

# Recorder Reporter

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

Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society

September 2019

Volume 61, Number 1

## Chicago Chapter

For our 61<sup>st</sup> season, 2019-2020, Lisette Kielson returns for her sixth year as our music director. She plans to devote her five chapter meetings to the comprehensive theme "Molto Espresso!"

What makes for a musical performance? For expressive playing? Is there always something more to say, or a better way to say it? Whether presented with soaring melodies, clashing dissonances, or intricate rhythms, we will consider our technical (and musical!) approach and address tone, articulation, breathing, musical weight, and more in order to capture the essence of the composer's expressive vision.

September 15	Lisette, introducing a new recorder orchestra piece by Glen Shannon, his "Friendship Canzona," as well as music by Timothy Broege and Raymond Scott.
October 20	Gail Gillispie
November 17	Lisette, music by Henry Purcell, Ludwig Senfl, and Tomás Luis de Victoria, review for Yuletide Concert performance
December 15	Yuletide concert
January 19	Lisette, music by William Byrd, "Christ Rising Again" and "The leaves be green," and music by Sören Sieg
February 16	Lisette, music by Frances Blaker, Giovanni Priuli, and Samuel Scheidt
March 15	Andrew Schultze, consort music of the 16 <sup>th</sup> century
April 19	Lisette, music TBD, and review for the spring concert
May 17	Spring concert

Please invite your recorder-playing friends to join us.

We will vote at our September 15 meeting for the officers of the chapter for 2019-2020:

President	Larry Johnson
Vice-President	Lynette Colmery
Treasurer	Cheryl Kreiman
Secretary	Hyacinth Egner

Also, please send in your chapter membership dues for 2019-2020 this month. Look for the membership form on our web site, [chicagorecorders.org](http://chicagorecorders.org), under "About" and "Become a Member."

The Chicago chapter is working on setting up an online method for paying membership dues, with the hope that this will simplify the process and make it easier for people to join and renew any time during the year.

The Milwaukee Area Recorder Society (MARS) plans to host the spring meeting of the national board of the American Recorder Society in April 2020. They are inviting the Illinois chapters to join them on **Saturday, April 25th** for a pot luck supper & playing session starting at 6 PM. Mark your calendars!

## West Suburban Early Music Society

The WSEMS meets next on September 8 at 2 PM, and we welcome Nancy Chabala to once again direct. Nancy plans to lead us in some tuning and warm-up exercises, followed by Chaconnes, Bach fugues, and ARS editions.

The WSEMS board met during the summer to plan for the upcoming year and select officers:

Chris Culp	convener
Marguerite Re	vice-convener
Suzanne Mills	secretary and membership
Kathy Hall-Babis	treasurer
Nona Freeman	hospitality

The following are those we have invited to direct the WSEMS in the coming year.

September	Nancy Chabala
October	Laura Osterlund
November	Dennis Sherman
December	Nancy Chabala
January	Mary Ann Gardner
February	John Langfeld
March	Dennis Sherman
April	Nancy Chabala
May	Nancy Chabala and May concert

Please bring your chapter dues of \$30 to the September meeting, and send your national dues directly to the ARS (though we can send them for you if needed).

We meet at the Friends Meeting House, 5710 Lomond Avenue in Downers Grove, Sundays from 2 to 5 PM. —  
*Kathy Hall-Babis*

## Todd Wetherwax, 1951 - 2019

Friends of recorder playing and of the Early Music Festival at the University of Wisconsin/Whitewater lost another friend, mentor, and teacher when Todd Wetherwax died last June 20. He was 67 years old.



*Todd & Kay playing in the orchestra pit for a recent performance of Ragtime: the Musical.*

Larry Johnson joined Todd's class at Whitewater when he was a new recorder player over 30 years ago. It was his first experience with playing with a large group, and playing one on a part. He was alone on bass in a five-part 16th century German work. Larry was supposed to have the first entrance. "When Todd set the count and pointed to me on beat one, I failed to start, expecting other people to be playing with me," Larry said. "Todd just looked at his directing finger and said 'I know this was working this morning.'"

A life-long resident of the San Francisco Bay area, Todd was born in Burbank, California and grew up as a part of a large extended Italian family. He learned to play piano and clarinet early; later, when his family moved to Mammoth Lakes, California when he was a junior, he learned to ski, too. He loved the mountains, and skiing down those same mountains. Todd competed on the Ski Team in both high school and college.

He finished a bachelor's degree in Music at the University of California, Riverside in 1973 and studied oboe performance at Humboldt State University, before finishing a master's degree in Music History and Musicology at the University of Wisconsin in 1978. His love of early music began at Riverside, where he played

recorders, shawms, cornettos, krummhorns and violas de gamba in the Early Music Collegium.

