

# Recorder Reporter

Newsletter of two chapters of the American Recorder Society (ARS),  
Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society

**Our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year!**

**December 2008**

**Volume 50, Number 4**

## Chicago Chapter Meeting

We had a terrific turnout for our November meeting, nearly 50 people! The Baron's Noyse, featuring chapter officers Dennis Sherman and Mark Dawson, along with Craig Shupeé, David Holland, Kellie Vesey, and Laurie Erickson, offered a concert of melodies from the Spanish Renaissance. They were joined by the Medieval madrigal group the Pippins. The Pippins seem to have brought along all of their friends and relatives, including two-week old Aiden Small, who slept peacefully in his mother Jen's arms while she sang.

The concert featured a lively mix of recorder, voice, and rackets, cornamuse, drums, tambourine, blocks, and



*The Pippins join Baron's Noyse at the November meeting*



*A frog!*

We enjoyed many kind comments about our afternoon playing session. To see parts of the concert on YouTube search on "drsvids" or go to this link:

[http://www.youtube.com/view\\_play\\_list?p=EA6994693FB07730](http://www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=EA6994693FB07730)

Photos are also available on Flickr.com, "Chicago ARS Pippins." After two hours of recorder and voice, some of us went upstairs for John Langfeld's 4 PM concert, *Music Never Intended for Recorder*, "a hoot" as Langfeld himself put it. It was more great music and great fun for those with hearts yearning for adventure. Bach wrote for recorder, Italian Baroque is cool, and we can reach for Brahms while also fingering quickly. But Shostakovich?



*The Pippins*

We opened our meeting as we do each month, with group playing guided by our music director Patrick O'Malley. We continue to practice a series of Renaissance pieces by Salomon Rossi and Michael East, and though these are complex works, and the gathering featured several dozen players, including some who had never joined us on these pieces before, the music sounded excellent under Patrick's skillful leadership. The only regret is that we only had a little more than an hour to make music together. Join us in January when we continue to work on these elegant melodies.



For our 2009 meetings these ensembles will perform:

January 18	Da CLaN, Carol Stanger, Nancy Chabala, Dave Johnson, & Larry Johnson
February 15	The Ridgeway Consort
March 15	Gail Gillespie on lute
April 19	A trio, Anne Cook, Dennis Sherman, and Nancy van Brundt

## WSEMS Meeting Notes

The West Suburban Early Music Society met on November 9 under the direction of Laura Kuhlman to go through the music for our winter concert on January 11. We welcome small groups and individuals who would like to perform a five to ten minute piece. Contact Laura Kuhlman if you would like to be added to the program. Our next meeting will be December 14 at 2 PM at the Covenant Church. —*Eric Stern*

## Yuletide Concert December 21!

The Chicago ARS will present our annual Winter Concert on Sunday, December 21st, at St. Luke's at 2 PM. We love to hear recorders playing in consort with other instruments and with vocal parts, and from all historical eras, so feel free to be creative! If you would like to perform, either solo or with your group, please contact Larry Johnson with:

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

Email Larry at [ll\\_johnson1239@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ll_johnson1239@sbcglobal.net) or call at (773) 631-6671 by December 17<sup>th</sup>. You can also contact Mark Dawson at [msjddawson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:msjddawson@sbcglobal.net). Please plan your performance to last about 5 or 6 minutes, so that we can include all who are willing to play and still fit the concert into our regular meeting time. And don't forget to bring holiday treats that we will share with the audience and participants!

## Music Coming Up

Join us for a concert of spirited music to celebrate the Christmas season at United Lutheran! (409 Greenfield St., Oak Park, IL) On December 27th, at 7 PM, recorder players Laura Osterlund and Joe Lewnard, joined by organist Steven Wenthe, will present a program in exploration of the Stile Gallant and its influence.

The "Gallant Style," which peaked in the latter half of the eighteenth century, was an aesthetic movement that sought a return to classical simplicity after the complexity of the late Baroque era. Our program features solos and duets for recorders and flutes by Pierre Danican Philidor, Johann Sebastian Bach, Arcangelo Corelli, Johann Mattheson, and Georg Philip Telemann, and others. Donations will be accepted for the ULC Music Fund. A reception will follow.

