

# Recorder Reporter

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

Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society

April 2008

Volume 49, Number 8

## Chicago Meeting Notes

“There is a place for short, simple, and gorgeous,” Gail Gillispie told us at the March 9 ARS meeting. A group of 12 musicians gathered to play a variety of medieval and Renaissance settings of The Song of Songs, also known as the Song of Solomon, a lengthy erotic poem included in the Hebrew Scriptures. The Song of Solomon has been subject to many different allegorical interpretations over many generations, particularly Jewish scholars who saw it as a statement of God’s love for Israel and Catholic scholars who viewed it as a hymn to the Virgin Mary, a statement of Christ’s love for the Church, or a reference to God’s love for the individual soul. Whatever the approach, the Song of Songs proved a vital source of music, from monks and nuns creating two and three part harmonies, to “spiritual madrigals” in the Renaissance, to medieval mysticism from Bernard of Clairveux, to a Biblical drinking song by (who else?) Orlando de Lassus or clerical works with sly humor by Palestrina or Andreas de Silva. And we played many of these fine recorder works, helped along with the text printed in each part. We did our best. Gail noted that when playing parts without the full score, the first rule is to count. The second rule is to count. The third rule is to count, and while you are counting, listen. Gail helped by calling out measure numbers and by gesturing from one choir to another when it was time for us to come in.

Dennis Sherman provided a web site for downloading Gail’s music from the March meeting. Go to [www.dennis Sherman.com/music/gailg](http://www.dennis Sherman.com/music/gailg). He also suggests a nifty tool for monitoring a web page for recent changes, such as a music site to find out about new events or newly posted music. Try [www.watchthatpage.com](http://www.watchthatpage.com).

Our April 20 ARS meeting will feature performances of the winning recorder compositions for this year’s competition. Please plan to join us for this special anniversary event! Also, if you plan to join us for the brunch following the meeting, please let Nadine Peterson know, [nadptrs@aol.com](mailto:nadptrs@aol.com). We plan to create a CD of recordings of past winners, from when Hilde Stanulius and Arlene Ghiron started the competition in 1989, and have the CDs available in May. The CD would include this year’s winner plus nine past winners, one second

place, and a few other recent works. Nine of these pieces were recorded on Saturday, March 28, in the living room of Dale and Marilyn Fitschen in Oak Park. Bill Rohlfing, a voice-over professional who has completed a number of TV commercials, helped with this project. See some of his work on his web site [www.billrohlfing.com](http://www.billrohlfing.com).



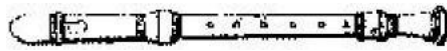
*Dick Eastman's Good Memories, recorded by Nancy Chabala, Laura Kuhlman, Judy Stephens, and Ed Green*

## Recorder Workshop

Mark your calendars now for our next Chicago Chapter Recorder Workshop, **April 25, 2009** at Concordia University in suburban River Forest.

## WSEMS Meeting Notes

The West Suburban Early Music Society met on March 9 to continue our fun for the rest of the season. We have two new chorales to replace our previous warm-up chorale. They are *Allein Gott in der Hoh' sei Ehr'* (Praise be to God on high) attributed to Nicolaus Decius and *Erstanden ist der heil'ge Christ* (Christ is risen) from an anonymous melody, both harmonized by J.S. Bach. We played some in our Simpson dance book and continued with a canzon titled *Battaglia* by Andrea Gabrieli and a modern piece *Kleine Passacaglia* by Michael Kuntz. After the break we split up into three groups of four or five players. Each group chose some music to look at from the voluminous piles of music that Laura brought.



We are going to nurture small groups and see what blossoms in the summer.



Our next meeting will be on April 13. Our May meeting will be moved to May 5 in observance of Mother's day. The June meeting will be on the third Sunday in June, also in honor of Father's day, because **this** father can't think of anything he'd rather be doing other than playing recorders. That meeting we will have a mini-recital to give our small groups and anyone else the opportunity to show what they have learned.—*Eric Stern*

## Spring Concert Ahead!

Greetings to my fellow recorder enthusiasts!

The time for the Chicago Chapter of the American Recorder Society Spring Concert is fast approaching!

