

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 News

For the November 20 meeting Andrew Schultze led the group in a discussion of obscure German Baroque composers. Michael Maier (1569-1622), born in Holstein, was a physician, philosopher, composer, and alchemist. He was a devout Lutheran, but also strongly influenced by the Rosicrucian movement, a secret society that became popular in the early 17th century. An amateur composer, Maier published *Atalanta fugiens*, ("Atalanta flees," based on the Greek myth of Atalanta & Melanion). The title features 50 cantatas presented as a series of fugues, each with an epic poem and an epigram, or woodcut illustration. We played several of these pieces, as well as some of the works from the *Suite of Lustige FeldMusic* by Johann Philipp Krieger (1649-1725).

The performance of the After Coffee Players nicely complimented the afternoon's discussion. They offered two pieces by German composers, a 17th century organist who indirectly influenced JS Bach, and a 20th century educator who championed teaching methods for children and who, you could say, indirectly influenced the American Recorder Society. The two pieces included *Rendsburger Tanze* by Hans Poser (1917-1970) and *Ach Herr, lass deine lieben Engelein* by Franz Tunder (1614-1667). Tunder's work shaped the cantata for younger musicians, including his son-in-law Deiterich Buxtenhold, and Buxtenhold, in turn, shaped the style of more celebrated German composers to follow.



After Coffee Players

Here is the schedule for the rest of the season:

January 15	Do it Yourself Session <u>Nancy Chabala & Lynette Colmey</u> Food Esther Drinks Nadine
February 19	Louise Austin, director <u>The Baron's Noyse</u> Food Rosalie Drinks Ben
March 18	Andrew Schultze, director <u>Music Institute of Chicago Recorder Orchestra</u> Food Dale Drinks OPEN
April 15	Patrick O'Malley <u>Ridgeway Consort</u> Food Mark Drinks OPEN
May 20	Spring Concert

Yuletide Concert December 18

Please join us for another festive year-end afternoon of holiday music making on Sunday, December 18 at 2 PM, Covenant Presbyterian Church. Please limit the playing of your ensemble to five to seven minutes. Any kind of music is welcome on recorder; you can introduce other instruments like gamba or lute or keyboard, or offer choral works, but these must be early music. If you would like to perform, please contact Ben Eisenstein at BenEisenstein@comcast.net or Dennis Sherman at drsynj-chicagoars@yahoo.com and provide:

- Name of the piece(s)
- Composer name, nationality, and dates (if known)
- Movement names (if any)
- Performers' names and instruments

Or contact Mark Dawson at msjddawson@sbcglobal.net. And don't forget to bring holiday treats that we will share with the audience and participants!

West Suburban Early Music Society



Jim Heup directs the WSEMS November Meeting

The WSEMS November meeting was led by Jim Heup. We played through several pieces including the Holborne Christmas galliards and the Guerrero *Ave Maria*. These pieces are likely to be in our winter concert, slated for February, or possibly March (in which case it might have to be renamed the just-before-spring concert.) This is also an excellent time to be thinking about pieces **you** and your (possibly not yet discovered) friends could be performing for us. Our meetings are full of friendly recorder players who could be potential partners.

WSEMS plans a recorder workshop at Naperville Evangelical Covenant Church on Saturday, March 31, 2012, featuring Rotem Gilbert. Dr. Gilbert teaches Baroque and Renaissance performance practice and history USC's Thornton School of Music and is a founding member of Ciaramella, a Renaissance ensemble that has recorded for Naxos label and has performed in Germany, Italy and in the United States.

After the break, we again split up into small groups. The library group, led by Nancy Good, played songs from the collection *Eleven Patriotic American Songs* arranged by William E. Hettrick and dances from the 2003 Whitewater Early Music Festival Renaissance Ball. The krumhorn group led by Nancy Chabala worked on tuning the unruly beasts and also played tunes from books of music from Shakespeare's time and the Jacobean period. The rest of us worked with Jim Heup to explore the Gottfried Finger church sonata for two altos in more depth.

We will be changing venues for our meeting on December 11, gathering at 2 pm at the Downers Grove Friends Meeting House, 5710 Lomond Ave, Downers Grove. Hope to see everyone there.—*Eric Stern*

Music Coming Up

The Tallis Scholars sing on December 9 at 7:30 in Rockefeller Chapel. This special holiday program is structured around the settings of the *Magnificat*, or the *Song of Mary*, featuring works of Sweelinck, Taverner, Praetorius, Palestrina, and others, in English, German, Italian, and Estonian. Tickets \$20 at the door. Visit chicagopresents.uchicago.edu or call 773 702-8068.

