

Recorder Reporter

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

Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society

February 2020

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Chicago Chapter

Another fine afternoon of music making with Lisette for the Chicago chapter. We knew that five or six of our regulars would not be able to attend in January, but 14 people still showed up. Lately we have been attracting new people without trying very hard. They seem to be finding us from our web site or Facebook page.

We opened with two arrangements of “Christ Rising Again” by William Byrd (1539-1623), one in 4/4, and the other in cut time, 4/2. The goal was to compare the two arrangements; while the two were virtually identical, the second, in cut time, flowed better and sounded richer.



Then, we played Peter Beck’s four-part arrangement of the English ballad “Willy O’Winsbury.” Based on a 15th century Scottish ballad, a king returns after years of being away to find that his unmarried daughter is pregnant. Furious, he vows to kill her suitor, until he meets the young man, and struck by his beauty, gives him land and gold instead. At the time, physical beauty was equated with virtue, and deformity, evil. Think of Richard III, a royal usurper, in Shakespeare’s treatment twisted in body and thus also twisted in soul. Shakespeare’s monarch, Elizabeth, was the granddaughter of Henry Tudor (Henry VII) who defeated Richard in battle and took his throne. This made the legitimacy of Henry’s own rule in doubt, and challenges and failed revolts were to arise later for his granddaughter, a Protestant and the result of what was

considered by many to be an illegal marriage. The Tudors had an incentive to present Richard III as a hunchback, and thus vile and worthy of death. It is a lot safer for us to say that the story Shakespeare used was nonsense than it would have been for Shakespeare himself.

Lisette closed her session by leading us again in our spring concert piece, Glen Shannon’s “Friendship Canzona.” Glen Shannon is delighted that we plan to perform the work in May, and we are planning to make a recording for him.

After the break, and until after 5 PM, Nancy Chabala directed us in William Byrd’s “Fortune,” followed by Stephen Verhelst’s lovely “A Song for Japan.” Every day should close with William Byrd, especially a cold Sunday evening in January. Join us February 16, the day after the Folk Music Festival, for more music making, once again directed by Lisette Kielson.

For the Folk Music Festival on February 15 we have nine or ten players signed up, with Lisette directing. We practiced the “Abendlied” piece again, and plan to play this to open the session, and then to join the audience in playing a series of simple dance works. The music is available for download from chicagorecorders.org. Visit Resources and Music Downloads, and then U of C Folk Festival Music Downloads. Participants are encouraged to bring extra plastic recorders to share.



The workshop starts at 11 AM in the Library of Ida Noyes Hall on 59th & Woodlawn, as before. Contact Larry Johnson at ljohnson1239@sbcglobal.net or Mark Dawson at msjddawson@sbcglobal.net if you plan to join us. Try to arrive by 10:30 so we can set up together.

On Sunday February 16 Lisette will lead the chapter meeting in readings of Giovanni Priuli's "Canzone a 7", Sören Sieg's "kinyongo" (from his African Suite #4), and Glen Shannon's "Friendship Canzona" which we will perform at our Spring Concert in May.

Upcoming Chapter Activities

Make Music Chicago returns on Sunday June 21. The chapter is recruiting members who would like to participate in offering free music as part of this event this summer. Contact Mark Dawson or Larry Johnson.

The **Milwaukee Area Recorder Society** (MARS) hosts the spring meeting of the national board of the American Recorder Society this year, and area chapters are invited to join them on Saturday April 25th for a pot luck supper & playing session at 6 PM. Let us know if you're interested; we will arrange a convoy for the trip to Wisconsin.

Lisette Kielson has two performances in February and May of 2020. She joins the Handel Week Festival on Saturday, February 22nd at 7:30 PM at Pilgrim Congregational Church, 460 Lake Street in Oak Park. She will be playing Sonata in Bb Major for Recorder and Basso Continuo. Then, she joins Jason Moy on harpsichord for Bach Week at the Music Institute of Chicago, Friday May 8—at 10 PM! This the Bach Week annual candlelight concert, an event that includes champagne and Belgian chocolates as well as music. The Music Institute is at 1490 Chicago Avenue in Evanston. Both venues are an easy walk from nearby CTA L stops and local Metra stations Visit <https://bachweek.org> and <https://www.handelweek.com>.

A Shared Tradition

We are scheduled to lead a workshop at the University of Chicago's 60th annual **Folk Music Festival** February 15. Those of us with the Chicago chapter share a tradition with this Folk Festival. We are both venerable Chicago institutions, and we both have a long heritage of amateur music making—ordinary folk getting together to create something grand. And in fact we are folk musicians too, after a fashion. Our recorders were part of folk music in the 16th and 17th centuries.

We share something else with the University of Chicago Folk Music Festival. Making good music keeps getting more expensive as the years pass. So the Folk Music Festival needs our help. Your gifts are tax deductible and will be recognized during the festival. You can make a check to the University of Chicago, with "Folklore Society" in the memo line, and mail it to The University of Chicago Folklore Society, 1212 East 59th Street, Chicago, IL 60637-1604. Or you can contribute online at the Folk Festival Crowdfunding site, <http://c-fund.us/os2>.

