemporary German, Soren Sieg, and closed with Steve Marshall's jazzy arrangement of *The Leaves be Blue*. Lisette returns on January 21, to offer ideas for tuning. And our next meeting is the annual Yuletide concert, December 17.

Also, we are looking for volunteers to bring snacks and drinks for the rest of the monthly meetings this season, January, February, March and April. If you are interested you can sign up at the December meeting or contact one of the Board members, Larry Johnson, Lynette Colmey, Valerie DePriest or Hyacinth Egner.



Chicago Chapter meeting in November

Yuletide Concert

It's time to finish plans for the annual Yuletide Concert for the Chicago Chapter. This year's event is on Sunday December 17 at 2 PM at Covenant Presbyterian Church, our regular meeting place, 2012 West Dickens. All are welcome to perform, or just listen. To be included in the program, send the name of your group, the names of the participants, the names of the pieces you plan to play, and the composers, to Larry at ljohnson1239@sbcglobal.net.

For our Holiday Feast, all are welcome to bring a favorite sweet or savory to share. Not at all required, but feel free to bring snacks if you'd like. The chapter will provide drinks. We hope to see you on December 17th!

West Suburban Early Music Society

The West Suburban Early Music Society met on November 12 with Nancy Chabala conducting. We played through some of the holiday packet that included *Cradle Song/ Away in a Manger*, using a technique where two compatible melodies are played together at the same time for an interesting harmonic effect. We also played an "irregular" piece, known as *In the Bleak Midwinter*. Others melodies included *Veni, Veni Emmanuel*, *O Sanctissima*, *I Wonder as I Wander*; and *Deck the Halls*.



All are invited to our holiday playing meeting in December! Bring a favorite treat (musical or gastronomical, if you wish), and help us bring holiday cheer through the magic of music. We'll meet in Downers Grove at 2 PM on Sunday December 10. We start at 2 to warm up and rehearse, and present group pieces starting at 3 PM.

December 17	Yuletide concert
January 21	Lisette Kielson, tuning
February 18	Lisette Kielson, technique
March 18	Andrew Schultze directs
April 15	Lisette Kielson, rhythm/counting
May 20	Spring concert

Remembering Rudy Mundle

Long-time Chicago chapter member Rudy Mundle died in March of 2016 (the May 2016 issue of this newsletter features a tribute to him). Besides playing bagpipes to open each day of the Early Music Festival at the University of Wisconsin/Whitewater—at 6 AM—Rudy was celebrated for his woodworking skills, and in particular, his hand-made instrument stands. Performer's Music used to offer them for sale, for nearly 20 years, until around 2006. Rudy's son Roger just brought Lee Newcomer at Performer's Music the last five stands Rudy built, discovered in his garage. They are available for \$24.95 each. Performer's Music is on the 9th floor of the Fine Arts Building at 410 South Michigan Avenue, and is open until 7 on weekdays and 9 to 5 on weekends. Visit performersmusicchicago.com, call 312 987-1196, or email performersmusic@yahoo.com.



One of Rudy Mundle's instrument stands



*The Rockefeller Chapel Choir sings from Heinrich Shutz's *Musikalische Exequien* (1635), the first requiem in the German language, on Tuesday November 7.*



Marion Consort, St. Clement, November 18

Online Wonders

WBEZ radio of Chicago, an NPR affiliate, offers a program called Curious City. Listeners offer questions about Chicago, and staff reporters seek to answer them. In the past citizens have wondered about the history of bath houses in Chicago, the origin of the Cook County Forest Preserve District, and what really happens to Chicago yard waste. On November 19 Monica Eng of WBEZ addressed the question, "Little Fingers and Screechy Sounds: Why do so Many Kids Learn to Play the Recorder?" (<https://www.wbez.org/shows/curious-city/>). Our own Valerie DePriest is interviewed for the conversation.

Sean Gallagher, a professor at the New England Conservatory, offers a lecture on Flemish composer Johannes Ockeghem (1410/25-1497) before a 2015 concert of Blue Heron in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kNOPn1RJ4BQ>

German vocal ensemble Amarcord tells us what's for dinner in this YouTube video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ki0nn7o5n0>

To sing with a bass like that! Wow.

And here is some French dinner music, "Le chant des oiseaux" a song written in 1537 by Clément Janequin, a popular composer in the French Renaissance.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xx2k3R_ACl8

A crumhorn ensemble, made up of identical quintuplets:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XFePC4vBWh0>

An alternative method for playing Rachmaninov:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifKKlhYF53w>

While you are exploring YouTube, consider this organization, Cool Dads of America, courtesy A Prairie Home Companion:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4rMMPIo1Cwk>

This lacks any recorder-playing dads, but it will have to do. Chris Thile plays mandolin instead.

And finally, we should all watch, at least once a week, the final play of game 7 of the 2016 World Series.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KAXI9Dtcz90>

You know, the Recorder Reporter newsletter in the 1960s did not offer links to YouTube videos.

Music and More Coming Up

The **Marion Consort** offers Music of the Italian Convents, women's voices and organ, on Saturday March 10, 2018 at 7:30 PM at St. Mary of Perpetual Help, 1039 West 32nd Street in Chicago. Tickets \$20; visit www.marionconsort.org. St. Mary of Perpetual Help, built in 1889 to serve the Polish community in Bridgeport, is well worth a visit on its own. This Romanesque/Byzantine parish features a lavishly decorated interior and three soaring domes.