**Sunday, May 18, 2008, 2 PM**

**St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1500 Belmont Avenue, Chicago**

**The program**—that's your part! Any music on recorder, or early music on any instrument!

Let me know who you are and what you're planning. Specifically, send me (no later than May 11, 2008):

- the name of your group (if any) and the names of the participants
- the piece(s) you're planning to play
- please include the composer's name and dates
- aim for no more than 5 to 7 minutes for your group

For my curiosity, please also estimate how much rehearsal time you anticipate investing in each piece, both number of sessions and total (group) hours, not time spent practicing by individuals.

I'll summarize and present aggregate data (no individuals or groups identified) at the concert. Also, I'd like to play one piece as a big (really big) group, everyone all together, any instrument including percussion. Go to [www.dennissherman.com/music/sumer-is-icumen-in\\_CARS.pdf](http://www.dennissherman.com/music/sumer-is-icumen-in_CARS.pdf). Finally, if you have scheduling issues for that day, please tell me about them, and I'll try to accommodate when arranging the program. But remember, everyone can't be first!

I look forward to hearing everyone performing in May! You can reach me at [drsynj-chicagoars@yahoo.com](mailto:drsynj-chicagoars@yahoo.com). —*Dennis Sherman*.

## ARS Chicago Chapter Elections

At our May meeting we will have a brief business meeting to elect new officers for the Chicago Chapter for the next two years. The new slate includes:

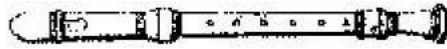
<b>President</b>	Mark Dawson
<b>First Vice President</b>	Dennis Sherman
<b>Second Vice President</b>	open
<b>Secretary</b>	Ann Greene
<b>Treasurer</b>	Dale Fitschen

## Newsletter Online

We send by historic, literary, honorable mail about 100 copies of this newsletter each month. Starting in May, we will begin to send out this newsletter by electronic mail to everyone on our list who has provided an email address. If you are like me, and would be thrilled if the US Postal Service issued a series of commemorative stamps honoring snails and slugs to attach to your handwritten letters, we will continue to send you the newsletter by regular (snail) mail. Otherwise, look for the PDF file in your in box. We will send your newsletter by regular mail if you prefer. Let me know at—sorry—[msjddawson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:msjddawson@sbcglobal.net). The newsletter is also available at [www.ChicagoARS.org](http://www.ChicagoARS.org).

## 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 every Tuesday night, 8 to 10 PM, in the basement of the Pilgrim Congregational Church, 460 Lake Street. Players at all levels are welcome, though the music is often challenging. Use the parking lot off Lake or take the L to the Ridgeland stop and walk from there. Go to the back entrance near the parking lot and ring the buzzer for the basement.



*Plaque with St. Aemilianus, ivory, Spain, 1060-1080, from the monastery church of San Millan de la Cogolla, The Cloisters, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.*

## Early Music Festival, Whitewater

Once again, the *Early Music Festival - Whitewater, WI* will be the weekend of **June 6-8, 2008**. Look for the brochure in the mail. If you are an ARS member who has attended before, you should be on the mailing list. If not, contact Pam Wiese ([thewieses@sbcglobal.net](mailto:thewieses@sbcglobal.net)). You can also download PDF files from [Chicagoars.org](http://Chicagoars.org) or [EarlyMusichicago.org](http://EarlyMusichicago.org). You can mail *Nancy Chabala* your reservation. Address questions to Nancy (708) 442-6053 or Carol Stanger ([cvstanger@aol.com](mailto:cvstanger@aol.com)).

## Recorder Player of the Month

### *Katherine Sparks, WSEMS*

My musical experiences began earlier than I can remember. The first was probably hymns at church accompanied by the organist, and bluegrass at home. My father often played his guitar. There were also the musicals "My Fair Lady" and "Annie Get Your Gun." I sang in the children's choir at church, several times solo, and once a wonderful duet with my father.

When I was in fourth grade, I began to play my mother's old baritone horn in the school band. There was some

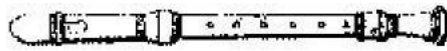
difference of opinion, because I had wanted to play marimba or clarinet with my friends. In time, I discovered that I didn't like clarinet so much after all. At the end of fifth grade, my parents bought me a beautiful silver euphonium that I play to this day. Sixth grade introduced several new instruments, namely ukulele and recorder. The ukuleles were too odd for my taste. Despite the earsplitting sounds of a roomful of beginning soprano recorder players, I liked playing it.