The Pippins, a medieval madrigal group, sing songs from the Renaissance at Christkindlmarket at Daley Plaza in downtown Chicago on December 15 at 6:30 PM. The concert is free.

The Milwaukee Renaissance Band, directed by Laura Kuhlman, will offer a holiday concert at the Byron Colby Barn on Sunday, December 4 at 4 PM. The barn is at 1561 Jones Point Road in Grayslake, Illinois. Contact them at bcbarncrossing.com or call (847) 543-1202. You can also contact the band at info@MilwaukeeRenBand.org. Tickets are \$15.

Hear John Langfeld play recorder at St. Luke's, 1500 West Belmont, Chicago, as part of their *Sonatas da Chiesa* series of Baroque recorder and organ sonatas. These sonatas are offered as a prelude to monthly church services and begin at 10:20 AM on December 4, January 15, February 19, March 11, April 15, and May 13.

It's Christmas, but anybody can go hear or sing along with Handel's *Messiah*. How about celebrating Advent with a 1920s vintage pre-jazz jug band instead? The Barehand Jug Band, offering great fun and great skill, plays Thursday December 8 at The Grafton Pub, 4530 North Lincoln, starting at 9 PM. The music is free, but enjoy an excellent meal and specialty beer with the music. Visit www.barehandjugband.com for more, or find them on December 27 at 9 PM at the Hideout, 1354 West Wabansia (\$5).

If that's not foreign enough for your holiday season, drop by the Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 North Lincoln, also in Chicago, and hear Golosa, the Russian folk choir of the University of Chicago. They open for Alioni, an ensemble that sings the songs of the Republic of Georgia. Wednesday, December 7, 8:30, \$5 (www.oldtownschool.org).

Jason Moy performs trios on harpsichord with Baroque violinist Brandi Berry and cellist Anna Steinhoff. This free concert is at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E Washington, at 12:15 on Wednesday, December 14.

The best place to look for concert listings for Early Music in the Chicago area—to look for **anything** related to Early Music in the Chicago area—is the Early Music Chicago web site, www.earlymusicchicago.org.

Instruments for Sale

Carolyn Sweers in Wisconsin offers an alto, 415 pitch, for \$300. The head and foot are plastic, and Robert Scherer has created a low-pitch middle joint. Patrick O'Malley has played it and says it sounds "surprisingly good." Reach Carolyn at 262-248-2081.

Louise Austin also has a set of recorders to place in good homes. These come from the estate of a recorder player from Wisconsin who died recently.

Soprano

- \$160 Moeck Rottenberg, rosewood, bright, hardly used
- \$75 Adler, maple, plays well
- \$2 Aulos, plastic

Alto

- \$350 Dolmetsch, rosewood, good voicing and intonation, warm sound
- \$200 Moeck Rottenberg, rosewood, repaired & voiced by Phil Levin. Superficial crack in plastic head (ivory like) does not affect the head.
- \$50 Adler, plays easily but long reach to low F

Tenor

- \$225 Moeck Tuju, maple, C# and C keys, plays all notes with a nice sound
- \$50 Adler, good for small hands, low C key, quiet

Bass

- \$500 Moeck, maple, low G# and F# keys, comes with two heads, bocal and direct blow

Contact Louise Austin at (920) 648-8010 or email her at weezie706@yahoo.com. Louise lives in Lake Mills, Wisconsin, but will be in Chicago to direct the Chicago chapter meeting on February 19.

Music Available to a Good Home

Many of you remember our old friend Kim Katulka Morrison, an excellent musician and long-time member of the Oak Park Recorder Society and the Chicago Chapter, who died of cancer in 2006. Ryan Morrison and his wife Erika would like to offer Kim's collection of printed sheet music to a good home.

Much of this music is in multiple copies for multiple parts on recorder, as well as some scored for gamba and string bass. The sheets are well organized and in legal-sized envelopes; Kim transcribed a lot of it personally from existing sources for use by the Oak Park Recorder Society and stored it in a set of large plastic bins. Ryan feels that other early musicians could make good use of this music, and would like to give it to a group, school or institution

that could play these works and delight in them just as Kim once did. Contact Ryan at (708) 846-8725 or email him, r_morrison99@hotmail.com.