Our friends with the West Suburban Early Music Society offer their annual Winter Concert:

**Naperville Evangelical Covenant Church**  
**1150 Hobson Road, Naperville, Illinois**  
**Sunday, January 11, 3 PM, Free**

Laura Kuhlman will lead. Join them for excellent music and a reception to follow. For additional information, contact Eric Stern ([egstern1@netscape.net](mailto:egstern1@netscape.net)).

The Newberry Consort has two fine concerts coming up soon. On January 18 at 3 PM they offer "Fair Oriana" at the Newberry Library, 60 West Walton in Chicago. This concert features English Renaissance viol and consort music, and closing by accompanying the 1912 silent film *Queen Elizabeth*. This benefit concert costs \$75 per ticket and includes a reception.

In February, they offer "What a Difference a Day Makes: Venetian Music for Fat Tuesday and Ash Wednesday." This concert starts with Italian Renaissance party music, shawms, bagpipes, and carnival songs, followed by penitential sacred music for lent. The musicians feature members of the Renaissance band Piffaro, and is offered on Friday and Saturday nights at 8 PM and Sunday afternoon at 3, February 20, 21, and 22.

Friday's concert is at St. Clements, 642 West Deming, Saturday at Rockefeller Chapel at the University of Chicago, and Sunday at the Millar Chapel at Northwestern University. To learn more and order tickets visit the web site [www.newberry.org/consort](http://www.newberry.org/consort).

## 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, Oak Park. Go to the back entrance near the parking lot and ring the buzzer for the basement.



## Report, Chicago Chapter Performance CD

In September we printed 200 copies of our two CD set of performances of the winners of our composition competitions over the last 20 years. We decided to start out modestly, and then print more to meet future demand. We also plan to advertise in the American Recorder Society magazine and will have some available for sale at the workshop in April and at Whitewater.

Our total cost to produce the CD was a little more than \$2800. With some generous gifts our net cost was about \$1950, or less than \$10 per CD, so we were able to break even on our first batch of 200. As of this writing we have received about \$1800 and we are nearly sold out.

The news gets better. The cost falls significantly for future runs of the CD because we don't need to pay for production costs or to print more inserts (we have 1000). To print another 200 CDs would cost less than \$800, or less than \$4 a set, yielding a profit of \$6 for each additional CD we sell. We were able to cover our costs on this remarkable project, and we were able to sell out of our first run. You can buy more as Christmas gifts, and spread the word for us. CD's are available for \$10 at any monthly meeting, or you can send a check for \$13 (*The Chicago Chapter ARS*) to Dale Fitschen (1029 S. Clinton, Oak Park, IL 60304-1823).

## Recorder Player of the Month

### *Laura Osterlund, Oak Park Recorder Society*

First off, I must write that is an honor and pleasure to be December's chosen recorder player of the month. To those, nameless and many, who aided in my growth and offered inspiration: I give you my thoughts and most heartfelt thanks.

It is 21:46, and I am currently seated at a computer on the third floor of McGill University's Marvin Duchow Music Library. School began this morning at 10, and after a slew of rehearsals and courses ranging from 'Elementary Harmony and Analysis' to 'Intro to Old English', will end, as usual, when my tired body finally decides that it's had about as much school work and practice as it can take. Tomorrow, (Thank God, a Friday) I predict, will be very much the same: just as hectic, equally productive, and infinitely satisfying. I'm proud to say that, after somewhat of a rough transition, I have finally hit my stride this year, musically and otherwise.

Life is good, and music—that which I can now honestly express to love more than anything else in creation—

carries me through each day with buoyed spirits. Last year, however, I learned that I needed to grow into and, ultimately, accept the role of a full-time music student as well as fix my sights on the responsibilities of a future professional musician. I've encountered and confronted motivational kinks, let's call them, time and time again, in myself, during the wee hours of the morning, when I can't help but ask myself, "What is all of this for, anyway? What am I doing here?" I've also witnessed it, sadly, in the strained faces of my musical peers: crumpled on the steps of the Music Building like so many wads of used manuscript paper; sleeping in past their 8:30 classes, and consistently devoting more time and effort to cafeteria rhetoric than their instruments.

Budding musicians lead uncommon, often exhausting lives at the collegiate level. Compared to many enjoying their liberal arts degrees, our course loads are heavier, our yearly numbers of credits are higher, and our homework consists of both paperwork and practice. A frequent complaint among music students is that there simply aren't enough hours per day to attend class, study, and get in enough essential practice—let alone sleep. We have homework on top of homework and, sometimes, homework crowds out homework, so we have to decide whether to put off either homework or homework, till the next day. Even the most sheltered musicians, upon entering university, soon realize that there exist other smoother paths than the one they have chosen.

