

Recorder Reporter

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

Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society

September 2018

Volume 60, Number 1

Chicago Chapter Anniversary Season

This is our 60th anniversary year. The Chicago chapter started meeting in 1958-1959, with our first public concert in May of 1959. The earliest newsletter we could find was printed in September of 1960, and it seems that from the beginning we have been meeting on the third Sunday of the month, September through May. Our charter from the American Recorder Society, as the third national chapter (after New York City and Boston), is dated January 1, 1963.

The chapter evidently started meeting at the Old Town School of Folk Music at 333 West North Avenue. A newsletter from 1960 advertised rides to meetings for interested musicians. Membership cost \$2.50 a year in those days, climbing to \$11 in 1971. Visitors to meetings who could not present a membership card were charged 50 cents, and members were expected to sell tickets for the annual spring concert, \$1.25 each. The records indicate that, over the years, the chapter met at Church of the Ascension at LaSalle and Division, at St. James Episcopal Cathedral on Huron, and at St. Chrysostom's Church 1424 North Dearborn.

In May of 1961 the chapter had a bank balance of \$283.06, and enjoyed \$525 in receipts for the spring concert (\$328.45 net profit), suggesting that several hundred people attended. The spring concert must have been a big deal if it was held in places like the Waldorf Room at the Conrad Hilton Hotel or the Illinois Room at the LaSalle Hotel, both in the Loop.

But getting started playing recorder in the 1950s and 60s was not easy. Building expertise took time—recorder players everywhere were effectively relearning an instrument that had been largely abandoned for nearly two centuries. I have been warned not to listen to albums featuring recorder playing from those days. The December 1960 newsletter reflected on lost musical treasures, and ongoing efforts to recover those same treasures, quoting from an article published by Aldous Huxley in 1956:

Practically nobody has heard any music composed before 1680. Renaissance poetry, painting and sculpture have been studied in minutest detail, and the labors of five generations of scholars have been made available to the public in hundreds of monographs, general histories,

critical appreciations and guidebooks. But Renaissance music—an art that was fully the equal of Renaissance poetry, painting, and sculpture—has received relatively little attention from scholars and is almost unknown to the concert-going public

How few people have heard, or even heard of, the music of Dufay, and Josquin, of Okeghem and Obrecht, of Ysaac and Wert and Marenzio, of Dunstable, Byrd and Victoria! All that can be said is that twenty years ago, the number was still smaller than it is today, and a couple of generations earlier the ignorance was almost total.

Further, the January 1962 newsletter advertised for someone to manage the spring concert. The president and the chapter music director did not have the time, and the original volunteer had dropped out. There was more than that, though. The newsletter observed that both the president and the music director were both “still in a state of shock over the level of performance turned in by some of Chicago’s supposedly most competent individuals and groups at last year’s concert.”

Well. We have prospered since. And there was clearly plenty of energy in the early days of the chapter, a wide variety of ensembles forming and performing, faithful attendance at meetings, monthly newsletters and annual concerts and workshops and beginners learning from mentors and break-out sessions for players of differing abilities. We are part of a grand tradition.

What is your part of that tradition? We are looking at bringing back an earlier practice, of profiling chapter members once a month in this newsletter. And do you have other stories to tell? Memories to share? Vintage photographs, perhaps? Let your editor know. We will plan for more articles about the chapter’s heritage in future editions of this newsletter.

Welcome to the 2018-2019 Season!

Lisette Kielson returns in September as our music director, guiding us for our meetings in November, January, February, and April as well. Lisette’s sessions will focus on playing, and on that search for the Holy Grail of how to improve playing and listening. Lisette will address, throughout each chapter meeting, technique tips that are relevant to the music and featured topic, including breathing, phrasing, articulation, rhythm, dexterity, and ensemble skills.

The Chapter Board is also delighted to announce that the Viola da Gamba Society “3rd Coast” will be joining us for some of the meetings this season, led by Philip Serna of the Music Institute of Chicago. We look to have the Gamba Society join us for at least one meeting, but it could be as many as three or four. We will provide details later.

Chapter Meetings 2018-2019

September 16 Viols welcome!

Double choir music for recorders and viols, or
Sing, Sing a Song: Arrangements of vocal music

October 21 TBA

November 18 Viols welcome!

Tomato, Tomahto: English music for recorders & viols
Review music for Yuletide Concert

December 16 Yuletide concert

January 20 Viols welcome!

Fancy That: Fantasias, Canzonas, Ricercars, & Fugues

February 17 Viols welcome!

Dance party!

March 17 Andrew Schultze

Music of the Hapsburg Empire for recorders, from
the Austrian National Library on its 650th anniversary

April 14 Viols welcome! (second Sunday)

Viva Italia!

May 19 Spring concert

Our meetings will start as usual at 2 PM. However, the church has asked us to be considerate of other church groups that hold meetings in the same space in the education building. Please plan to arrive around 1:45 PM for our monthly meetings, and if our meeting space is still occupied, wait patiently in the hallway or in another room until the church group is finished.

