

Recorder Reporter

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

Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society

February 2022

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Chicago Chapter News

The Chicago chapter gathered online on January 16. There was hope as late as Friday night that our Sunday gathering would proceed as normal at Covenant Presbyterian, but we decided to meet on Zoom instead. We will look forward to playing in person again on February 20.

A hopeful turnout, 13 members appeared on Zoom, with Lisette directing. We started playing duets with Nancy Chabala, and she noted that the music sounded fine to her when all of us had our microphones muted! We played 16th century works by Jean Baptiste Loeillet and Laurentus Lemin matched with 21st century tangos by Uwe Heger. Lisette took over at 2 PM guiding us first in a largo by Telemann and a gigue by Handel, both pieces with a 6/8 rhythm and that look a lot alike, but that sound very different. She noted that the gigue is one of her least favorite types of dances, because they can get rather monotonous. So she prefers to play with the lengths of 8th and 16th notes, or change it up, play the notes straight the first time and then change the length and pattern on the repeat. We continued with some nice work by Loeillet and a pair of works by Henry Purcell.

According to Lisette, the most important part of sight reading is to know where you are in the score. If you can't handle a run of 16th notes the first time you see a piece, don't worry about skipping some of them or playing the wrong notes, just keep going. Your eyes need to see more of the music than just the measure where you are playing. If the music is too fast to play, keep looking forward to the next measure. If you need to simply play four quarter notes in that measure, or two half notes, or skip the measure entirely and move on to the next one. Practicing later can help you nail down difficult parts of the piece. What matters is staying in time with the rest of the ensemble. And when you practice, besides playing the notes slowly, try playing at tempo but making the notes shorter, to give space (time) between each note. That gives your fingers more opportunity to catch up.

Join us on **Sunday February 20** at 1 PM at Covenant Presbyterian. We will hold another warm in-person recorder playing session amid winter cold.

Lisette leads us in a comprehensive rehearsal of Glen Shannon's work in earnest, *Petite Sweet Flute Suite*, a commissioned work which he wrote in memory of Hilde Staniulis. Our goal is to perform the work together as a chapter at our spring concert so we plan to devote time to practice this piece in our upcoming meetings. With extra time, we will explore Sören Sieg's duet #9 Umlanjana (The Small Stream) and Giovanni Battista Vitali's Sinfonia à Sei of 1684.

This new composition by Glen Shannon has special meaning for the Chicago chapter. For 20 years, we sponsored a biennial composition contest, managed by Hilde Staniulis and Arlene Ghiron, to promote new music for the recorder. In 1997, a young Glen Shannon entered the contest and won first prize for his *Prelude and Fugue in D Minor* (which we still enjoy playing). Glen continued to enter our competition in following years, winning second prize for *Canterbury Trio* and first prize for *Wanderlust* and *French Sweets*. So Glen has had a long term relationship with the Chicago chapter, and with Hilde and Arlene in particular. Hilde often said, only half in jest, that "discovering" Glen was her enduring legacy to the recorder world.

After Hilde died in October 2020 at age 100, Larry Johnson asked Glen if he would accept a commission to write a piece in Hilde's memory. He immediately offered to compose a piece free of charge. He said that winning the Chicago contests had given him some "street cred" as a new composer.

In our planned May performance of Glen's new work, we want to do justice to Hilde's memory, so Lisette Kielson agreed to rehearse the piece as part of our monthly meeting program. At the January meeting ten members committed to performing *Petite Sweet Flute Suite* in May of 2022, and we are looking for more recorder players to participate. As an extra treat, if all goes well, Glen plans to attend our May meeting, to remember Hilde and to hear the live premiere of his composition!

We published a tribute to the memory of Hilde Staniulis in the [November 2020](#) issue of this newsletter. She was a founding member of the Chicago chapter of the American Recorder Society and was for many years a loyal and generous part of our musical community. We look forward to playing Glen Shannon's new work as part of a gathering where we will plan to honor Hilde's memory.

Note that the chapter had originally planned to lead a recorder workshop for the University of Chicago Folk Music Festival on Saturday morning February 12 in Ida Noyes Hall. But the University decided to move all workshops and concerts online. Without a live audience, the board decided to withdraw from the festival this year. We look to return in February of 2023.



