

# Recorder Reporter

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

Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society

January 2008

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## Chicago Meeting Notes

Our Yuletide Concert drew over 40 people, with at least 30 different musicians offering 32 pieces, dating from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, with a few modern works offered as well.



*Nancy Chabala and Lynette Colmey*

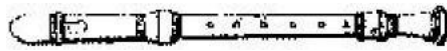
Patrick O'Malley brought a crowd of his students from the Music Institute of Chicago, playing Bach, while Dennis Sherman and Ron Crawford played from the *Llibre Vermell de Montserrat*, a collection of songs from a manuscript hand-written at a monastery and shrine in southern Spain in 1399. The book was for pilgrims: "Because the pilgrims wish to sing and dance while they keep their watch at night in the church of the Blessed Mary of Montserrat . . . and in the church no songs should be sung unless they are chaste and pious, for that reason these songs that appear here have been written." We are all convinced that what Dennis & Ron played was chaste. Mostly, as far as we were concerned, it was loud! But that was what shawms were for, to accompany medieval and Renaissance dance.



*Patrick O'Malley & Paloma Larramendi  
play Chedeville*



*Members of the Oak Park Recorder Society*



*Shawms with Dennis Sherman & Ron Crawford*



*David & Mark Dawson play Paisible*

Thanks to Dennis Sherman for his hard work in organizing our 49<sup>th</sup> annual Yuletide Concert, who was so swamped with eager musicians that he had to think carefully to make sure that the program did not feature too many duets or trios or large ensembles in a row.

For our next meeting, bring your own music! We haven't had a do-it-yourself meeting for quite a while. Join us on January 20 at 2 PM. After that:

- February 17, Louise Austin
- March 9, Gail Gillispie
- April 20, Composition competition
- May 18, Spring Concert

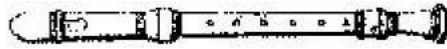
### WSEMS Meeting Notes

The West Suburban Early Music Society had a well attended meeting December 9 despite unpleasant weather. Laura Kuhlman returned on wings of eagles from a morning gig playing shawms in Milwaukee to lead us. We warmed up with *Jesu Mein Freude* concentrating on breathing, sustained tones, and tuning D-sharps. We continued with the gorgeous *Ave Maria* by Bruckner. The piece contains dramatic swells and diminuendi that Laura was able to coax out of us though these are not typically in the recorder idiom. We finished the first half of the meeting with two pieces from the Italian Renaissance: *Ave Virgo Sanctissima* by Francisca Guerrero and a two choir canzona by Tiburtio Massaino.

The second part of our meeting began with a short recital by Laura and James Heup playing a set of three duets on Renaissance-style tenor recorders concluding with *In Dolce Jubilo*. For the rest of the meeting we went around the room with each person picking their favorite piece from the Christmas book for everyone to play together. Highlights were the *Coventry Carol* on low recorders and voices, and *Hail to the Child* by Josquin.

We are planning our group concert for the February 10 meeting. Everyone is encouraged to prepare something, either individually or in a group to perform. Let Laura know as soon as possible if you need keyboard accompaniment. Our next meeting will be on January 13. Hope to see you there.—*Eric Stern*

*From the sounds of the milestones you are achieving and striving for, I believe that you and your family of recorder players will eventually record a new record among the elite of record-breaking players of the recorder, especially among the elite families of record-breaking recorder players, recording on the records of recorder artistry a unique record of devotion to recorder excellence. What a recorder record! Maybe you can even record a recorder record, or a CD.—fan mail for Mark Dawson*



## Early Music Friends Play Advent Bells

On Sunday, December 2, 2007, I headed to suburban St. Charles to attend an Advent Concert presented by Bellissimo, an award-winning bell choir. Two members of the West Suburban Early Music Society play with Bellissimo, Ed Green and Judy Stephens. The concert was a diverse selection, starting out with *This is My Father's World* followed by the haunting *Phantom of the Opera* by Alfred Lloyd Weber, and then included traditional Advent selections ending with *Change Ring on Divinum Mysterium*. I think my favorite was the *Carol of the Bells*, which involved some pretty fast and heavy ringing. At one point, Judy manipulated six bells during one piece, often playing three at a time. Ed was on the largest bells. The bells were joined during one piece by an orchestra of winds and strings, mostly made up of students. A lovely reception of some Eastern food and wine topped off the afternoon. To attend a concert such as this was a real treat, as most bell choirs typically would perform only one or two pieces during a church service. They also were invited to perform at Orchestra Hall in an Advent concert. More and more I am amazed at the diversity of musical talents our recorder friends have somewhat hidden from us to date.—*Carol Stanger*

