

Recorder Reporter

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

Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society

October 2017

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Chicago Chapter Notes

The Chicago chapter started the 2017-2018 season with a new meeting format and a strong turnout, including several newcomers who became members.

Lisette opened with a section on breathing and tone. Breathing starts with posture. While standing, and later sitting, feel balanced, feel that your core is engaged. Keep your shoulders down, knees relaxed and pelvis slightly tucked, tilted forward, so that there is no strain on the lower back. We did some breathing exercises: slow breathing and faster breathing, to feel our diaphragms expand when inhaling. Lisette encouraged us to keep this in mind while playing.

She started out with a slow piece, in which we could easier check our slow breathing, and listen to our tone: *Summa* by Arvo Pärt (1935). We first played it with high instruments, soprano and alto, and then with tenor and bass, to experience the difference in breathing.

As rhythm affects breathing, Lisette then had us play an *Allegro* by Cesar Bresgen (1913-1988), which was faster. We noticed that our breathing was more superficial. Another slow, beautiful piece was the *Lamentatio sanctae matris ecclesiae Constantinopolitanae* by Guillaume Dufay (c. 1397 –1474), and we ended with *Lentement* by Hans-Martin Linde (1930) from the Suite “A la manière d’une Overture française” (“Like a French Overture”).

After Lisette's presentation, we separated into two groups. Those who volunteered to play at the December 3 service at Covenant Presbyterian rehearsed under the direction of Dennis Sherman, who supplied a number of pieces to consider for that event. Anyone else interested in playing on December 3 can contact Larry Johnson for PDF versions of the music or printed copies. The other group of players gathered under the direction of Valerie DePriest to sight-read through several pieces for fun and practice.

Also, please be mindful of others in the education building at Covenant Presbyterian Church when we gather for our monthly meetings there. Usually the room is empty; in fact, usually the *building* is empty, at least when we are getting started. But sometimes some of our members arrive early and find a group from the church holding a meeting or a lunch in the fellowship hall. Even though the room is ours at 2 PM, we need to avoid giving the impression that they need to hurry up so we can get

started. Commonly we can enter the fellowship hall around 1:45 to set up, and if a lunch meeting is underway there it will commonly wrap up before 2 PM, and often the property manager will let them know that we have reserved the space for the afternoon. Even so, take care not to disturb others in the hall until our meeting time arrives. If you arrive early please find an empty room to wait in. Note that the All Souls room in the basement of the church next door is usually available. Our friends at Covenant have been splendid hosts, and in fact are paying us to play in services in December and March. Not a big problem, but something for us to consider.

Thanks to Hyacinth Egner and Larry Johnson and for providing this content.



For the October 15 meeting Mirja Lorenz, member of the Chicago Recorder Quartet and Black Tulip, will lead

us in music related to Martin Luther, for the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. She also plans to lead the chapter in playing the music planned for Covenant Presbyterian on December 3.

These are our meetings for the rest of the season.

November 19	Lisette Kielson, tone
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. Find the membership form at the end of this newsletter.

West Suburban Early Music Society

WSEMS gathered on September 10 with Nancy Chabala directing. We had a great meeting in September with Nancy Chabala leading. She directed various pieces from different time periods and different keys and rhythms. We have some music she passed out that we will continue to work on at our October meeting. Please bring your copies if you have them. Besides playing the September music, there will be a couple or more new pieces as well. The next meeting is October 8.



Survey Results

The board of the Chicago chapter created a survey on Survey Monkey and posted the link to our web site and Facebook page, included it in the newsletter, and sent the link out to our mailing list by electronic mail. By the

end of September over 30 had people responded. The survey provided some clues about our members and friends. More than half of the responders said that they play recorder once a week, and nearly all view themselves as intermediate or advanced players. But two thirds (19) said that they rarely attend Chicago chapter meetings, because they are too busy, or, mostly, because of the meeting location (12 out of 31).