West Suburban Early Music Society

On January 12 Mary Anne Gardner led us in a series of Trios with commentary on how to improve and make more artistic their performance, what to look for and how to analyze the music to find better ways to make it exciting to the listener. We played works by Persichetti, Jacob Regnart ("My Mouth is Singing, My Heart Is Full of Woe"), and Ludwig Doblinger. The next meeting is on February 9.—*Chris Culp*



The Chicago chapter needs your help

The Chicago chapter would like one or more volunteers for Board member positions for next season, September 2020 - May 2021. We are also looking for volunteers to work on our next workshop. This includes choosing a date in April 2021, deciding on a leader, developing a topic, and publicity. Volunteers will be guided and joined by Board members in planning activities, and we have a roadmap to follow from previous workshops.

Some Online Resources

The **Public Medievalist** is a volunteer, scholar-run online magazine devoted to the idea that the Middle Ages matter to people today. "Our goal is simple: to present compelling, exciting, meaningful medieval histories that showcase the best of contemporary scholarship in a way that is accessible and enjoyable to the public for free."

Here is an excellent (and long!) series of articles about Race, Racism, and the Middle Ages:

<https://www.publicmedievalist.com/race-racism-middle-ages-toc/>

The series was started in February 2017 and was supposed to have seven installments. The most recent was #42. The series reflects recent scholarship on the

Middle Ages, telling us that the Middle Ages was a lot bigger than Medieval Europe and a lot more colorful than white men on horseback jousting for the favor of a well-dressed group of white ladies. Complex trade networks and diplomatic ties linked the Orient and Africa to Chaucer's Europe, and finding people of color in France and England and Italy in those days was, in fact, easy. Look for articles addressing the fondness that fascists of the 1930s (and today) held for medieval imagery, medieval concepts of race, medieval Africa, Jewish culture and anti-Semitism in the Middle Ages, and problems with race and racism in *The Game of Thrones*, *Lord of the Rings*, and *Dungeons and Dragons*, among a lot of other solid writing.

The Choir and Orchestra of the JS Bach Foundation perform Bach's Cantata BWV 182 at the Church Trogen in Switzerland—some nice recorder playing:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dc8nT_dHCjk

The **Octobass** is the world's rarest classical instrument:



Look for details about this massive cousin of the Violin family at:

<https://daily.redbullmusicacademy.com/2015/06/octobass-feature>

Music coming up

The **Newberry Consort** welcomes **Piffaro**, the Renaissance band from Philadelphia, for a series of concerts to honor Isabella d'Este of the Italian Renaissance, featuring music of Josquin des Prez and Bartolomeo Tromboncino. Friday February 7 at 8 PM, Ruggles Hall of Newberry Library, Saturday February 8 at 8 PM at the International House of the University of Chicago, and Sunday February 9 at 3 PM at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Evanston. Visit www.newberryconsort.org. Note that in years past we have welcomed both Joan Kimball and Bob Wiemken to Chicago to lead us in recorder workshops.



Pippins, singing at 12th Night, annual medieval event



Andrew Schultze will be teaching a seminar at the **Newberry Library** on the Buffoon War, Wednesdays, February 12 to March 4, 2020, from 2 to 4 PM.

<http://www.newberry.org/WS20Opera>

On Sunday March 22 at 5:30 PM Bach Week offers the Gallery Gala Benefit at the Evanston Art Center, 1717 Central Street, Evanston. Your \$60 includes a music

program plus light food and drinks and helps support this excellent annual festival. Visit www.bachweek.org.

Bach in the Subways is on Friday March 20 at 12:15 in the Grand Army of the Republic Hall at the Chicago Cultural Center, Michigan Avenue and Washington Street in Chicago. The idea is to offer free the works of JS Bach in a way that is accessible to all, in an event that features thousands of performances all over the world, including in subway stations and on trains.



Look to <https://bachweek.org/bach-in-the-subways>.

Bach Week and **Handel Week** return this winter and spring. To learn more visit <https://bachweek.org> and www.handelweek.com. Bach week events are at North Park University Anderson Chapel in Chicago and at the Music Institute of Chicago in Evanston, and Handel Week this year is offered at Pilgrim Congregational Church, 460 Lake Street in Oak Park.

Here are some of the **world's most unusual** musical instruments:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oCYHMVIQezA&list=RD0CYHMVIQezA&start_radio=1&t=4

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 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, September to May by the Chicago Chapter & 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 (ChicagoRecorders.org)

President	Larry Johnson (ll_johnson1239@sbcglobal.net) (773) 631-6671)
Vice President	Lynette Colmey (jttlkd@gmail.com) (708) 638-7721
Secretary	Hyacinth Egner (hyacinth_egner@yahoo.com) (608) 316-5486
Treasurer	Cheryl Kreiman (chekrei@aol.com) 773-972-7679
Webmaster	Ben Eisenstein
Member at large	Valerie DePriest
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 either door of the parish building west of the church and go to the large fellowship hall.

West Suburban Early Music Society (westsubems.org)

Convener/Chapter Representative:	Christopher Culp (cg.culp@gmail.com)
Vice Convener:	Marguerite Re (margueritere@comcast.net)
Secretary/Membership:	Suzanne Scott (SIRDS@sbcglobal.net) (630) 605-2326
Treasurer:	Kathy Hall-Babis (kathy.hallbabis@gmail.com) (630) 464-1828
Hospitality:	Nona Freeman (847) 639-4614
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, 2-5 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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