

Recorder Reporter

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

October 2021

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Chicago Chapter News

The Chicago chapter of the American Recorder Society opened our 2021-2022 season by meeting on September 19 at Covenant Presbyterian Church.

Yay!



The Chicago chapter and an afternoon of music making



It was our first gathering as a chapter since February of 2020, and 14 people joined us, including Lisette. The Cubs, the Bears, and the White Sox all won that Sunday afternoon, but we didn't think about them much. We were playing recorder. It was grand; we started with Nancy Chabala leading the group for an hour, playing Bach's *Bourree*, then *The Scarborough Fair*, *Simple Gifts*, and finally *The Ash Grove*. Lisette brought us back to Glen

Shannon's *Friendship Canzona*, great fun and a terrific piece of music. More than that—we played Shannon's composition really well. With this piece, we were back, a moment of extra joy. As a chapter we had endured the pandemic and made our way out, even prospering on the journey. We played well despite so many months apart, and we even had three newcomers join us at our meeting on Sunday, and a bigger crowd than some of us had hoped for. Lisette told us how good we sounded from outside as she approached the building.

Two excellent duets followed by the German composer and author Soren Sieg, songs from South Africa, "The Little Elephant goes to Sleep" and "By the Fireside," and we closed with *Festival Music for Recorders* by Peter Siebert (2012). An encouraging and hopeful afternoon.

As we were responding to the pandemic, we spaced the chairs carefully. The windows in the fellowship hall were open, and we turned on the ceiling fans. We had been asked to prove that we were vaccinated or had a negative COVID-19 test, though in fact we were trusted with that. And we started out wearing masks but nearly everyone present forgot about them eventually when not playing. We weren't rebelling. We were simply enjoying our ability to make music together again, and thinking about that music rather than thinking about being safe.



And we *were* safe. We were vaccinated, we spread out, the air was circulating. The safety standards remain in place for October, but we can probably loosen these restrictions as the fall progresses. The number of Delta variant infections nationally has dropped by some 20%

during September. The number of infections in Chicago on September 19 was 465, falling to 412 on the 22nd and to 343 by the 29th. I will plan to get a hug from Lisette eventually. For now, we will seek to be as careful as we need to, but the message from our September meeting was as clear and beautiful as the music itself. We will welcome you in October. We can return to the traditions the chapter has enjoyed for over 60 years.

Join us on October 17 at Covenant, 1 PM. Mirja Lorenz, another old friend we haven't seen for a while, leads us. Mirja plans to fill two hours with three 4 and 5-part works from the early Baroque, two from Italians Dario Castello (1602-1631) and Girolamo Frescobaldi (1583-1643), and a third from a German, Samuel Scheidt (1587-1654). We will look at Castello's *Sonata 15 a 4* and a pair of *Bergamascas* from Frescobaldi and Scheidt.

Born in Venice, Castello served as violinist at St. Mark's Basilica under the leadership of Claudio Monteverdi. Castello is noted for developing the one movement canzona form into the modern sonata. His work was daring, and challenging to play. Scheidt was Kappellmeister for Brandenburg, and an influential composer for organ for a Protestant part of Europe cut off from Rome, while Frescobaldi was a keyboard prodigy and the organist for St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. He is noted for bringing deep emotion to a variety of published instrumental works.

Dario Castello died at only 29 in the Great Plague of Milan of 1630, and Samuel Scheidt had to improvise (but not musically) to survive the Thirty Years War. The Thirty Years War laid waste Germany, and the Great Plague of Milan carried off a third of the population of northern Italy. So we put our current troubles into perspective. We look to close with Scheidt's work, beautiful but not as hard to play. This will be a pleasing end for our afternoon, "something for the heart" as Mirja says.

Viola & Earl Manning Celebration of Life

On Saturday, September 11, we gathered to honor the memory of Earl and Vi Manning at Christ Covenant Church in Villa Park. A quartet of recorder players, representing the West Suburban and Chicago chapters of the ARS, performed for a half hour, presenting a series of Renaissance dances that most of us recorder players have heard and played over the years. Earl and Viola themselves enjoyed these dances, as well as the wonderful and varied recorder repertory played at ARS chapters and local recorder workshops.

The memorial was nicely organized by daughter Cynthia Manning, with refreshments, memory books, a photo slide show and personal memories given by friends and family.

It was a revelation to hear how varied and interesting Earl's and Vi's lives had been, for those of us who knew them only as musicians. The family and friends were also amazed to hear the extent of the Manning's musical gifts. As witnessed by the attendance and participation at their memorial, Earl and Vi Manning will be greatly missed.



Kathy Hall-Babis, Larry Johnson, Bill Nelson, and Mark Dawson provided recorder music for the Manning gathering

West Suburban Early Music Society

The West Suburban Early Music Society met outdoors September 12 for their first meeting of 2021-2022, borrowing the yard of Chris & Nancy Culp in Wheaton. A fine—if rather windy—afternoon of music making.



Music had to be carefully anchored

We started with *By the Light of the Moon* by Joseph Wilcox (2018), and then got all medieval, with Thomas Tallis's master work *If Ye Love Me, O Dulce Vita Mia* by Adrian Willaert, and pieces by Archangelo Correlli, closing with *Now Each Creature Joys the Other* by John Farmer. Another pleasant afternoon of music making

outdoors, this time with some traffic accompaniment but not as much in the way of leaf blowers and lawn mowers.