Music and More Coming Up

Our own **Chicago Recorder Quartet**, featuring Lisette Kielson, Mirja Lorenz, Patrick O'Malley, and Laura Osterlund, perform as part of the St. John's Memorial Concert Series at St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 North Kostner Avenue in Chicago, on Sunday October 22 at 3 PM. The performance, Double Take: Musical Pairings through the Ages, features a Bach prelude and fugue paired with a fugue written in 1999, and two settings of the sacred work Da Pacem Domine (Give Peace, O Lord), one by the modern composer Arvo Pärt and the other written in the 16th century. You can compare a German suite lined up against an African suite, to see how both represent local musical traditions.

Black Tulip, featuring our own Mirja Lorenz, offers "Reformation Music from Martin Luther to Bach & Telemann" October 28, 7 PM at Lutheran Church of the Ascension, 460 Sunset Ridge Road, Northfield. Joining Mirja will be Josefien Stoppelenburg, soprano, Phillip Serna, viols Joel Spears, lute, and on harpsichord, David Schrader. <http://www.ascension-church.org/concerts>.

I have been listening lately to two teenaged European musicians with staggering levels of talent, the breathtaking Norwegian boy soprano **Aksel Rykkvin**, and the equally extraordinary Dutch recorder player **Lucie Horsch**. Search on their names in YouTube, or for Lucie Horsch, you might want to start here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IbcOKZAJffg>

Here is a page devoted to Aksel Rykkvin:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLyec6v-2KRIR2O7edKRt9Ia0L7WE1t4Jb>

The Guardian published an article about Lucie Horsch:

<https://www.theguardian.com/music/2016/dec/22/recorder-music-lucie-horsch-decca-contract>

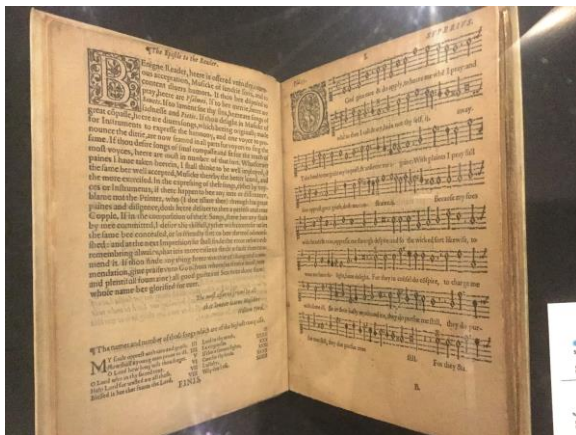
This brief documentary about is Aksel Rykkvin by NRK TV, with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rVoIRS9vA3s>

Ben Crystal is an English actor, director, producer, and an expert in Shakespeare. The British Council on English and Exams presented a video of Crystal talking about a

modern understanding of how to perform the Bard's works. Crystal looks at the poetic structure of the dialog for clues on timing and counting, and insights into the inner lives of the characters. He also addresses how the original pronunciation and accent affects how Shakespeare's poetry is delivered and understood. Find the YouTube video at <https://youtu.be/9FF5K8VlcRI>.

The **Newberry Library** offers a program this fall called *Religious Change, 1450 to 1700*, running through 2017-2018 and exploring "how religion and print challenged authority, upended society, and made the medieval world modern." An exhibit hall featuring over 150 objects from the Newberry collections including tracts, bibles, maps, poems and art the exhibit shows how the Reformation transformed Europe and America through the eyes of those who lived through it. The event also features a series of lectures, including, Cosmopolitan Early Modern Venice on October 28, 500 Years of Book-Burning and Book Learning on November 1, & Why the Reformation Still matters on November 7. A blog and online resources are also offered on the web page, www.newberry.org.



Psalms, Sonets, & Songs of Sadnes and Pietie, Made into Musicke of Five Parts, William Byrd, printed in 1590

The **Marion Consort** has two concerts planned for this fall, Medieval Ghost Stories on Saturday, October 21 at the chapel of the Bohemian National Cemetery, 5255 North Pulaski in Chicago. Philip Serna joins them on gamba. Tickets \$15/20 at the door. I can recommend this excellent ensemble. Visit www.marionconsort.org.

