

Recorder Reporter

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

Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society

April 2023

Volume 64, Number 8

Chicago Chapter News

We were happy to see Mirja Lorenz again, leading us for our March 19 meeting. Another hopeful turnout, 15 musicians gathered, including three newcomers. We opened with Nancy Chabala leading us in the Kyrie and Gloria from Palestrina's mass, *Missa Aeterna Christi Munera*, followed by Marenzio's *O Sacrum Convivium*. Elegant works for choral ensembles that also sound beautiful on recorder. Then Mirja directed us in works by other ancient artists, Melchior Frank, Henry Purcell, Hans Leo Hassler, and Giovanni Gastoldi.

A lot of our discussion addressed music theory. If you would like us to devote a future chapter meeting to a more detailed discussion of music theory, let us know.



Chicago chapter members gather on March 19

We started with *Tanzen und Springen* ("Dancing and Jumping") by Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612), a lively tune with regular references to pretty girls. Evidently the German Hassler was not given to depression like his contemporary Englishman, John Dowland. *Tanzen und Springen* holds a special place for Mirja; she sang this piece in a youth choir in Germany, with her father as the choir director. And Hassler, the author of *Dixit Maria* and the older brother of Jacob Hassler, lived in Venice for a long time and brought the Venetian school of music style back to Germany with him.

The Bergamasca is a 16th century dance introduced in northern Italy and performed as a courtship dance for couples. Many composers wrote music for bergamascas,

or pieces based on this dance, including Claude Debussy and Gabriel Faure. We played a bergamasca by Larry Bernstein (not *Leonard* Bernstein), arranged for recorder.

A most agreeable afternoon. Thank you again to Mirja for leading us. We will be hearing more from Mirja.



Chicago Recorder Trio, Lisette Kielson, Mirja Lorenz and Patrick O'Malley, Sunday March 12, St. John's Episcopal.

The program featured 17th century works by JS Bach, Mattheson, and Matthew Locke, with modern pieces by Pete Rose, William van Niewkerk, and our own Patrick O'Malley.

For our April 16 meeting, we open with William Byrd. The national ARS kindly provided a set of transcriptions of the great composer's works for recorder on their web site. Find the copies we plan to use on our web site, with the music from Lisette. I have long been of the opinion that every day ought to end with William Byrd. I also have a William Byrd t-shirt and a William Byrd computer password. And now we get to celebrate the 400th anniversary of William Byrd's death. Byrd defined music for the Elizabethan era, and when he died the era came to an end, just as the death of JS Bach in 1750 marks the end of the Baroque era.

After celebrating one of the finest English composers ever, Lisette returns to lead us in our final rehearsal of Charpentier's *Ouverture* (in preparation for our Spring Concert). In addition, we will explore JS Bach's *Contrapunctus I*, and Clara Schumann's *Romance* arranged by chapter member Libby Rudolph, and of course some Rooda technique work.

I have a copy of the 1965-1966 membership directory for the chapter. In those days the Chicago chapter listed 96 members, including Louise Austin, Earl and Viola Manning, and Hilde Staniulis. We are part of a grand heritage, decades of music making, and we open our 65th season on September 17. I wish Dr. Who would show up and offer me a ride in the TARDIS back to a Chicago chapter meeting in 1968 or 1971. That would be great fun, to be an interloper from the future, though I have a feeling that one of these early chapter meetings would not look or sound that much different from what we know today. This year we have welcomed a number of new players, and we look forward to Lisette Kielson continuing as our music director next season.

For now, join us for our April meeting and for our annual spring concert on May 21. After that, we will make plans to schedule times for us to meet informally to jam on recorder on weekday evenings and some weekends in the summer months. We will send out announcements by email and post notices on our web page. Also, the West Suburban Early Music Society plans to host some playing sessions this summer.

