

Recorder Reporter

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

October 2026

Volume 68, Number 2

Chicago Chapter News

The chapter opened our 68th season on September 20, and I think we set a record. We counted 34 musicians crowded into the basement at St. John's, likely our best turnout in the nearly 25 years I have been attending meetings, other than a Yuletide or spring concert. In years past I would celebrate 15 members showing up on a Sunday afternoon.



Lisette directed us as we read through six of the seven pieces she provided, including Bach's *Sheep May Safely Graze*, *Greensleeves*, and *God Rest ye Merry, Gentlemen*. For the two vigorous alto parts in the Bach piece, we will turn to James and Seven, our chapter's youth movement. Lisette also directed us in an arrangement of *Yigdal Elohim chai (The Lord of Life be Praised)* by David Goldstein, a prolific composer for the recorder. Born in New York City in 1918, David Goldstein went to Columbia University and Long Island College of Medicine, and thus was both a pediatrician and a musician. Besides singing in the Broadway musical *Rosalinda*, Goldstein wrote a number of recorder pieces, including several specifically for the Oak Park Recorder Society. He was a loyal friend of David Fitzgerald, who served for many years as the OPRS director. Goldstein and Fitzgerald both died in 2003, shortly after the American Recorder Society awarded Goldstein the ARS Presidential Honor award.

Peter Beck directed the third hour, offering compositions from the ARS Library, including *Chanson I* by Robert Agnew, *Flight Games* by Harvey Stokes, and *Faithless Nancy Dawson*, in honor, if you will, of an 18th century singer and dancer. The piece was based on a sea shanty,

"A Roving," a complaint about a woman who done the singer wrong.



Peter Beck directs the third hour

We continue with the music we started at our October 18 meeting, with Lisette directing. We will work on music for our Yuletide concert, and for Besse Coleman Library on December 13. For the same meeting Seven Dinda leads us in pieces from the Whitewater book, *Vidit Jacob Scalum* by Thomas Crecquillon, *Nymphes Des Bois* by Josquin, *Renaissance Go Marchin' In* deranged by John Gauger, and *Stars and Stripes Forever* by Sousa. **All of the music for October 18 is available for download from the chapter web site.** For the rest of the season, we have this schedule for third hour leaders:

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| November 22 | Nancy Chabala directs, pieces from Peter Warlock's <i>Capriole Suite</i> . |
| January 17 | Dennis Sherman directs <i>In Nomine</i> pieces by Thomas Tallis and Christopher Tye. |
| February 21 | James Watts will lead us in Baroque sight reading and practice techniques. |
| March 21 | Peter Hulen directs 15 th and 16 th century choral polyphony |
| April 18 | Nancy Chabala, to be determined |

We have some dates for St. John's Episcopal, where we could use players to provide music for services. The first could be Friday, October 30 at 7:30, an All Souls Taizé vespers service, and both Sunday December 6 and Sunday, April 4, the choir will be taking a break

and we could use an ensemble to provide the prelude, postlude, and offertory. Please talk to Cheryl Kreiman if you would like more information about any of these services. Also talk to Seven Dinda about future playing opportunities with the chapter chamber ensemble (see below). We also have plans to play at the Marshall Field Museum on a Saturday or Sunday in November or December, and to play on November 21 at 2 PM at Montgomery Place, 5550 South Shore Drive in Hyde Park. We will plan on rehearsals on Saturday October 24 and Saturday November 14 at 5:30 to 7:30 PM, 1743 West Farwell Avenue. You'll need to attend at least one rehearsal to be allowed to take part.

In an effort to expand the Chicago Recorder Society's offerings to its community, we are launching a **Chamber Consort email list** for members interested in chamber music opportunities. This ensemble will be without a conductor and will play throughout the year around Chicago. Participation is not required for every event, so if you think 'yes I'd like to try that,' great—that is what the Chamber Consort is for. If you would like to be on the mailing list for these opportunities, please email Seven Dinda at SevenRecorder@gmail.com –Seven

It's time to renew your membership with the Chicago chapter, either using our [web site](#) or by bringing a check to the next meeting. With costs continuing to rise, we've made the difficult decision to raise dues this year to \$70, though you can use last year's rate of \$50 if you find the increase too much of a burden.

On being recorder player and west suburban

This newsletter leans toward the city of Chicago, and the Chicago Recorders. But in August we celebrated recorder players hanging out in DuPage county. On September 13 the West Suburban Early Music Society opened their 47th season at the Friends Meeting House in Downers Grove with Nancy Chabala directing 18 participants. The first meeting for WSEMS was in September of 1979.

But before that, a group of eight recorder players assembled on two-weeks' notice to provide an hour of music at Morton Arboretum, as part of their Honey Bee Festival Weekend, entertaining visitors in the Grand Garden. That gave all of us some time to explore the Arboretum before heading over to Eric & Stephanie Duesing's place in Naperville for an afternoon of recorder jamming, followed by dinner. Yet again splendid music accompanying great food and fellowship and Stephanie and Eric's excellent hospitality.

At the September 13 meeting WSEMS president Pat Mahoney greeted everyone and thanked Stephanie

Duesing for again hosting a summer jam session and barbecue pot luck at her home. Pat also explained the increase of dues to \$75 this year due cover increased web site management fees, and a need to compensate the director or guest directors, and most importantly, the depletion of the chapter's surplus from recent years.



