

Recorder Reporter

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

Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society

January 2021

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WSEMS Zooms in December

Nine enthusiastic members of the West Suburban Early Music Society met online in December to play a variety of holiday music. The group included a player from Kansas City! We downloaded the music used from free-scores.com, flutetunes.com, musescore.com, and ChristmasCarolMusic.org. We also enjoyed playing several pieces that were arranged by one of our members, Darleen Kay! We played along with recordings of the recorder quartet that she organizes as part of the Senior Suburban Orchestra. Many thanks to Linda Schub and Chris Culp for the effort, time, and dedication they put into researching and developing this program.

We encourage more players to join us next month, January 10th at 2 PM. The chapter board will contact members by email. Others who would like to participate can contact Chris Culp at cg.culp@gmail.com.

Chicago Chapter News

Thanks to all who made the Yuletide Cookie Exchange a success!

Three members of the Chicago chapter, Ruth Dunnell, Larry Johnson, and Jenny Buckley made cookies for our exchange, and nine members eagerly accepted cookies from cookie couriers Jenny Buckley and Hyacinth Egner, who delivered plates to all corners of Chicago.



Jenny Buckley drops off cookies for Rosalie Guttman

The Chicago chapter also offered our traditional Yuletide concert on December 20, except for the first time it was provided on Zoom, with 18 people participating. The concert featured solos by Larry Johnson, Nancy Chabala and Jenny Buckley. Larry played a work by Vivaldi, *Sonata in D Minor for Alto Recorder and Continuo*, the Largo and Allegro. Nancy played a solo version of “A Song for Japan” by Stephen Verhelst, written in 2011 in memory of the great earthquake and tsunami of that year. We have played a quartet arrangement of this piece in Oak Park. Jenny closed with a work of her own making. “[A Man Becomes a Poem](#)” contemplated conversations with her father who has dementia. She interwove herself playing “Malheur me bat” on recorder with her father’s voice and her own musings. Clips of an August 8, 2020 NPR interview with the poet Nate Marshall bookend the piece, titled after a line from a Marshall poem. She produced the piece using GarageBand and iMovie software.

We also talked about plans to offer a concert in the future, as a memorial in honor of Hildé Staniulis. Hildé had her own list of favorite pieces that we could play, and Glen Shannon has also offered to compose a new work for Hildé especially for this occasion. Among the works that Hildé liked are *Ash Grove*, *Benedictus* by Salmon Rossi,



Larry Johnson is not a mugger. He is delivering cookies.

and *Arm & Arm*, the first winning entry in the 1989 annual composition competition Hildé helped to organize, written by Alice Maguire (1917-2014).

We closed the meeting early (Zoom fatigue, it seems, is real) by playing some Christmas music together, works downloaded from the chapter web site, including *Twas in the Moon of Wintertime*, *Fum, Fum, Fum*, *I Wonder as I Wander*, *Verbum Patris Hodie*, and other works. We all looked forward to the day when a vaccine for the Corona virus will be readily available, and we can return to playing something other than duets, and in person.



Chicago chapter Yuletide Meeting on Zoom

According to Lisette, in our first chapter meeting of 2021, January 17, we're going to get to work! But it won't feel like a chore as Lisette leads us in wonderful duos for two altos by Bach, Hotteterre, and Telemann. We will focus on our beloved technical issues of finger coordination, articulation, high notes, phrasing, and add some French ornamentation into the venture.

I have now been editing this newsletter for 15 years. I appreciate the kind words I receive, and the opportunity to help keep the recorder playing community in the Chicago area together since 2006. That feels particularly important right now. Don't give up! We will see this pandemic end, and can look forward to meeting again in 2021.

Hildé Staniulis, Early Chicago Chapter Member, to be remembered with music

After Hildé's recent passing (at the age of 100!), many have asked what plans we had to honor her memory. Since Hildé loved recorder music, and since she developed and ran the Chicago Composition Contest, with Arlene Ghiron, for 20 years, what better way to remember Hilde than through music? And what better composer than Glen Shannon to create an original piece in her memory? As a winner of the Composition Contest several times, which gave him some fame as a composer, Glen has a special regard for Hildé. When the composition is completed next year, the Chicago Chapter will perform the new piece at a special meeting, when we will all be together again. Many thanks to Glen for accepting our request, and for volunteering to donate his time and talent!—*Larry Johnson*

Music online—and coming up!

