

Recorder Reporter

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

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Chicago Chapter News

The Chicago chapter of gathered in person on December 19 for the return of our annual Yuletide concert. The concert lasted for over an hour, with some 35 people attending, and seven ensembles performed featuring 19 musicians. This was besides the closing pieces offered by chapter members. It was fun, lots of solid music-making. We saw some old friends, and we welcomed some recorder players who had never performed at Yuletide before. It was a wonderful day!



Baron's Noyse



The Pippins singing

The Pippins opened the concert singing a pair of Renaissance sacred works, the *Gloria* from a mass by Palestrina and Hassler's *Dixit Maria*, and Olaf and Mirja

Lorenz closed singing *O Tanenbaum* for us. Several newcomers, including Maria Lagos, Jackie Will, and Sreddy Yen, performed for their first Yuletide concert. We were very happy to welcome back the Chicago Recorder Trio as well, Lisette Kielson, Patrick O'Malley, and Mirja Lorenz offering the wonderful work we have learned to expect from them, a sonata by JS Bach and an advent offering from Michael Praetorius.



Maria Lagos and Jackie Will perform for the first time



An excellent crowd

The concert featured a series of excellent duets, and the Chicago chapter performed last, playing an arrangement of *All on a Starry Night* and a series of songs for Chanukah. We opened and ended the meeting with jam sessions, and finished with Vivaldi's Christmas Pastore, *Weihnachtspastoralen*. We have loved this beautiful piece before; it was a fine harmony to use to close our concert and close a year of music making.

Lisette returns to bring in the New Year with our chapter meeting on **January 16th**. We will revisit Sören Sieg's *duet #3 By the Fireside* (Emlilweni wokotha) in the hopes of performing it at the University of Chicago's Folk Music Festival. January's agenda will also include Alyson Lewin's 7-part *Midsummer Morris* and continued work on our project of performing a Glen Shannon piece at the spring concert in May.

West Suburban Early Music Society

The West Suburban Early Music Society met at the Friends Meeting House in Downers Grove on December 12th to play holiday music together, led by Nancy Chabala. The old and new pieces included lots of holiday favorites, like *Lo How a rose ere blooming*, *Greensleeves*, *Fum fum fum*, *Twas in the moon of wintertime*, *Sing Noel*, *All on a starry night*, *Carol of the Bells*, *Sussex Carol*, and *Gaudete*.



The group looks forward to meeting again on January 9th of 2022, and we welcome Dennis Sherman as our director. Please join us at 2 PM at the Friends Meeting House in Downers Grove.—*Kathy Hall-Babis*

Recorders from John Langfeld

John Langfeld offered his 15th and last Recorder Series concert at St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church on November 22, 2015. "The series has run its course," John said at the time. "The sculpture is finished. And 15 in a series is a lot. I've done so many wild and wooly things; how many more can I come up with?"

Well, one of those wild and wooly things was arranging *Bohemian Rhapsody* for recorder in April 2014. That was an excellent moment for John's friends with the Chicago chapter, as he recruited many of us to take part.

Born in Iowa and raised in Minnesota, John graduated with a degree in Music Education from St. Cloud University in 1966. He got his first recorder in 1969, and started making weekly trips to the Oak Park Recorder School in 1973, where he met Louise Austin and enjoyed watching her work. He was teaching at Whitewater before

Whitewater was Whitewater, when the Early Music Festival was held at Milton College. He has known our music director, Lisette Kielson, since he taught her recorder when she was 16.

After a long and complicated musical adventure he retired as Dean for Instruction in Fine Arts at Morton East and West High Schools in Cicero and Berwyn in 2007. Following that was a long and complicated musical retirement adventure, which sadly drew to a close about a year ago when arthritis compelled him to stop playing. But, as he noted himself, "50 years isn't a bad run." And now John is offering his recorders for sale to members of the Chicago chapter, and WSEMS, with the proceeds donated to the Chicago chapter.



Bohemian Rhapsody, St. Luke's, April 2014

The collection includes three sopranos, two sopratinos, two altos, two basses, and a tenor, made by Moeck, Kung, Von Huene, and other builders. Besides instruments he is offering maintenance kits, thumb rests, and a lot of sheet music. John plans to organize his collection of instruments and music in the next few weeks to present to chapter members. We will provide more details about the instruments, including suggested prices and who to contact, in the near future. We will also plan to have them on display at our February chapter meeting.

Folk Music Festival

The Chicago chapter plans to host a recorder workshop at the 62nd annual University of Chicago Folk Music on Saturday morning February 12, 2022. We need members to join us! We will gather at Ida Noyes Hall, 1212 East 59th Street. There should be plenty of street parking available, but you can also take either the #6 Jeffrey Express bus to 59th Street or the Illinois Central to 57th Street from downtown, and walk. We held our first

recorder workshop at the festival in February of 2014, and have participated every year since except for last year. The music will be available at chicagorecorders.org, our web site. The Folk Festival offers a day of workshops on Saturday and concerts on Friday and Saturday nights at Mandel Hall. Visit www.uofcfolk.org.

