

Recorder Reporter

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

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WSEMS Zooms in January

For January 13 members of the West Suburban Early Music Society met via Zoom on January 10 for a couple hours of playing. We played along with MP3 files from www.musescore.com, www.free-score.com, www.helenhooker.co.uk and www.flutetunes.com. The group also played duets from the ARS edition of French Chansons for two recorders. The players enjoyed the camaraderie and the music!

Thanks again to Linda Schub who selected the MP3 files and printed music and played it via Zoom. And thanks to Chris Culp who posted it on our website. If you want to view the music, go to our website, www.westsubems.org.



Nancy Culp

Chicago Chapter News

The Chicago chapter gathered online on January 17 for another session of music making with Lisette Kielson. We had 21 participants this time, and we played Bach's Two Part Inventions #13 arranged for two recorders, and Premiere Suite de Pieces by Jacques Hotteterre. We also looked at a set of notes provided by Hotteterre on the trills and ornaments he developed, including the set of symbols he created for use with his own works. Those of us with the Chicago chapter are not as familiar with French Baroque as we are with English and German music of the same era, so making our way through these French pieces with all the complex markings was difficult at times.



Chicago chapter meeting, January 2021

It was easier later when we simply played the work as the composer did *not* intend, notes only. Start with that, get used to reading the music, and then add in the articulations, or perhaps, the excess, depending on your point of view. But, well, it seems like a lot to us, but these special articulations were a common feature of



Chris Culp joins WSEMS online using Zoom

The chapter board will contact members by email. Others who would like to participate can contact Chris Culp at cg.culp@gmail.com.

We will meet again via Zoom on February 14 at 2 PM. Hope to see even more players at the next meeting!—
Kathy Hall-Babis

French music in the 18th century. These elaborate ornaments were part of the style, and musicians of the time would have been familiar with them, and even would have been able to interpret the symbols from one composer to another. The fingering symbols for French Baroque music were not standardized at the time, just as music notation and tuning were not standard across Europe in earlier generations.

We will continue our technique work with Lisette at our next meeting on Sunday February 21st at 2 PM. We will revisit the technically challenging and musically rewarding selections from last month—duos by Bach, Hotteterre, and Telemann for two altos. Feel free to join us even if you couldn't attend January's meeting—it's always a work in progress!

The Chicago chapter has its own YouTube page, and we have only one posted performance so far:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dOhIadYCSk>

As an ongoing project, Larry Johnson encourages all members to consider sharing recorded examples of our music online. It may be a recent solo or group playing with your trusted "bubble" or a previously recorded performance, or something that you plan to record, now that you know we'd love to hear from you! Let Larry know if you have any questions about posting, or recording. We also have a Facebook page.

Whitewater Early Music Festival

The annual Whitewater EMF returns online June 5-6. Starting March 1, you will be able to register for eight one-hour sessions over two days, or four one-hour sessions on one day. Many of your favorite teachers are on board, plus some surprises! The cost will be \$40 for one day and 4 classes; \$75 for two days and 8 classes.

The festival offers 16 classes to choose from, with no limit on class size. This year's faculty includes Laura Kuhlman, Gayle Neuman, Phil Neuman (the Oregon Renaissance Band Trio), Lisette Kielson, James Chaudoir, Eric Haas, Clea Galhano, and more!

For the latest information, visit the website

<http://www.whitewaterearlymusic.org>.

Live up the "Bleak Midwinter" with a recorder class!

To avoid the after-holiday winter blues, and have some fun, we encourage everyone to look into online recorder classes and workshops. You can take advantage of classes all over the country, without leaving home. Many talented teachers and performers offer fascinating material, mostly in a single one- to two-hour session and usually at bargain prices. You can find many offerings

by some well-known people; or you can try out sessions lead by newer names and faces. A great chance to see what goes on outside Chicago, and join in!

For example, the Portland Renaissance Band Trio leads a 10-week Mixed Consort Class taking place now, featuring Laura Kuhlman and Phil and Gayle Neuman. They are presenting trio repertory, performing together in one location. All attendees are muted and can play any line on any instrument and everyone hears the whole piece. It has been a wonderful experience, and a chance to play all our recorders, crumhorns and anything else we have. Highly recommended!

If you'd like to experiment with online classes, a good place to start is the National ARS website. On the Home page, in the 'Events' box are listed near-term ARS meetings and classes you can sign up for. If you click on the 'View Full Calendar' option below the 'Events' box, you can see all planned events in the coming weeks and months. This is available to all, ARS members or not. Consider taking advantage of these extensive online opportunities while you can!—*Larry Johnson*

Katy Morgan, 1938 - 2020

Katy Morgan was a retired instructor in Italian and French, a journalist, a clerical worker for a law firm, a world traveler, a cat lover, and a passionate activist in New York City. Her Manhattan apartment was crowded with recorders and recorder music, and for many years she led a group of recorder players who would gather there to jam every Wednesday morning. I found out about Katy before a trip to New York in March of 2008, when I went with my son David to look at colleges. We joined her to play recorder for the first time, and in the years to follow, whenever I traveled to New York, it was always a special moment to find Katy and her friends in Greenwich Village or Chelsea for a few hours reading music together.



