

Recorder Reporter

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

Chicago Chapter & the West Suburban Early Music Society

October 2007

Volume 49, Number 2

Chicago Meeting Notes

Nancy Chabala directed 12 members of the Oak Park Recorder Society in our season-opening concert on September 16. The OPRS offered nine Renaissance and Baroque pieces, including works by Telemann, Michael East, Johann Schein, and Heinrich Funck. Arlene Ghiron provided a solo, and the CLAN—Carol Stanger, Larry Johnson, and Nancy Chabala—once again showed their skill seasoned by many years of experience in three other 15th and 16th century works. Finally, the After Coffee Players offered Orazio Vecchi's 16th century Fantasia #4.



Oak Park Recorder Society



Beware The CLAN

Patrick O'Malley will direct on October 21, and Mary Anne Wolff Gardner on November 18. For both October and November we need to be finished playing by 4 PM. Our Yuletide concert is on December 16, and our meetings in 2008 include:

- January 20
- February 17, Louise Austin joins us
- March 9
- April 20
- The Spring concert is May 18

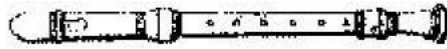
WSEMS Meeting Notes

The West Suburban chapter had a well-attended meeting in September. We had a chance to fill out our music folders with any pieces from our repertoire list that we were missing. After warming up with a few Susato dances we jumped right in our new pieces. We received our Francesco Bendusi *Opera Nova de Balli* books that we had ordered and played a few pieces out of it. A particular highlight of the afternoon was the reading of Paul Schmidt's arrangement of Giovanni Gabrielli's *O Magnum Mysterium* for two choirs and another Schmidt arrangement of a spirited little piece called *La Nicolina* by Cesario Gussago.

Our next meeting will be at 2 PM October 14 at the Naperville Covenant Church. Laura has expressed an interest in fostering smaller groups. Music and direction for smaller ensembles will be available at the meeting. We hope to see you there.

Pay your Membership Dues Now!

Membership dues for the American Recorder Society are due. Please send in your membership renewal this week. The national ARS charges \$45 a year. For the Chicago Chapter, the dues are \$25, while the dues for the WSEMS are \$15. WSEMS members are encouraged to send their dues (\$60 joint local and national) to Nancy Good soon. Chicago members can send \$70 for a joint membership to Dale Fitschen. Your membership dues support events like concerts, meetings, and workshops, as well as this newsletter. National members receive the national magazine, music, and services designed to improve your playing skills.



Recorder Player of the Month

David Johnson, Oak Park Recorder Society and the Chicago Chapter ARS

I was born in Highland Park, Illinois and was first introduced to the Recorder in the early sixties. My Dad was taking lessons from Harriet LeJeune and practiced pretty regularly for a couple of years but eventually he lost interest.

When I was in fifth grade, I began playing the trumpet. My parents moved to Brookfield shortly before I started sixth grade and it worked out well for me. The band director was a trumpet player and I started practicing more regularly. The next year I was invited to join the CYO band and played with them through high school.

While in high school, I began playing the Euphonium (baritone horn). After high school, I joined a drum corps and played Baritone Bugle with them for a year. When I was 18, I moved to New Jersey with my parents and eventually went to Somerset Community College. I needed some easy credits and took Class Recorder for 3 credits. Howard Vogel was the teacher and he was also Director of the New York Baroque Ensemble. Howard said I played well and that I should keep it up. That was in 1979 and I've played the Recorder off and on ever since.

I was married in 1980 and didn't have time to pursue the Recorder. I received my Bachelors degree in Business in 1981 and began working for the RCA Corporation as a Stockroom Supervisor in Camden, New Jersey. My daughter was born in 1981.

Apparently, 1986 was an eventful year for me. I got divorced, passed the CPA exam, ran the New York City Marathon and RCA was purchased by General Electric. Around 1988, I took an Internal Auditor job in GE's Aerospace and Defense Group.

