

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

On March 20 we welcomed a crowd, 17 players eager to join Andrew Shultze in a session on American music from 1775 to 1850. After an hour playing with Nancy Chabala, starting with *Scarborough Fair* before moving on to Glen Shannon's *Petite Sweet Flute Suite*, we launched into 27 pages of hand written sheet music from Andrew, and found just enough time to sight read it all.



We started with several Native American pieces, including a work by Grand Chief Henri Membertou (1507-1611) of the Mi'kmaq nation near Port Royal in Canada, and another from Kateri Tekakwitha (1656-1680), born in a Mohawk village in New York. A convert to Catholicism as a young woman, she was named the patroness of Montreal and canonized by John Paul II in 1980. We played a "family song" preserved by several generations of the family of WEB DuBois, the African-American scholar, historian, and pan-African nationalist. DuBois grew up with "Do Bana Coba" without ever knowing the meaning of the words of this tune.

We played music composed by John Dowland in his last published work, *A Pilgrim's Solace* (1612), but it counts as American because it was reprinted in the *Tunes of the Bay Psalm Book* published in Boston in 1698, one of the first books of music printed in the American colonies. We also played works from the *American Miscellany of Music* published in 1798, including a work by William Billings (1746-1800). Billings was a Boston tanner known for

creating over 300 published works, including 50 anthems, and is particularly celebrated for his Protestant hymnody. He was also known for being blind in one eye, crippled in one leg, withered in one arm—and for being addicted to snuff. Those willing to look beyond these matters (and there were plenty who did) could celebrate how on his own this composer and singing master expanded by 10 fold the hymns available for church singing at the time.

But Billings' contribution in the *Miscellany* is anonymous, like most of the other works found there. The United States is possibly the first country ever to pass a law protecting copyrights. Most of the songs found in this early musical text appear without composer's names. The publisher did not want to get caught.

We played Thomas Jefferson's favorite fiddle tune. Jefferson was known for being an excellent player, complemented for his skill even by British prisoners of war. Jefferson returned from Europe with a vast collection of sheet music he bought in France, and ultimately donated the works to what would become the Library of Congress.

By the time he was 26 years old Frances Johnson (1792-1844) was a leading musician in Philadelphia and the first African-American conductor in America. From 1815 to 1840 his musical ensemble of 20 free African-Americans toured the east coast. His goal was to demonstrate that people of African descent could do everything that white people could do, and that included mounting a production of Haydn's *Creation* oratorio. In 1837 he directed the first American ensemble to play before Queen Victoria, and the Queen gave him a silver trumpet in appreciation. We played Johnson's *March*.

And we played music by Anthony Philipp Heinrich (1781-1861), a dominant figure in early American music even though he didn't start composing until he was in his 30s. Stranded in Boston in 1810, his fortune wiped out by the Napoleonic Wars, Heinrich walked 700 miles from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh to take a job as a music director. He chaired the organizational meeting of the New York Philharmonic in 1842 and conducted Beethoven's First Symphony in Kentucky in 1818, only the second time a Beethoven Symphony had been conducted in the United States. He was known as "Father Heinrich," an eccentric

genius and a great figure in the small classical music scene in America at the time, though he died in poverty in New York in 1861.

And of course we played a piece by Stephen Foster because, well, we had to close with a piece by Stephen Foster. Foster was even born on the 4th of July, 1826, the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Another grand afternoon of eclectic music making with Andrew Schultze!



Our **April 24** chapter meeting (fourth Sunday) will be a dress rehearsal of *Petite Sweet Flute Suite* by Glen Shannon in preparation for the world premiere performance in May at our spring concert. Glen will join us in playing his tribute to Hilde Staniulis! After the rehearsal, we'll explore some wonderfully characteristic duos by Sören Sieg.

During our first hour, we will revisit some music we have enjoyed in the past but not played for several years, and we will practice ensemble playing without a director. All music will be posted on the website.

Spring Concert

Make plans to join us for our final meeting of the 2021-2022 season, our spring concert on May 15 at 2 PM. All are invited to perform, or just listen and enjoy, and all types of music are welcome. We plan to open the meeting at 1 PM with a gathering to honor the memory of Hilde Staniulis, who died in October of 2020. Several of her friends will remember her, and then we plan to play two or three of Hilde's favorite pieces, followed by Glen Shannon's *Petite Sweet Flute Suite*. The regular concert will follow. If you would like to play in the program, and send the names of the performers, the title of the pieces you plan to play, and the name of the composer or composers, to Larry Johnson at ll_johnson1239@sbcglobal.net.

Join us for a brief reception at the end of the concert. Also, we would like to make a recording of the memorial gathering, so that we can post a video of the first performance of *Petite Sweet Flute Suite* on our Facebook page. If you have video recording equipment that we could use to this end, we would appreciate it if you could bring it with you, and a tripod if needed.