## Recorder Player of the Month

### *Paul Schmidt, WSEMS*

Paul Schmidt is a Chicago and Wisconsin area freelance musician, who makes his living outside of music as a senior electrical engineer in the industrial automation field. Trained in voice, piano, organ, reed, woodwinds and brass, he currently focuses on low brass and historical musical situations. He plays tuba, trombone, euphonium, bass trumpet, and baritone and tenor horn with many pick-up groups (lots of weddings and church services) and several regular ensembles, from orchestras to brass quintets. Although at one time very competent on all saxophones and clarinet, he has given them up due to Temporal Mandibular Joint Disorder (TMJ) He just can't bite the reeds anymore. He spends much time traveling and playing with America's oldest Civil War band, The First Brigade Band, as 1<sup>st</sup> OTS (Over the Shoulder) Saxhorn, an early 19th Century euphonium. He is also very involved with low brasses of the 1500s through early 19th Century, including such rare beasts as the serpent and ophicleide. He is one of the better known serpent players worldwide, traveling, teaching, lecturing, performing, and conducting workshops in America and Europe, as well as writing and publishing content and music for serpents and ophicleides.

*Paul and his serpent currently attend WSEMS meetings and he plays recorder on occasion. He brings to the group his arrangements for recorder, some edited from pieces originally written for other instruments. He is also really into reptiles. Besides playing serpent, he manages the publishing firm Heavy Metal Music and the home page of the United Serpents, [serpentwebsite.com](http://serpentwebsite.com). You can contact him at [ocleide@earthlink.net](mailto:ocleide@earthlink.net).*

## 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](mailto:mawgardner@yahoo.com), or (708) 383-1497.

For these instruments contact Louise Austin at [weezie706@yahoo.com](mailto: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)
- Roessler 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.

## Music Coming Up

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

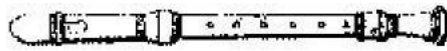
**Naperville Evangelical Covenant Church**  
**1150 Hobson Road, Naperville, Illinois**  
**Sunday, February 10, 2 PM, Free**

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 University of Chicago Presents offers a concert of the Ensemble Caprice called "La Follia and the Gypsies: Gypsy Music in the Renaissance and Baroque Period." The event will be held at Mandel Hall, 1131 East 57<sup>th</sup> Street in Hyde Park on Friday, January 18 at 8 PM. To learn more call (773) 702-8068.

<http://chicagopresents.uchicago.edu/series/early/>

Grace Lutheran Church of River Forest offers a Bach Cantata Vespers series. The next is on Sunday, January 27, cantata #110 *Unser Mund sei voll Lachens*. The



church is at 7300 Division Street, next to the campus of Concordia University at Harlem & Division. The music starts at 3:45.

The Roosevelt University Women's Chorus, directed by Anne Heider, will offer a concert of (mostly) early choral music on Thursday, February 21 at 7:30 PM. They will feature works by St. Hildegard, Palestrina, Whitacre, Betinis, and Clara Schumann at Roosevelt University's 430 South Michigan Avenue address. Look for them in the Rudolph Ganz Memorial Hall, room 745.

Ars Musica Chicago offers an all Handel recital Sunday, February 17 at 7 PM 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. The ensemble includes Chicago ARS member Patrick O'Malley on recorder.

Ensemble Caprice will present a program of Gypsy-inspired works by Ortiz, Telemann, Vivaldi and other composers at the University of Chicago's Mandel Hall on Friday, January 18 at 7:30 PM. Recorder expert Matthias Maut directs, joined by two winds, a Baroque guitar, cello and percussion. WFMT Fine Arts Circle members can receive two tickets for the price of one (773-702-8068).

## 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](http://www.geocities.com/ars2test)

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Outreach/Composition Contest Hildé Staniulis  
(773) 363-7476 and  
Arlene Ghiron ([afghiron@aol.com](mailto: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@thekuhlmans.com](mailto:Laura@thekuhlmans.com)) (630) 462-5427  
Vice-Convenor: Ed Green  
([edwgreen@aol.com](mailto:edwgreen@aol.com)) (630) 983-7251  
Secretary: Eric Stern  
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Membership: Carol Stanger  
([cvstanger@aol.com](mailto:cvstanger@aol.com)) (630) 789-6402  
Hospitality: Carolyn Sparks  
([cjsnod@ameritech.net](mailto:cjsnod@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.