In 1991, I started working on my MBA and played one concert with a group of violin players (and one Cello and one Bass) in 1992. The group played one concert each quarter, but for some unknown reason I was not asked to join them for any future concerts. Until last fall I never played with other Recorder players and I'm sorry I took so long to join. I have been taking lessons from Nancy Chabala since November of 2006. I am an Internal Auditor with Jefferson Wells, a professional services firm, and have been engaged at a client located near Morris, Illinois since last October.

Music Coming Up

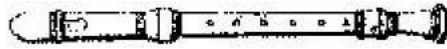
The Baroque Band, a new chamber music ensemble and orchestra, plays 17th and 18th century European music on period instruments and features excellent musicians. They offer "Bach: The Brandenburg Project" on Wednesday, October 10 at Symphony Center in Chicago and Thursday, October 11 at the Music Institute of Chicago in Evanston, both at 7:30. For tickets and more information go to www.baroqueband.org or call (312) 235-2368.

The Chicago Early Music Consort offers Renaissance and early Baroque chamber music in concerts with historical themes, giving each audience a background to the culture and times that produced the compositions. Performances principally feature recorders, voice, lute, viola da gamba, supplemented by other instruments as needed. Their next concert, featuring the choral and instrumental works of English Renaissance composer John Dowland, will be on Sunday, October 14 at 7 PM at the Glenview Community Church, 1000 Elm Street (Glenview & Elm), in Glenview. Call (847) 296-4829 or email cemconsort@comcast.net.

The University of Chicago offers a regular Choral Evensong service, medieval and Renaissance choral music, unaccompanied, in Rockefeller Chapel on Sunday nights at 5 PM. The next two of these free concerts are on October 14 and November 11. (<http://rockefeller.uchicago.edu>).

The Symphony of Oak Park & River Forest (www.symphonyoprff.com) offers the first concert of their 76th season at 4 PM on October 21 at the First United Church, 848 Lake Street in Oak Park. The concert includes two recorder works, the Vivaldi Recorder Concerto and Bach's Brandenburg Concerto #2. For each Amy Pikler, daughter of OPRF Symphony Concert Master and CSO violist Charles Pikler, will play recorder. Following these two works the Symphony will offer Beethoven's Symphony #3. Seating starts at 3:30 and a preconcert lecture starts at 3 PM.

St. Luke's Lutheran on Belmont near Ashland, the host of the monthly Chicago chapter ARS meetings, offers its own recorder series managed by John Langford. The next performance, pairing 17th and 18th century recorder works to pieces written in the 20th century, will be on Sunday, November 18 at 4 PM. The concert is free, and a reportedly lavish reception follows. This will be toward the end of our monthly ARS meeting, too, so we may be tempted to sneak upstairs after playing our own recorder music to listen to music from a friend.



Chicago Humanities Festival

American Recorder Society members are encouraged to look into the 18th annual Chicago Humanities Festival, from October 27 to November 11 (www.chfestival.org). The festival features lectures, panel discussions, films, exhibits, and performances from a wide range of sources. Of particular interest is the music, with Ars Antigua playing Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* on November 10 at the Art Institute (see below) and Ars Musica, a Chicago-based early music ensemble, offering a program of works on Renaissance and Baroque works related to water. Composers will feature Palestrina, Maudit, and Guerrero, among others, and the performance will also include selected readings. This event (#812) costs \$5 and is on Sunday, November 11 at 2:30 at Ganz Hall of Roosevelt University, 430 South Michigan Avenue.

Finally, a friend and sometime director of Chicago chapter ARS meetings, Andrew Schultze, will conduct a performance of Benjamin Britten's *Noye's Fludde*, a 16th century English mystery play about Noah's Flood, set to music in 1957. This is event #719, and the performance is also at Ganz Hall at Roosevelt University, 430 South Michigan, on Saturday November 10 at 2:30. The performance combines spoken word, choral music, and a wide range of instruments, including several medieval instrumentalists. ARS members may remember a performance of *Noye's Fludde* by a young people's ensemble at Chicago Symphony Hall in April of 2005, featuring several friends in the recorder section, including David Dawson and Laura Osterlund.