Gotham Early Music Scene MidTown Concert, Church of the Transfiguration on 29th Street in Manhattan, works by JC Bach & Carl Friedrich Abel, December 30

West Suburban Early Music Society

The West Suburban Early Music Society met online on January 9th. We played along to music from YouTube as well as synthesized music. Linda Schub was our facilitator and continued to do an excellent job in presenting the sound and printed music. She used music from the ARS website and free music websites such as free-scores.com and musescore.org.

Linda co-leads the Argonne International Folk Dancers, based in Downers Grove. Linda's love of folk dancing was evident in her choice of a few pieces, including Bare Necessities by Pat Shaw. This is a dance from England, first released in 1974, and is on the ARS website. We also played a Bulgarian dance, *Sto mi e milo*, and following:

- Niel Gow's Lamentation for the Death of His Second Wife, Scottish folk tune, 1700's
- Carillon, by Francis Poulenc
- The Old Spagnoletta, Giles Farnaby
- Tourdion
- Tant que vivray, Claudin de Sermisy
- The Fairie-Round, Holborne
- The King's Dance, Praetorius, played on YouTube by The Whimble Snoods recorder quartet

- Three Susato Dances, Susato, arranged by Helen Hooker
- Bransle de La Royne 1, from Terpsichore no. 17, Praetorius

WSEMS will meet in February on the 13th at 2 PM. Members will be notified whether this will be in person or via Zoom.—Kathy Hall-Babis

Whitewater Early Music Festival

Save the date! The Early Music Festival at the University of Wisconsin Whitewater returns June 3-5 of this year. Visit <https://www.whitwaterearlymusic.org> to learn more. Flyers will be available online this spring. Recorder music for all talent levels, plus choral works, viol de gamba, loud band, late night jam sessions, recorder repairs and music sales, a concert, and more.

Music and other Online Resources

Fourth Presbyterian Church, on North Michigan Avenue at Chestnut Street, offers live free concerts in their sanctuary every Friday at noon (12:10 PM).

<https://www.fourthchurch.org/concerts/index.html#feb>

Concerts are scheduled throughout the months of February and March, with attendance at each event welcome. The concerts are also streamed online.

As they say on their web site, <https://bachweek.org>, **Bach Week Festival** is back!

Their fundraiser, Bachanalia, is at the Evanston Arts Center, 1717 Central Avenue, in Evanston on Sunday March 20 at 5:30 PM. After our March meeting ride your bike with me to Evanston.

Concerts are offered On Sunday April 24 at 3 PM at All Saints Church in Ravenswood, Friday April 29 at 7:30 PM at North Park University, Tuesday May 10 at 7:30 PM and Thursday May 12 at 7:30 PM at Nichols Concert Hall, the Music Institute of Chicago in Evanston. This grand Chicago tradition returns.

As they don't say on their web site, but certainly could, **Handel Week** is back! <https://www.handelweek.com/>

They offer concerts on Sunday February 13 at 3 PM, Saturday February 26 at 7:30 PM, and Sunday March 6 at 3 PM. All concerts at Pilgrim Congregational Church, 460 Lake Street Oak Park, Illinois. This church (as all members of the Oak Park Recorder Society know) is a short walk from the Ridgeland stop on the Green line L train, and not far from the Oak Park Metra station.

February 13 the festival will present Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, and March 6, Handel's *Chandos Anthems*. The Saturday concert offers chamber pieces. To learn more visit <https://www.handelweek.com/index.php>.



Jazz before the Persians, for the Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival, January 28, Epiphany Center for the Arts, 201 South Ashland, Chicago



Apollo's Fire, about to play Bach's Brandenburg Concerto #3, Music Institute of Chicago, Evanston, January 29

The British ensemble **Eboracum Baroque** filmed a series of performances in September 2021 at the Great Hall of Burghley House. The music features arias from Handel's *Semele* and *Tamerlano*, instrumental music by Corelli, and a recorder concerto by Vivaldi, drawn from the collection compiled by the Earl of Exeter in the 17th and 18th centuries.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wM4CQBXoChI>

Andrew Schultze presents a concert performance of selections from Mozart's *Don Giovanni* on Saturday, February 12 at 4:30 PM at Studio 421 of the Fine Arts Building, 410 South Michigan Avenue in Chicago. Suggested donation \$10.

