

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 Notes

The Chicago chapter met on October 15 with Mirja Lorenz directing music related to the Reformation and the life and times of Martin Luther. We started with several versions of “Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott” (A Mighty Fortress is our God), one by Melchior Frank (1580-1639) and the other by organist and composer Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612). Hassler was a Protestant who directed Catholic services in Augsburg, and he was noted for writing Catholic masses as well as the celebrated motet about the Annunciation, “Dixit Maria.” We also played a pair of three-part canons by Johann Walter (1496-1570), a friend of Martin Luther’s who edited the first hymnal for Lutheran choirs while serving as the chapel master for Frederick the Wise, Elector of Saxony. Each one was a single page of music and a single part—bass—with three different places for choirs to start. We also played a Christmas melody by Hassler, Vom Himmel hoch, which sounds like Ein feste Burg and is known well by German schoolchildren, and closed with a work by Jacob Van Eyck (1590-1657), a blind Dutch recorder virtuoso, organist, and carillon player, as well as expert in tuning and casting bells. Van Eyck helped create the first tuned carillon in 1644. Scientists praised his knowledge of acoustics. The piece, *Onse Vader in Hemelryk*, “Our Father Which in Heaven Art,” was a Reformation effort to put the Lord’s Prayer to music.



Chicago chapter, meeting in October with Mirja Lorenz

Lisette Kielson returns on November 19. This will be our last session as a group to practice the music for the

December 3 Sunday service at Covenant Presbyterian Church. We will plan to play on the balcony in back of the church, and we need to be prepared to play for both services, at 9 AM and at 10:45. At our October meeting we chose parts. For November, we will practice the pieces one more time together.

These are our meetings for the rest of the season.

December 17	Yuletide concert
January 21	Lisette Kielson, tuning
February 18	Lisette Kielson, technique
March 18	Andrew Schultze directs
April 15	Lisette Kielson, rhythm/counting
May 20	Spring concert

Chapter Membership Dues

Chicago chapter dues are \$40 for the 2017-2018 season. We are again offering the Sponsor Membership for \$140 a year, allowing you to sponsor one of our monthly meetings. You will be recognized in this newsletter, and invited to provide one to three pieces of music to perform at the meeting you select. You can access the membership form on our web site, chicagorecorders.org. Click About and Become a Member.

Yuletide Concert

It’s time to start planning for the annual Yuletide Concert for the Chicago Chapter. This year’s event is on Sunday December 17 at 2 PM. All are welcome to perform, or just listen. To be included in the program, send the name of your group, the names of the participants, the names of the pieces you plan to play, and the composers, to Larry Johnson at ll_johnson1239@sbcglobal.net.

Our charter from the American Recorder Society is from January of 1963. We are chapter #3, after New York City and Boston. But the chapter had been meeting for a while before being formally invited to join the Society; the first chapter concert was in May of 1959. So maybe our first Yuletide concert was in December of 1959. The chapter has been gathering to make holiday music every December for nearly 60 years. And so the tradition continues. Please plan to bring some snacks to share for the break after the concert, and also plan to join us for some jamming after the concert, as we close out another year playing recorder together.

Chicago Recorder Quartet

The CRQ offered the concert “Double Take - Musical Pairings through The Ages” on Sunday, October 22 at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Chicago. The notion of pairing was to compare and contrast two pieces of the same form—some centuries apart and some within the same era.

For example, a Praeludium and Fugue in C Major by JS Bach was matched to a Praludium Und Fuge by Matthias Maute. The quartet's performance of this pair showed the versatility of the recorder, as well as the difference made by several hundred years of music history. Another favorite pairing for the audience was the Da Pacem Domine text, by Arvo Part, as compared to an anonymous Da Pacem set to music around 1500. Part's setting was deceptively simple but very intense, and was played by the Quartet with beautifully sustained tones and wonderful forward movement.

An enjoyable moment of recognition came from two movements from a Concerto in G Major by GP Telemann, the Largo e staccato and the Allegro. The arrangement for four altos was cleanly and energetically performed, giving some great ideas on how to improve our own playing of an arrangement for four basses of the same movements that we've often attempted.



Chicago Recorder Quartet, October 22

This was paired with the opening and closing Allegros from Boismortier’s Concerto Op.15, No.2, a suite of dance music by Hans Poser. Then was another surprise and new favorite, entitled Wandsbeker Tanze. Poser's Rendsberger Tanze has been well known to many of us, so it was an interesting revelation to hear another totally different set of dances. The contrast in tempo and style between the dances was well executed, and the sometimes abrupt endings were very entertaining. The church venue was completely appropriate for this program, as pointed

out by Mirja Lorenz, because the selections were intended as chamber music to be performed in an intimate space.

