

Recorder Reporter

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

February 2017

Volume 58, Number 6

Chicago Chapter News

We had a splendid playing session on January 15 with Lisette, who offered us lots of fun, challenging music. We plan to return to these pieces in our April meeting, in part to prepare for the spring concert in May. We started with a pair of pieces we plan to play at the Folk Music Festival on February 11, *Come hither* and *Tantz*, both settings of the Rowland melody known as “Lord Willoughby’s Welcome Home,” from “English Ballad Tunes in Polyphonic Settings.” Andrew Charlton’s *Kemp’s Jig* was a blast of fast, fancy fingering, recalling Elizabethan actor and jester William Kemp. Kemp accepted a bet to dance a Morris dance from London to Norwich (about 100 miles) over nine days in early 1600, and won 100 pounds as a result. Charlton’s modern melody for this story was sort of William Shakespeare meets Glen Shannon. We also liked *Festival Music for Recorders* by Peter Seibert, written for the ARS Recorder Festival in Portland in 2012, and *Fuga secunda* by Valentin Haussmann. Thanks to Nadine Petersen for sponsoring our January meeting.

Join us on February 19 when Mirja Lorenz directs, and plan to bring a friend March 19 to celebrate Play the Recorder Month, with Gail Gillispie leading us in music from the German Renaissance. Mirja will offer music of the Baroque, including works by Boismortier.

University of Chicago Folk Festival

We have a new tradition of leading a recorder workshop each February at the University of Chicago Folk Music Festival in Hyde Park. But this isn’t something that we do because we have always done it (since 2014, at least). Rather, it’s a lot of fun. About eight of us have already signed up but we have room for more to participate.

The 57th Annual University of Chicago Folk Music Festival is scheduled for February 10-11 of 2017, and we have confirmed for a **10:30 recorder workshop on Saturday February 11** in the first floor library in Ida Noyes Hall, 1212 East 59th Street. Plenty of street parking available, as well as the #6 bus from the Loop and the Illinois Central stops at 57th street. Please plan to be there by 10:15 AM. You might want to hang out for a day full of free workshops. The Oriental Institute and the Museum of Science & Industry are close by too, as well as fine dining and the book shops of 57th street. We will

start by performing *Come Hither* and *Tantz* from the January meeting, #6 and #7 from English Ballad Tunes in polyphonic settings, London Pro Musica TM51. Please tape the three pages together.

Then, we will bring our stands and music into the audience and encourage anyone who wants to join us to play along. Bring the music we used last year, selections from Early Dance Music for Recorders, Volume 1. It is on the chapter web site, chicagorecorders.org, under resources and meeting downloads. Look for the University of Chicago Folk Music Festival downloads. Plan to arrive by 10:15, with your music, stand, and any extra recorders or drums you are willing to share.



Chicago chapter meeting, January 15



Baron's Noyse, playing at 12th Night Event, January 14



Senior Suburban Orchestra Quartet

The Senior Suburban Orchestra created a quartet of their own members, including Gary Chipman (viola) on tenor, Vivian Quam (oboe) on soprano, Floyd Meadows (clarinet) on alto, and Darleen Kay (string bass) on bass. The quartet plays during intermissions at the orchestra concerts, offering music from the Renaissance, Baroque, and classical periods, as well as some jazz arrangements.

West Suburban Early Music Society

Our meeting on January 8 was a great way to start off the New Year! We hosted a couple of members from CARS group and Laura Kuhlman, longtime director and friend, walked in as a surprise for many of us. What a delight to see her and have her conduct a couple of pieces for us, just like the old days. We also welcomed a newcomer and had a nice turnout of 18 participants.



We first had a play session of member contributed pieces. Chris Culp who brought *O Dolce Vita Mia* and *Sospiri Minister* by Adrian Willaert. Eric Stern brought a setting of the song *Susanne un jour* by Cipriano de Rore, and Marguerite brought *the Faerie Round* by Holborne. Darleen Kay brought a nice arrangement of

Bluesette, composed by Jean-Baptiste Frédéric Isidor, Baron Thielemans (29 April 1922 – 22 August 2016), known professionally as Toots Thielemans, was a Belgian and American jazz musician. He was known for his harmonica playing, as well as his guitar, whistling skills, and composing. He led his own groups on tours in the US and Europe. In 1961 he recorded and performed *Bluesette* live, which featured him playing guitar and whistling. In 2009 he was designated a Jazz Master by The National Endowment for the Arts, the highest honor for a jazz musician in the United States.