The United States Postal Service offers a new podcast, **Mailin' it**. Here is an interview of Postmaster Louis DeJoy:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/an-interview-with-postmaster-general-louis-dejoy/id1587184784?i=1000541512032>

Each podcast closes with a "Did You Know" segment, with details about postal history in America. For this session, we learned about parcel delivery through the mails, and how the practice (mis)started.

The Post Office was only allowed to deliver letters until August of 1912, when Congress authorized them to start delivering packages for the first time. But Congress neglected to define what those packages ought to look like. For once we can offer our government some charity. Our elected officials quite reasonably assumed that most Americans knew what a package was. But without written guidelines, a few of them sought to test the definition.

Some people tried mailing eggs or live snakes. In January of 2013 an Ohio couple decided to mail their eight-month old son to his grandmother's home a mile away. As the child weighed less than 11 pounds, the shipment cost 15 cents. You might wonder about the attitudes toward parenting at the time, compared to our modern helicopter approach, but at least in this case young James reached his grandmother's arms safely. We have no record of the mail carrier objecting to being drafted as a babysitter while on duty.

But the practice was not illegal (yet) and so others thought they would try it as well. One Idaho couple attached 53 cents in stamps to five year old daughter's winter coat in 1914 to send her to her grandmother too, but this time grandmother lived 73 miles away. It was cheaper than buying a train ticket. The record went to a woman in Florida who mailed her daughter to her father's home in Virginia, 720 miles away. In 1915 the Postmaster General banned the practice of shipping people through the mails.

The **Emerson String Quartet** performs at DePaul University on Friday, February 25 at 7 PM, Holtschneider Performance Center, 2330 N. Halsted in Chicago. The Emerson String Quartet will retire at the end of summer 2023 after 47 years, so this will be the last opportunity to hear them play in Chicago.

<https://www.emersonquartet.com/artist.php?view=cal>

Haymarket Opera returns to live performances in 2022. Tickets are on sale now for their next event, *La Susanna*, an oratorio by Alessandro Stradella, on March 26 at 7:30 PM. Gannon Concert Hall of the Holtschneider Performance Center, DePaul University, 2330 North Halsted in Chicago. Ticket sales are handled through the box office at DePaul. To learn more, visit <https://www.haymarketopera.org/2022>.

The **Newberry Consort** offers “Music fit for the Medici’s” 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.
- Sunday, February 20, 3 PM, Galvin Recital Hall, Bienen School of Music, Northwestern University, 70 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston.

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

The **Silent Film Society of Chicago** offers Rudolph Valentino in *The Son of the Sheik* (1926) on Saturday February 5 at 6 PM at St. John Cantius Church, 825 North Carpenter Street in Chicago. Jay Warren provides live accompaniment on their 1927 Wurlitzer pipe organ.

<http://www.silentfilmsjaywarren.com/events.html>

Purcell seminar, Newberry Library

Andrew Schultze offers an online seminar, “Henry Purcell: His Life, Times, and Legacy,” at the Newberry Library starting Tuesday March 8. The seminar continues for four sessions until March 29, 6 to 8 PM.

This seminar is devoted to the English Baroque composer Henry Purcell. We will discuss his legacy and his special place in musical history. We will listen to his music, including excerpts from his opera Dido and Aeneas, his Courtly Odes, Church and Theater music, and use contemporary documents and historical accounts to bring the Age of Purcell alive. The selected music will range from 17th century works to 20th and 21st century works by Benjamin Britten, The Who and the Pet Shop Boys.

The seminar costs \$195. For more information about the Newberry’s virtual seminars, see the Newberry’s Virtual Seminars FAQ page. If you have questions about online learning, please reach out to seminars@newberry.org.

You can access the full calendar of seminars, create an account, and begin registering for seminars by visiting the Adult Education Seminars calendar on Learning Stream. See the Online Registration Guide for instructions on using Learning Stream. Visit <https://www.newberry.org/WS22Purcell>.

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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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.

Like us on Facebook: 
<https://www.facebook.com/ChicagoARS>

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