Todd played oboe primarily, as well as English horn and clarinet, with the Albany Chamber Orchestra and for ten years was principal oboe with the Castro Valley Chamber Orchestra. In recent years Todd played baroque oboe and recorder with an informal ensemble. He continued to play clarinet with the Hillside Woodwind Quintet until recently, where he was a founding member. He also enjoyed playing in the orchestra pit for local community theater productions.



*Selling music at Whitewater*

Todd also founded and served as music director for the San Francisco Consort for 25 years. This group received grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities to provide educational historic music programs for under-served communities across the Bay Area. Since 1985, Todd was the owner of Classical Editions, a publisher of sheet music for chamber ensembles. Todd taught for many years at Whitewater, and at the same festival at Milton College, Wisconsin before that.

Todd had hoped to make a living as a professional musician, teaching private students, performing, and publishing music. But it's hard to support a family that way, especially in the San Francisco Bay area! He took an opportunity to teach high school music at Emeryville Unified School District to provide a more stable income, but he quickly realized that he had missed his calling. He was an excellent teacher, and an excellent music teacher. But when the superintendent learned of his technology skills, he switched within a year or two to teaching computer science. For 23 years Todd taught computers and served as a technology coordinator for three different school systems in central California. After retirement, he and his wife Kay enjoyed making music together, and traveling throughout Europe and Mexico. They toured Spain, Austria, Belgium, England, and the Netherlands in recent years. Todd loved Paris, and they

loved to sit together, at the end of a day, beside the Grand Canal in Venice. He loved baseball too, regularly turning trips to music workshops into opportunities to take in games at Major League parks in Minneapolis, Kansas City, and Chicago.

As Larry Johnson continued to attend the Early Music Festival at Whitewater each year, he was happy to regularly buy music arrangements Todd had published. They were fun to play and sounded good, and were often educational, too, including a pair of German works by Franz Tunder and Heinrich Schutz that Larry carries around with him so he is prepared to play whenever he finds himself in a room with enough recorder players. "I feel indebted to Todd for his wonderful taste and the many great selections that he chose to arrange over the years, which I have continued to play ever since," Larry said. "I will miss the annual opportunity to see what new old musical treasures I can find in Todd's music booth at Whitewater."

Todd and his wife Kay recently celebrated their 27th anniversary, and made their home in Castro Valley, California. Despite a struggle against cancer that lasted for 18 months, Todd continued to enjoy music making, food and wine, and travel until just a month before his death. Besides Kay, and a great many friends and colleagues, Todd is also survived by his daughters Lieske and Julie, step-daughter Sarah, and grandchildren Isabella and Nico. He is also survived by his mother, a sister, two brothers, and several nieces and nephews.



*Spring concert, May 2019*

## Music and more

The Oriental Institute Museum of the University of Chicago is celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019, and begin a year of centennial programming with a free public celebration on Saturday, September 28 from 1 to 5 PM. University faculty and curators will be in the

galleries to talk about artifacts and displays related to the origins of writing, Assyrian and Persian architecture, and texts and magic from Egypt. A special centennial exhibition will also be on display. The Institute is at 1155 East 58<sup>th</sup> Street in Hyde Park.



The Chicago World Music Festival returns September 13-29. Music from all over the world, all over the city!

[https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/dca/supp\\_info/world\\_music\\_festival2.html](https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/dca/supp_info/world_music_festival2.html)

Included is Ragamala, a night of classical music from India, starting at the Cultural Center at 6 PM Friday September 13, and continuing until 8 AM Saturday. Watch the sun rise through the Tiffany stained glass dome in Preston Bradley Hall while listening to sitar.



The Chicago Steampunk Exposition comes to the Westin O'Hare Hotel 6100 N River Road in Rosemont, September 26-29. The event features Pippins tenor and recorder player Jeff Lee, Sir Reginald Pikedevant, esq, "One of the top Chap Hop artists in the world," Saturday at 8 PM. Walk from the Rosemont L stop on the CTA Blue line. Visit <https://chicagosteampunkexpo.com/>.



*WSEMS picnic, August 11*



*Lincoln Square Porch Concert, Baron's Noyse, August 25*



*Porch Concert, the Pippins, August 25*

## 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](http://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](http://westsubems.org))**

Convener/Chapter Representative:	Christopher Culp (cg.culp@gmail.com)
Vice Convener:	Marguerite Re (margueritere@comcast.net)
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.

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

**Visit us at [chicagorecorders.org](http://chicagorecorders.org)**  
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