

Recorder Reporter

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

October 2020

Volume 62, Number 2

West Suburban Early Music Society

A gallant group of 11 members and friends of the West Suburban Early Music Society met on September 13 at their regular meeting place, the Friends Meeting House in Downers Grove—outside. On the grass, in the sun, jamming for about two hours. We played a series of works by Thomas Morley, and then *Le Clerq's Air* by Thomas Wood (2003) and Giles Farnaby's *Humor*, and then *Nkosi Sikelel' Afrika* by Enoch Mankayi Sonlonga, before closing with a series of German Renaissance dances.



First meeting for 2020-2021, West Suburban Early Music Society, Sunday September 13

Paul Schmidt brought a Serpent that had been produced on a 3D printer, 30 parts generated in 200 hours. He then spent every evening for a week putting the parts together.

Just as metals can be welded using heat, most types of plastics can be joined permanently by solvent or chemical welding. Instead of using an adhesive to make parts stick, welding softens the materials to be joined, allowing the edges to flow together. This process uses a variety of noxious materials. Acetone is the solvent of choice for ABS plastic, the most popular 3D printing material, and also used in plastic recorders and Lego blocks. Plumbers use methyl ethyl ketone (MEK) to join PVC pipe. The 3D printed serpent is made from PLA plastic, and to weld this requires a mixture of methylene chloride, methyl ethyl ketone, and methyl acetate, plus a dissolved plastic filler (acrylic monomer). The process takes a while, as the solvent must be allowed to evaporate after every application, requiring about 24 hours each time.

You can do magic with 3D printing. As long as you have access to the printer itself, a printed serpent is much less expensive (perhaps \$100) than a standard variety, and thus it creates opportunities for people who would like to try playing a serpent but who don't want to drop \$4K to buy a *real* one (if you ever actually meet someone like this, let me know). Also, with a 3D printer you can scale down a digital design, as in this example, the print job reduced to 25% of the original, to produce a self-contradictory and entirely mythical "soprano" serpent:



Of course, whether or not a 3D printed serpent, or any other instrument, actually *sounds* good is another matter.

But we did!



Chris and Nancy Culp

The next regular meeting for the chapter is on Sunday October 11 at 2 PM, *outside* of the Friends Meeting House in Downers Grove. If the temperature is below 55 degrees or it is raining, we will not meet. Participants are encouraged to bring sheet music, 12 copies each, to share in playing. Remember to bring a chair, clothes pins or magnets to hold music on the stand, and a mask. Questions, contact Chris Culp at 630-415-8413.

The West Suburban Early Music Society is also hosting weekly outdoor recorder playing sessions at their regular meeting place, the Friend's Meeting House, every Sunday afternoon at 2 PM.

These weekly meetings will also continue unless it is raining or very cold, though I bet some sturdy folk will gather in December and play through a blizzard or two.

Contact Marguerite Re at margueritere@comcast.net or call her at 630-415-9559 to let her know if you would like to attend a meeting, or if you have any questions.



Members and friends of the West Suburban Early Music Society jamming outdoors, September 13, Downers Grove

Chicago Chapter Notes

The Chicago chapter held its first meeting for the 2020-2021 season on September 20, a Zoom gathering with a very good showing (14 participated). Lisette opened the season with her year-long theme "Storytelling 101: extended techniques, free improvisation, & programmatic music." We started with *He Talks, She Talks*, a piece by Bruce Perkins, from the ARS Members' Library. With each part having a different time signature, the composer thought in terms of two old people on rocking chairs on the porch, both talking at once and neither paying attention to the other, but in the end, both of them are heard. Oddly relevant for our modern moment, when we have to try to make music together, but remotely.

Lisette then presented three examples of extended techniques, based on *The Recorder Today* by Eve O'Kelly. This book describes four groups of extended techniques, including non-standard fingerings, articulation, vibrato, and special effects.

In the non-standard fingerings group, we played a couple of multiphonics. A player can overblow on a particular standard fingering, to produce the standard note plus the harmonics and overtones above. We explored labium vibrato, different from the standard diaphragm vibrato for recorder playing. This technique uses the right hand to cover and uncover the recorder window in various ways, while playing notes with the left hand. Finally, a special effect included random finger playing, in which you move your fingers randomly to produce a variety of sounds, loud and soft, high and low, using various breath pressures, slurred or tongued.

