Recorder Reporter

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

Chicago Recorder Society & the West Suburban Early Music Society

November 2026

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Chicago Chapter News

You might be getting bored by this newsletter by now.

All we ever talk about is success.

Robust turnouts. Excellent sight reading. A vigorous board. Plans for concerts and outreach efforts and playing sessions beyond our monthly meetings at a library in Woodlawn, an arts center in Pullman, Morton Arboretum, the Field Museum, services at St. John's. Initiative, ideas. Young people just—showing up.

For our October 18 meeting, 28 musicians joined us, including two for the first time ever. Solid music making under first Lisette Kielsen and then Seven Dinda.

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*. We started with a piece that we ran out of time for in September, *Ave Virgo Sanctissima* by Francisco Guerrero (1528-1599). For the same meeting Seven Dinda directed the third hour, pieces from the Whitewater book, including *Vidit Jacob Scalam* by Thomas Crecquillon and *Nymphes Des Bois* by Josquin.

Join us on November 15 for a dress rehearsal for our performances on December 13 and 20. All are welcome, for one or both events. The music is on our web site. We will not be performing the Aleotti or Greensleeves. Nancy Chabala directs for the third hour, pieces from Peter Warlock's *Capriole Suite*.

We have these playing opportunities coming up:

- Montgomery Place, Saturday November 21
- St. John's, Sunday December 6
- Besse Coleman Library, Sunday December 13
- Field Museum, Sunday January 24

Yuletide Concert

Our annual Yuletide Concert for the Chicago Chapter is in a few weeks, Sunday December 20 at 2 PM. Send the name of your group, the names of the participants, the names of the pieces you plan to play, and the composers, to Mark Dawson at msjddawson@sbcglobal.net.

We will be playing in the sanctuary upstairs, and after the concert move downstairs for our traditional reception and jam session. Please bring snacks for the reception.







Jamming at our October meeting

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,

West Suburban Early Music Society

At the October 11 meeting of WSEMS, 17 players joined Nancy Chabala. President Pat Mahoney opened with a discussion on different methods of downloading the music to the website. The possibilities are Google Drive, Box.Com, or continuing with the current method.

Nancy then had us warm up using an arrangement by H.U. Staeps of *The Silver Swan*, in three choirs, with high and low instruments. Next we revisited *Mein Junges Lieben Hat Ein End* from last month. Nancy clued us in to her method of saying "sniff" at rests before the 16th notes to help get the timing correct. For our third piece, *Warum Betrubst Du Dich, Mein Herz.*



WSEMS members gather in October

Nancy explained the use of musica ficta in musical notation for early singers and instrumentalists. During the Medieval and Renaissance periods, musicians would know if a note or accidental would clash with the standard modes, and modify their playing accordingly. Now the changes are added above the note and can be played if desired. We ended the session with the first and second movements from the *Door County Suite* by Erik Meyer, "Lake Michigan Sunrise" and "Coves and Cliffs."

Our next meeting will be November 8 at 2 PM at the Friends Meet House in Downer's Grove.—*Nancy Culp*

We were sad to learn of the recent death of long time WSEMS member Ed Green on October 22. We will plan to publish a tribute to Ed in our December newsletter. Please send Mark Dawson any photos or memories you have of making music with him,

Spring Recorder Workshop

We have made plans to hold our spring 2027 workshop at North Park University on Saturday April 10, with Glen Shannon directing, an old friend of the chapter.



Glen Shannon is a composer and recorder enthusiast living in El Cerrito, California, where he is currently Secretary of EBRS and Co-Director of the Barbary Coast Recorder Orchestra. His compositions have won prizes in contests since 1997, sponsored by the Chicago and Washington, DC chapters, and the ARS/Amsterdam Loeki Stardust Quartet. Glen publishes his music under his own name, and has also had works published by Moeck Verlag, PRB Productions, Loux Music Publishing Company, Peacock Press, Basilisk Editions, the ARS, and the European recorder magazines Recorder in the UK, Windkanal in Germany, and Blokfluitist in the Netherlands. Glen is active in the American Recorder Society as editor of the quarterly Members' Library Editions. In October 2021 Glen received the ARS Presidential Special Honor Award, recognizing a person who has had a significant positive impact on the recorder community in North America.

The theme of the workshop will be Recorders Bright and Dark, a day of spring delights in April. We will close with modern pieces, and some of Glen's own works.

You will be able to register for the event at Chicagorecorders.org. Bring your recorders and a music stand. 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.







Besse Coleman Library, Woodlawn, June 19



Seven leading the concert at Old St. Mary's August 16



Recorder Orchestra of the Midwest, October 3



Voces 8 at Rockefeller Chapel, October 2

There are literally tens of dollars that can be made in Early Music.

Miyo Aoki, an instructor at Whitewater in June 2026, quoting a significantly non-famous musician

Music and More

Apollo's Fire returns to Chicago from Cleveland to offer *Echoes across the Atlantic*, featuring Trinidadian soprano Jeanine De Bique considering the historical connections between Europe and the Caribbean colonies in the 18th century. They will perform music from Handel, Purcell, Rameau and Vivaldi matched with Caribbean poets. Saturday November 7, 7:30, Music Institute of Chicago in Evanston, and Sunday November 8 at 5 PM at the Chicago Cultural Center. The Music Institute of Chicago is at 1490 Chicago Avenue in Evanston, the Cultural Center is at Michigan Avenue and Washington Street in the Loop. Both are an easy walk from CTA L stops and Metra train stations.

The Early Music Ensemble of the University of Chicago offers a Teatime Concert on Thursday November 19 at 4:30 PM at the Fulton Recital Hall in Goodspeed Hall on the University campus. Goodspeed is in the Haper Quadrangle, near the corner of 59th Street and Ellis Avenue. The concert, *Masques and Intermedii!* offers musical entertainments from the great spectacles of England and Italy. The EME features a number of members of the Chicago chapter participating. The concert is free, tea and cookies are served at 4:15 PM. Plenty of street parking is available on the Midway, and you can take public transit from the Loop, the Metra Electric train to 59th Street or the #6 Jeffrey bus from State Street to 59th and Stony Island Avenue near campus.

The Chicago Recorder Trio presents "Off the Beaten Path" at the Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane in Northbrook, on Sunday, November 22 at 2 PM. The concert is free, but you should register. In the concert they plan to travel along a timeline from the 14th to 20th century, through familiar terrain of Renaissance polyphony, Baroque virtuosity, and modern syncopations, CRT reveals the landscape through the fresh lens of obscure composers. From a stately Paduana to the Big Band era, get to know composers with cool names like Tui St. George Tucker and Willem Wander van Nieuwkerk. The Chicago Recorder Trio features our own Lisette Kielson, Patrick O'Malley, and Mira Lorenz.

Grace Lutheran Church of River Forest has been offering an annual series of Bach Cantata Vespers for 56 years. On Sunday November 22 the church offers Bach's *Gott ist mein König*, God is my king, BWV 71. A cantata preview lecture starts at 3 PM, and the service opens with an organ prelude at 3:45 PM. Our own Seven Dinda will be performing with the orchestra. Grace Lutheran Church is at 7300 Division Street in River Forest, near the corner of Harlem and Division and within easy reach of the Metra station in Oak Park or the Green line L station at Harlem.

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 Dinda
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
2425 W. Leland, Chicago, IL 60625-2913
msjddawson@sbcglobal.net (773) 334-6376