

Recorder Reporter

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

January 2011

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Chicago Chapter News

We had a good turnout and a lot of variety for our 2010 Yuletide Concert on December 19, with works ranging from the 13th century to the 21st, medieval, modern, Baroque, and Renaissance, from composers American, French, German, English, Italian, Flemish, and Dutch, Christmas and Hanukkah, or not holiday music at all, sacred and secular, solo pieces to five and six parts, and every piece accompanied by the pounding of feet from a floor hockey game in the gym upstairs. Recorder playing involves a measure of patience.



After Coffee Players

On January 16 Andrew Schlutze will join us to talk about German Baroque music by Adam Krieger (1634-1666) and Samuel Freidrich Capricornus (c1629-1656). We will also welcome the St. Cecilia Consort. In February (2/20) Andrew Schultze returns to direct a session on Medieval music, and we will enjoy a performance of the Dearborn Winds. In February we need to wrap up at 5 PM so we can all head for Oak Park to join the Home Street Recorder Ensemble for their 20th anniversary concert (see below). On March the Ridgeway Consort performs and on April 17, Patrick O'Malley directs, and Par Tre offers the music of Guillaume de Machaut (ca 1300-1377).



The Music Institute of Chicago Recorder Orchestra



Nancy Chabala & Lynette Colmey



Patrick O'Malley

West Suburban Early Music Society

The West Suburban Early Music Society meeting in December took place on a snowy Sunday afternoon. We started by playing through a recorder arrangement of three hymn tunes by the early American composer William Billings. We continued with our Spanish music starting with *A Solis Ortiz*. Our meeting finished up with the ever popular carols from Laura's Christmas books.

Our next meeting on January 9 will be an informal recital by our members who have been working in small groups to prepare music for your enjoyment. There are rumors that Laura will bring her band from Milwaukee! This should not be missed!—*Eric Stern*.

Recorders in the Western Suburbs

A recorder quartet led by Ed Green and including Nancy Good, Ann Greene and Eric Stern performed Christmas music twice for the Geneva Steeplewalk on December 5. We were well received and may even inspire some people to pick up their old recorders. Meanwhile, the winter music department presentation at Metea Valley High School in Aurora included a recorder quartet playing the Susato dance *La Bataille*. WSEMS member Benjamin Stern was able to persuade three of his fellow band members to take up recorders and join him for the occasion. It's a small start, but world domination by recorder players is inevitable! Also WSEMS members Nancy Good and Laura Kuhlman played recorders (and other instruments) on December 4 for "Christmas around the World" at the Museum of Science and Industry, in a Welsh holiday presentation with the *Y Ddraig Goch* Welsh Dancers of Fermilab and the Old Fezziwig's Dance Band.—*Eric Stern*

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, January 9, 2 PM, Free

Performers include Nancy Chabala, Carol Stanger, Jim Heup, Eric and Benjamin Stern, Ed Greene and Karen Owen. There will be a special guest appearance by the Milwaukee Renaissance Band, which includes Laura Kuhlman. The MRB will be performing selections from their spring concert featuring music from the court of Charles V. MRB specializes in performance of the renaissance town band using cornetto, shawms, dulcians, sackbuts as well as recorders, bagpipes and voices. Following the concert, there will be refreshments and a playing session. All are welcome!—*Laura Kuhlman*



OPRS at Covenant Presbyterian Church December 12. . .



. . . and the ride home.

The **Chicago Early Music Consort** offers "A Renaissance Christmas" on January 8 at 4 PM at St. John Cantius Church, 825 North Carpenter in Chicago. Visit chicagoeearlymusicconsort.org to learn more.

The **Newberry Consort** joins the **Wayward Sisters** on Sunday, January 23 at 8 PM at Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago, 126 E Chestnut. The Wayward Sisters perform chamber works from the early Baroque

period, and include Beth Wenstrom on violin, Anne Timberlake on recorder, and Anna Steinhoff on cello. Tickets cost \$28, \$5 for students. Visit the consort website newberryconsort.org or call (312) 255-3610.

The 51st annual **University of Chicago Folk Music Festival** is February 11-13, 2011. The Folk fest features concerts at Mandel Hall Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights, and free workshops and jam sessions at Ida Noyes Hall on Saturday and Sunday. This event celebrates traditional music from the US and around the world. To learn more visit www.uofcfolk.org.

The Chicago History Museum's annual **Maritime Festival** is on Saturday, February 26 from 10 - 4:30, followed by a 7 PM concert. If you like sea shanties and other music that focuses on the life of the sailor and fisherman, this is an agreeable way to spend a winter day in Chicago. Last year a salty trio offered music on a violin made out of a wooden cigar box, 18th century style. The Festival offers lots of classes and workshops as well, for \$14 for the day, or \$25 for the workshop and the evening concert. The Chicago Historical Society is at the corner of Clark and North Avenues, 1601 North Clark, close to parking and two L stops. Call 773-576-7245 or visit www.chicagomaritimefestival.org.