Lisette closed with a set of pieces inspired by insects, *Grasshoppers* by Lance Eccles, *El Grillo* (the Cricket) by



Paul Schmidt, Andrea Anderson and Marguerite Re



Suzanne Scott and Norm Adams

Thomas Morley and Papillons (butterflies) by Glen Shannon. Lance Eccles' duet is from his collection On the Forest Floor, five pieces on the theme of what might be found on the ground in a forest. Thomas Morley's duet Il Grillo was interesting with its imitation between the parts at a decreasing interval, eventually at the quarter note (in a 4/2 time signature). And Glen Shannon's duet for alto and tenor (volume 5 from his duet collection) features his usual beautiful melodies and was an excellent fit not just for recorders, but for the extended range of alto and tenor, all the way up to the highest A or E flat, respectively. Lisette reviewed with us the fingerings and offered suggestions on how not to knock your teeth out during a fast passage.

The music mentioned above is on our website, Resources/Music Downloads/2020-2021 Season. We may revisit the Shannon duet in November, as it was such a challenging yet satisfying piece.

Join us on October 18th!

Andrew Schultze will present a workshop on French Baroque music style and performance practices, focusing on the theoretical works of de Bacilly, Couperin and Hotteterre and modern specialists such as Betty Bang Mather, Mary Cyr and David Fuller. The chapter will join in playing music by Louis XIII, Jean Baptiste Lully, Jean Joseph Mouret, and Michel Corrette, as well as popular songs and music from the comédie en vaudevilles, a comedy theatrical form that emerged at the end of the 17th century.



Chicago chapter meeting, September 20

The Chicago chapter on Facebook

The Chicago chapter hosts a Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/ChicagoARS>. We want to show the world that, besides our meetings online, some of us continue to find other ways to play. This might inspire others to do something similar. Could you let us know what you do, so we can post it on our Facebook page? If you have any photos or videos to add, that

really helps drawing people's attention. Our web site and Facebook page are for you. Please contact Hyacinth Egner or Cheryl Kreiman at hyacinth_egner@yahoo.com or chekrei@aol.com.

Please send in your chapter membership dues.
Find the membership form in this newsletter, or on our web site:

<https://chicagorecorders.files.wordpress.com/2019/08/membershipform2019.pdf>

The members of the chapter also voted by email for a new board for the 2020-2021 season:

President:	Larry Johnson
Vice-President:	Lynette Colmey
Treasurer:	Cheryl Kreiman
Secretary:	Jenifer Buckley
At-Large members	Esther Schechter & Ruth Dunnell



More outdoor jamming, September 19 in Lyons



May concert, 1997, Nancy Chabala, Ann Greene, Carol Stanger, and David Fitzgerald

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.

Note that indoor, in-person meetings of the Oak Park Recorder Society and the two ARS chapters have been suspended indefinitely. When we return to normal activities we will announce that in future newsletters and on the ARS chapter websites.

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.

Chicago Chapter ARS (ChicagoRecorders.org)

President	Larry Johnson (ll_johnson1239@sbcglobal.net) (773) 631-6671
Vice President	Lynette Colmex (jttlkd@gmail.com) (708) 638-7721
Secretary	Jenifer Buckley (jenifer.a.buckley@gmail.com)
Treasurer	Cheryl Kreiman (chekrei@aol.com) 773-972-7679

Web site and Facebook	Hyacinth Egner
Member at large	Esther Schechter & Ruth Dunnell
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)

Convener/Chapter Representative:	Christopher Culp (cg.culp@gmail.com)
Vice Convener	Linda Schub Lgschub@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Marguerite Re (margueritere@comcast.net)
Secretary/Membership:	Suzanne Scott (SIRDS@sbcglobal.net) (630) 605-2326
Hospitality:	Nona Freeman (574) 286-5960
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, 2-5 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.

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

Membership Form

The Chicago Chapter of the American Recorder Society Membership Form, 2020-2021 season

Name _____ Email Address _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

_____ \$90	Chicago chapter and National ARS (standard membership, online access and print publications)
_____ \$85	Chicago chapter and National ARS online (online access and electronic publications)
_____ \$40	Chicago chapter membership dues

I would like to make an additional donation \$ _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Please make checks payable to **Chicago Chapter, American Recorder Society** and mail to Chicago Chapter ARS, c/o Cheryl Kreiman, 5736 North Avondale Avenue, Chicago, IL 60631-3102