

Recorder Reporter

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

Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society

December 2007

Volume 49, Number 4

Chicago Meeting Notes

Mary Anne Wolff Gardner directed a large crowd in performing Christmas music from around the world on November 18. Among the works we played were the 15th century English carol "Hail Mary, Full of Grace," and the German medieval work "Maria Walks Amid the Thorn," with vocal accompaniment. Add to these two traditional carols from southern France, a four-part choral piece by Michael Pretorius, "In dulci jubilo," and finally a recorder quartet from the Spanish Renaissance, "de la real Jerusalem."



A Good Turnout for Mary Anne Gardner

We met in the Founder's Hall, and then decamped at 3:45 to head upstairs to hear John Langfeld in his own recorder concert. John Langford joined Mary Anne a few weeks ago in playing recorder as part of Andrew Schultz's production of *Noyes Fludd* at the University of Chicago.

WSEMS Meeting Notes

The West Suburban Early Music Society met in November under the direction of Laura Kuhlman, who had performed with her Jazz Flute Quartet the previous night. Seamlessly shifting gears and dropping back 300 years, she warmed us up with a prelude from "Jesu Mein Freude" by Bach. We continued with more music from our folder. We had our first run-through of the Ave Maria by Bruckner which was arranged by Jennifer

Lehmann for an ARS Members Library edition and sadly was performed at her memorial service a few years later. We played through a modern piece, "Fantasy for Recorders" by Barton Cummings in an edition distributed through Heavy Metal Music, the imprint of our serpent player Paul Schmidt. The composer is an acquaintance of Paul's. We also received our books of dances by Thomas Simpson that we had ordered earlier in the year and played through several of them.

We are aiming towards a concert next year tentatively in February, given that everyone's schedule is pretty full in December. Everyone is highly encouraged to work something up to perform, or get a group together for that purpose. Our next meeting will be on December 9.

Yuletide Concert December 16!

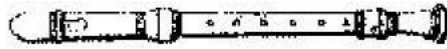
Please make plans to join us and to play at our annual holiday concert, Sunday, December 16 at 2 PM, St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran, 1500 West Belmont. We need to know:

- The pieces you plan to play, and the composers, with their nationalities and dates
- The name of the group, the performers and their instruments
- Whether you would prefer to play closer to the beginning or end of the program

Contact Dennis Sherman at dennis_sherman@yahoo.com. If you can bring something for the reception that would be welcome. We invite groups of any size, and we invite you to think of music that represents the broad range of early music, including recorder, krumhorn, sackbut, choral works, de gamba, lute, and anything else you would like to share with us.

Upcoming Chicago ARS meetings:

- January 20, do it yourself, bring your own music
- February 17, Louise Austin
- March 9, Gail Gillispie
- April 20, Composition competition
- May 18, Spring Concert



Chicago Announces the 2007 Recorder Composition Contest Winners

The Chicago chapter of the ARS is proud to announce the following winners of its 2007 composition contest:

- Tied for first place are Jean Boisvert with "Berceuse-fantaisie" and Glen Shannon with "French Sweets"
- Third place winner is Anthony St. Pierre with "La Folia a 4"
- Honorable mention for Michael Karasis with "Philosopher and the Jester."

The 2007 contest called for original recorder quartets suitable for ensemble playing in recorder society meetings that are likely to have players of varying levels of ability. This year we offered the option of having the parts so written that they would also be suitable for krumphorns in mixed groups but only one non-winning entry opted for this variation. The first prizewinners received \$150 each and the 3rd prizewinner \$25.

Lisette Kielson, ARS Vice President, served as our lead judge. She was assisted in the judging by members of the Zephyr Ensemble, Roger and Shirley Cunningham and Ellie Hansen. Judging was based on originality, quality of the recorder writing, general appeal to the average recorder player and the piece's playability.

The winning pieces will be premiered at the Chicago Chapter meeting on April 20, 2008, by four different rehearsed recorder quartets. This will be the highlight of a meeting celebrating the tenth biennial composition contest run by the chapter and honoring the contest founder Hilde Staniulis. We are planning to have a CD of all the past and present winners available at that time. This year's winning composers are invited to attend and to conduct the whole chapter in playing their work.

Jean Boisvert, of Montreal, Quebec, is a pianist and composer of chamber music in his spare time. His favorite recorders are the large basses.

Glen Shannon hails from the Bay area in California. Glen has been a winner in past Chicago Chapter contests.

