

Recorder Reporter

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

November 2021

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Chicago Chapter News

The Chicago chapter of the American Recorder Society continued our 2021-2022 season, meeting on October 17 at Covenant Presbyterian Church. And we continue to welcome back friends. Mirja Lorenz directed for the first time since October of 2018. The meeting started with Nancy Chabala directing 12 of us in Glen Shannon's new composition in memory of Hilde Staniulis, *Petite Sweet Flute Suite*. Then Mirja directed us in *Sonata 15 a 4* by the Italian Dario Castello (1602-1631) and a *Bergamasca* from the German composer Samuel Scheidt (1587-1654). Mirja in particular helped us in articulating the fast runs of 8th notes in the Scheidt work. The *Bergamasca* we played was a popular dance form, created by many composers, and a version of this dance also appears in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Samuel Scheidt was an organist and Kappellmeister for Brandenburg, after studying under Jan Sweelinck in Amsterdam. Scheidt was also known for building and repairing organs. He stayed in Germany through the 30 Years War, endured the misery of this devastating conflict and lost all four of his children during a plague.

A committed Lutheran, Scheidt contributed to creating a distinctly north German style of composing, as Lutheran northern Germany was cut off from the Catholic south as a result of the Reformation, and because of the War. Some of Scheidt's compositions show Italian influence, but he clearly belongs to the new Protestant style.

Scheidt started as organist at the Moritzkirche in Halle in 1604, before he went to Amsterdam. Built as a Catholic church, the Moritzkirche was converted to a Protestant house of worship in 1542, and then was converted *back* to Catholic in 1970. Protestants taking over former Catholic churches for their own use was common in northern Europe in the mid-16th century. St. Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh became the home parish for reformer John Knox, and is now considered the First Presbyterian Church of Planet Earth. The inaugural event was in 1637 when Jenny Geddes threw her stool at a preacher in protest to his advocating the Scottish faithful embrace the Book of Common Prayer of the Church of England. A riot ensued. In Glasgow, the windows of the majestic cathedral were replaced with clear glass and the statues removed, but when Protestant reformers considered tearing the building down, the local stonecutters rallied

around the Cathedral to save it. And so it stands today, one of the grandest medieval buildings in Scotland.

Dario Castello died young as the result of a plague that struck northern Italy in 1631. He was a violinist and composer at St. Mark's Cathedral in Venice, where he worked under Claudio Monteverdi. He was known for his "wild, inventive" pieces, known for their contrasting parts, woven together.



Chicago chapter October meeting



My wife and I joined an evening meeting of the Society of Recorder Players in Edinburgh, Scotland on Monday October 4. Even with the pandemic prompting half of their members still to stay home, nearly 30 people were present. The director, Peter Wraith, told us our playing was "jolly good" (why can't Lisette ever tell us that?)

and Susan and I wondered about references to “quavers” (eighth notes) and “crotchets” (quarter notes). We played through the director’s own arrangement for recorder of *Es Nascido* by Pedro do Christo (1540 - 1618), a sacred choral work for Advent from Portugal. Peter Wraith later sent me his PDF files for the score and parts, and Baron’s Noyse played the work on Monday October 18. A wonderful evening of music making across the sea, and Susan and I lasted for 90 minutes or so, until jet lag caught up with us.



Society for Recorder Players, Edinburgh, Scotland



Chicago needs more people playing bagpipes

Lisette returns to direct our **November 21 meeting**. In addition to revisiting Glen Shannon’s and Peter Seibert’s celebratory works (*Friendship Canzona* and *Festival Music*, respectively, both from September), we will play from Tomaso Albinoni’s beautiful *Sonata á 5* and Lance Eccles’ spritely duo *Spider Monkey*.

Keep in mind that we now hold our meetings from 1 to 4 PM. Our members' hour will be from 1 to 2 PM, and then the program runs from 2 to 4. We hope in this way to welcome everyone, keeping a three hour meeting but leaving the main presentation at 2 PM for those who can't arrive earlier. The first hour is dedicated to sight

reading or rehearsing if the chapter has some music that will be performed later. So when we have a performance coming up, members who'd like to participate should attend the first hour of the meetings before that event.



West Suburban Early Music Society

The West Suburban Early Music Society once again met outdoors at the Friends Meeting House in Downers Grove on October 10. About 10 people, including one new member, gathered to play pieces that Chris & Nancy, Marguerite, and Elaine brought to share, including: Ave Maria by Jacques Arcadelt, the traditional Welsh tune Calon Lân (Shining Heart), Giga from "Sonate da Camera a Tre" by Corelli, La Paix from "The Musik for the Royal Fireworks" by Handel, and three pieces by contemporary composers: Pastorella by Bertold Hummel, The Huldúfólk by Will Ayton and Meditation by Win Bent. The latter two were from the ARS library.



