

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

At the April meeting our music director, Lisette Kielson, presented two Renaissance pieces that illustrated the technical review topic Rhythm and Counting. The first selection was "La Averolda" by Floriano Canale (1550? - 1603?), which began in 4/2 time with four half notes per measure, changed in the middle to 6/4, and then later, back to 4/2. Lisette explained the choices that might be made in interpreting these common changing meters.

If the 4/2 section is counted in four, one beat per half note, then one option in the triple meter section (as the famous editor Bernard Thomas suggests) is to have one half note in the 4/2 section equal one dotted half note in the 6/4 section. This keeps the tactus the same while speeding up the tempo and giving the music a bright, dance-like quality.

If instead the 4/2 section is counted in two whole notes per measure, then one could have one whole note equal the dotted quarter note in the 6/4 section, again, keeping the pulse the same. This has the very different effect of slowing down the tempo and creating a more stately character. Each option is valid, and each has its own interpretive effect on the music.

The second selection was "Par ung tout seul" (a 15th century anonymous chanson). This was arranged in cut time with two half notes (or four quarters) per measure. The exercise here was to pay attention to the arranger's beaming and brackets in order to get a sense of the common rhythmic figures of the time (and to ignore our impulse to play syncopations!).

Finally, just for fun, and to practice sight reading, technique, counting, and blues gestures, we revisited "The Leaves Be Blue," by Steve Marshall from an earlier meeting. We decided that we'll play this piece as a group in the May 20 concert.—*Larry Johnson*

Spring Concert

It's time to plan for the annual Spring Concert for the Chicago Chapter on Sunday, May 20th, at 2 PM. All are welcome to perform, or just listen. All types of music are welcome, early, modern and otherwise, on recorder. You can introduce other instruments like gamba or lute or keyboard, or perform choral works, but if you are providing music not on recorder, your pieces must be early music.

Note that our May 2019 concert, next year, marks the 60th anniversary of the first concert offered by the Chicago chapter in May of 1959.

To be included in the program, send the name of your group and the names of the participants, the title of the piece(s) you plan to play, and the composers, to Larry Johnson at lj_johnson1239@sbcglobal.net.

For this celebration of spring, all are welcome to bring a favorite snack or food to share. It's not required, but feel free to bring treats if you'd like. Drinks will be provided. We hope to see you on May 20th!—*Larry Johnson*

Early Music Festival, Whitewater

It is time to register for Whitewater, Friday through Sunday June 1-3, 2018. You should be receiving registration materials in the mail shortly, or find everything you need at www.whitewaterearlymusic.org. The schedule and forms are available for download.

This year the Viola da Gamba Society 3rd Coast joins Whitewater for the first time. The 3rd Coast has regularly offered Memorial Day workshops for the last ten years or so. This year the two music festivals are offered together. Early Music Festival participants over the years have enjoyed hearing a gamba ensemble perform on our Sunday afternoon concerts, but generally the gamba players have been taught and managed as a separate group of musicians who were nice enough to decide to join us recorder players at our annual gathering at Whitewater. This year, by bringing the two communities together, the goal is to provide more opportunities for gamba and recorder players to learn and play together than before.

The Viola da Gamba is a chamber string instrument that first appears in Europe in the late 15th century. The gamba has six strings to four strings for a violin or viola, and uses a different bowing technique. It is also played between the legs, like a cello, hence the name, which means "leg-viol." The gamba was popular Renaissance and early Baroque until it was largely replaced by the violin family in the mid-18th century. Violins and their relatives are better suited for later orchestral and opera music because they can better project sound. The same 18th century musical trends, toward larger sound, larger ensembles, and larger concert halls, also led to the piano forte, and then the piano, replacing the harpsichord, and to a decline in composing and performing on recorder. But a renewed

interest in the gamba emerged in the 20th century, as part of the Early Music movement, and as part of an interest in performing Renaissance works on period instruments.



With the joint festival this year Dr. Philip Serna joins the Whitewater faculty for the first time. Musicians who follow Early Music in the Midwest have heard Philip Serna perform on gamba before, including with the Black Tulip ensemble, where he joins our own Mirja Lorenz. Serna plays double bass with a variety of Midwestern orchestras and viola da gamba with New Comma Baroque and the Spirit of Gambo, besides Black Tulip. He serves on the faculty at the Music Institute of Chicago as well as at North Central College in Illinois and at Valparaiso University in Indiana.

Lisette Kielson's workshop

The 12th annual Midwest Recorder Workshop is Saturday, September 8, Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts at 600 North East Street, Room 231, in Bloomington, Illinois. The event starts at 9 AM and continues until 4:30, \$75 for ARS members who register before June 30. The fee includes music and snacks, and music stands are provided, but bring your instruments!

