



September 2017

NOTES

www.washingtonrecordersociety.org

WRS YEAR AT A GLANCE

Sept. 18	Antiqua
Oct. 2	Nova
Oct. 16	Antiqua
Nov. 4	Gwyn Roberts Workshop
Nov. 6	Nova
Nov. 20	Antiqua
Dec. 4	Nova
Dec. 18	Holiday Party
Jan. 8	Nova
Jan. 22	Antiqua
Feb. 5	Nova
Feb. 26	Antiqua
Mar. 5	Nova
Mar. 17–18	Amherst Early Music Workshop in Washington, DC
Mar. 19	Antiqua
Late Mar. or early Apr.	Shelley Gruskin Workshop
April 9	Nova
April 23	Antiqua
May 5	Spring Recital
May 7	Nova
May 21	Antiqua
June 4	Nova

Regular meeting and workshops at Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church. Spring Recital at Presbyterian Church of the Atonement.

Solution to Last Issue's (April's) Puzzle

Bach is an astronomer, discovering the most marvelous stars.
Beethoven challenges the universe.
I only try to express the soul and the heart of man—Chopin.

Membership

Enclosed with this mailing is the 2017–2018 membership form. The cost of membership remains the same, \$55. This is our main source of funding for the year, so please fill out your membership form and return it

by October 1 to Brie Salzman. His contact information is at the bottom of the form. You can also bring it to the first meeting on September 18.

Longtime members will note that the checkoff box for including membership in the American Recorder Society is no longer available. Please visit the ARS website (www.americanrecorder.org) and follow the prompts to join ARS, our parent organization.

President's Column

Welcome to the 2017–2018 season of the Washington Recorder Society! I am excited at the many opportunities that we are offering this year for Washington area recorder enthusiasts like you to rehearse, perform, and socialize with other like-minded folks; explore a wide range of music; and enhance your technique and musicianship.

Our biweekly "Antiqua" and "Nova" meetings. Our season begins on Monday, September 18, and continues through June 4, 2018. We meet twice a month—generally on the first and third Mondays of the month, except for adjustments for holidays. The year's schedule is enclosed with this newsletter and posted on our web page, www.washingtonrecordersociety.org.

Our meetings alternate between Antiqua and Nova sessions, which all take place from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Mondays at the Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church, 9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda, Maryland.

At our Nova meetings, we all play together in one large group, as a kind of "recorder orchestra." David McGown, an outstanding musician with extensive knowledge of music history, will lead Nova rehearsals this year. David will be assisted by Leo Angulo, another outstanding musician who is a trained pianist, conductor, and recorder player.

At our Antiqua meetings, we begin with a short concert by a local recorder ensemble or other music group, and then split into two groups to explore and rehearse different types of music together. The larger Antiqua group usually has several players per part, and is open to anyone who can play at least one type of recorder (alto, tenor, bass, or soprano). This group will be led this year by David McGown and Leo Angulo, possibly with other guest conductors from time to time. The other Antiqua group is open to players who can play at least several different types of recorders and are comfortable playing one to a part, and is coordinated by long-time WRS member and former WRS President Jayme Sokolow.

At our first Antiqua meeting on September 18, we will enjoy a short concert by the Bethesda Chamber Singers, who have delighted us with their musicianship for many years. We have a number of exciting local recorder and early music groups lined up for future meetings as well.

In addition, we are expanding opportunities for WRS members to get experience performing for friendly audiences by inviting you to play a

solo, duet, or small ensemble piece at one of our Nova meetings. See the separate article below for more details.

Other events. On Monday, December 18, we will all get together for our **annual holiday party**—playing holiday music and enjoying refreshments and each other's company.

One of the highlights of the year is our annual **spring recital**, which will be on Saturday, May 5. At this event, our different WRS ensembles perform for our members and their friends and families, and there are opportunities for members and other local recorder players to perform solos, duets, trios, or other small ensembles.