The next year, my family made the decision to home school my brother and me. The first organizations we joined were a band for homeschooled children and the West Suburban Early Music Society. My father had acquired a tenor recorder in college, which hadn't been played very much since, but was still in decent condition. I eagerly picked it up because of its mellow tone. The cats were quite relieved. I soon borrowed a wooden soprano from my godmother and an alto from a friend in church. Mom bought a hand drum, and learned all the new rhythms, like "My country tis of thee" for a galliard.

WSEMS introduced me to a new period of music, a new reason to go to Wisconsin, and, of course, krum horns. In 2004 my parents and I went to Whitewater for the first time. Mom borrowed a sackbut and played in the "loud band," Dad joined other singers, and I played in small groups with other mid-level recorder players. The most memorable was playing English country dances on sopranos with David Echelard accompanying us on his accordion. What a world of difference from playing "Mary Had a Little Lamb" in grade school!



*Katherine Sparks joins other young recorder players at Whitewater, June 2004*



## Music Coming Up

For performances online, visit [ArsAntiguaPresents.com](http://ArsAntiguaPresents.com) for free world class early music.

John Langeld offers a concert of Baroque and 20<sup>th</sup> century recorder works on Sunday, April 13 at 4 PM at St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1500 West Belmont. To learn more about this free concert see [stlukechicago.org](http://stlukechicago.org). Joining Lanfeld will be Susan Conant on recorder, Richard Yeo on cello, Jason Moy on harpsichord, and countertenor Christopher Chroniak.

Grace Lutheran Church of River Forest offers a Bach Cantata Vespers series. The next is on May 18, Cantata #184, *Erwünschtes Freudenlicht* (O longed-for light of joy). The church is at 7300 Division Street, next to the campus of Concordia University at Harlem & Division. The music starts at 3:45.

The Music Institute of Chicago invites all singers and instrumentalists, even those who are not students at the Institute, for an Early Music Extravaganza on Sunday, April 13 from 1:30 to 4 PM. The Music Institute is at 1490 Chicago Avenue in Evanston. Our own Patrick O'Malley will be one of the conductors.

Join the Callipygian Players for a concert of songs and sonatas by composers of Baroque England. The group will be joined by violinist Rachel Barton Pine and will perform music by Purcell, Geminiani, Arne and others. Friday April 18 at 7:30 PM at St. Chrysostom's Episcopal Church, 1424 N. Dearborn in Chicago, and Sunday April 20 at 4 PM at the Skokie Theater, 7924 North Lincoln Avenue in Skokie. \$20, \$15 for students and seniors. Visit [www.calplayers.org](http://www.calplayers.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*. Members are listed in the ARS directory, receive *The American Recorder* magazine and this newsletter.

The *Recorder Reporter* newsletter is published monthly from September to May and is the joint effort of the Chicago Chapter and the West Suburban Early Music

Society. It is free to chapter members. Subscriptions for nonmembers are available for \$5 through the editor.

### Chicago Chapter ARS ([chicagoars.org](http://chicagoars.org))

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Hospitality	Nancy Chabala ( <a href="mailto:nchabala@mymailstation.com">nchabala@mymailstation.com</a> ) (708) 442-6053
Outreach/Composition Contest	Hildé Staniulis (773) 363-7476 and Arlene Ghiron ( <a href="mailto:afghiron@aol.com">afghiron@aol.com</a> ) (773) 525-4026

**Chicago Chapter meetings:** Usually third Sunday of each month, September through May, 2 PM, St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1500 Belmont Avenue, Chicago. Enter at door west of main entrance to sanctuary; and go to Founders Hall in the basement.

### West Suburban Early Music Society

Convenor:	Laura Kuhlman ( <a href="mailto:Laura@thekuhlman.com">Laura@thekuhlman.com</a> ) (630) 462-5427
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Membership:	Carol Stanger ( <a href="mailto:cvstanger@aol.com">cvstanger@aol.com</a> ) (630) 789-6402
Hospitality:	Carolyn Sparks ( <a href="mailto:cjnsod@ameritech.net">cjnsod@ameritech.net</a> ) (630) 986-0201

**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. The group also holds meetings in the summer months and offers concerts from time to time.

**Mark Dawson, editor**

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**Deadline for May issue April 25 (last one for the 2007-2008 Season)**