

Recorder Reporter

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

Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society

November 2010

Volume 52, Number 3

Chicago Chapter News

For those of you who stayed home on October 17 to root for the Bears, and watched Jay Cutler get sacked by the Seahawks defense six times—ha! Chicago chapter members enjoyed an excellent Sunday afternoon playing versions of the *In Nomine*.

The *In Nomine* is an almost uniquely English musical form. John Taverner wrote a mass sometime prior to 1530 on the plainsong "Gloria tibi trinitas," and the *In Nomine* section seems to have captured the interest of other composers. For the next 150 years or more, English composers wrote their own versions of the piece.

Common among them is a *cantus firmus* line, which comes from the original chant. The other lines in the four, five, and six part arrangements are typically rhythmically and melodically complex, weaving around the *cantus firmus*. We played the originator of the style, by John Taverner, and versions by Thomas Preston, Thomas Tallis, two by Robert White, and William Mundy. We closed with a work by Christopher Tye, the most prolific of *In Nomine* composers, with 21 still extant today.

For the November 14th meeting, bring your favorites for a Do-it-Yourself session. Take a turn leading the group, or one of our prepared volunteers can lead your music for you. "Seasonal" might be Christmas songs you don't get to play often enough, or Chanukah songs, or something appropriate for Thanksgiving. Almost anything could be included if you've got a creative enough story about why it is seasonal! Bring enough copies for easy reading, at least 10-15.

Also on November 14 we will hear a the madrigal group The Pippens and the Baron's Noyse perform early music from the New World, music composed in Central and South America in the 16th and 17th centuries. In November of 2008 we were treated with a delightful concert with the Pippens, and a big crowd to match.--
Dennis Sherman

Yuletide Concert 2010

Please join us for another festive year-end afternoon of holiday music making on Sunday, December 19 at 2 PM, Covenant Presbyterian Church. Please limit the playing of your ensemble to five to seven minutes. Any kind of music is welcome on recorder; you can introduce

other instruments like gamba or lute or keyboard, or offer choral works, but these must be early music. If you would like to perform, please contact Mark Cleveland at markcriviera1@comcast.net or Dennis Sherman at drsynj-chicagoars@yahoo.com and provide:

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

Or contact Mark Dawson at msjddawson@sbcglobal.net. And don't forget to bring holiday treats that we will share with the audience and participants!

The Recorder Music Center

The Recorder Music Center is a repository and research center for recorders and recorder music. It houses the papers of the American Recorder Society and several key founding members, and contains archival collections, scores, and publications available for public use. Regis University in Denver hosts the Center, and the director is Mark Davenport, an ARS board member and Associate Professor of Music at the university.

The Center welcomes donations of books, music, photos, documents, and instruments. They have a particular interest in materials related to the early history of ARS chapters, but also welcome items related to the general activities and development of the recorder in years past. If you have historic materials please consider donating them. To learn more and to access the Recorder Music Center resources, visit the Regis University web page, www.regis.edu, and then click the tabs for Academics and Centers/Institutes.

Membership

Membership fees for the 2010-2011 year for the American Recorder Society are due **September 1**. For the national ARS the dues are \$45 a year; for the Chicago chapter the dues are \$25, and for West Suburban, \$15. Send \$70 for both memberships to Arlene Ghiron (**2130 N. Lincoln Park West, 10 South, Chicago, IL 60614-4466**) for Chicago or \$60 for West Suburban to Marilyn Linden (**430 Fox Tail Drive, Batavia, IL 60510-8643**). Members are listed in the ARS directory, and receive *The American Recorder* magazine, music, and access to services to help you improve your playing skills. Local

dues also help support local chapter activities. Make your check out to the “Chicago Chapter ARS” or to the “West Suburban Early Music Society.”

New Benefits of ARS Membership

Recently the American Recorder Society made a few changes to our web page, www.americanrecorder.org. If you are a member, you will be able to place classified ads on the site as a free benefit. Nonmembers can contribute items too, but they must pay a fee. Use this space to advertise instruments you would like to buy or sell, music or books of interest, services, or employment. Visit the American Recorder web page, and click **About** and then **Classified Ads** on the left side of the screen.

Also, the web page has long offered an online search tool for finding names and contact information for members across the US and Canada. We now also offer a copy of the full membership list online that can be downloaded as a PDF file. This is a convenient way to look quickly for someone’s phone number, and to see the members sorted by chapter or region. Three versions of the PDF file appear, in alphabetical order by last name, by state and zip code, and by chapter. You will need the account name and password to log on and access these benefits—which you get if you join!