This year's theme is "The Orpheus of Amsterdam: Music of Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck." Lessons and ensemble coaching for all levels are also available on Friday, September 7. Please contact Lisette directly to make plans for coaching. For further information, call Lisette Kielson at 309.750.3234 or email LisetteKielson@gmail.com.

West Suburban Early Music Society

The West Suburban Early Music Society had hopes of spring led us on Sunday April 8, despite a cold December wind that was in our mistress's heart! (Mistress Weather). Yes, we did play *April is in our Mistress' Face* by Thomas Morley. We know that May is soon to arrive and we hope to bring it on sooner with merry playing!

Nancy Chabala led us in this meeting where we ventured into plumbers' territory. A set of pieces written by Andrew Charlton for the "Plumber's Union" of Edmonton, Alberta included *Royal Flush* for recorder quintet; SAATB. Merry good fun! Keep the pressure steady on the beat to keep the notes moving right on through until to the end! Also we played *Le Clerque's Air* by Richard Wood from 2008. Thomas Tallis authored *If Ye Love Me*, was arranged beautifully with lyrical tenderness. *Welcome to our Music Feast* is becoming a fast favorite as well as Purcell's *How Blest are Shepherds*. Daniel Heiman's arrangement of Orlando de Lassus's *Suzanne un Jour* also kept us on our toes.

Our last meeting of the season will be on May 6 when we celebrate spring with musical sharing! Come join us! Bring a treat to share, if you'd like. Contact anyone at WSEMS if you have questions.—Joanne Miller

Laura Osterlund returns to Chicago

Laura recently finished a Master's degree in Historical Performance at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, and now lives in Hyde Park. Laura would like to offer private and small group recorder lessons to students in the Chicago area.

As part of the requirements for her degree Laura delivered a performance lecture on April 10 on "The Codex Faenza and the Tradition of Improvisation." The Faenza Codex is one of the largest surviving collections of late medieval instrumental music, and it represents a look at early improvisation; improvising was quite popular at the time, but most of these melodies were never written down.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K8fvUzHZCps>

To hear Laura's music, visit her YouTube Chanel, <https://www.youtube.com/user/lauraosterlund>.

www.lauraosterlund.com

Laura is playing recorder on Monday, July 23 at 12:15 in Preston Bradley Hall, Chicago Cultural Center, Washington and Michigan Avenues, in a free concert sponsored by the Musicians Club of Women.

Music and More coming up

Two concerts of great interest are coming up in the fall from the **Howard Mayer Brown International Early Music Series** at the University of Chicago. Both concerts, and a lot more, are described at the web site <https://chicagopresents.uchicago.edu>. You will find plenty of street parking in the area, and both venues offered are accessible from the Metra train station at 59th Street and by the #6 Jackson Park bus from the Loop.

Cappella Pratensis performs Sunday November 11 at 3 PM at the Logan Center for the Performing Arts, offering a concert of 15th and 16th century polyphony, featuring works of Josquin des Prez and a 15th century choir book, on a central music stand. Logan Center for the Arts is at 915 East 60th Street, across the Midway from Rockefeller Chapel.

The **Tallis Scholars**, a remarkable choral group from the United Kingdom, noted for performing sacred choral works from the Renaissance, offers “A Renaissance Christmas” at Rockefeller Chapel, Sunday December 9 at 3 PM. The Chapel is on the University of Chicago campus at 1414 East 59th Street.

You are permitted to attend other UChicago Presents concerts. Next season features an improv ensemble on traditional Korean instruments, the Chicago Symphony Winds offering Strauss and Dvorak, five different jazz ensembles, the 75th anniversary season opener for the Takacs Quartet, and a lot more.

The University of Chicago is sponsoring a **Renaissance Festival** on Sunday May 6, 5 – 9:30 PM, at the International House, 1414 East 59th Street. \$20 at the door, 21 and older only. The event features exhibits and a reception until 6 PM followed by dinner and a concert program (including the Pippins). Enjoy food, arts, magic, historical books, music and costumes. To register email Daniele Macuglia at macuglia@uchicago.edu.

The **Old Town School of Folk Music** in Chicago offers their annual Blue Jean Gala fundraiser on Saturday June 23, starting at 5 PM. The event features a roaming feast, with food offered at several local restaurants, a concert led by Ry Cooder, and an after party with more food and live music. No black ties or evening gowns needed. Tickets start at \$500 each, to benefit their education programs, outreach, and financial aid for students and children. Founded in 1957, the Old Town School has the largest facility in the world devoted to folk and roots music. The School serves 6600 students a week, including 2700 children, and offers hundreds of classes and workshops on music, dance, and art all year round. About 85,000 people attend concerts there, and the School hosts the annual Square Roots neighborhood music festival, a music store, café, and a resource center. The School is at 4544 North Lincoln Avenue in Lincoln Square. Easy parking, or walk from the L stop at Western Avenue. Visit <http://www.oldtownschool.org/gala/presale>.