Nancy then led the group in pieces that will be played before the December meeting, starting with *The Capriol Suite* by Peter Warlock, including *Basse-Danse* (1) *Pavane* (2), *Bransles*, *Pieds-En-L'Air* (5), and *Mattachines* (6). Next we played *Mein Junges Leben Hat Ein End* by Sweelinck. The last piece was Samuel Scheidt's *Warum Betrübst du dich, mein Herz?*



Summer wraps up with recorder playing at Morton Arboretum, Saturday August 29



Recorder playing and dinner at Eric & Stephanie Duesing's home in Naperville, also August 29



Then the alternate altos offered a four-part concerto by Telemann, and the Da Capo group played *Blue Toots*, an ARS publication in honor of former WSEMS member Joanne Miller, co-sponsored by the Clearing recorder group. Next was a four-part version of the Welsh hymn, *Calon Lan*, followed by a six-part version of the same piece. Next month the group plans to play *Calon Lan* as arranged by Alison Lewin.

The next meeting will be October 11 at 2 PM at the Friends Meeting House in Downers Grove.—*Nancy Culp*

Financial Report

Our 2025-26 season was certainly an active one. Significant donations in memory of Dale Fitchen from his family and from the Oak Park Recorder School (along with a strategic dip into savings) enabled us to produce three outreach concerts over the summer. Thank you to Dale's family, to the OPRS, and to everyone who was able to participate! The connections made in the community, along with the energy and engagement the concerts enabled, are significant.

The good news is that CRS ended the 2025-26 season with 42 formal (paid) members, a respectable increase of four from the previous year, and regular donations have increased accordingly. But we again ended with a manageably small but not trivial deficit. After years (decades, actually) of resisting increasing costs, the board took the step of gently raising membership dues. Looking forward to 2026-27, if all goes well, our income and expenses will balance and CRS's savings readily covers anything unexpected. Such is the treasurer's version of the holy grail!

- Carl Foote, treasurer *Many thanks again to Carl Foote for his excellent service to us as our chapter treasurer*

Dear Cheryl and The Chicago Recorder Society,

Oh my goodness! Thank you so much for my alto recorder. I truly love it and have been slowly teaching myself to play this summer. Perhaps you'll have to let me join the society when I've learned enough to keep up! Sending my prayers and blessings for much merry music making!

When she left St. John's Episcopal Church as interim rector on May 31, Cheryl Kreiman gave the Rev. Meghan Murphy-Gill a Zen-On alto recorder, a Sweet Pipes book, and some medieval music as a thank you gift and as a means to encourage her to learn to play the instrument.

Spring Workshop

Make plans to join us on Saturday April 10 at North Park University, for the Chicago chapter's 2027 recorder workshop. Glen Shannon will direct, a recorder player, composer and performer, and an old friend of the Chicago chapter. He regularly leads workshops and served as president of the East Bay Recorder Society in California. We have played his music often over the years, and he won the chapter's composition competition in 2001 for his popular "Wanderlust." In the spring of 2022 he wrote a special commission for the chapter in memory of long-time member Hilde Staniulis. Hilde died at 100 in 2020, and had been a part of the Chicago

chapter from the earliest days. Glen flew to Chicago from to join us, playing with the soprano section.

The campus of North Park is at Foster and Kedzie in Chicago, free parking on side streets and in a lot next to campus, and easily accessible by CTA bus and the Brown line L. We will gather in room 202 in Hanson Hall, a large music practice room behind Anderson chapel. More details will be coming soon.



A cheerful evening at Whitewater, James Watt, Seven Dindra, Michael Kuby, Irene Claude



Saturday night at Whitewater

Music and More

The [Early Music Ensemble](#) for the University of Chicago Open House will be held on Tuesday, October 6 from 5 to 7 PM in the Logan Center for the Arts, 915 East 60th St., Room 703. The group meets on Tuesday nights and performs on November 19.

The [Recorder Orchestra of the Midwest](#) holds its first meeting for the season on Saturday October 3 at Cantata Senior Life Services, 8700 31st Street in Brookfield, 10 AM to 4 PM. The Orchestra plans to perform on April 24 in Oak Park.

Chapter Information

Our chapters are open to anyone, regardless of musical training, who wants to cultivate appreciation of the art, history and use of the recorder and related instruments. Our meetings, programs and publications help members to come together with others with similar interests.

Chicago Recorder Society and West Suburban dues are paid in September for each new season. Dues include membership in your local chapter, this newsletter, and a welcome to attend the meetings of both chapters. We publish the *Recorder Reporter* September to May.

Chicago Recorder Society (ChicagoRecorders.org)

President	Mark Dawson
Vice President	Seven Dindra
Secretary	Jacob Schermer
Treasurer	Carl Foote
Facebook	Hyacinth Egner & Cheryl Kreiman
Web site	Larry Johnson & Carl Foote
Members at Large	James Watts, Michael Kuby, Hyacinth Egner, Irene Claude
Chapter Representative	Larry Johnson

Music Director: Lisette Kielson lisettekielson@gmail.com

You can contact the chapter through our web site.

Like us on Facebook: 

<https://www.facebook.com/ChicagoARS>

Chicago Recorder Society meetings: Third Sunday of each month, September through May, 2 PM, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 North Kostner. Enter through the side door on Byron and go to your right down a few steps to enter the parish hall, or enter in the front.

West Suburban Early Music Society (westsubems.org)

Convener/Chapter Representative:	Pat Mahoney
Vice Convener	Nancy Culp
Treasurer	Stephanie Duesing
Secretary/Membership:	Suzanne Scott
Hospitality:	Janet Fitchuk
Web page support:	Chris Culp
Music Director:	Nancy Chabala nchabala5555@gmail.com

WSEMS meetings: Second Sunday of each month, September through April, first Sunday of May, 2-5 PM at the Downers Grove Friends meeting house, 5710 Lomond Avenue in Downers Grove. The church is near Maple Avenue and 355. From 355, take the ramp and go east on Maple for less than a half mile and turn right (south) onto Lomond street. The church is on the right.

Visit us at chicagorecorders.org

Mark Dawson, newsletter editor

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