The 58th annual **University of Chicago Folk Music Festival** returns February 9-10. This festival has been around for as long as we have in the Chicago chapter; two days of free workshops and two evening concerts. The chapter has provided a recorder workshop each year since 2014, and we are considering continuing that tradition. So keep Saturday February 10 open.

Early Music Now, founded in Milwaukee in 1986, focuses on presenting only historically informed period instrument performances from before 1800.

The Boston Camerata is joined by the SHARQ Arabic Music Ensemble on December 9 at 5 PM and December 10 at 3 PM at St. Joseph Chapel, Sisters of St. Francis, at 1501 South Layton Boulevard in Milwaukee. They will offer "A Mediterranean Christmas," music from around the Mediterranean Sea as early as 700 years ago.

The Flanders Recorder Quartet of Belgium performs "The Final Chapter: 30 Years" as part of their farewell tour on February 17 at 5 PM at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 914 East Knapp Street in Milwaukee. They offer transcriptions of music for organ and traverso, both old and new works. "The program represents one final burst of colorful recorder fireworks. Join a pre-concert lecture at 4 PM and a reception at intermission.

To learn more visit www.earlymusicnow.org or find them on Facebook at earlymusicnowmilwaukee. More concerts are coming up in March and April of 2018.

The **Handel Week Festival** returns this spring. All concerts are performed at Grace Episcopal Church, 924 Lake Street in Oak Park, a few blocks from Pilgrim Congregational where the Oak Park Recorder Society meets. Sunday February 11 at 3 PM the festival offers the Grand Handel, including the complete Water Music and the Latin sacred cantata Gloria. Saturday February 24 at 7:30 PM will feature the Intimate Handel, music for soprano, violins and basso continuo, including *Laudate pueri dominum* and two trio sonatas. The festival closes on Sunday March 4 at 3 PM Handel and Bach both being played, Bach's *Magnificat* and Handel's *The Choice of Hercules*. To learn more, visit www.handelweek.com.

Hear the **Pippins** sing three times in December:

- Monday, December 11, at Christkindlemarket, 6:30 PM, Daley Plaza, Washington & Clark Streets
- Friday, December 15, 7 PM, Andersonville, Women & Children First Bookstore, 5333 North Clark Street
- Sunday, December 17, 2 PM, Yuletide Concert, Chicago Chapter, American Recorder Society, Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2012 West Dickens



The Pippins, with a painting made of the ensemble at the Cultural Center on June 21, for Make Music Chicago

The theater company **Midsommer Flight** has made a name for itself in recent years by offering splendid free Shakespeare each summer in parks across Chicago. Susan and I enjoyed *Hamlet* last summer, and *As You Like it* in the summer of 2016 in Gross Park, an easy walk from our home in Lincoln Square. The company has a new holiday tradition of performing the romantic comedy *Twelfth Night* in the Lincoln Park Conservatory, an excellent performance set on a tropical island and using as close to a tropical setting as Chicago can provide in the winter time, the Lincoln Park Conservatory. Susan and I attended on a frigid December evening in 2016, a delightful venture made all the more memorable in the

Victorian era greenhouse by offering some unplanned context. Hawaii inside, Alaska without. Hot humid air rose to the ceiling, touched cold glass, condensed. And fell. At intermission the cast handed out umbrellas. We all savored the irony of the Bard's closing song, offered by the fool, "And the Rain it Raineth Every Day," even as the audience was sitting in a gentle—and indoor—rain.

Enjoy some fine acting at the Lincoln Park Conservatory, 2391 Stockton Drive, until December 17, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights at 7:30. Make sure to RSVP site at Midsommerflight.com. The performance is free, but donations are gladly welcomed, and richly deserved. Find the Conservatory just south of Fullerton, close to the lakefront. You can exit Lake Shore Drive at Fullerton and park in the Lincoln Park Zoo parking lot, or use the garage just north of the Chicago History Museum. The Conservatory is about a mile walk from the Fullerton L stop, Brown or Red line, and the #74 Fullerton Avenue bus serves the site, or take the #22 Clark Street bus north from the Red line subway stop at Clark & Division.



Midsommer Flight at Lincoln Park Conservatory, Dec 2016

Chapter Information

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 ARS (ChicagoRecorders.org)

President	Larry Johnson (ll_johnson1239@sbcglobal.net) (773) 631-6671
Vice President	Lynette Colmey (ljcolmey@gmail.com) (708) 366-7720
Secretary	Hyacinth Egner (hyacinth_egner@yahoo.com)
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Webmaster	Ben Eisenstein
Music Director:	Lisette Kielson lisettekielson@gmail.com

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.

West Suburban Early Music Society (westsubems.org)

President/Chapter Representative:	Joanne Miller (Wan1@sbcglobal.net) (847) 359-8750
Vice President:	Darleen Kay (630) 679-1506
Secretary:	Nancy Finley (nfelma3@comcast.net) (630) 554-4363
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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.

Visit us at chicagorecorders.org
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