Beyond these new items the ARS offers an excellent web page, featuring:

- back issues of the American Recorder magazine, and a search tool to find a specific article
- study materials, music lists, and booklets about music, dance, and recorder care
- an events calendar
- a store for CDs and sheet music
- links to resources such as teachers, music, instruments, and scholarships

Please consider joining the ARS, both to further the society’s mission to promote the recorder and its music, and to take advantage of the benefits of membership.

West Suburban Early Music Society

The October surprise at the West Suburban Early Music Society was the visit by Bob Wiemken of Piffaro. Laura Kuhlman started off the meeting with warmup exercises including yoga breathing and a workout with Riu Riu Chiu. Laura turned the meeting over to Bob who led the group in more pieces from the Spanish Renaissance. We played through a setting of *Regina caeli laetare* by Cristobal de Morales that Bob had edited, an anonymous piece from the Lerma manuscript, and two pieces by Francisco Guerrero: *Huyd, huyd* and *O dulce y gran contento*. Throughout, Bob called our attention to following the flow of each of the voices and especially

to creating and nurturing the delicious moments of silence. We truly ended with sweet and grand contentment. Thanks Bob! Our next meeting will be on November 14 at 2 PM at the Naperville Covenant Church. We hope to see you there!—*Eric Stern*



WSEMS members in October



Bob Wiemken of Piffaro directs the WSEMS

Music Coming Up

The Music of the Baroque offers two great Baroque choral works, Vivaldi’s Gloria and Handel’s Dixit Dominus on Sunday November 7 at 7:30 PM at the First United Methodist, 516 Church Street, Evanston. They also perform on Tuesday November 9 at 7:30 at the Harris Theater Millennium Park, 205 Randolph in Chicago. Tickets run from \$30-75. Call 312.551.1414 or visit www.baroque.org.

The fifth season of the St. Luke Recorder Series, hosted by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Luke, 1500 West Belmont in Chicago, features John Langfeld on November 21, 2010 at 4 PM. A reception follows the free concert. The November concert is called

“Geographical Counterpoint: Recorder Music from Various Countries and Cultures” and also features voice, cello, Native American flutes, and harpsichord.

The Chicago Chapter meets on November 14 so that our members can feel free to attend this event.

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 9, 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).

Some of you, like me, may have wondered whatever happened to the wonderful collection of medieval arms and armor that used to be on display at the Art Institute of Chicago before they added their new wing and renovated the old exhibit space for the Harding Collection. Some of you, like me, asked them. Or complained. I bet they got a lot of complaints. Anyway, now the Art Institute plans to open a special exhibit November 1 to showcase part of this collection. They also have plans for a large permanent exhibit of their arms and armor as part of a suite of galleries that will also feature the museum’s holdings of medieval and Renaissance ceramics, illustrated manuscripts, jewelry, metalwork, paintings, sculpture, stained glass, and textiles. One of the events related to the special exhibit will be lutenist Joel Spears on December 16 at 6 PM. This free concert and reading, “Once and Future Things: Lute with Literature,” will be in Fullerton Hall. Joel Spears is an instructor at the Music Institute of Chicago and a member of the Chicago Early Music Consort.

The Chicago Early Music Consort offers “A Renaissance Christmas” on December 5 at 4 PM at the First United Church of Oak Park, 848 Lake Street. Tickets available at the door (cash or check). Visit chicagoearlymusicconsort.org to learn more.

The Callipygian Players offers a free concert at the Chicago Cultural Center (78 E Washington) on Sunday, November 28 at 3 PM. The concert “Old Favorites Made New,” includes music by Handel, Corelli, & others.

The Calmus Ensemble of Leipzig, Germany will sing at Northeastern Illinois University on November 19 at 8 PM. The concert includes works by Bach, Gesualdo, and Purcell, as well as more contemporary works. Tickets \$25, \$10 students. To learn more call (773) 442-4636 or email CL-miller@neiu.edu.

ARS Board Meets near Chicago

The ARS Board gathered September 24-26 in Wheaton and Winfield, IL, hosted by the West Suburban Early Music Society (WSEMS). Members arrived from all over North America; Greg Higby called from Germany.

Five new members attend their first meeting: Nancy Buss, Jeanne Lynch, Mary McCutcheon, Richard Spittel and me. After an orientation for new members Thursday night at Laura Kuhlman’s home in Winfield, we met Friday and Saturday at Gary United Methodist in Wheaton, and on Sunday morning at the Kuhlman’s; Saturday we were in Naperville for a splendid dinner, town hall meeting, and playing session with WSEMS.

