

Recorder Reporter

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

Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society

October 2022

Volume 64, Number 2

Chicago Chapter News

We opened our 64th season on Sunday September 18 with an hour of agreeable jamming on some old favorites, like Farnaby's *Humor* and *LeClerq's Air*.

Then Lisette arrived to lead us in duets and consort music, starting with a copy of Thomas Ravenscroft's 1609 arrangement of *Three Blind Mice* in original notation. We played some exercises, good for staying in playing shape on a cruise or while backpacking in northern Michigan, and then turned to *Folklore Aus Argentinien*. We closed with a late Renaissance transition to the Baroque provided by the Italian Giovanni Cavaccio, who died in 1626. His work, *Toccata Detta La Licina*, was composed near the boundary given for the start of the Baroque era, in 1600. About 15 members participated in the meeting.

Join the Chicago Chapter on Sunday October 16 at 1 PM at Covenant Presbyterian Church when Lisette returns to lead us again. She plans to open with a scale exercise by G. Rooda (C Major) and a Renaissance duet by Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi. We will also play select movements from a Baroque suite by Johann Joseph Fux, and return to Pierre de la Rue's *Fors Seulement*, from our September meeting. We will also play Rocky Blues by Steve Marshall. For our November 20 meeting we welcome back Andrew Schultze, who will offer Baroque music from Vienna and from the Hapsburg Court.

We also elected a new board for the 2022-2023 season:

President	Mark Dawson
Vice President	Lynette Colmey
Treasurer	Cheryl Kreiman
Secretary	Jennifer Buckley
At Large	Ruth Dunnell
Facebook	Hyacinth Egner & Cheryl Kreiman
Web site	Peter Beck & Larry Johnson
Chapter Rep	Larry Johnson

West Suburban Early Music Society

WSEMS kicked off its 22-23 season on September 11th with Renaissance music from England and Venice. Dennis Sherman led us in an exploration of music written by members of the Bassano family from Venice. The father of the family was born in Venice in 1480 and in 1539 Henry VIII enticed five offspring of the family to move to England to play and write music in his court.

A consort was formed that played until 1630, and at least half of its members originated from the original Bassano family. We enjoyed playing pavane dances, a galliard, a tricky fantasia, and a vocal canzonet. Following a short break, we separated into the DaCapo and the Alternate Altos groups.

We meet again on October 9th at 2 PM at the Friends Meetinghouse in Downers Grove. A member of our group, Darleen Kay, will lead us in playing modern music. Darleen composed a piece for orchestra and recorder that was played at the Senior Suburban Orchestra last spring and enjoys transcribing music for recorder.

Darleen plays string bass in the West Suburban Concert Band and an 18-piece jazz ensemble called the Free Notes. She also plays cello in the Senior Suburban Orchestra and is the leader of the recorder quartet that plays in that group. Please plan to join us on the 9th!



WSEMS meeting, September 11

Greetings from the Chicago Chapter President

I am very pleased to serve you again as your president.

Larry Johnson did an excellent job as our leader, and for five years. That's too long—I know that myself! I was vice president under Ben Eisenstein for five years before Larry took over, and toward the end of our tenure we both needed a break. And besides the regular duties as chapter president, Larry had to keep the chapter meeting and playing together during the COVID-19 pandemic, an unprecedented crisis. But we kept going, leading to an excellent season in 2021-2022, closing with arguably our best spring concert in the 20 years I have been attending. We are still together, and we are still meeting, and we needed strong leadership for that to happen.

The pandemic was really tough for me. I'm an extrovert; having everything I delighted in abruptly taken away in March of 2020 was an ordeal. So I painted a bedroom, and then painted the dining room, and then cleaned out the back steps, then cleaned out part of the basement, and then cleaned out another part of the basement, and then painted the pantry, and then painted the back steps, and then filled the blue recycling bin in the alley twice with old papers. Eventually, though, I realized that 2020 was a year to innovate, to improvise, to look for ways to work around the contagion to create community. So Susan and I set a record for back yard barbecues (13, including one in December). If I couldn't meet friends for dinner at home or in a restaurant we brown bagged it to parks or plazas instead. Lots of walks in parks with friends. And I kept playing recorder, and I kept trying to convey that message in this newsletter each month. Don't give up, we can keep making music together, it might be in a back yard or outdoors next to a parking lot, but recorder players can continue to gather. And we made it! Last season was fine, and we have another fine new season ahead.

We have been gathering once a month for many years, and my time with the chapter is full of wonderful memories. But at this point I would say that my job, as I return to the president's office, is to keep the doors open and the lights on. And that's fine, a noble goal for a venerable institution. We don't need a vision more majestic than to continue to provide recorder players in Chicago an opportunity to gather and create something beautiful, for this season, and for many more to come.