Ars Antigua, Music Live and Online

Ars Antiqua offers early music ensemble performances on period instruments that are known for their technical excellence. In particular this editor has enjoyed many wonderful free performances offered by Ars Antiqua in the medieval splendor of the Chapel of St. James at Quigley Seminary on the Gold Coast—including a number of recorder works. The ensemble is directed by string bass player Jerry Fuller.

Starting in January Ars Antiqua will begin to offer monthly internet broadcasts of their performances. These "Early Music Interludes" will include modern premieres of baroque works by Johann Schmelzer and Christoph Graupner as well as more familiar music by Telemann and Boccherini. The ensemble will continue to perform concerts in the Chicago area as well as at music festivals around the country. Learn at www.arsantigua.net.

The fall schedule for Ars Antiqua includes:

October 28, 3 PM at the Skokie Public Library in Skokie, Illinois, www.skokie.lib.il.us.

November 9, 7:30 PM in the Moser Performing Arts Center at the University of St Francis in Joliet, Illinois. Email pbrannon@stfrancis.edu.

November 10, 1 PM in Fullerton Hall at the Art Institute of Chicago, as part of the Chicago Humanities Festival. This is event #714, and costs \$5. The ensemble will play Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*. See www.chfestival.org.

November 11, 4 PM in the Byron Colby Barn at Prairie Crossing in Grayslake, Illinois. See www.prairiecrossing.com.

Recorder Lessons Offered

The local American Recorder Society chapter includes three professional recorder players who offer lessons in the instrument.

Nancy Chabala is the director of the Oak Park Recorder Society and has been joining the group to play on Tuesday nights for nearly 35 years. She has been helping to organize the Early Music Festival in Whitewater, Wisconsin for many years and has also been active with the Chicago chapter of the American Recorder Society, the West Suburban Early Music Society, and in performing and teaching for decades in the Chicago area.

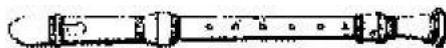
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Patrick O'Malley offers private lessons in a studio in his home for individuals or groups at any level. Call 773-552-1856 or email PatrickRecorder@comcast.net.

He also teaches at the Music Institute of Chicago, at the corner of Chicago Avenue and Grove Street in Evanston. The price is a bit higher, but the Music Institute offers some additional benefits. You get student discounts for performances in Nichols Concert Hall, the opportunity to perform in student concerts, and private-lesson students can take the adult musicianship class for free! The inexpensive MIC "recorder consorts" meet Wednesdays.

6:30-7:30 comfort group
7:30-8:30 challenge group

You can contact Patrick or register with the MIC for "Recorder Consort" or "Private Lessons" /free musicianship class.



Patrick's long-range plans at MIC include establishing a large recorder orchestra and teaching a spring semester class on improvisation/ornamentation on ground bass patterns such as La Follia.

Mary Anne Wolff Gardner recently finished her Master's Degree in Music from Concordia University in River Forest. She teaches private and group lessons on recorder and clarinet to students of all ages and abilities. She also offers individual and ensemble coaching sessions. Mary Anne has been teaching privately for about 10 years and has also taught recorder by video/Internet for K-12 and general music to small children. She has performed with groups such as the Chicago Symphony Youth Orchestra, Lake Shore Symphony, Ars Musica Chicago, William Ferris Chorale, and many others, and is a part of her own group, the Home Street Recorder Ensemble. For more information contact her at 708-383-1497 or mawgardner@yahoo.com. Mary Anne lives in Oak Park.

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

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First Vice President	Mark Dawson (msjddawson@sbcglobal.net) (773) 334-6376
Second Vice President	Open
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 Stanulis (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. Nancy Chabala leads this group every week.

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.

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