Chicago Board Elections in May

Please consider participating as a member of the Board. Having the chance to help shape and promote our chapter activities is very rewarding, and can be fun! Everyone in the chapter has enough experience to work with other board members and provide their own opinions and perspectives. Please think about serving on the Board and helping our chapter progress.



Belle Voce, March 15 in Evanston, featuring our own Lisette Kielson, Patrick O'Malley, and Laura Klehr



British ensemble Voces 8, St. James Cathedral, March 4

West Suburban Early Music Society

Dennis Sherman led the West Suburban Early Music Society on March 13th. He last led us two years ago, days before the pandemic resulted in in-person practice to be put on a very long hold! Dennis selected modern music from the ARS website. We enjoyed Wizard Kogran and Gigue, both by Kass Finlay McAuliffe. We also played Modal America by Anthony St. Pierre. This was arrangements of “My Country Tis of Thee” in the medieval modes, Dorian, Phrygian, Lydian, and Mixolydian. The group also played Variations on a Theme by Michael Marinier which included a swinging variation that was quite fun! This was an arrangement of the National Anthem of Ukraine.

We meet again on April 10th at 2 PM and look forward to Dennis Sherman leading us again!—*Kathy Hall-Babis*

WSEMS members love music!

Many of our West Suburban Early Music Society members play instruments other than recorders, and are members of other musical groups.

Janet Fitchuk is a retired music teacher and plays flute with College of DuPage Community Band and bagpipes with Tunes of Glory Pipes and Drums.

Elaine Gillies is a retired middle school music teacher, and as a teacher she started a recorder club for her students. In the past 45 years she played with a recorder consort from the Chicago’s south suburbs, Renaissance Recalled. They performed for madrigal events, church services, art fairs, store openings, weddings, and funerals, last playing together in January of 2020. Elaine also plays with the Homewood Flossmoor community band during the summer months.

Chris and Nancy Culp sing in the College of DuPage Community Chorus, and the group is performing at Carnegie Hall in June! Chris also sings in a barbershop quartet in the Chorus of DuPage in Naperville and a barbershop quartet called Vested Interest

Norm Adams plays in a church recorder ensemble and sings in the choir. He also rings hand bells at First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn.

Suzanne Mills-Scott is a member of the Pianoforte Performance group that meets quarterly at the Pianoforte store in Chicago. They get to play grand pianos!

Eric Stern is a member of Old Fezziwig’s Band in Batavia. They primarily play for English Country dances hosted at Fermilab. Old Fezziwig’s has also played at other events, such as a Welsh dance presentation, the Fox

valley Folk Festival in Geneva, and the Jane Austen Society. The Band has joined an annual program for the Chicago Welsh Association for the Christmas around the World program at the Museum of Science and Industry, and in the University of Chicago Folk Festival.



Eric played violin and sometimes recorder. The last two years dancing has been on hold, and the Band has been looking for a new dance hall because Fermilab has tightened site access restrictions due to the pandemic.



Eric also plays violin and recorder with a community Orchestra at the Batavia United Methodist Church.

Paul Schmidt plays, well, pretty much everything—tuba, euphonium, bass trumpet, trombone, serpent, ophicleide, and sometimes recorder and crumhorn. He plays with a variety of groups in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Indiana, including three regular ensembles. Paul plays tuba and serves as a founding member (1977) of the CLC Wind Ensemble of Grayslake, and serves as band manager and tuba player with the Libertyville Village Band. Paul also plays a 1860s vintage baritone Over the Shoulder Saxhorn with America’s oldest Civil War re-

enactment brass band, the First Brigade Band. The First Brigade Band performs frequently in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, and Indiana.



Darleen Kay plays string bass in the West Suburban Concert Band and in an 18-piece jazz ensemble called the Free Notes. She plays cello in a string trio with the Senior Suburban Orchestra and is the leader of the recorder quartet that plays in that group.

Linda Schub plays bass drum with the [Senior Suburban Orchestra](#) in Downers Grove. She also plays recorder with the recorder quartet that performs during the orchestra's small ensemble performance. Linda also plays flute with the [New Horizons Band DuPage](#). The [New Horizons Music](#) provides entry points for music making for adults, including those with no musical experience or who have not been playing for a long time.



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
Vice President	Lynette Colmery
Secretary	Jenifer Buckley
	Treasurer
	Cheryl Kreiman
Web site and Facebook	Hyacinth Egner
Music Director:	Lisette Kielson lisettekielson@gmail.com

You can contact the chapter through our web site.

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

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.

The **Oak Park Recorder Society** continues to meet on Tuesday nights online. Contact the Chicago chapter for details.

West Suburban Early Music Society ([westsubems.org](#))

Convener/Chapter Representative:	Kathy Hall-Babis
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	Lgschub@yahoo.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.

Visit us at chicagorecorders.org
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