

Recorder Reporter

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

Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society

May 2019

Volume 60, Number 9

Chicago Chapter

Wow. We have enjoyed an outstanding season for the Chicago chapter for 2018-2019. Lots of great playing at our monthly meetings, some newcomers, a fine Yuletide concert and a better chapter workshop, a lot of fun together, a lot of zip. And now, we close our 60th annual season with our spring concert on May 19.

The weather for our meeting on April 14 looked like this:



It was worse than it appears here. Heavy wet snow. But it was supposed to be in the 60s by Tuesday. And everyone in Chicago viewed it as morally objectionable to be obliged to shovel snow *again* in mid-April. So nobody did.

Here are the gallant recorder players who showed up at our monthly meeting anyway:



Peter Beck had prepared a speech to offer in my honor for when I rode my bike to the ARS meeting despite this nasty late winter weather.

Actually, I took the #49 Western Avenue bus instead.

Join us for our meeting on January 19, 2020, when Peter will have an opportunity to offer his oratory again.

Lisette returned the day after our workshop for our April meeting, to lead us through a review of the past season, and to direct us in practicing a pair of pieces for the chapter to play for the concert next month. We opened with *Christie Eleison* (2003) by Fulvio Caldini, a wonderful modern work that we had enjoyed in months past. Then we worked through Peter Beck's *14 Days in Georgia* and Gabrielli's *Canzona seconda*. These are the two pieces we will plan to perform as a chapter for our spring concert. If you would like to join us in the May 19 performance, the sheet music for Gabrielli and for the Peter Beck piece are both available on our web site, under Resources/January 2019 Downloads.

Recorder workshop

Another grand day spent playing recorder, 24 musicians gathering at Covenant Presbyterian on April 13 with Clea Galhano for our 2019 workshop. Many thanks to Larry Johnson and to the rest of the board for their hard work in organizing the event, and providing food, advertising, and materials. This workshop was really fun, a lot of terrific playing and sessions that ran over our scheduled breaks. The first piece we worked on (for an hour), a Renaissance *Ave Maria* by Tomas de la Victoria, was worth the price of admission by itself. We continually drilled on sections, and improved. "You have a pretty good music director," Clea said, and she was right.

Next, we worked on John Wilbye's *Softly, O, Softly Drop my Eyes*, one of those mopey love songs that Elizabethan composers were famous for. We read through lyrics like these:

Softly, O softly drop, mine eyes, lest you be dry,
and make my heart with grief to melt and die.
Now pour our tears apace,
now stay, O heavy case,
O sour-sweet woe, alas, alas,
O grief, O joy, why strive you so?
Can pains and joys at once in one poor heart
consent?

Then sigh and sing, rejoice, lament.
 Ay me, ay me, O passions strange and violent!
 Was never poor wretch so sore tormented?
 Nor joy nor grief can make my heart contented:
 for while with joy I look on high,
 down, down I fall with grief and die.

You might think that this guy could really have used a prescription for Prozac. Fortunately, anti-depressants were not available in the 16th century, so John Wilbye turned his despair (?) into splendid music instead.



Valerie and Eric in the bass section



West Suburban Early Music Society

Our April 14 Meeting was cancelled due to weather and safety conditions. Our director for that meeting, Laura Osterlund, has graciously offered to reschedule the meeting and as soon as we have a definite date on that we will email you and let you know. Meanwhile our spring meeting date is Sunday May 5 at 2 PM. Nancy Chabala will be conducting from a book of favorites from which Renaissance Fair players performed. These are best pieces from the Faire Book and Musicke's Merrie Companions during the times these Renaissance playing groups were so popular. We will have the music on the website and copies to hand out. Download the music from westsubems.org. Click the menu Sheet Music, and use "recorder12" as the password.

Everyone bring a snack to share as this is our last meeting of the season. We will meet at the Friends Meeting House, 5710 Lomond Avenue in Downers Grove, from 2 to 5 PM. The church is located near Maple Avenue and Interstate 355. From 355, take the ramp and go east on Maple for .4 miles and turn right (south) to Lomond street. The church is located on the right. We look



Lisette and Cheryl

George Frederic Handel was a lot more cheerful, and that shows in his *Water Music*, which we dashed through. We divided into two choirs for Holst's beautiful *Ave Maria*, and then dove into a series of Celtic folk pieces, *The Road to Lisdoonvarna* and *The Star of the County Down*, and finishing with a Brazilian work, *Brazil*, and *The Shadow of Your Smile* by Johnny Mandel. I don't feel like I deserve all of this fine music making, but I'll take it. I have enjoyed a grand 13-year tour since I started taking lessons with Nancy Chabala in May of 2006.

forward to our annual summer picnic/play session sometime in August. We will soon publish a date for this event! All are invited.—*Joanne Miller*

Opportunities to participate on the Chicago Chapter Board!

It's that time of year again: Chicago ARS Board election time! Of course, to our collective relief, there will be no campaigning of any kind. If you are interested in serving on the Board as an officer, or if you'd like to participate in any (currently imaginary but soon to be upcoming) Board projects as a committee member, please let us know. Send an email indicating your interest to Larry Johnson at ljohnson1239@sbcglobal.net.

Please think about it. It's a great way to stay involved and add your input to the chapter's future plans!

Annual Spring Concert May 19th!

At our meeting on Sunday, May 19th, at 2 PM, all are invited to perform, or just listen. All types of music are welcome, early, modern and otherwise.

This year we move across the hall to the library for our concert. The church needs the fellowship hall for a lunch, but we have used the library before.

If you'd like to play in the program, send the name of your group and/or the names of the participants, the title of the piece(s) you plan to play, and the composers, to Larry Johnson, ljohnson1239@sbcglobal.net. For this Spring Concert and final meeting of our season, feel free to bring treats if you'd like (but no pressure!). Drinks will be provided by the Board.