Despite this temptation, I daily decide to take up this burden of love in the hope of, someday, sharing our painstakingly honed craft with the world. To describe our choice as a 'burden of love' personally resonates, after realizing that love, and love alone, is the most essential element of my musical past, present, and future. True love is not volatile; although it does undergo tests and transformations, as we ourselves, throughout life, do. I affirm that it was love that spurred me to first take up my instrument; it was love that led me to countless late nights of playing at the Oak Park Recorder Society, with little sight-reading experience or understanding of what it meant to play ensemble; it was love that drove me to practice, perfect, and grow with each new year and challenge. The love that I felt for the recorder and its music, as a timid ten-year-old, is, however, different from the love that fills me tonight. It is older and wiser, though still not without flaw. After the jarring discovery that a musical education and career involve more than simply playing, that some skills come less easily than others, and that an abundance of effort does not always reap an equal



reward; after calling myself into question and wondering if I was meant for a road well-traveled; I came to a decision. I have known and know bliss that nothing else in this world could equal or replace. I am infinitely blessed to feed the fire of my passion and fan the flames of those around me. I am here, this night, because of my love for music; and that is worth any burden.—*Laura Osterlund is a sophomore at McGill University in Montreal, and an old friend of the Oak Park Recorder Society.*

### Plans in Place for April 25 Workshop

You should be receiving the flyer for our 2009 chapter workshop next month. Join us on Saturday, April 25, 2009 at Concordia University in River Forest, Illinois, for a day playing recorder with Lisette Kielson. Lisette is the president of the board of directors for the American Recorder Society, teaches, performs around the world (including with John Langfeld on Sunday November 16), manages her own studio in Bloomington, is the founder and director of the L'Ensemble Portique, and just released her fourth CD. We don't need to brag about Lisette too much because so many of you know and love her already. We will explore Renaissance contrapuntal wonders from England and Italy, six parts and more. The workshop fee, \$60 for ARS members, \$65 for non-members, and \$70 at the door, includes music, snacks, lunch, and a day of terrific ensemble playing and instruction. Lisette also offers private and ensemble lessons on request on Friday April 24. You should be receiving a flyer from us soon, or contact Mark Dawson at [msjddawson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:msjddawson@sbcglobal.net) or (773) 334-6376 to learn more.

### 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))

Webmaster	Larry Johnson ( <a href="mailto:lljohns@us.ibm.com">lljohns@us.ibm.com</a> ) (773) 631-6671
President	Mark Dawson ( <a href="mailto:msjddawson@sbcglobal.net">msjddawson@sbcglobal.net</a> ) (773) 334-6376
First Vice President	Dennis Sherman ( <a href="mailto:drsnyj-chicagoars@yahoo.com">drsnyj-chicagoars@yahoo.com</a> ) (773) 764-1920
Second Vice President	Larry Johnson ( <a href="mailto:lljohns@us.ibm.com">lljohns@us.ibm.com</a> ) (773) 631-6671
Secretary	Ann Greene ( <a href="mailto:anngreene@att.net">anngreene@att.net</a> ) (630) 638-0959
Treasurer	Dale Fitschen ( <a href="mailto:Fitsch@sbcglobal.net">Fitsch@sbcglobal.net</a> ) (708) 386-9114
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@thekuhlmans.com">Laura@thekuhlmans.com</a> ) (630) 462-5427
Vice-Convenor:	Ed Green ( <a href="mailto:edwgreen@aol.com">edwgreen@aol.com</a> ) (630) 983-7251
Secretary:	Eric Stern ( <a href="mailto:egstern1@yahoo.com">egstern1@yahoo.com</a> ) (708) 594-9243
Treasurer:	Nancy Good ( <a href="mailto:Good-Naperville@worldnet.att.net">Good-Naperville@worldnet.att.net</a> ) (630) 355-6690
Membership:	Carol Stanger ( <a href="mailto:cvstanger@aol.com">cvstanger@aol.com</a> ) (630) 789-6402
Hospitality:	Nancy Finley ( <a href="mailto:nfelma3@comcast.net">nfelma3@comcast.net</a> )

**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](mailto:Msjddawson@sbcglobal.net) / (773) 334-6376

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