Workshops. We are excited this year to offer two all-day Saturday workshops, led by famous musicians and excellent recorder teachers: **Gwyn Roberts** on November 4 and **Shelley Gruskin** next spring. Both Gwyn and Shelley are outstanding musicians and highly regarded teachers. More information about Gwyn Roberts' workshop is in this newsletter; information about Shelley's workshop will be forthcoming in future months.

Amherst Early Music weekend workshop in Washington—March 17–18, 2018. We are particularly excited that for the first time, Amherst Early Music will be offering a weekend workshop for recorder, lute, and viol players the weekend of March 17–18. For more information, see the article below.

Renew your membership for 2017–2018, or become a new member today—and consider making a tax-deductible donation! Membership gives you discounts to our workshops. Even more important, it gives you the satisfaction of supporting our activities and the pleasure of associating with other

recorder lovers and lovers of early music.

If you are able to do so, please also consider a tax-deductible contribution to WRS. Our expenses are always greater than the amount we can raise through membership dues and workshop fees, so we greatly appreciate every donation in any amount!

I look forward to seeing you on September 18.



New Performance Opportunities for WRS Members

This year, we are offering new opportunities for WRS members to gain experience playing in a group setting. We will reserve time in our Nova meetings for members to play a solo or to play a duet, trio, or quartet with other WRS members, with a suggested duration of 10 minutes or less. This is a great opportunity to practice performing in front of a friendly audience—we urge you to take advantage of it!

For more information, or to sign up, contact David McGown at drmcgown@gmail.com.

Plan on Attending Amherst Early Music's First Washington, DC, Weekend, March 17–18, 2018!

We are thrilled to tell you that Amherst Early Music (AEM)—the largest presenter in the country of early music workshops for recorder players, other instrumentalists and singers—is going to give a workshop in Washington, DC. For many years, AEM has offered two week-long festivals in New London, Connecticut; a Memorial Day weekend workshop in Litchfield, Connecticut; a MLK weekend workshop in Philadelphia;

and a City Recorder weekend workshop in New York City. More information about AEM and its programs is at <https://www.amherstearlymusic.org>.

Next spring, AEM will come to Washington, DC, for the first time, for a 2-day workshop for recorder, lute, and viol players.

This past July, I attended an AEM week in New London, Connecticut—my first AEM workshop. It was an amazing experience. I took classes on 15th–16th century music of Spain and England, and on the music of William Byrd; a class on how to practice, taught by Bart Spanhove of the Flanders Recorder Quartet; and a class on Middle Eastern music, taught by recorder player Nina Stern and percussionist Glen Velez. The exploration of more of the early music repertoire and the tips I received from accomplished recorder masters on technique, musicianship, and practice, were inspiring. Many of the tips that I found most useful came from Frances Blaker, who taught my class on 15th–16th century Spanish and English music. I understand that Frances will be teaching at the Washington, DC, weekend next March, along with other prominent recorder players.

What I also found stimulating about the AEM experience was the opportunity to meet amateur recorder enthusiasts, players of other instruments, and singers from around the country—and to hear performances by teachers and students alike.

A 2-day weekend in Washington will be an ideal introduction to AEM for those who have not yet experienced it. It will be an opportunity to explore early music, as well as advanced technique and musicianship, more intensively than is possible in a 1-day workshop. It will also be a chance to learn from new and different teachers; to meet other recorder players from the mid-Atlantic region;

and to meet, hear, and play with lutenists and viol players. More information about the Washington, DC, weekend, and opportunities to help for those who are interested, will be forthcoming soon. In the meantime, reserve the dates!

In Case of Inclement Weather

If there is inclement weather, contact Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church to find out whether the church is closed on a Monday night when an Antiqua or Nova session is scheduled, or on a Saturday when a workshop is scheduled. The phone number for the church is 301-493-8300; the email address is office@cedarlane.org. The church's website is www.cedarlane.org.