Music of the Baroque is selling tickets for live concerts for their current season. They have six planned for 2021, starting with Mozart January 24, though this January concert will probably be online. Of note is a program of sacred choral works from Vivaldi, Allegri, Byrd, and Purcell, coming up Sunday, June 6 at 2 PM at Faith, Hope, & Charity Church, Winnetka. Visit <https://www.baroque.org>.

And for all my complaining, this virtual performance of Thomas Tallis' *Spem in Alium* (1570) is pretty cool:

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

The choir of the King's School in Canterbury, England, recorded their parts in their own homes, and thus provide an interesting visual effect. As each part comes in, a new face appears, and as singers drop out, their faces leave the screen as well as their voices. You get to *see* the complexity of this master work.

The early music ensemble **Voices of Music** also offers an online season for 2020-2021 (www.voicesofmusic.org) Each Zoom performance/lecture costs \$15, and the nine-part series features Christopher Lowrey talking about the art of the countertenor, a roundtable discussion of women directors, and Rotem Gilbert discussing Renaissance wind instruments.

<https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?ticketing=vom>

For their 38th season, the choral ensemble **Bella Voce** offers a free series, "A Musical Journey: An Invitation to Explore European Music History" at bellavoce.org.

- The World of the Middle Ages & the Ars Antigua
- The Crises of the 14th Century & the Ars Nova

- The Franco-Flemish School and the 15th Century
- English Music in the 16th Century
- The Flowering of the Baroque
- Modern Times

Here is a link to the video of their season launch party:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pd_5KQQtKR0

And here Bella Voce sings Sicut Cervus by Palestrina:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p5crQf00IDk&feature=emb_logo

And then offers a series of medieval Advent melodies:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-M4T1Fwmn8&list=PLvrIuMEMRRoR8bNjAOn0QRI6KzilJolOH&index=1>

We have the fine Baroque ensemble from Cleveland, **Apollo's Fire** (<https://apollosfire.org/>). They also have a full season planned for 2020-2021, and you can choose to watch their concerts from home by remote link too: <https://apollosfire.org/2020-2021-season-preview/>

However.

I bought tickets to attend two concerts for Apollo's Fire. In person. Live. Real.



Apollo's Fire performing in Cleveland (I'm jealous)

The first was on Friday November 13 at the Music Institute of Chicago in Evanston. That event (I should be used to this by now) had to be cancelled. So I flew to New York instead. But for Thursday April 22 and Friday and April 23, both at 7:30, Apollo's Fire offers Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*. The Thursday concert is at the Music Institute of Chicago in Evanston, and Friday is at DePaul University in the Lincoln Park neighborhood in Chicago.

In each case, to buy tickets, click the More Info button and scroll to the bottom of the page.

Here is some delightful Russian music:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eIa7ZfJUeGU&list=RDeIa7ZfJUeGU&start_radio=1

It looks like the name of the group is [Отава Ё](#), or Otava Yo for westerners. Or maybe "Otava Yo" means "street cleaner." Well, they were founded in Russia in 2003. A few others of interest. One includes recorder playing:

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VfKd5WwyVa4>

And a jug band with Emmet Otter:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eFJ2jxIe4CQ>

I have been enjoying the Petersen Family, a bluegrass ensemble, lately:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y3hXYININJw&list=RDB0G-piKUnWk&index=3>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0yKeMIOhXjo&list=RDB0G-piKUnWk&index=4>

Here Walk off the Earth offers some great silly fun:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z7R8XRKqHAI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YV5KAbV34NU&list=RDQgD5p1XiVT0&index=14>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OgD5p1XiVT0&list=RDQgD5p1XiVT0&index=5>

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

And a touch of wistful sadness:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B0G-piKUnWk>



Milton Horn, Rites of Spring (1952), Lincoln Park Zoo

A 2020 historical drama about Ludwig van Beethoven, *Louis van Beethoven* (German with English subtitles, 120 minutes) is available for streaming online from the Cleveland Institute of Art Cinematheque:

<https://www.cia.edu/cinematheque/film-schedule/2020/12/louis-van-beethoven>

And as I wander ever farther afield from recorder playing in my attempt to find online content you might like, I offer a few short films from Omeleto and Dust:

Speed Dating

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M10z_cFdAmg

Joseph's Reel

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cy_Q07hjc4A

Future Boyfriend

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A_1YHHry0w

If I find a short film online from Dust or Omeleto that features a heroic recorder player who discovers that the other players in her ensemble are really invaders from another planet bent on conquering the earth, and proceeds to defeat them by exposing their ignorance of Anthony Holborne and Glen Shannon, I will provide a link.



Cookies. From our Yuletide Cookie Exchange. Every monthly newsletter ought to include cookies.

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.

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 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.

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<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