

# 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!**

**November 2008**

**Volume 50, Number 3**

## Chicago Chapter Meeting

We didn't have a group to perform for October, but we have a real treat in store for our November 16 meeting. The Baron's Noyse, directed by Dennis Sherman, will perform, and even better, they will be joined by the splendid medieval madrigal group The Pippins.



*The Baron's Noyse & Pippins, All Souls Gathering*



*Dennis Sherman demonstrates the pipe & tabor*

Hear wonderful choral music from the Renaissance Spain, accompanied by recorder, reed, and percussion. Then, make plans for our annual Yuletide Concert, scheduled

for December 21. For 2008-2009 we will also be meeting on January 18, February 15, March 15, and April 19, with our spring concert on May 17.

## Yuletide Concert Coming Up!

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

John Langfeld offers a recorder concert on November 16 at 4 PM at St. Luke's Church, 1500 Belmont, Chicago. This begins the third season of the Recorder Series at St. Luke's and falls on the same afternoon as our ARS meeting. The November concert is titled, "Music NEVER Intended for Recorders," and will present recorders in unexpected musical settings. This means some Bach, a Baroque opera aria (performed with a Chalumeau, a baroque woodwind), two pieces by Brahms and Prokofiev for tenor recorder, and music by Andrew Lloyd Webber, Czerny, and Shostakovich. A reception follows this free event.

The Amsterdam Loeki Stardust Quartet returns to the area for a series of events this coming March. On Friday, March 13, 2009 they will perform at the Helene Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Wisconsin/Milwaukee, 2419 East Kenwood



Boulevard, at 5 PM. The next day, Saturday, they play in a chapel service at St. John on the Lake at 10 AM, also in Milwaukee, and in a concert at 2:30 at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. Finally, we will find them on Sunday, March 15 at Earl Lutkin Hall at Northwestern University in Evanston at 3 PM.

## WSEMS Meeting Notes

The West Suburban Early Music Society had a productive meeting in October with Laura Kuhlman directing. We started the meeting with a few movements from the *Faerie Queen Suite* by Purcell and continued with *Ay, Jhesus!*, an anonymous Spanish song. Jineen Heiman was able to lay out the story for us, a farce with a betrayed lady whacking her unfaithful lover who runs away. We worked on phrasing the music to follow the flow of the text. After our break, Eric and Benjamin Stern played three movements from a Loeillet sonata in A minor which can be found on YouTube (search for “Recorder Eric Stern”). We continued with the *Harvest Suite* by Nancy Webster and *Puttin on the Ritz*. Our next meeting will be on November 9 at 2 pm. We plan to finalize the pieces for our January 11 winter concert so please try to be there, ready to play at two o’clock. —*Eric Stern*

## Plans in Place for April 25 Workshop

Join us on Saturday, April 25, 2009 at Concordia University in suburban River Forest, Illinois, for a workshop with Lisette Kielson. Lisette is the president of the board of directors for the American Recorder Society, teaches, performs around the world, manages her own studio in Bloomington, Illinois, is the founder and director of the L’Ensemble Portique, and just released her fourth CD. The workshop will focus on 16<sup>th</sup> century polyphony. 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 \$75 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.

## Recorder Player of the Month

### David Dawson, Chicago Chapter

Oh, it feels so long since I held a recorder in my untrained fingers and played that first monumental squeaky note on October 7th of 2001 at 7:34 pm (I don’t really know the exact date I— added that for effect). Little did I know it

would be the beginning of a family legacy of recorder players! It was actually quite rebellious of me at the time, because my mom was trying to teach me to play piano. She is a wonderful piano player, but due to my formerly mentioned rebellious nature (love you mom!) I wouldn’t practice the piano pieces she assigned to me and instead picked up the recorder. She went along with it though and after a few months of going in circles without a teacher, we began taking classes together with a group of other kids and their parents with a home school group we were involved with in April of 2002. When these group classes ended mother and son continued with the same teacher, Martha Degner. This continued for a few years with occasional playing recorder in church, and I began to blossom into the amazing recorder that I am today. I’m doing the writing so I’m allowed to compliment myself.

One of my recorder accomplishments I like bragging about is when I played with several other recorder players and an orchestra at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Hall for a performance of Benjamin Britten’s version of *Noyes’s Fluud* in May of 2005. My fondest recorder memories though was learning to play duets with my mom. Soon my dad became interested in recorder and we started going together to just about every recorder concert and event he could find. He almost liked recorders more than me, and he didn’t even play! That changed though, as you know.

After Martha Degner moved to Wisconsin, we already knew Mary Anne Gardner so my mom and I started lessons with her in October of 2003. We continued to play at church occasionally and a few times I played solos. We found the ARS online and began going regularly, and I attended Whitewater every few years. Eventually dad picked up the recorder and then my brother, so it went from playing duets, to trios, to quartets. I miss playing with my family now that I’m in New York City, so for now I play Telemann and other solos in my Manhattan apartment. I’ve started getting together with a recorder group of five or so in Greenwich Village. I am enjoying myself immensely here in the Big Apple but I miss everyone at ARS! I plan on coming back to Chicago next year after I complete my Bachelors degree here.—*David is working on a Bachelor’s Degree in Computer Network Administration at DeVry University in New York City.*

**Mark Dawson, editor—**  
**[msjddawson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:msjddawson@sbcglobal.net) (773) 334-6376**

**Deadline for December issue November 25**