March 27, 2009, Katy Morgan is on the left

I last heard from her in August 2020 when I suggested we pull a group together to play in Central Park. Susan and I were in New York over Labor Day weekend and again in mid-November. But Katy was found dead in her apartment a few weeks later. I am left very sad but with a grand collection of memories. I associate my trips to New York City with beauty and wonder, with great art all over the place, with terrific food, with splendid walks and splendid subway rides, with excellent music and street life and museums and Central Park. And with memories of playing recorder with Katy Morgan.—
Mark Dawson



Mark & Susan Dawson playing duets.

If you have pictures of yourself playing recorder, send them to me!

University of Chicago Folk Music Fest

All music is folk music. I ain't never heard no horse sing.—Big Bill Broonzy

For 2021 the 61st annual University of Chicago Folk Music Festival will be held online:

<http://www.uofcfolk.org>

A full schedule of concerts and workshops is planned.

Music online, and more

Here we have two recorder players joining the Sonatori de la Gioisa Marca in *Concerto Grosso* by Arcangelo Corelli, featuring Dorothee Oberlinger and Tabea Seibert:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rsFGfiTIS_c

Speaking of Sonatori de la Gioisa Marca, I keep stumbling over terrific ensembles online. This one was formed in Treviso, Italy in 1983. Find some more of their videos at <https://www.sonatori.net/en/>.

Lately I have been listening to exquisite modern classical compositions by the Estonian composer Arvo Pärt.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nS0FPVOU5e0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YOp5Ec3i4s>

The Choral Scholars of the University College Dublin offer some works of elegant beauty, like this traditional Irish work, *The Gartan Mother's Lullaby*:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YgpVJAUijYA>

Free and Easy:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u2BZEp8BH94>

The Parting Glass:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eisW0skJ9fU>

And here is one more popular Irish folk song, the wistful *The Green Fields of France*:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oL2U6QX49DQ>

Here we can enjoy a work by Jacob Obrecht (1457-1505) *Salve Crux Arbor Vitae*, a group of students playing Renaissance recorders (including a sub-contra bass) at the Conservatorium van Amsterdam:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3wNuiygdDo>

This video talks about the sub-contra bass:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U3CsmeKU2vE>

There are only three of these instruments in the world. This one was built in 1995 at a cost of 14,500 euros, and belongs to the Royal Wind of the Netherlands. I guess a new sub-contra bass recorder made in 2021 would cost \$18-20K. During the Renaissance, according to the video, the sub-contra bass recorder, sort of like the “soprano” serpent, in fact never really existed. Who cares? The instrument is still really cool.

In years past I have thoroughly enjoyed watching 1920s films offered by the [Silent Film Society](#) of Chicago, with live organ accompaniment. There's another tradition I look forward to returning. I raised my sons on the Hollywood stars their great-grandparents knew, Lillian Gish and Richard Barthelmess, Douglas Fairbanks and Clara Bow, Buster Keaton and Harold Lloyd. Return to us in 2021, Lillian Gish! Once or twice I heard a silent film accompanied by the Mt. Airy Orchestra, formed in the pattern of orchestras that would accompany silent films in classy New York City theaters in the 1920s. And one more time I watched a silent film at the Chicago Cultural Center accompanied by the [Alloy Orchestra](#), an ensemble that uses found instruments like truck springs and cooking gear. Ben Eisenstein provides this link to the 1923 film *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, appropriately accompanied with medieval music provided by Hesperus.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3s583IkdpA>

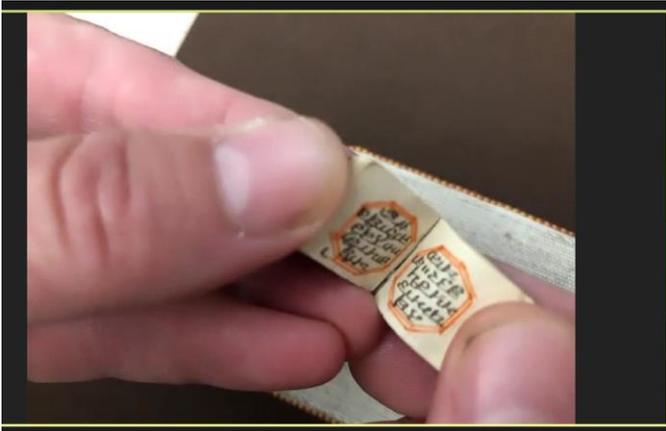
Steve Martin is a celebrated comedian and actor, but he is also a terrific banjo player. Here is joined by the Steep Canyon Rangers for an NPR Tiny Desk Concert:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZyHipL45pwM>

The Field Museum has a blog worth exploring. Here is an article about some of the treasures in the Rare Book Room at the Field Museum Library:

<https://www.fieldmuseum.org/blog/treasures-revealed-mary-w-runnells-rare-book-room>

And a photo of the smallest book in the collection, a 19th century work in Sanskrit:



Home Free, the Home Fries, & the HollensFam Choir join to sing *Still Haven't Found what I'm Looking For*. Ah!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L6CE5IMX_7M

Note that indoor, in-person meetings of the Oak Park Recorder Society and the two ARS chapters are still suspended. When we return to normal activities, we will announce that in future newsletters and on the ARS chapter websites. In the meantime, all of these meetings are happening online. See the chapter websites for details, or contact Larry Johnson to learn about the Oak Park Recorder Society.

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.

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 Colmey (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 lissettekielson@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
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