The **Home Street Recorder Ensemble**, featuring Mary Anne Gardner, Mike Becker, and Kathy Smart celebrate their 20th anniversary on February 20, 2011 at 7 PM at the Unity Temple in Oak Park. The Unity Temple is at 875 West Lake Street, across the street from the public library and an easy walk from both the L stop at Oak Park Avenue and the Oak Park Metra station. Joining them will be Laura Kuhlman, Patrick O'Malley, and Jennifer Resek. A reception is planned, and an offering.

The **Oak Park Festival Theater** hosts their **Falstaff's Feast** on Saturday, February 26, 6-10 PM. They plan a medieval evening featuring plenty of food and drink, music, scenes from *The History of King Henry the Fourth* and *Henry V*, a silent auction, and more. This annual fundraiser will be in the Parish Hall at Grace Episcopal Church, 924 Lake Street, \$40. Attend as a guest and wear medieval garb if you like. If you look great in doublet and hose, this is your chance. Broad swords, however, must be checked at the door. The Oak Park Recorder Society has been invited to play for the event. See <http://OakParkFestival.com>.

The **Venere Lute Quartet**, featuring Chicago chapter friend Gail Gillispie, plays on Saturday, April 2 at 8 PM in Ida Noyes Hall of the University of Chicago, 1212 East 59th Street (a block from Rockefeller Chapel). Visit www.newberryconsort.org or call (312) 255-3610. Tickets are \$30 at the door, \$28 in advance.

Rockefeller Chapel is hosting a lot of terrific music in coming weeks. The Chapel is at the University of Chicago, 5850 South Woodlawn (call 773 702-2100 or visit <http://Rockefeller.uchicago.edu>):

1. **Friday, January 7** at 8 PM. Schola Antiqua offers Medieval and Renaissance choral music for Epiphany, \$20 at door, \$10 for students/seniors. Visit www.chicagochant.org to learn more.
2. **Sunday, February 20** at 3 PM. The Bach Project, featuring some of the Brandenburg Concerti & Cantatas by University students, \$10 at the door.
3. **Saturday, March 5** at 8 PM. The Newberry Consort offers sacred music from the *Cantigas de Santa Maria*, a set of 12th century choral works from Spain accompanied by period instruments.
4. **Sunday, March 6** at 3 PM. Come back the next day to hear Bella Voce sing with the Callipygian Players, performing Handel's *Dixit Dominus*, Antonio Vivaldi's *Dixit Dominus* and *Concerto for Violin*, Archangelo Corelli's *Concerto Grosso in D Major*, and Gregorio Allegri *Miserere*. Visit www.bellavoce.org or call (312) 479-1096.
5. **Sunday, March 13** at 3 PM. Andrew Schultze leads the Chicago Syntagma Musicum in performing sacred vocal and instrumental music for Lent by the Bach family of musicians.
6. **Sunday, April 3** at 3 PM. Hear the Bach Mass in B Minor, tickets at the door \$30 or \$15 students.

Music of the Baroque offers Bach's Brandenburg Concerti 3, 4 & 6, and Telemann's Concerto in F Major for three violins, strings, and continuo, on Sunday, March 13 at 7:30 at the First United Methodist Church of Evanston, and Monday, March 14 at 7:30 PM at the Harris Theater in Millennium Park in Chicago. Our own Patrick O'Malley will be playing recorder in the Brandenburg Concerto #6. Visit www.baroque.org or call (312) 551-1444.

March is Play the Recorder Month

March has been "Play the Recorder Month" for the national ARS for a long time. Here in Chicago, we don't seem to have made much of it in recent years. That's changing for 2011! Plans are in progress to have a free public performance and open rehearsal at the Conrad Sulzer Regional Library, 4455 North Lincoln Avenue, in Chicago. The Baron's Noyse will be the mainstay of this activity. Assuming our reservation is confirmed, we are planning for 7-8:30 on March 21 in the Louis Lerner Auditorium, on the left side of the main lobby.

It would be great if other ensembles related to the Chicago chapter or WSEMS made plans to perform in public in March for Play the Recorder Month in 2011. Mark Dawson has ideas on possible venues, contact him

at msjddawson@sbcglobal.net or 773-334-6376. If you make your own arrangements for a performance, please let us know so we can brag about our Play the Recorder Month activities!—Dennis Sherman



Recorder Players & Other Early Musicians at the Museum of Science & Industry, Chicago

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* is published monthly from September to May jointly by the Chicago Chapter and the West Suburban Early Music Society.

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

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.