Morning meetings started with playing sessions, music propped up on laptop monitors. We devoted much of our time to reorganizing how the ARS works. We created a new set of committees, and then assigned tasks to these committees. Each Board member volunteered to join those of interest. The goal of this restructuring effort was to help make the Board work more efficiently and to set priorities for projects and programs.

For some years, like other non-profit boards, the ARS has struggled with too few people trying to complete too many projects. We sought first to expand the size of the ARS Board and then to streamline its functions. We also sought to identify and address strengths and weaknesses as a Board. For a long time, we have done an insufficient job of membership marketing. While our fund drives have been successful, some of our special projects and priorities haven’t met the needs of all of our members. And some members of the Society see the ARS as not providing them with much value for their annual dues. Thus we set up a Governance Committee to monitor and manage all of the efforts of all Board members; we also created or reorganized committees to focus the Board members’ efforts toward fundraising, marketing and membership services, besides continuing with the current programs that we all value.

The Board also discussed recruiting members and other interested volunteers to help out with Board efforts. These friends would lend specialized types of professional expertise—such as in grant writing, web design, marketing and recruiting—to the Board on short-term projects. We considered improvements to the magazine and the web site, offering more published music to members, and continuing to communicate more regularly with the members and chapter leadership.

We would also like to add staff and move our office from our Administrative Director’s basement. To strengthen the Society’s financial situation, we want to expand our efforts to attract foundation grants and other

large gifts, and look toward setting up an endowment to help fund future operations. Meanwhile, we do not plan to raise membership dues or advertising fees, and plan to continue to publish the magazine five times a year.

I close this article with the stark reality that the ARS, like most arts non-profit organizations, faces significant challenges going forward—issues of decreasing membership and cash flow in an insecure economic climate. But we have a strong team committed to working hard together and devoted to the future. Those of us on the board see the urgency of the situation and want to see the Society prosper. We are looking at ways to appeal to more of the chapter members to join the society, and at ways to reach out to a broader audience. We want to be useful to you; we want to help the chapters continue to enjoy making music together for many years to come.

We lead a community that has been around for over 70 years, and we feel a responsibility to see to it that the ARS continues to lead and serve and promote recorder playing in the U.S. and Canada long after we are gone. To that end, we could use your help. One goal is to encourage members of the local chapters to join the ARS. We need your professional skills and expertise as volunteers for special projects managed by committees of the board. And we need your financial contributions. In turn we look to make the ARS responsive to your needs, a resource that helps you to enjoy recorder playing in your own community.

Many thanks to our friends with WSEMS for hosting our Saturday night pot luck dinner, town hall, & playing session! The ARS Board's next meeting is April 7-9 in Portland, OR (also the site of the 2012 ARS Festival & Conference). We meet September 13-15 in Denver, CO, and in March 2012 in Baltimore.—*Mark Dawson*

Chapter Information

Visit the Yahoo group <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ChicagoARS>.

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* is published monthly from September to May jointly by the Chicago

Chapter and the West Suburban Early Music Society.

Chicago Chapter ARS (chicagoars.org)

Webmaster	Larry Johnson (lljohns@us.ibm.com) (773) 631-6671
President	Dennis Sherman (drsjnj-chicagoars@yahoo.com) (773) 764-1920
First Vice President	Open
Second Vice President	Mark Cleveland (markcriviera1@comcast.net) (773) 559-9691 www.chicagoars.org
Secretary	Ann Greene (anngreene@att.net) (630) 638-0959
Treasurer	Arlene Ghiron (afghiron@aol.com) (773) 525-4026
Hospitality	Nancy Chabala nchabala@mymailstation.com) (708) 442-6053
Outreach	Hildé Stanilius (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, at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2012 West Dickens, Chicago. Enter the front door of the parish building immediately west of the church and go to the large fellowship hall on the right.

West Suburban Early Music Society

President/Chapter Representative:	Nancy Good (Good-Naperville@wowway.com) (630) 355-6690
Vice-President:	Judy Stephens (stephens71@att.net) (630) 740-0880
At Large:	James Heup (jamesheup@aol.com) (630) 851-5364
Secretary:	Open
Treasurer:	Marilyn Linden (RMLindisfarne@att.net) (630) 406-8175
Membership:	Carol Stanger (cvstanger@aol.com) (630) 789-6402
Hospitality:	Chris Culp (Cg.culp@gmail.com) (630) 690-7304
Recorder Reporter contact:	Eric Stern (egstern1@netscape.net) (630) 428-8464
Music Director:	Laura Kuhlman (laura@thekuhlmans.com) (630) 462-5427

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.

Mark Dawson, editor
2425 W. Leland, Chicago, IL 60625-2913
Msjddawson@sbcglobal.net / (773) 334-6376

Content for next issue due November 25