The concert was incredibly well-done and completely enjoyable. The Quartet's professionalism, beautiful tone quality and general attunement to each other while performing made the hour fly by, and inspired the audience to insist on an encore!—*Larry Johnson*



Mirja Lorenz and Patrick O'Malley



Laura Osterlund and Lisette Kielson

West Suburban Early Music Society

We held our October meeting at our regularly scheduled second Sunday, October 8 and played more of the pieces from the packet that Nancy Chabala passed out last month. We covered: *Adieu Mes Amours* by Jean Mouton, *Des Biens d'amours* from Florence Magl. XIX: 59, the No. 19 collection *Twas in the Moon of Wintertime* (uncredited). This piece had harmonies the suggested a medieval time period to its composition.

We then switched to a rendition of *Star of the County Down*, arranged by Alyson Lewin in 1999. This melody

has its roots in Coleraine, Ireland as a folk melody and was then migrated a bit in form as the hymn Kingsfold.

Marguerite Re directed "A Lover's Serenade" by Frazzini/Collins, an arrangement she made of her grandfather's theme song from 1942. Andy Jacobson was a band leader, clarinetist and saxophonist, and had a radio program in the 1940s on the New England Network.

We returned to the 1600's time period with a Canzon Quarta (120) by Aurelio Bonelli called *Aus Ricerari Et Canzoni*. The Da Capo group then worked on a J.S. Bach quartet arranged by Andrew Charlton, *Sheep May Safely Graze*. We ended on this warm sunny day with an upbeat arrangement of "On the Sunny Side of The Street."

Next month we meet on November 13, the second Sunday of the month. Nancy Chabala will direct us in more musical adventures and planning for our December 10 musical gathering of holiday music. We will meet at 2 PM to warm up and rehearse, and present group pieces starting at 3 PM. Music will be available on our website after our November meeting.

Please remember to again bring the packet of music that was distributed by Nancy at our September meeting. There will be extra copies if you don't have this music.



Black Tulip, Reformation Music from Martin Luther to Bach and Telemann, Saturday October 28

Music and More Coming Up

The **Pippins** will be singing on Friday December 1 at the Holiday Walk and Festival of Windows in Forest Park. The event starts at 6 PM and features horse-drawn carriage rides, decorated windows, face painting, children's activities, and plenty of entertainment. Walk along Madison from Harlem west, and find the Pippins at Centuries & Sleuths Bookstore at 7419 West Madison. They will sing several sets and be at the bookstore all evening.

The Pippins also plan to sing at Women & Children First Bookstore in Andersonville, 5233 North Clark Street in Chicago on Saturday, December 15 starting at 7 PM, and on Monday December 11 at 6:30 at Christkindlmarket, Daley Plaza at Washington & Clark Streets in the Loop. For more details visit <http://www.christkindlmarket.com>.

Tour the **Fine Arts Building** during their annual Second Friday Holiday Open Studios, 5 to 9 PM on Friday December 8 at 410 South Michigan Avenue. Ten floors of studios in this elegant historic building (the elevators are really cool) will be open, providing free art, music, and food. Visit Performer's Music on the 9th floor and greet Lee Newcomer, who has been selling recorder players instruments and music for many years. The artists and musicians in the building suggest that you take the elevator to the 10th floor and then work your way down on the stairs, visiting each floor and looking for many agreeable surprises.

For the past ten years Rockefeller Chapel at the University of Chicago has offered **Tea and Pipes** most Tuesdays at 4:30 PM. This event features tea, pastries, and organ music for 30 minutes at tea time, and is always free. It is offered until December 5, and then returns on Tuesday January 9. Tuesday November 7 the Chapel Choir sings from Heinrich Shutz's *Musikalische Exequien* (1635), the first requiem in the German language. These events are intended for University students and faculty though they are open to the public, and at least one Loop office worker has been known to bike to Hyde Park along the lakefront to participate. <http://rockefeller.uchicago.edu/events/organ-recitals>.

The **Newberry Consort** offers Sacred Love, Forbidden Love, and Dangerous love for their 2017-2018 concert season. *Sacred Love* features music from Renaissance Spain and the Landino tradition of Sephardic Jews, Friday November 3 at 8 PM at Galvin Recital Hall, Saturday November 4 at 8 PM at the Logan Center of the Arts, and Sunday November 5 at 3 PM at the Spertus Institute.

Forbidden Love offers medieval love songs and includes costumed actors portraying Heloise and Abelard, Friday February 16 at 8 PM at Ruggles Hall, Saturday February 17 at 8 PM at the Logan Center for the Arts, and Sunday February 18 at 3 PM at the Galvin Recital Hall.