Chicago Chapter April Workshop

The Chicago chapter welcomes Anne Timberlake for our 2023 workshop on April 22 at our regular meeting place, Covenant Presbyterian Church, starting at 9 AM. We plan to start playing at 9 AM, so please try to arrive around 8:30 if you can to collect your materials and get ready for the day. The fee is \$75 for ARS members who pre-register and includes workshop materials, continental breakfast, and lunch.



For more information, and to register online or by email, see the [web page](#) for the event.

Spring Concert

Make plans to join us for our final meeting of the 2022-2023 season, our spring concert on May 21 at 1 PM. All are invited to perform, or just listen and enjoy, and all types of music are welcome. 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 Mark Dawson at msjddawson@sbcglobal.net. Also feel free to bring some food to share at the reception to follow.

West Suburban Early Music Society

Members of the West Suburban Early Music Society gathered at the Friends Meetinghouse on March 12 to play a variety of music. We began with Artsa Alinu, an Israeli folksong arranged by Don Jensen. We also played Getting to Know you, by David Kemp, and Pifferi Suite by Edmund Knollys. The latter piece had a challenging 5/4 rhythm that kept us on our toes!



The DaCapo group played Prelude on “Be Thou my Vision”, arranged by David Kemp and Loth to Depart by Giles Farnaby. Members of this subgroup will be working toward playing these pieces at the May concert.

The Alternate Altos played Sonata I X from Opus 1 by Johann Mattheson and are working toward playing this piece at the concert. They also ran through Sonata Quarta alto duet by Michel Blavet.

Note that WSEMS meets on the **first Sunday of the month** in April, April 2, as the Easter holiday falls on April 9.—*Kathy Hall-Babis*

WSEMS concert, Sunday May 7

Members of WSEMS are pleased to present a concert at 3 PM on May 7th at the Friends Meetinghouse in Downers Grove. We will play pieces together as a large group, followed by music played by the DaCapo and Alternate Alto groups. Laura Osterlund will direct the large group and also play an unaccompanied solo. Refreshments will be shared following the concert.

Whitewater Early Music Festival 2023

Online registration is now open for Whitewater, Friday, June 2 through Sunday, June 4. You can also learn about classes and instructors. The campus of the University of Wisconsin, Whitewater, is about 100 miles or two hours from the north side of Chicago. Classes range from intermediate to advanced levels for all sizes of recorders, renaissance double reeds, strings and voices. This is a fine way for new recorder players to gain experience playing in a group, and excellent instruction. To learn more visit, <https://www.whitewaterearlymusic.org>.

The American Recorder Society

Many of us are members of the national ARS (americanrecorder.org) as well as the Chicago chapter. Aside from the magazine and free music, the Society offers a variety of other benefits. A review of their web site displays many available services and resources:

- Free online [classes](#) for complete beginners, on an occasional basis. Check the web site for the scheduled times. These courses can also be used by intermediate players to learn alternate (alto or soprano/tenor) fingerings.
- Free second level beginner [classes](#) are provided to members only.
- Instructional [videos](#), including topics on basic and advanced recorder skills and technique tips for members and non-members. New videos are added regularly, so check periodically for new material.
- [Grants](#) for special events to local chapters, or to individuals to attend workshops. A chapter might apply for a grant to hire an extra instructor for a workshop, for example, to allow the event to create groups for participants of different playing abilities.

The Society offers a special of \$25 for new members and for students, and a discount for a two-year renewal, besides a lifetime membership for \$1,000. To learn about membership in the ARS, visit https://americanrecorder.org/membership_levels.php.

Lisette Kielson Summer Workshop

From July 11 to 14, **Lisette Kielson** will be teaching at the 9th Annual Madison Bach Musicians Summer Chamber Music Workshop at Christ Presbyterian Church, 944 Gorham Street, Madison, Wisconsin. The workshop features chamber music coaching (both A=440 and 415), recorder ensemble playing, lectures, technique classes, and more. Visit the MBM web site,

<https://madisonbachmusicians.org/summer-chamber-music-workshop/>

You can also email Kangwon Kim, the director of the workshop at kangwonkim@yahoo.com, or Lisette at LisetteKielson@gmail.com.