And we have good reason to think we can meet that goal, as we enjoy a solid group of reliable musicians, cash in the bank, an excellent music director, and a committed group of officers. But I would like to ask you, our members and friends, to help in a few ways:

1. **Please renew your membership, and if you can, include a donation to the chapter.** Each year we spend about \$1700 to cover our costs for our director, renting our space, and insurance, and we draw about \$1200 each season in membership renewals. But our friends have been generous in making special gifts in recent years, so at this point we have about \$5200 in savings. That's great, to have enough cash in reserve so that covering expenses is not something the board needs to worry about. If you could contribute toward that reserve your gifts would be much appreciated.
2. **Contribute content to our Facebook page and web site.** Can you offer us photos or links to videos, reviews, announcements of concerts or events? The reason why I say that "keeping the doors open and the lights on" is a worthy goal is simply because this

is how we attract new people, through our online presence. This really works—and special outreach efforts generally don't—so we want to be regularly posting new content to these two sites. Reach out to Hyacinth Egner, Cheryl Kreiman and Larry Johnson with your ideas.

3. **Contribute to this newsletter.** The newsletter helps to keep us together as a community, and I have enjoyed delivering a new issue every month since January of 2006. But this is your newsletter, and it would really help me if we could draw content from our membership. I am looking for articles about history or technique, photos, announcements of upcoming concerts or events, links to videos, or whatever else you think your friends in the Chicago chapter might like to see or read about. You have likely noticed that the pages of this newsletter over the years have featured announcements of jug band festivals and photos of bagpipers in Edinburgh and jazz musicians in Central Park. Well, I look for content that you might like, but I also need to fill 3½ pages every month. It's not easy to find enough relevant content. So I welcome you to take part.
4. **Join us at our monthly meetings,** and encourage other members and friends to come too. We could welcome newcomers both with regular updates to content on Facebook and our web site, and then they could show up at Covenant Presbyterian to find 20 smiling musicians eager to jam with them.

The board is working on some initiatives for the coming season, including possible plans to offer extra meetings for recorder playing sessions outside of our monthly meetings, our next workshop in April, more outreach efforts, and possibly returning to providing food for our monthly meetings. For now, we are hopeful and thankful, and looking forward to another excellent season in 2022-2023.—*Mark Dawson, president*



Chicago chapter opens our new season, September 18

Images from Whitewater, June 2022



Gayle Neuman's class at Whitewater. Guillaume Du Fay



Whitewater Saturday night jam session



Whitewater Friday night jam session



Whitewater Friday night jam session



Whitewater Friday night jam session



Whitewater Friday night jam session



Whitewater closing ceremony, 2022

Chicago chapter Memberships now Due

To renew your membership visit the chapter web site and select About/Become a Member now. You can still renew by sending us a check by US Mail. Download and print the form our web site.

Music Coming Up

Our own Lisette Kielson joins Patrick O'Malley and the **Music of the Baroque** playing Bach's Brandenburg Concert #4, Sunday, November 20 7:30 PM at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie, 9501 Skokie Boulevard, and at the Harris Theater at 205 East Randolph Drive in Chicago, Monday November 21 7:30 PM. Visit <https://www.baroque.org/Seasons/2022-2023/mobleysings> to learn more.

Lisette Kielson also joins the Madison Bach Musicians for a pair of concerts at the Holy Wisdom Monastery outside of Madison, Wisconsin, Saturday October 1 at 8 PM, with a 7:15 PM lecture, & Sunday October 2 at 3:30 PM, 2:45 lecture. The October 1 concert is live streamed.

<https://madisonbachmusicians.org/italian-baroque-masters/>

Laura Osterlund performs with Rendezvous Arts on Sunday November 6 at 2:30 PM at Artifact Events, 4325 North Ravenswood Avenue in Chicago.

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

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	Mark Dawson
Vice President	Lynette Colmey
Secretary	Jenifer Buckley
Treasurer	Cheryl Kreiman
Facebook	Hyacinth Egner & Cheryl Kreiman
Web site	Larry Johnson & Peter Beck
Members at Large	Ruth Dunnell
Chapter Representative	Larry Johnson
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.

West Suburban Early Music Society (westsubems.org)

Convener/Chapter Representative:	Kathy Hall-Babis (kathy.hallbabis@gmail.com)
Vice Convener	Linda Schub Lgschub@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Marguerite Re (margueritere@comcast.net)
Secretary/Membership:	Elaine Gillies (Jegillies@comcast.net)
Hospitality:	Norm Adams Norman_adams@frontier.com
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.

Visit us at chicagorecorders.org

Mark Dawson, newsletter editor

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