The women of **Schola Antiqua** offer a concert of music from medieval and Renaissance convents, "Music in Secret." British organist and Renaissance music historian Naomi Gregory leads the group in offering some of the earliest known polyphony associated with nuns from the anonymous 1543 collection of printed part books, *Musica quinque vocum*. In addition to plainchant sung from a recently unveiled source at the Art Institute of Chicago, Schola Antiqua's program will include the music of Sulpitia Cesis, a nun from the northern Italian city of

Modena. October 20 8 PM, Rockefeller Chapel, the University of Chicago, and October 21 8 PM, St. Clement Church, Chicago. Visit www.schola-antiqua.org.

The next concert features English Tudor music on Saturday and Sunday, November 18 & 19, music by Tallis, Byrd, Wilbye, and Weelkes, and joining them will be the Wicker Park Choral Singers. Each day, 8 PM at St. Clement Church, 642 West Deming in Lincoln Park, near DePaul University, and 4 PM at St. Ignatius Church, 6559 North Glenwood. Tickets available soon.

The **Chicago Choral Artists** offer *Der Schwanengesang* by the great German composer Heinrich Schutz, on Saturday October 7 at 7:30, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1301 N LaSalle, and Sunday October 8 at 4 PM at Grace Lutheran Church, 7300 Division River Forest. Visit <http://chicagochoralartists.org> to learn more.

The Chicago Cultural Center at Washington & Michigan has hosted the **Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert** series, free, every Wednesday at lunchtime since 1977. To mark their 40th anniversary, they plan a concert October 18 in Preston Bradley Hall featuring the Vermeer Quartet and the Arianna Quartet. Arrive early to get a seat! Did I say that this concert is free? And you can take the L there, that's almost free. Leave the car at home, and practice your recorder while you ride the CTA.



Celebrating Dame Myra Hess Concert series with a parade

OPUS 327 presents two cantatas of JS Bach in honor of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 939 Hinman Avenue in Evanston, Saturday October 28 at 7 PM. The ensemble features the choral group Belle Voce along with the early music ensemble Ars Antiqua, and the performance includes BWV 80, *Ein feste Burg is unser Gott* and BWV 79, *Gott, der Herr, ist Sonn und Schild*. Tickets are \$30 for premium seats, or \$25 for adults. For \$45 get premium seats and then beer and bratwurst after the concert. To learn more and buy tickets visit <http://www.opus327.org>. Note that St. Luke's Episcopal Church is an easy walk

from both the Main Street L stop on the Purple line and from the Main Street Metra station for the Union Pacific.

Bach Week offers **Bachtoberfest Bachanalia**, their annual fundraiser, on Sunday October 8 starting at 5:30. Music Institute of Chicago Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Avenue in Evanston. An evening of music, wine, and food. Doors open at 5:30, the music and wine tasting start at 6. The musicians include Josefien Stoppelenburg, soprano, and Jason Moy, harpsichord, performing works of Bach, Francesco Mancini (1672-1737), Telemann, and Monteverdi. Visit www.bachweek.org.

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
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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
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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 2017-2018 for the American Recorder Society are now due.

Name _____ Email Address _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

_____ \$40	Chicago chapter	_____ \$30	WSEMS	Please mail this form to: Chicago Chapter ARS c/o Valerie DePriest, PO Box 2132 Oak Park, IL 60303-2132
_____ \$50	National ARS Membership			
_____ \$90	Chicago chapter <i>and</i> National ARS			
_____ \$80	WSEMS <i>and</i> National ARS			
_____ \$140	Sponsoring Membership	Month you would like to sponsor: _____		

\$_____ Donation to ___Chicago chapter _____WSEMS

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Kathy Hall-Babis
245 Indianwood Lane
West Chicago, IL 60185

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