WSEMS will meet outside the Friends Meetinghouse in Downers Grove to play together on Sunday, October 10th at 2 PM. Bring a music stand, chair, clips to secure music, and music to share (12 copies each). Please join us even if you don't have music! In addition, \$30 dues are due. Looking forward to seeing you on the 10th! Any questions, contact Kathy Hall-Babis, at 630-464-1828.



Jamming in Wheaton



Chris Culp in his own yard!

Music coming up

The **Newberry Consort** returns, opening the 2021-2022 season on Saturday October 30 with a fund raising gala at the excellent Halim Museum in Evanston. Visit <https://www.newberryconsort.org> to learn more.

The Renaissance choral ensemble **Schola Antiqua** returns for their first public performance since February 2020 on Sunday, November 14 at 3 PM at the Athenaeum Center for Thought & Culture, 2936 North Southport.

Join us for a journey through the Divine Comedy, from Inferno to Paradiso. Featuring art historian, Elizabeth Lev, this event will explore the significance of the world's most famous epic poem and its author, the illustrious Dante Alighieri. Experience the depth and complexity of Dante's vision through a series of recitations, displays of visual art, and music provided by the vocal ensemble Schola Antiqua, which carry the soul alongside the pilgrim in his ascent to Paradise.

Schola Antiqua was founded in Chicago in 2000 and is Artist in Residence for the Lumen Christi Institute, a fellowship of Catholic scholars at the University of Chicago (<https://www.schola-antiqua.org>). The Athenaeum Theater is the oldest continually operating theater in Chicago, outside of the Loop. It was built in 1911 by the Redemptorist Fathers of St. Alphonsus, intended for the members of the parish and for the public, and the Center serves today with the belief that "beauty has the capacity to build up culture, transform society, and change lives. We hope to help you contemplate, encounter, and delight in beauty." To learn more about the Athenaeum Center visit their web site, <https://athenaeumcenter.org>.

Apollo's Fire, the Baroque orchestra from Cleveland performs at DePaul University on Wednesday October 27, and Thursday October 28 at the Music Institute of Chicago in Evanston. Apollo's Fire last visited Chicago in March of 2020. <https://apollosfire.org/touring/chicago/>.

John Tyson and Miyuki Tsurutani offer **A Season of Chamber Music**, a series of ensemble classes online for recorder players. The music is performed live, with John and Miyuki playing a series of trios on recorder and harpsichord. They play each piece several times and cover ever combination of two voices for every piece, so you can join in on your own part and can change instruments for each piece.

They are offering two ensemble classes this fall, one for intermediate players and one for advanced, featuring mostly Renaissance works friendly to recorders, as well as string, reed, and brass instruments. The sheet will be provided online. The Intermediate ensemble will be offered on Wednesdays from October 13 through November 17, 7:30 PM EST, and the Advanced on Fridays, October 15 through November 19, 7 PM EST.

The series of six classes costs \$90. Email John and Miyuki if interested.

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Chapter Dues Announcement

Don't forget to send in your chapter membership dues for 2021-2022. If you renew or join before November 1, you will pay \$40. After that annual dues increase to \$50. In recent years our expenses have increased enough to keep us very much in the red, so a dues increase is warranted. This season we offer two payment options, by check and online, both available on our website:

<https://chicagorecorders.org/about/become-a-member-now/>

For now, if you're renewing your local and national membership, or adding a donation, please use the mail-in form. Thank you for your participation in our chapter!

Andrew Schultze Seminar

Andrew Schultze plans to offer a seminar at the Newberry Library, four Tuesday nights, October 26 to November 16, 6 to 7:30 PM. The topic will be "American Music 1775-1850: from the Revolution to the Gold Rush." The Newberry will host a series of seminars this fall, some in person, and others, like this one, virtual. For more information about the Newberry's virtual seminars see our [Virtual Seminars FAQ](#) page. Registration will take place through our online [Learning Stream](#) (\$170).

This seminar traces the development of American music from the American Revolution to the admission of California to the Union. We will explore the influence of English and European music, as well as French, Spanish, Native American, and African American cultural influences, tracing how an American musical style emerged and gained global popularity. Each session will include lecture, listening and discussion components.

Andrew Schultze is a singer, teacher, and researcher who has served on the faculties of the American Conservatory of Music, Roosevelt University, and Columbia College. He has presented seminars and musical programs for the Newberry, the Chicago Humanities Festival, and Early Music America. For questions, contact seminars program staff via email at seminars@newberry.org.

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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Music Director: Lisette Kielson lisettekielson@gmail.com

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.

Tuesday Night Recorder Sessions

(Returning soon!)

The Oak Park Recorder Society offers a fine way to gain regular experience in playing with a group. OPRS members meet Tuesday night, 8 to 10 PM, in the basement of the Pilgrim Congregational Church, 460 Lake Street. Go to the back entrance near the parking lot and ring the lower buzzer for the basement.

West Suburban Early Music Society (westsubems.org)

Convener/Chapter Representative: Kathy Hall-Babis
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(574) 286-5960
Web page support: Chris Culp
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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>

Visit us at chicagorecorders.org

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