Mark Cleveland, 1958 – 2021

I was surprised and very sad to learn of the sudden death of Mark Cleveland on November 21. He was 63 years old. Mark dove into recorder playing after first attending Whitewater in 2009, regularly appearing at meetings of the Baron's Noyse on Monday nights and the Oak Park Recorder Society on Tuesday nights, as well as monthly chapter events. He also played with the Music Institute of Chicago Recorder Orchestra for several years. So we had to refer to "Mark D" and "Mark C" in Oak Park for a while, but no complaint from me on that. Mark was a kind hearted musical companion. I remember meeting him late one night at the dark and historic Rivera Theater in Uptown in May of 2010, where Mark worked, to practice for our upcoming spring concert. A moment for music, ghost stories, and laughter for both of us.



Mark Cleveland, spring concert, Chicago chapter, May 2011

Mark had been vaccinated against COVID-19, but caught a breakthrough infection in November, leaving him with what amounted to a bad cold. He recovered enough to return to work in a few days, after testing negative, but Mark had been hospitalized for a heart condition in 2020. It appears that stress from his work, and from helping to care for his aging parents, plus the infection, aggravated his heart problems.

Mark was born and raised in Park Ridge, Illinois. He always loved music of every variety, and was a regular at the Old Town School of Folk Music. Evidently he taught himself recorder, and liked guitar too. He was the manager of the Riviera Theater in Uptown, where he served for 28 years, and earlier had been the manager at the Vic Theater in Lake View and the Park West in Lincoln Park. He attended first Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and then the University of New Mexico, not finishing a bachelor's degree but starting out working as a chef. Besides his love for music and his work at the Riviera, Mark had a studio at the Greenleaf Art Center in Rogers Park, and presented his paintings at art fairs and festivals in Chicago.

Many people loved Mark, and his death was deeply painful loss for his mother and his four sisters. He was absolutely delighted with his nieces and nephews, and had a circle of devoted coworkers and many friends at the Art Center. He loved his cats, Lydia and Eno, and took a particular interest in wolf packs being re-introduced in rural Wisconsin (<https://wolf.org>). He would take winter hiking trips to the state, following wolves in their hunting forays.

Mark's nieces and nephews said of Mark, "He was the definition of a family man. As the oldest of five siblings, Mark was always including his four sisters in whatever shenanigans he was up to. He carried the role of teacher and historian. Mark's nieces and nephews were his daughters and sons, teaching them baseball skills, a love for live music, and the enjoyment of backpacking in some of the most treasured parks in the states. They all have the most special and intimate memories with their Uncle Mark. Family by birth, family by marriage or the chosen family he had accumulated through the years, Mark cherished family above all else."

We had not seen Mark at chapter events for several years. But he was part of us for a while, and served as chapter vice president in our 2010-2011 season. Mark made his life grand. He made music with us, he created works of beauty, and he was deeply loved by many people. I wish Mark Cleveland could have joined us for our Yuletide concert on December 19. But we were able to welcome him into our musical fellowship for a little while.

Music Coming Up, and Online

The **Newberry Consort** offers “Music fit for the Medicis” in February, 15th century Florentine composers. Lute, citole, organetto, and more.

- Friday, February 18 at 8 PM, St. Michael’s Catholic Church, 1633 North Cleveland Avenue, Chicago.
- Saturday, February 19 8 PM, International House, University of Chicago, 1414 East 59th Street, Chicago.
- Sunday, February 20, 3 PM, Galvin Recital Hall, Bienen School of Music, Northwestern University, 70 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston.

Visit <https://thenewberryconsort.simplenetix.com>.

Capriccio Stravagante Renaissance Orchestra of Paris performs works from the Italian Renaissance.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EcIsobjtS9c>

Krumhorns! I miss playing krumhorns with the OPRS.

To hear **Voces8**, a British choral ensemble, I was thinking of flying to Minneapolis in March. I could also visit my cousin, and Minneapolis is closer than Hildesheim, Germany (March 20). The alternative was a performance at Notre Dame University in South Bend.

Then Voces8 added a performance at St. James Cathedral in Chicago, 65 East Huron, on Friday March 4 at 7:30 PM.

<https://www.saintjamescathedral.org/music-and-art/voces8-live-in-concert>

Rendezvous Arts offers **True Colors Baroque**, featuring art songs about love and romance using period string instruments from the 18th century. The musicians include Jason Moy on harpsichord. Sunday February 6 at 2 PM, Artifact Events, 4325 North Ravenswood Avenue in Chicago.

<https://www.rendezvousarts.org/true-colors-concert>

University of Chicago Presents offers Tabea Debus on recorder on January 7 at 7:30 PM in the Logan Center Performance Hall. Tabea is joined by Anna Steinhoff on viola da gamba and Paul Morton on theorbo and lute.

<https://chicagopresents.uchicago.edu/concerts-and-events/tabea-debus-recorder>

Northeastern Illinois University Jewel Box series features the chamber orchestra **Camerata Chicago** performing Giuseppe Tartini’s Trumpet Concerto Friday April 22 at 7:30 PM. Call 773 442-4978 or visit

<https://www.neiu.edu/university-life/arts-northeastern/jewel-box-series>.

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)
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Web site and Facebook	Hyacinth Egner
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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.

West Suburban Early Music Society (westsubems.org)

Convener/Chapter Representative:	Kathy Hall-Babis (kathy.hallbabis@gmail.com)
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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>

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