An alto recorder created by a member of the Ovimbundu tribe of Angola when the region was a Portuguese colony. Displayed at the World Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1892-93, and stored here with other African artifacts of similar vintage. Evidently the tribesman copied this recorder from an instrument brought to the country by a Portuguese priest, trader, or soldier, possibly as early as the 17th century.

*Collections Resource Center, Anthropology Department,
Marshall Field Museum of Natural History*

More Online Resources

www.bbc.co.uk, search on "Early Music Show"

The British Broadcasting Service offers the Early Music Show on their web page. You can listen to their daily hour-long broadcasts on your computer using the web site's built-in player.

www.zeroland.co.nz, [Zeroland](http://www.zeroland.co.nz)

Zeroland is a portal for the arts based in New Zealand. Look to Zeroland for web pages related to visual and performing arts, film, music, literature, and ideas. They bill themselves as "the arts hub; the best arts websites from around the world." All of the sites are reviewed and selected by people. This isn't a high-tech search feature, managed by robots.

www.earlymusicshop.com, [Early Music Shop](http://www.earlymusicshop.com)

The Early Music Shop is "the world's largest early music instrument specialist . . . the largest single source of mediaeval, renaissance and baroque musical instruments world-wide." Explore this "Aladdin's Cave of affordable early music instruments" to find products crafted by hand by artisans all over the world, including recorders, viols, harps, rebecs, lutes, harpsichords, spinets,

shawms, crumhorns, tabors, sackbuts, hurdy-gurdies, psalteries, and percussion. The Early Music Shop distributes Moeck, K ung and Mollenhauer recorders, and also offers a wide range of sheet music.

Play the Recorder Month

Christmas is just around the corner, so it's time to start thinking about—March! March is Play the Recorder Month. We want to have consorts and ensembles invading public spaces, challenging Hip Hop, providing audiences with the elegant sounds of the Renaissance. So we encourage you to make plans to perform on recorder in your local library or mall, in a museum, or in some other public venue. Why not make some plans now? I'm looking into opportunities at the Field Museum of Natural History and at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Let's try harder in 2012 to create a presence for recorder music in Chicago and the suburbs.

Some Helping Hands

The Chicago Chapter could use the help of its members to provide food & drinks for our monthly meetings.

We are also looking for new members of the board for the 2012-2013 season. If you can't serve on the board, can you help with planning for our monthly meetings, or with our next chapter recorder workshop?

In January 2012 we plan a do-it-yourself meeting. Bring along music you would like to hear played, and if you care to, direct the group yourself!

Finally, remember that this is your newsletter. I'm always open to photos, articles, announcements, and ideas for topics to cover each month.

Chapter Information

Visit the Yahoo group <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ChicagoARS>.

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 ARS (chicagoars.org)

President	Dennis Sherman (drsynj-chicagoars@yahoo.com) (773) 797-9506
First Vice President	Open
Second Vice President	Ben Eisenstein (BenEisenstein@comcast.net) (847) 998-0198
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Hospitality	Nancy Chabala nchabala@mymailstation.com) (708) 442-6053
Outreach	Hild� Stanilius (773) 363-7476 and Arlene Ghiron (afghiron@aol.com) (773) 525-4026
Webmaster	Larry Johnson

Chicago Chapter meetings: Usually 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 immediately west of the church and go to the large fellowship hall on the right.

West Suburban Early Music Society

Convener/Chapter Representative:	Judy Stephens (stephens71@att.net) (630) 740-0880
Vice Convener:	James Heup (jamesheup@aol.com) (630) 851-5364
Secretary:	LeAnne Herrington (nelliejane@att.net) (630) 553-5937
Treasurer:	Marilyn Linden (RMLindisfarne@att.net) (630) 406-8175
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Recorder Reporter contact:	Eric Stern (egstern1@netscape.net) (630) 428-8464
Music Director:	Laura Kuhlman (laura@thekuhlmans.com) (630) 462-5427

WSEMS meetings: Second Sunday of each month, September through April, first Sunday of May, 2-4:30 PM at the Naperville Evangelical Covenant Church, 1150 Hobson Road, Naperville, southwest corner of Naper Boulevard and Hobson Road. Exit I-88 at Naper Boulevard and travel south. The church entrance is on a side street, more obvious from Hobson Road.

Mark Dawson, editor

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Content for next issue due December 25