Nancy Chabala then directed us in some pieces she brought: the *Hallelujah Chorus* by Handel, *Eine Casapaglia* by Kuntz; *Friendly Beasts*, an old English Christmas Carol, and *Sing Noel*. We meet again on February 12 for Dennis Sherman to conduct for us in a program entitled "Rockin' Rhythm," looking at different rhythmic conventions and styles from different periods. We look forward to welcoming Dennis once again.—

Joanne Miller

Spring Recorder Workshop, April 2017

We are pleased to welcome Anne Timberlake for our next recorder workshop on April 8, 2017 at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2012 West Dickens. This is our regular monthly meeting place. We will play all day, starting at 9:30 and ending at 4 with a break for lunch, and will start with an hour or two of work on how, where, and why to articulate with recorder, and then move into the workshop theme, "Bad Boys."



Anne Timberlake has appeared across the United States performing repertoire from Bach to twenty-first-century premieres. She holds degrees in recorder performance from Oberlin Conservatory and Indiana University, where she won the 2007 Early Music Institute Concerto Competition. With Musik Ekklesia, Anne has recorded for the Sono Luminus label, and is a founding member of the Wayward Sisters, specializing in music of the early baroque. In 2011 the Wayward Sisters won Early Music America's Naxos Recording Competition.

The fee will be \$65 for members and \$75 for non-members. Lunch is on your own, but we can walk to any one of several restaurants near the site of the workshop.

Workshop brochures are available on the Chicago chapter web site, ChicagoRecorders.org.

Covenant Presbyterian Church is at 2012 West Dickens in the Bucktown neighborhood of Chicago, near Damen and Armitage and near exit 47 on the Kennedy. Street parking is available, and a lot behind the church on Charleston may have spaces. The church is also easily accessible by public transportation. Take the Blue line elevated train to either Damen or Western Avenue and walk (www.transitchicago.com), or take either the #49 Western Avenue Bus or the #50 Damen Avenue bus. The church is also near the Clybourn stop on the Metra Union Pacific North and North West train lines (www.metrarail.com).

Music and More Coming Up

Music teachers might take interest in a week long class offered this summer by Michael Allan Anderson, the director of **Schola Antiqua**, “Singing Gregorian Chant and Renaissance Polyphony.” The class will be at St. John Cantius Church, 825 North Carpenter Street in Chicago, and runs from 9 AM to 4 PM Monday through Friday, June 26-30. The course is directed to church music directors, choral directors, and singers who want a stronger foundation in Early Music. **The class ends with a free concert, Renaissance Vespers, at St. John Cantius Friday June 30 at 7:30 PM.** The course offers 30 Professional Development Hours, \$1550 for one credit or \$650 non-credit. Email summer@esm.rochester.edu.

The **Marion Consort** offers *Matins/Vespers*, Saturday February 18 at 8 PM at St. Clement Church, Chicago. Tickets are \$15. Visit marionconsort.org to learn more. The Marion Consort, formed in 2010, is a choral group specializing in the music of the Middle Ages, Renaissance, and the Baroque era.

Black Tulip offers *Tulipmania: Music, Art, Politics, and Society in the Dutch Golden Age* on February 4 at 4:30 PM at the Lutheran Church of the Ascension, 460 Sunset Ridge Road in Northfield. Black Tulip features Josefien Stoppelenburg, soprano, our own Mirja Lorenz on recorders, Phillip Serna, gamba, and Joel Spears, lutes and theorbo, and offers music from the 17th and 18th centuries.

Tulipmania looks at the cultural and political events during the peak of Dutch power during the 17th and early 18th centuries. The Dutch protestant north was a bastion of religious tolerance and personal freedom, while the rest of the continent was embroiled in civil war and the disastrous 30-Year's War. The new-found prosperity of this emerging capitalist society encouraged the development of the arts, and provided a large and receptive market for the musical and artistic productions of other countries as well. And Tulipmania itself was a period in the Dutch Golden Age when prices for tulip bulbs soared to preposterous levels, until the bubble

burst. Sounds familiar— both the music and the bubble. Visit www.ascension-church.org/concerts to learn more.

Black Tulip will also play live on WFMT radio (98.7) on May 1 at 8 PM.

The **Chicago Recorder Quartet**, featuring four people that we all really like, will play at the Byron Colby Barn on March 19 at 4 PM. Byron Colby Barn is at 32400 North Harris Road in Grayslake. Visit libertyprairie.org. Their concert, “Surfing the Channel,” touring six centuries of music across the English Channel, French music of the Middle Ages to English Renaissance consort, from Machaut to Vaughan Williams.