WSEMS playing outdoors, likely for the last time

WSEMS plans to meet next November 14 at 2 PM. Since we won't be able to count on nice weather like we had this time and last November, the Meeting House has given permission to meet indoors, with CDC guidelines

in place, for masking and distancing, and all participants must be fully vaccinated. Please bring your vaccination card, and plan to wear a mask when not playing. We will also open the door and run a fan. We will play music that has been selected from our playlists on the WSEMS website that will be copied and distributed. Any questions, contact Kathy Hall-Babis, at 630-464-1828.

Yuletide Concert, December 19

This year, we return to our in-person concert, while still following safety protocols. These include vaccine requirements, social distancing and masking. Using our new meeting format, we will meet for a general playing session at 1 PM. Our plans and music for this hour will be posted on our website. All are invited to join in the concert at 2 PM, performing or listening. If you or your group would like to perform, contact Larry Johnson at ljohnson1239@sbcglobal.net. Let me know ahead of time to be listed in the printed program, but all will be welcome to play.

After the concert, time permitting, we will hold another general playing session, and the music will also be made available on our website. You could also bring a favorite piece of your own to share, which also can be posted on the website if you'd like.

The holiday treat break is a hallmark of our annual Yuletide concert. To honor our tradition while adhering to health restrictions, the Board will organize a special event for the festivities on December 19th. Stay tuned, and mark your calendars to join our holiday celebration!

Thank you to Cindi Manning

To honor the memory of her parents, Earl and Viola Manning, Cindi Manning made a generous gift to the Chicago chapter. She writes, "Did you know that my parents met playing recorders in Gretel Dunsing's group? To say that ARS was a big part of their lives was an understatement. Please accept this donation to your chapter in their names." She also thanked the members who played recorder at their celebration of life on September 11 in Villa Park. "It was wonderful!"

Music and resources

The Renaissance choral ensemble **Schola Antiqua** returns for their first public performance since February 2020 on Sunday, November 14 at 3 PM at the Athenaeum Center, 2936 North Southport. Tickets are now available to order online. Visit <https://athenaeumcenter.org/dante/>

St. Cecilia's Hall at the University of Edinburgh holds a fine collection of over 6,000 musical instruments, and they also sponsor a YouTube series on instruments and

music history. Professor John Donaldson started the University collection in 1845.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/StCeciliashall>

The collection serves as a museum dedicated to illustrating how music has changed over time.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QeykTM5130U&list=PLp4B9IToxdsWoMeMTIaCm1ynrbBAObHTV&index=2>

The **Seattle Recorder Society** presents Peter Seibert in an online play-along marking the 500th anniversary of the death of Josquin des Prez, Friday, November 5, 9 to 10:30 PM Chicago time. The fee for non-members is \$8.

Josquin's reputation was immense among his contemporaries. Seattle Recorder Society's founder and music director emeritus Peter Seibert will discuss stylistic features found in the music and lead players in pre-recorded arrangements of Josquin's beautiful music. To register, visit

<http://www.seattle-recorder.org/November.html>

The **British Columbia Recorder Society** offers a free online play-along event on December 2 at 9 PM CST time. Colin MacDonald presents *Festivus for the Rest of Us*. Visit <https://www.bcrecordsociety.com/monthly-meetings.html>.



Rockefeller Chapel, Tuesday Tea & Pipes organ recitals return

Chapter Dues Announcement

After November 1, chapter membership dues for 2021-2022 increase to \$50. This season we offer two payment options, by check and online, both on our website:

<https://chicagorecorders.org/about/become-a-member-now/>

For now, if you're renewing your local and national membership, or adding a donation, please use the mail-in form. Thank you for your participation in our chapter!

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 as well as 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)
Vice President	Lynette Colmey (jttlk@gmail.com)
Secretary	Jenifer Buckley (jenifer.a.buckley@gmail.com)
Treasurer	Cheryl Kreiman (chekrei@aol.com)
Web site and Facebook	Hyacinth Egner
Music Director:	Lisette Kielson lisettekielson@gmail.com

Chicago Chapter meetings: The third Sunday of each month, September through May, 1 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.

Tuesday Night Recorder Sessions

(Returning soon!)

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 lower buzzer for the basement.

West Suburban Early Music Society (westsubems.org)

Convener/Chapter Representative:	Kathy Hall-Babis (kathy.hallbabis@gmail.com)
Vice Convener	Linda Schub Lgshub@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Marguerite Re (margueritere@comcast.net)
Secretary/Membership:	Suzanne Scott (SIRDS@sbcglobal.net) (630) 605-2326
Hospitality:	Nona Freeman (574) 286-5960
Web page support	Chris Culp cg.culp@gmail.com (630) 415-8413

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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West Suburban Early Music Society, playing outdoors October 10, 2021, in Downers Grove