The **Pippins** will be singing on June 21 at 7 PM for Make Music Chicago at St. James Cathedral, 65 East Huron Street on the Gold Coast. St. James Cathedral is the home church for the Episcopal diocese of Chicago, and an elegant 1890s Arts and Crafts movement Gothic

Revival design. The church is well worth a visit by itself, and it historically has hosted a wide variety of musical groups every June 21. You can reach St. James by taking the CTA Red line to the Chicago Avenue subway stop and walking three blocks.

The **Oak Park Concert Choral** offers a spring workshop on Renaissance choral music on Saturday May 12 in the Veterans Room of the Oak Park Public Library, 10 AM until noon, followed by a brief performance in the library lobby. To learn more visit <http://www.oakparkconcertchorale.org>. The Oak Park Public Library is on Lake Street near Oak Park Avenue, an easy walk from the Oak Park Metra stop and from the Oak Park Avenue L station on the CTA Green Line.

Midsommer Flight offers free Shakespeare in the Parks again the summer of 2018, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*:

- July 7-8, Lincoln Park, 2045 N Lincoln Park West
- July 14-15 and 21-22 in Gross Park in Lincoln Square, at 2708 West Lawrence
- August 4-5 and 11-12 at Chicago Women’s Park at 1801 South Indiana
- July 28-20 and August 18-19 at Touhy Park, 7348 North Paulina.

Saturdays at 6 PM and Sundays at 2. To learn more visit <https://midsommerflight.com/current-flight>.

The **Marion Consort** offers medieval dance music accompanied by hurdy gurdy. Music selections include songs from the Codex Las Huelgas, the Cantigas de la Santa Maria, Francesco Landini, Guillaume Dufay, Tomas Luis de Victoria, and many more! Hear them on Saturday May 5 at 7:30 PM at First United Methodist Church, 1903 Euclid in Arlington Heights, and Sunday May 6 at 4 PM at Christ Church United Church of Christ at 915 East Oklahoma, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Tickets are \$15, \$20 at the door. Visit www.marionconsort.org.

The **Fox Valley Folk Music Festival** returns Labor Day weekend, Sunday and Monday, September 2-3, after being cancelled last year due to flooding. Three days of folk and blue grass, world music, story-telling, hammer dulcimer, jamming, and dance, with great food and company on Island Park in Geneva, Illinois. Eight stages, music 11 AM to 6 PM, and a Saturday night concert at 7 PM. The venue is an easy walk from the Metra train station in Geneva. \$20 for both days. Visit <http://foxvalleyfolk.com> to learn more.

Bella Voce celebrates their 35th anniversary season at their Gala 2018, Saturday May 19 at 6 PM at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago. They offer an evening

of performances, food, a jazz trio, and free access to the Museum's galleries, besides an opportunity to mix with the members of the ensemble and their friends and supporters. Bella Voce offers both historic and modern works, though their repertoire and performances are rooted in the English Renaissance and European Baroque. Past performances have included Monteverdi's *Vespers*, Brahms *German Requiem*, and Handel's *Messiah*. Tickets are \$175; visit www.bellavoce.org to learn more.

The **Chicago History Museum** is sponsoring a celebration of the 125th anniversary of the World's Columbian Exposition, Tuesday May 29 at 6 PM. The event features late 19th century parlor music played live, with commentary from Lake Forest College professor Donald Meyer. A reception is followed by a lecture at 6:30 PM, \$15. To learn more visit the Museum web site, <https://www.chicagohistory.org/event/125th-anniversary-worlds-colombian-exposition-celebration>.

The web page for **WFMT** radio features an article about the beautiful and elegant Mantua, Italy of the 16th century, the oppression the Jews of Mantua endured in the era, and the privileged position of one Jew, composer Salamone Rossi, in Duke Gonzaga's court:

<https://www.wfmt.com/2017/09/19/from-ghetto-to-palazzo-how-a-jewish-composer-in-renaissance-italy-harmonized-two-worlds/>

A.A. Milne's poem, "Disobedience," set to music by the Chad Mitchell Trio.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=axPaGP1UEqc>

Here is a flash mob in Nurnberg, Germany, 2014, that started with a girl playing a recorder.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TRktavB7KRQ>

Concerto for Orchestra and Solo Typewriter by American composer Leroy Anderson (1908-1975).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jinGW7ZDGPM>

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.

Chicago Chapter ARS (ChicagoRecorders.org)

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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
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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 Downers Grove. 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.

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.

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<https://www.facebook.com/ChicagoARS>

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