The chapter will perform Giovanni Gabrielli's *Canzon Seconda* and *14 Days in Georgia* by Peter Beck. If you'd like to play along and need a part, contact Lisette at LisetteKielson@gmail.com. Find the music on our web site, Resources/January 2019 Downloads.

Music and more

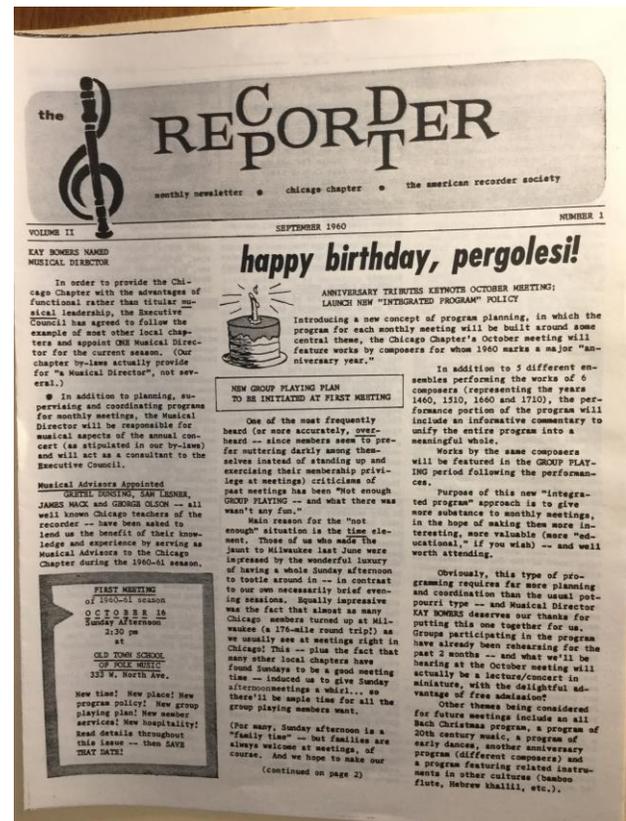
Midsummer Flight offers free Shakespeare in the Parks for the 8th year in a row this summer, *The Tempest*:

- July 7 and August 24-25, Lincoln Park, 2045 N Lincoln Park West
- July 13-14 and 20-21 in Gross Park in Lincoln Square, at 2708 West Lawrence
- August 3, 4, 11, and 12 at Chicago Women's Park at 1801 South Indiana (August 11 at 11 AM)
- July 27-28 and August 17-18 at Touhy Park, 7348 North Paulina.

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

are free, bring a lawn chair or blanket. Live music begins a half hour before the performance.

The **Fox Valley Folk Music Festival** returns Labor Day weekend, Sunday and Monday, September 1-2. 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.



Speaking of Shakespeare, the **Oak Park Festival Theater** offers *Much Ado about Nothing* under the stars in Austin Gardens in Oak Park, July 27 to August 31. The Festival has been performing in the park every summer since 1976! And the Oak Park Recorder Society has been a part of this tradition over the years, regularly offering Elizabethan recorder music before performances on summer evenings. Good memories. To learn more visit <https://oakparkfestival.com>.

The **Howard Mayer Brown International Early Music Series** at the University of Chicago offers the viol consort Fretwork with exceptional counter tenor Lestyn Davies to offer music of the English Renaissance and Baroque era on Sunday, October 27 at 3 PM at Mandel Hall. Visit <https://chicagopresents.uchicago.edu>. You will find plenty of street parking in the area, and the accessible from the Metra train station at 59th Street and

by the #6 Jackson Park bus from the Loop. If you've never heard of Lestyn Davies (I hadn't either), he grew up in York, England, and started out studying the recorder! Here he sings in Bach's B Minor Mass (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5eGcjufyBeI>).

Recorder at the Clearing 2019

Join us for this year's recorder gathering, on the bluffs of Green Bay at the Clearing, July 21 to 27. "I want to elaborate on our very special week," said director Pat Badger. "Joining us this year is guitarist Muriel Anderson. Muriel is an exquisite performer, an innovative composer, and a delightful teacher; in the past she has visited my school, performing wonderful pieces at assemblies and talking engagingly about her art with students (<https://murielanderson.com>)."

Muriel created an original piece for us for recorders and guitar, and we will perform that piece in Muriel's Wednesday night concert. I can promise you that our new piece will be rewarding and the Wednesday performance both joyful and collaborative - that's the way all of Muriel's music is! Other music we explore that week will be shared on Friday night. Muriel is already known to some of us through her recordings and concerts, and to some of us more intimately, since she is Andrea's daughter and Marguerite's sister! Global becomes local! To learn more visit www.theclearing.org,—Joanne Miller

Early Music Festival, Whitewater

Whitewater returns Friday May 31 through Sunday June 2. If you have attended before you should have received a flyer in the mail or an email message by now. You can visit www.whitewaterearlymusic.org and look for the Festival page on Facebook. You can register online this year. Recorder music for all talent levels, plus choral works from the Renaissance mass and from the Golden Age of Spanish music, gamba, loud band, late night jam sessions, recorder repairs and music sales, a concert, and more. A grand tradition from 1960 continues.

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 (jttlkd@gmail.com) (708) 638-7721 |
| Secretary | Hyacinth Egner (hyacinth_egner@yahoo.com) (608) 316-5486 |
| Treasurer | Cheryl Kreiman (chekrei@aol.com) 773-972-7679 |
| Webmaster | Ben Eisenstein |
| Member at large | Valerie DePriest |
| 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 either door of the parish building west of the church and go to the large fellowship hall.

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 |
| 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

This is our last newsletter for the 2018-2020 season