

Recorder Reporter

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

December 2018

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Chicago Chapter

We had another excellent meeting in November with Lisette. Some 14 people participated, including four newcomers, or relative newcomers. Three of the recorder players rode their bikes to the meeting:



Recorder players ride bicycles

These recorder players also played recorder, with everyone else. And a few of us sang, too. We played John Willbye's "Softly, O Softly Drop My Eyes" and "Those Dainty Daffadillies" by Thomas Morley, with vocalists on soprano, alto, and bass for the Willbye piece. The chapter plans to perform Morley's "Those Dainty Daffadillies" for the Yuletide concert.

January 20	Lisette Kielson, Fantasias, Canzonas, Ricercars and Fugues
February 17	Lisette Kielson, Dance Party!
March 17	Andrew Schultze directs
April 14	Lisette Kielson, Viva Italia!
May 19	Spring concert

West Suburban Early Music Society

The West Suburban Early Music Society met in November to welcome Dennis Sherman once again to lead our group. This time he focused on percussion, since we have a couple of folks in our group quite interested in playing percussion as it adds a special kind of sound and emphasis beyond the recorder that can make a piece come alive. Dennis provided a copy of a page from a handbook from the 1500's that had written out different rhythmic patterns that the drums would rely

on to play for the military bands of France. As we played through selections from early music Dennis demonstrated how drums could be adjusted in their sound by adjusting the rope around the drum. Different areas on the drum skin produce different sounds as well and some of these sounds come out clearer as a specific note and would be used in music that was in that key. As usual with Dennis we got a lot of history and background on percussion and its supportive role in giving music a lot of shading, emphasis, and color. Percussion can be so much more than just keeping time for the band! Thank you, Dennis!

Our next meeting on December 9 will celebrate the advent season. Nancy Chabala will once again bring out holiday gems from her vast collection. This meeting is always a favorite! Bring snacks if you wish. We will be in touch about music available ahead of the meeting on our website.—*Joanne Miller*

Yuletide Concert

Our next meeting is the annual Yuletide Concert. Everyone is welcome to perform, or just listen, and all types of music are also welcome, seasonal or otherwise. This year's event is on Sunday December 16 at 2 PM. 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 Johnson at ll_johnson1239@sbcglobal.net.

As a special treat, our own local Chicago Recorder Quartet will be performing a concerto this year. Don't miss the opportunity to hear a really wonderful professional ensemble!

Afterwards, please stay to join us for our Holiday buffet. All are welcome to bring a favorite snack or sweet to share. Not required, but feel free to bring something if you'd like. We hope to see you on December 16th at 2 PM, Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2012 W. Dickens.

Scholarships for recorder workshop

The Columbia Gorge Early Music Retreat is offering scholarships for their workshop, March 15-18, 2019, at the Menucha Retreat and Conference Center in Corbett, Oregon, about 20 miles east of Portland. The event is sold out already, except for a few openings for dedicated recorder players and teachers who apply now. The

scholarships cover full tuition, room, and board. Applications for scholarships must be postmarked by December 31.

<https://portlandrecordersociety.wordpress.com/columbia-gorge-early-music-retreat/tuition-and-fees/>

If you have questions, feel free to contact Susan Campbell, CGEMR workshop administrator, at prs@portlandrecordersociety.org.

OPRS at Blind Services

The Oak Park Recorder Society provided nine members to play at the Blind Services of Chicago, 16 South Wabash, on Monday November 12. OPRS played there five years ago, and for three years Valerie DePriest, Lynette Colmey, and Rebecca McLane have been providing lessons. So they led their students in a recital first, and then ORPS offered a performance. After the playing was done, members of the Blind Services community gave flowers to their teachers.



Playing at Blind Services in Chicago



Honoring Valerie, Rebecca, and Lynette



Lynette with her students Linda, Phoebe, and Stephanie



Valerie and Rebecca with David and Linda

Music and more

The **International Beethoven Project** announces the Beethoven Birthday Bash in three parts. Friday December 14, 7:30 to 11:30 PM, Chopin Theater, 1543 West Division Street in Chicago, with live classical and jazz music and theater, Saturday December 15 from 2 PM to 1 AM, Hairpin Arts Center, 2810 North Milwaukee in Chicago, live music, comedy, theater, art and film, and Sunday December 16, 5:30 to 9:30 PM, Holy Trinity High School Auditorium, 1443 West Division. www.internationalbeethovenproject.com.

Some very nice sacred music from medieval Spain:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Ios-NT0fNI>

This is music drawn from the *Llibre Vermell de Montserrat* and the *Cantigas De Santa Maria*, recorded at the Elne Cathedral in France on July 19, 2013. The *Llibre* manuscript was compiled at the monastery of Montserrat near Barcelona around 1399, and features

devotional texts and medieval songs. The *Cantigas*, also Spanish, dates from the early 13th century and offers a collection of poems, set to music, devoted to the Virgin Mary. This manuscript also includes a variety of illustrations providing a wealth of information about clothing, musical instruments, food and drink, and the stuff of ordinary life of medieval Castile.

The **Newberry Consort** offers *A Mexican Christmas; Angels in the Convent! Dancing in the Streets!* The concert features 17th Century music from Mexico City, music made in convents and in town squares. Friday December 14 at 8 PM at St. Clement Church in Chicago, Saturday December 15 at 8 PM at Bond Chapel of the University of Chicago, and Sunday December 16 at 3 PM at First United Methodist Church in Evanston. Visit www.newberryconsort.org.