Gwyn Roberts To Offer Another Exciting Workshop on November 4!

WRS is delighted to bring Gwyn Roberts back to Washington to direct our fall workshop once again.

Gwyn is well known to WRS members. Based in Philadelphia, she is world-class recorder and traverso virtuoso and a highly acclaimed teacher. She is on the faculty at the University of Pennsylvania and Peabody Conservatory, and founder and co-director of the Tempesta di Mare Baroque Orchestra. She teaches a number of Washington area recorder players, and has taught WRS workshops for many years.

Gwyn is an extremely engaging, motivating, and fun teacher. She is humorous and kind, while also being rigorous and insightful. She also is quite knowledgeable about music history and early music performance practice. Those of us who have taken her past workshops learn something new each time.

The workshop will be held on Saturday, November 4, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Church of the

Atonement, 10613 Georgia Ave, Silver Spring, MD. Participants should bring their own lunches, but drinks, desserts, and morning and afternoon snacks will be provided.

A registration form is included with this newsletter. You can mail it, with your check, to our Treasurer, Brie Salzman, or bring the completed form and your check to our first meeting on September 18. Don't miss this opportunity to improve your playing, learn more about early music, and have fun!

Save the Dates for Capitol Early Music's 2017–2018 Concert and Workshop Schedule

Capitol Early Music is presenting concerts, and workshops for instrumentalists and singers, by excellent ensembles this fall, winter, and spring:

- Medieval ensemble **Alkemie** will give a concert on Friday, October 20, and offer a workshop on Saturday, October 21.
- Viol consort **Parthenia** will offer a concert on Friday, February 2, and will offer a workshop on Saturday, February 3.
- A quartet of outstanding recorders players—including Gwyn Roberts and Heloise Degrugillier—will perform music from J.S. Bach's Art of the Fugue on Friday, April 20, and offer a workshop on Saturday, April 21.

For more information and for tickets, visit <http://capitolearlymusic.org>.

Local Recorder Teachers To Help You Improve Your Playing Technique

Many of us have found that studying on a regular basis with a good teacher improves our technique and increases our enjoyment of playing the recorder. Our area has several

very good recorder teachers who are available to work with individuals who would like to improve their playing. We encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities.

CAROLE ROGENTINE

Location where lessons offered:

Bethesda, MD

Phone: 301-530-6386 (home);
301-523-5515 (cell)

Email: crogentine@gmail.com

Lessons offered: teens and adults. Individual students and ensemble coaching.

Other information: Offers harpsichord accompaniment; former music director, WRS; studies with Gwyn Roberts.

RACHEL ISAACSON

Location where lessons offered: travels to students' homes in the Washington, DC, area.

Phone: 571-338-4606

Email: isaacson.rachel@gmail.com

Lessons offered: children, teens, and adults. Individual students and ensemble coaching.

Other information: Studied in the Historical Performance Institute and Early Music Department at Indiana University (Bloomington).

DAVID MCGOWN

Location where lessons offered:

Silver Spring, MD

Phone: 240-338-5107

Email: drmcgown@gmail.com

Lessons offered: young adult (high school) and adult individual students.

Other information: Studies with Gwyn Roberts.

JEAN CIOFFI

Location where lessons offered:

Alexandria, VA

Phone: 202-378-8223

Email: jeanncioffi@gmail.com

Lessons offered: all ages; individuals and ensembles.

JOHN BENAGLIA

Location where lessons offered:

Washington, DC

Phone: 202-234-1837

Email: ibenaglia@aol.com

Puzzle Corner—Opera Nights

A few weeks ago in Santa Fe, I attended a performance of the new opera, The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs by Mason Bates. The production was wonderful and the music accessible. I enjoyed the evening, and I got to thinking about all the generations of composers who have swum, or at least dipped their toes, in the pool of opera. See if you can name two opera composers beginning with each letter of Mason Bates' name. For example: M—Milhaud and Martinu.



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