Anthony St. Pierre lives in Toronto, Ontario. His "S-O-S" recorder quartet appeared as an ARS Member's Library Edition.

Michael Karasis is a surgeon from Woodstock, Illinois. He composes orchestral, choral and chamber music. One of our members, Nancy Chabala, encouraged and coached him to write this, his first and only recorder piece. –
Arlene Ghiron

Instruments for Sale

Used Selmer (Bundy) Alto Saxophone available. Recently inspected and serviced by a professional instrument repair technician and ready to play. Comes with neck strap, mouthpiece, ligature, hard-side case, and reeds. Sturdy 1970s instrument, asking \$295. Contact Mary Anne Gardner, mawgardner@yahoo.com, or (708) 383-1497. For these instruments contact Louise Austin (weezie706@yahoo.com) or (920) 648-8010.

- Heinrich Alto - rebushed thumb hole, sweet sound, plays well, \$200
- Moeck Rottenburg Rosewood tenor, no keys, \$250, sounds great (not for small hands)
- Roesslet Bass, direct blow, nice looking, beautiful sound, \$650, great price, get it while it's hot
- Also a triangle and striker and a plastic soprano, make me an offer

Moeck Tuju 236 alto for sale, maple, \$100. Contact Peter Beck, 773-743-1229 (h) or 312-987-2353.

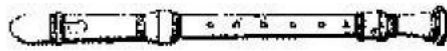
Recorder Player of the Month

Laura Kuhlman, WSEMS

As I approach the year before the big 50, I am amazed at where life has led me. I have done some fabulous playing and been involved with some wild and crazy projects over the years and all the time learning about myself and this vocation I call music.

When my Dad retired from the Navy when I was in the fourth grade we settled in Zion, Illinois so he could teach at Great Lakes Naval Base. It also meant that my Mom had to follow through on her promise that once we settled somewhere permanently, she would let me learn to play the flute. I am not sure where that came from or why but it stuck in my craw and at every possible moment I told my Mom that I wanted to learn to play the flute.

I remember getting my flute for the first time and opening the case. I wouldn't say it was an epiphany or life changing experience but it was quite grand to see that wonderful, shiny piece of metal just waiting for me to take hold. And take hold I did. I ran home that afternoon and found my Dad painting my room. I sat in a chair and told him all about my new flute and how I was to practice for 30 minutes each day. And I did. For the next 30 minutes I practiced on the head joint alone for my Dad and he never flinched. He was a saint. And that was the beginning of it all for me. I was, and still am, enamored with music.



In sixth grade I won a scholarship to the University of Illinois Summer Youth Music program and their first-ever Flute Camp. Upon receiving the admissions packet, I learned that I would need a soprano recorder. Oh, Lord, what was that?! A small tape recorder?

The director, Mr. Delaney, wanted all of us to understand the history of the flute and the music from whence it came. He showed us his collection of flutes and recorders and I was overwhelmed. He talked to us about the connection of the traverso and the recorder and how most of the early music was really written for the recorder. Every afternoon we took lessons on the recorder and learned to play some pretty simple tunes before the week was over.

The following year I returned to Mr. Delaney's camp and learned the alto recorder. I also picked up a sopranino recorder and tormented most of the campus with little renaissance tunes as I walked from building to building. I might also add that I had a whopper of a crush on the recorder teacher and that helped my interest in the instrument, too!

By the time I was a sophomore I was ready to leave home and begin my studies at a university. I had decided that the flute was going to be my ticket to life and I was practicing like a maniac. My interest in these wooden instruments also expanded and by now I had a tenor recorder, too. I attended Cottey College in Missouri and then Pittsburgh State University in Kansas. I am glad I chose smaller schools because they enabled me to have some musical experiences that I probably would have missed out on at a larger school. I also got that chance to really begin my exploration of the recorder through the participation in the Collegium at PSU. I performed in the Collegium for two years and got a lot of exposure to the music and varied instruments of the Renaissance and Baroque periods. I even performed a Handel sonata on recorder during my final senior recital, which was a first for the school.