Early Music in New York City

I am a little jealous.

New York City offers a solid early music community and the Gotham Early Music Scene ([GEMS](#)), a society created to support and promote musicians, audiences, and scholars devoted to the form. GEMS also sponsors

the weekly Midtown Concerts, free every Thursday afternoon at St. Malachy's Church on 49th street.

The concert on March 23 featured *very* early music, the Eurasia Consort, playing music and exotic instruments from 7th century China and 10th century Japan, as well as other early works and music from Korea.



Here James Nyoraku Schlefer plays the Japanese shakuhachi flute. One of the pieces he played, *Floating Dragon Boat*, was drawn from a manuscript by Minamoto Hiromasa (918-980).



Music and Events

The **Chicago Cultural Center** offers a free summer screenings festival of movies from the Chicago International Film Festival. This year's Wednesday night films run from May 24 to September 20. The schedule will be posted in a few weeks. My wife and I have seen a lot of great movies over the years here. To learn more keep an eye on the film festival web site,

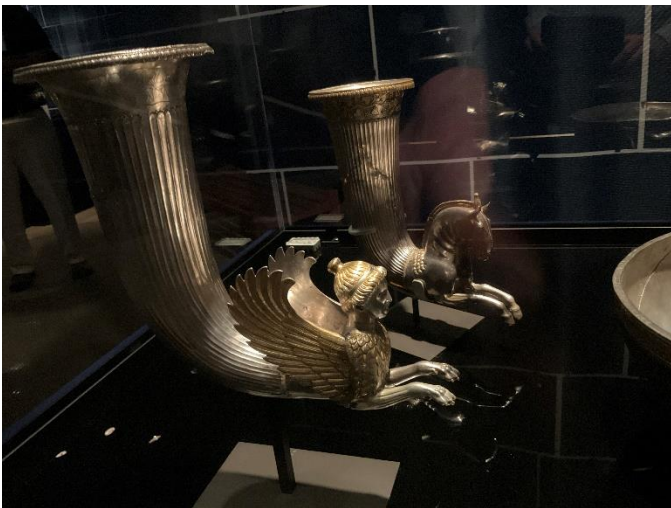
<https://www.chicagofilmfestival.com/summer-screenings/>

This year is the 58th anniversary of **Ensemble Balkanske Igre**, and they celebrate their spring festival April 21 to 23. Enjoy dance and music of the Balkans, eastern Europe, and the eastern Mediterranean, workshops on Saturday and Sunday from 11 AM to 4 PM. They also offer a dinner, concert and dance party on Saturday April 22 in Mt. Prospect. To learn more visit their web page, www.balkanskeigre.org.

True Colors Baroque features Laura Osterlund on recorder and David Schrader on harpsichord, Friday May 12 in Lake Forest and Sunday May 14 in Chicago. <https://www.rendezvousarts.org/true-colors-baroque>.

First Kings of Europe just opened at the Marshall Field Museum of Natural History and will be on display until January of 2024. After eight years of effort involving 26 different museums from 11 countries, plus lots of diplomatic staff and scientists from the Field Museum, we get to admire and ponder 700 artifacts documenting Neolithic and Bronze Age cultures that once flourished in the Balkans and southcentral Europe.

Many of these treasures have never left their home countries, and this is the first time an exhibit featuring a comprehensive study of ancient civilizations from this region has been mounted anywhere. The artifacts are exquisite, beautiful craftsmanship, well worth seeing just for their artistry alone. But the exhibit also offers an excellent history of a neglected region of Europe.



Silver gilt sphynx and horse drinking cups, belonging to Thracian ruler Kotys I, Bulgaria, 350 BC

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)

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| President | Mark Dawson |
| Vice President | Lynette Colmey |
| Secretary | Janifer 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)

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| 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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