The **Gilbert & Sullivan Opera Company** offers the comic opera “Iolanthe” on Friday & Saturday, March 10 & 11 at 7:30, and on Sunday March 12 at 2 PM, at Mandel Hall at the University of Chicago, 1131 East 57th Street in Hyde Park. Tickets are \$25 and are available at the University of Chicago box office, 773-702-2787, or online. Visit <http://gilbertandsullivanoperacompany.org>.

I have overheard several members raving about recent performances of the **Newberry Consort** for their 30th anniversary year. The Consort offers a musical history of the life of Queen Christina, the eccentric but brilliant 17th century ruler of Sweden, Friday March 3 at 8 PM at Ruggles Hall at the Newberry Library, Saturday March 4 at 8 PM at Galvin Recital Hall at Northwestern University in Evanston, and Sunday March 5 at 3 PM at the Logan Center for the Arts at the University of Chicago. Visit newberryconsort.org to learn more.

The British choral group **Stile Antico** performs on Friday March 3 at 7:30 PM at Rockefeller Chapel, 5850 South Woodlawn. Tickets are \$35. The concert features works by Catholic composers who left England during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, including John Dowland, Peter Philips, and William Byrd. Tickets for *In a Strange Land: Elizabethan Composers in Exile* are available at chicagopresents.uchicago.edu.

Handel Week Festival returns for its 18th season at Grace Episcopal Church in Oak Park, 924 Lake Street. The church is an easy walk from the Oak Park Avenue L stop on the Green Line or from the Oak Park Metra station. Concerti are offered on Sunday February 12 at 3 PM, the Intimate Handel on Saturday February 25 at 7:30 PM, and *Alexander's Feast* on Sunday March 5 at 3 PM. Visit HandelWeek.com to learn more.

March is not just Play the Recorder Month. **Early Music America** has designated March 2017 as Early Music Month, and the **European Day of Early Music** is scheduled for March 21, 2017.

Early Music Month is a national, grassroots campaign sponsored by Early Music America and designed to raise awareness of early music throughout the North American music community. Early Music Month seeks to connect enthusiasts, performers, presenters, scholars, builders, students, venues, and more to bring early music to its widest audience ever. To learn more visit the site earlymusicamerica.org/endeavors/early-music-month.

The European Day of Early Music is held every March 21, Johann Sebastian Bach's birthday. For the Day of Early Music over 1000 years of music is represented, written down or transmitted orally, from the Middle Ages until the late 1700s. The event regularly features dozens of concerts and events across Europe (and the United States), with the music also being offered by live streaming online. Last year 20 different European countries took part, offering over 80 different events. Visit <https://earlymusicday.eu> to learn more, or search Facebook for European Day of Early Music.

Bach Week Festival returns with two concerts at the Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Avenue in Evanston Friday April 28 and Friday May 5, both at 7:30, and a Sunday afternoon concert on May 7 at 2:30 at Anderson Chapel of North Park University, Foster and Spaulding in Chicago. Single tickets are \$30; visit bachweek.org or call 800 838-3006. A fundraising house concert is also planned for Sunday March 19 at 5:30 at the Charles Gates Dawes House 225 Greenwood Street in Evanston. Tickets are \$60.

This is the 44th annual Bach Week event. The May 7 finale features the choral motet *Jesu, meine Freude* and the Orchestral Suite #4 in D. A pair of keyboard concerti are offered for May 5, and Cantatas 54 and 202 on April 28, along with a pair of soprano duets.

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*. Members are listed in the ARS directory, receive *The American Recorder* magazine and this newsletter. The *Recorder Reporter* is published monthly from September to May jointly by the Chicago Chapter and the West Suburban Early Music 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 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.

Chicago Chapter ARS (ChicagoRecorders.org)

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

Membership Form

Membership fees for 2015-2016 for the American Recorder Society are now due.

Name _____ Email Address _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

- | | | |
|-------------|---|--|
| _____ \$40 | Chicago chapter | Please mail this form to:
Chicago Chapter ARS
c/o Valerie DePriest, PO Box 2132
Oak Park, IL 60303-2132 |
| _____ \$15 | WSEMS | |
| _____ \$50 | National ARS Membership | |
| _____ \$90 | Chicago chapter <i>and</i> National ARS | |
| _____ \$65 | WSEMS <i>and</i> National ARS | |
| _____ \$140 | Sponsoring Membership | |

Month you would like to sponsor: _____

\$_____ Donation to ___Chicago chapter ___WSEMS

Total amount enclosed \$_____ Downers Grove, IL 60515

If you are willing to receive publications from the ARS electronically, rather than by US Mail, the membership is \$45.