I moved back to Illinois in 1983 and began my search for music. Enter the Oak Park Recorder School. I read an ad in the local Oak Park paper about this recorder school and I immediately signed up. I met some wonderful people there and honed my skills. I was encouraged every step of the way by some of the people I continue to respect to this day—Marguerite Clarke, Louise Austin,

Bill Nelson, Patrick O'Malley, Kim Katulka, Nancy Chabala and all the players of the Oak Park recorder group. The list could go on for several pages and should. The King of them all is of course the legendary David Fitzgerald. To this day I mourn his passing and am blessed to have known a man such as him, for he was a real teacher and player because he inspired from the heart. He was not a virtuoso but he was a Maestro. He made me want to learn and play my best. I have gone on now too long and need to find a wrap to this story but I find there is really no "wrap-up" to any story about life, is there? I have gone from playing the flute to playing lots of saxophone and clarinet in pit orchestras, to playing recorders in all styles and shapes and now to the new love of historic double reeds. I am blessed to help direct the music making of the West Suburban Early Music Society, which is full of wildly talented people, and for an opportunity to drive to Milwaukee two to three times a month to rehearse with a new Renaissance wind band, which we are still trying to name!

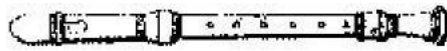
I am rich beyond measure for the people, experiences and music making I have had in my life thus far. As I reach that new decade of my life, I live by several mantras but one in-particular always stays with me:

"What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us." (Emerson)

Music Coming Up

Ars Musica Chicago offers "A Renaissance Christmas" at 7 PM on Sunday, December 16 at the DePaul University Art Museum. This is in the Richardson Library at Kenmore at Fullerton, a short walk from the L stop on Fullerton. Tickets are \$20, \$15 for seniors and \$5 for students. To learn more go to Arsmusica.org. This fine group of vocalists will offer 15th century English carols as well as sacred works by Renaissance composers including *Pretorius* and *Sweelinck*. The editor heard them in September at their wonderful "In Praise of Wine" choral concert and can recommend *Ars Musica* personally.

The Baroque Band (baroqueband.org) offers an all-Handel concert on Wednesday December 12 at Chicago Symphony Orchestra Center, Saturday December 15 at the Rockefeller Memorial Chapel at the University of Chicago, and Monday December 17 at the Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Avenue, Evanston. All concerts are at 7:30. The Baroque Band is in their inaugural season and is already enjoying critical acclaim. Call (312) 235-2368.



Patrick O'Malley will join the Rembrandt Chamber Players on recorder in a concert with music by Handel, Telemann, and others, Sunday December 9 at 3 PM at the Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Avenue in Evanston. On Monday at 7:30 they will perform at the Merit School of Music, 38 South Peoria, Chicago. Visit www.rembrandtchamberplayers.org.

The Chicago Early Music Consort will provide a concert of medieval and Renaissance Christmas music on December 9 at 4 PM at the Glenview Community Church, 1000 Elm Street, Glenview. Go to www.chicagoearymusicconsort.org to learn more.

For those of you who are overwhelmed by all this Renaissance glory, try David Davis and the Warrior River Boys, a Bluegrass Legends concert, on Saturday, December 15 at 8 PM at the American Legion Music Hall, 1030 Central Street, Evanston. All ages, \$20, \$15 for kids & seniors, www.chicagobluegrass.com.

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 www.geocities.com/ars2test

Webmaster	Larry Johnson (ljohns@us.ibm.com) (773) 631-6671
President	H. Nadine Petersen (nadptrs@aol.com) (630) 654-2629
First Vice President	Mark Dawson (msjddawson@sbcglobal.net) (773) 334-6376
Second Vice President	Dennis Sherman (dennis_sherman@yahoo.com) (773) 764-1920
Secretary	Ann Greene (anngreene@att.net) (630) 893-3217
Treasurer	Dale Fitschen (Fitsch@sbcglobal.net) (708) 386-9114

Hospitality	Nancy Chabala (nchabala@mymailstation.com) (708) 442-6053
Outreach/Composition Contest	Hildé Staniulis (773) 363-7476 and Arlene Ghiron (afghiron@aol.com) (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.

Oak Park Recorder Society

The Oak Park Recorder Society, a club rather than a chapter of the American 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.

West Suburban Early Music Society

Convenor:	Laura Kuhlman (Laura@thekuhlman.com) (630) 462-5427
Vice-Convenor:	Ed Green (edwgreen@aol.com) (630) 983-7251
Secretary:	Eric Stern (egstern1@yahoo.com) (708) 594-9243
Treasurer:	Nancy Good (Good-Naperville@worldnet.att.net) (630) 355-6690
Membership:	Carol Stanger (cvstanger@aol.com) (630) 789-6402
Hospitality:	Carolyn Sparks (cjnsod@ameritech.net) (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
2425 W. Leland, Chicago, IL 60625-2913
msjddawson@sbcglobal.net / (773) 334-6376

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