The **Music Institute of Chicago Chorale** presents *Songs of the Season* on Sunday, December 9 at 3 PM in Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Avenue in Evanston. The Music Institute is a few blocks away from the Davis Street L stop on the Purple line and the Davis Street Metra station. The Chorale is joined by the Humboldt Park Neighborhood Choir and the Chicago Children's Choir, as well as the Institute's Recorder Ensemble. The performance features Daniel Pinkham's Christmas Cantata for choir, brass and organ. To learn more visit <https://www.musicinst.org> or call 847-905-1500. \$15 regular admission, \$10 for seniors.



Beth on keyboard, with one of her medical school students on drums

Beth Longenecker, Recorder Player of the Month

Beth Longenecker recently started attending Tuesday night sessions with the Oak Park Recorder Society, after having started playing recorder two years ago. She is a student of Mary Anne Gardner, and graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania with degrees in piano performance and musicology in 1987. She

graduated from Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1991 and is the Associate Dean for Clinical Education at Midwestern University Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine in Downers Grove. Beth and her husband Bill live in Riverside, Illinois.

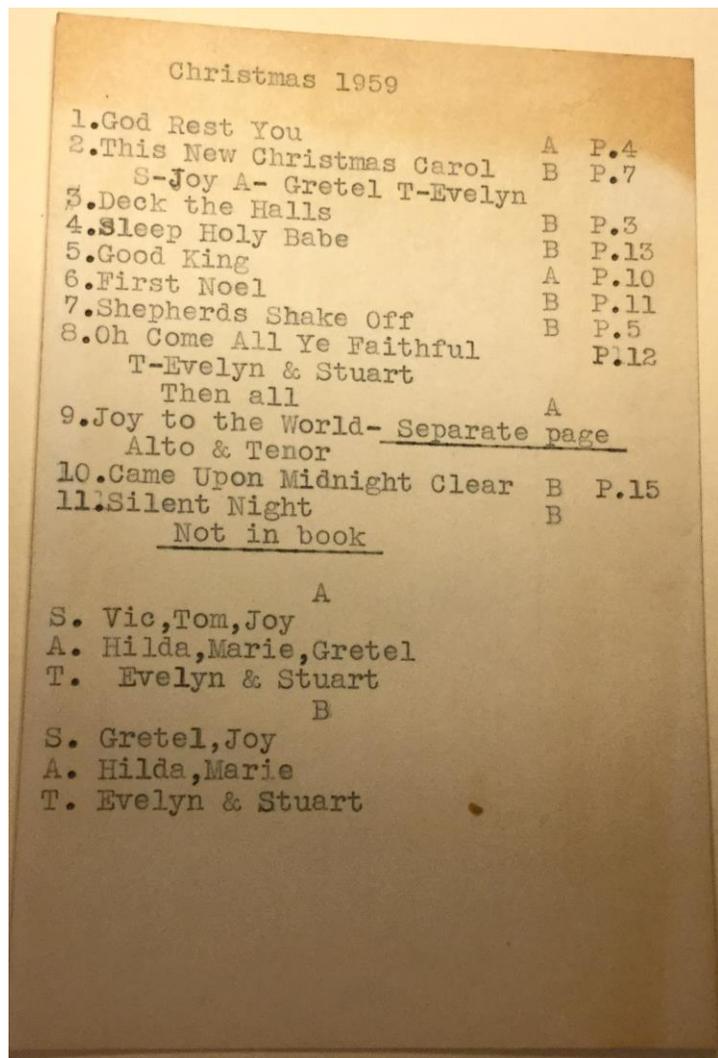
Beth grew up in eastern Pennsylvania, east of Lancaster, where her father served as a rural doctor. Her high school featured 400 students in four grades, and closed each year for the first day of hunting season and for the first day of the state fair, so that young people in 4H could deliver their projects to the fairgrounds in Harrisburg. The town of Elizabethton, Pennsylvania, itself had two restaurants, a gas station, a blinking yellow light, and a lot of bored teenagers. So Beth practiced piano a lot, having started lessons at age 6. Half way through her degree at IUP she decided she wanted to become a doctor like her father, and arranged a meeting with Dr. Lieget, the director of the pre-med program "In those days I had blue and orange hair. I was a punk rocker," Beth explained. "Dr. Lieget said, 'Music, huh? At least you can count to four. You get one class, mine. If you pass it, we'll talk.' I got an A."

While in medical school, music had to be patient, but hard-earned skills still served her. In her last two years at Ohio University a urologist asked Beth to tune and repair his harpsichord (she had learned how in college) and as a reward offered her a key to his house so that she could play his piano whenever she wanted. This same urologist is now retired and a violinist with a symphony orchestra in Orange County, California. He had owned a Stradivarius violin, and while at IUP formed a trio with an anesthesiologist who played cello and Beth on piano.

After medical school Beth spent two years in a residency in neurosurgery, but a back injury that should have sidelined her for six weeks gained her just two days off, so she decided to find some other type of medicine that she didn't, well, hate. That led her to a residency in emergency medicine in Newark, New Jersey for three years, and from there spent a year in a hospital in Brooklyn and seven more at another in the Bronx. From New York she moved to Miami to serve as the director of residency at a hospital there, and then was invited to help start a new medical school in Mississippi. Four years ago she was invited to join the faculty at the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Beth and her husband love to dance, including swing, Zydeco, and Cajun, so each year they travel to the Christmas Country Dance School at Berea College in Berea, Kentucky. Like she said, they love to dance. But seven days of relentless dancing can drain anyone's enthusiasm, so Christmas of 2016, in pursuit of variety, she started taking recorder lessons at Berea as well. "I

think I had five hours of lessons in five days, and I really, really liked it," she said. The instructor, Wayne Hankin, helped her find a local teacher, and Mary Anne told Beth about the OPRS. She has been attending Chicago chapter meetings too. So, welcome Beth Longnecker when you see her, a new recorder player.



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.

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/Membership:	Suzanne Scott (SIRDS@sbcglobal.net) (630) 605-2326
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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
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