Dangerous Love offers music of love and war from 17th century Italy. Friday, April 27 at 8 PM, Ruggles Hall, Saturday April 28 at 8 PM, the Logan Center for the Arts, and Sunday, April 29 at 3 PM at the Galvin Recital Hall.

The Logan Center for the Arts is part of the University of Chicago, and is at 915 East 60th Street in Hyde Park. Ruggles Hall is at the Newberry Library, 60 W Walton Street in Chicago. The Mary Galvin Recital Hall is at

Northwestern University, at 70 Arts Circle Drive, along the lakefront and north of Chicago Avenue and Sheridan in Evanston, and Spertus Institute is at 610 South Michigan Avenue in Chicago. All of these venues are easily accessible by CTA L trains and by Metra rail. Visit newberryconsort.org to learn more.

German vocal ensemble **Amarcord** honors the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation with a program of Gregorian chants, in the original Latin and using Martin Luther's translation into German, with Reformation and counter-Reformation era motets by JS Bach based on these chants. Friday, November 17, 7:30 PM. Logan Center for the Arts, 915 East 60th Street, Chicago www.Chicagopresents.uchicago.edu.

The Howard Mayer Brown International Music Series at the University of Chicago offers the **Boston Camerata** in a performance of the 12th century morality tale "The Play of Daniel" on Sunday, January 21 at 2 PM at Rockefeller Memorial Chapel, 1414 East 59th Street. Tickets for this event are \$38.

The **Oak Park Concert Chorale** offers "O Magnum Mysterium" as their Christmas Concert on Sunday, November 19 at 4 PM, St. John Lutheran Church, 305 Circle Avenue in Forest Park, and again on Sunday December 3 at 4 PM at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1025 West Lake Street in Melrose Park. To learn more visit <http://www.oakparkconcertchorale.org/concerts/>.

This newsletter has regularly directed members to concerts at the **Music Institute of Chicago's** Nichol's Hall in Evanston (1490 Chicago Avenue). In fact the Music Institute offers a remarkable range of concerts each year, including no less than 24 still coming up in 2017-2018 (www.musicinst.org). Note the Baroque Gala offered there on Sunday December 3 at 3 PM, an opportunity to "take a break from the Nutcracker and Handel's Messiah" in a concert that offers works by Vivaldi, Tartini, Handel, and Bach, including Bach's Harpsichord Concerto in F Minor and Vivaldi's Concerto for 4 Violins and Chamber Orchestra performed by the Lisker Foundation.

Chapter Information

Our chapters are open to anyone, regardless of musical training, who wants to cultivate and sponsor love and appreciation of the art, history and use of the recorder and related instruments. Our meetings, programs and publications help members to come together and to find 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 and in the *American Recorder Society*.

Tuesday Night Recorder Sessions

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 buzzer for the basement.

Chicago Chapter ARS (ChicagoRecorders.org)

President	Larry Johnson (ll_johnson1239@sbcglobal.net) (773) 631-6671
Vice President	Lynette Colmey (ljcolmey@gmail.com) (708) 366-7720
Secretary	Hyacinth Egner (hyacinth_egner@yahoo.com)
Treasurer	Valerie DePriest (themusicalchild@mac.com) 708-524-1625
Webmaster	Ben Eisenstein
Music Director:	Lisette Kielson lisettekielson@gmail.com

Chicago Chapter meetings: The third Sunday of each month, September through May, 2 PM, at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2012 West Dickens, Chicago.

Enter the front door of the parish building west of the church and go to the large fellowship hall on the right.

West Suburban Early Music Society (westsubems.org)

President/Chapter Representative:	Joanne Miller (Wan1@sbcglobal.net) (847) 359-8750
Vice President:	Darleen Kay (630) 679-1506
Secretary:	Nancy Finley (nfelma3@comcast.net) (630) 554-4363
Treasurer:	Kathy Hall-Babis (kathy.hallbabis@gmail.com) (630) 464-1828
Membership:	Nancy Finley (nfelma3@comcast.net) (630) 554-4363
Hospitality:	Nancy Culp (Nlw.Culp@gmail.com) (630) 690-7304
Recorder Reporter contact:	Eric Stern (egstern1@netscape.net) (630) 428-8464

WSEMS meetings: Second Sunday of each month, September through April, first Sunday of May, 2-4:30 PM at the Downers Grove Friends meeting house, 5710 Lomond Avenue in Lisle. 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
2425 W. Leland, Chicago, IL 60625-2913
Msjddawson@sbcglobal.net / (773) 334-6376

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