West Suburban Early Music Society

The West Suburban Early Music Society meets for the start of our new season on Sunday, September 9 at our usual location at 2 PM. We have Nancy Chabala lined up to direct this meeting with a specially chosen program. We also look forward to having Dennis Sherman direct us for our October 14 and November 11 meetings. We look forward to seeing you at our meetings for camaraderie and fun making music together! We have two newly elected officers on our board, Suzanne Scott, secretary/membership (sirds@sbcglobal.net) 630-605-2326, and Nona Freeman, hospitality 847-639-4614. Welcome to our new board for a great new season.—*Joanne Miller*



Jamming at the WSEMS picnic, August 12

April Workshop with Clea Galhano

Save the Date, April 13, 2019, for our Recorder Workshop with Clea Galhano!

We are excited to announce that Brazilian recorder player, teacher, performer and recording artist Clea Galhano will lead the Chicago chapter biennial workshop on Saturday, April 13, 2019! Clea is currently the Executive Artistic Director of the St. Paul Conservatory of Music and a faculty member at Indiana University. She has performed as a soloist and as a chamber musician in the United States, Canada, South America and Europe. Clea has degrees from the Royal Conservatory in The Hague and from the New England Conservatory in Boston. The workshop to be held at Covenant Presbyterian Church; more details to come. Make plans to join Clea in April!

Spring concert photos

Another fine gathering on May 20, 24 musicians in six ensembles, and a guest, Andrew Schultze, was pressed into service to sing with the Pippins!



The Pippins, with a borrowed tenor



The Baron's Noyse



The Chicago Chapter

Music coming up

The **Bach and Beethoven Experience** offers "Chicago Stories Book 2" this fall, featuring Laura Osterlund on recorder and David Schrader on piano, offering original music about Chicago neighbors and neighborhoods. Two are part of the free Night Out in the Parks series at Loyola Park (1230 West Greenleaf Avenue) on September 29 and at Armour Square Park (3309 South Shields Avenue) on October 6, both at 6:30 PM.

<https://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/events/chicago-stories-loyola>

A third performance will be at Den Theater in Chicago (331 North Milwaukee) on October 7 at 6:30 PM. Visit <http://bbexperience.org>.

The **Newberry Consort** offers two concerts of interest to open their 2018-2019 season, starting with Elizabethan Jigs October 19, 20, and 21, with dancer Steven Player and a promise of raucous revelry. For the holidays, enjoy

a Mexican Christmas on December 14, 15, and 16, with Baroque music from a Mexico City convent featuring music from a women's ensemble and a street band.

The concerts are at:

- Logan Center for the Arts of the University of Chicago, 915 East 60th Street in Hyde Park
- Ruggles Hall is at the Newberry Library, 60 W Walton Street in Chicago.
- The Mary Galvin Recital Hall is at Northwestern University, at 70 Arts Circle Drive, along the lakefront and north of Chicago Avenue and Sheridan in Evanston

Visit <https://newberryconsort.org/tickets/19-21>



Black Tulip, 4th Presbyterian Church, June 1 2018



The Pippins, Make Music Chicago, June 21

Chapter Membership Dues

Chicago chapter membership dues are payable in September, \$40 for the 2018-2019 season. We are again offering the Sponsor Membership for \$140 a year. The additional \$100 allows you to sponsor one of our monthly

meetings. You will be recognized in this newsletter, and invited to provide one to three pieces of music to perform at a future meeting. Find the membership form at the end of this newsletter, or on our web site. Please renew your membership on time! Dues can be given directly to our officers during our next two meetings, or you can mail in the form at the end of this newsletter.

Chapter Information

Our chapters are open to anyone, regardless of musical training, who wants to cultivate appreciation of the art, history and use of the recorder and related instruments. Our meetings, programs and publications help members to come together with 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, September to May by the Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society.

Chicago Chapter ARS (ChicagoRecorders.org)

- President Larry Johnson
(ll_johnson1239@sbcglobal.net) (773) 631-6671
- Vice President Lynette Colmey
(ljcolmey@gmail.com) (708) 638-7721
- Secretary Hyacinth Egner
(hyacinth_egner@yahoo.com)
- Treasurer Cheryl Kreiman
(chekrei@aol.com) 773-972-7679
- 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.

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/Membership: Suzanne Scott
(SIRDS@sbcglobal.net) (630) 605-2326
- Treasurer: Kathy Hall-Babis
(kathy.hallbabis@gmail.com) (630) 464-1828
- Membership: Nancy Finley
(nfelma3@comcast.net) (630) 554-4363
- Hospitality: Nona Freeman
(847) 639-4614
- 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 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.

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

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

Enter the front door of the parish building west of the

Membership Form

Membership fees for 2018-2019 for the American Recorder Society are now due.

Name _____ Email Address _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

- | | | | | |
|-------------|---|--|-------|---|
| _____ \$40 | Chicago chapter | _____ \$30 | WSEMS | Please mail this form to:
Chicago Chapter ARS
c/o Cheryl Kreman, PO Box 2132
Oak Park, IL 60303-2132 |
| _____ \$50 | National ARS Membership | | | |
| _____ \$90 | Chicago chapter and National ARS | | | |
| _____ \$80 | WSEMS and National ARS | | | |
| _____ \$140 | Sponsoring Membership | Month you would like to sponsor: _____ | | |

\$_____ Donation to ___ Chicago chapter _____ WSEMS
 Total amount enclosed \$ _____

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