



NOTES

www.washingtonrecordersociety.org

December 2017

WRS YEAR AT A GLANCE

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
April 7	Shelley Gruskin Workshop
April 9	Nova
April 23	Antiqua
May 5	Spring Recital
May 7	Nova
May 21	Antiqua
June 4	Nova

Regular meetings and workshops are at Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church.

Spring Recital is at Presbyterian Church of the Atonement.

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

Here are names that fit the criteria of our last puzzle. You may have thought of more or at least others: M—Mozart, Massenet; A—Adam, Argento; S—Symanowski, Saint-Saens; O—Orff, Offenbach; N—Nicolaï, Nelhybel; B—Beethoven, Bizet; A—Ades, Adams; T—Tchaikovsky, Tippett; E—Elgar, Eaton; S—Strauss, Smetana

Join Us for WRS Holiday Events!

Our next Antiqua meeting, on Monday, December 18, will be our **annual holiday party**. We will gather at the usual time and place (7:30, at the Cedar Lane UU Church fellowship

hall) to play holiday music together, enjoy refreshments, and socialize. Please plan to join us! The next evening, Tuesday, December 19, **a group of WRS members will be performing seasonal music** at the Brookside Gardens Garden of Lights. Every year, Brookside Gardens in Wheaton, Maryland, fills the botanical garden with holiday lights and other holiday exhibits, and offers seasonal performances by local singers and instrumentalists. The WRS group will perform from 6:30 to 8:00. Stop by for part or all of their performance, and enjoy the lights as well! For more information, visit

www.montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/brookside-gardens.

Registration Is Now Open for the Amherst Early Music Weekend Workshop in Washington, DC!

Registration is now open for the “Spring Break” weekend workshop being offered by Amherst Early Music (AEM) in Washington, DC, on March 17–18, on the campus of George Washington University. AEM is the largest presenter in the country of early music workshops for recorder players, other instrumentalists, and singers. This is the first time that AEM is offering a weekend intensive in our city—and it is an amazing opportunity!

The workshop will offer classes for recorder players—and amateur lutenists and viol players—by prominent, world-class teachers. Recorder teachers will be Heloise Degrugillier, Letitia Berlin, Frances Blaker, and Valerie Horst (who is also an expert in early music notation),

and Frances Blaker will be the music director for the weekend. There will be 2 days of classes, and concerts by faculty and workshop participants. There will be opportunities for more advanced players to hone their skills and performance technique, but also classes for intermediate players as well. Anyone familiar with the full range of at least two different sizes of recorders, who is willing to be challenged in a friendly and supportive environment, can benefit greatly.

There is a reduced work–study rate, and scholarships will be available. The Washington Recorder Society will make a donation to be used for scholarships for WRS members. For more information on the weekend, how to register, and how to apply for a scholarship or work–study, visit

www.amherstearlymusic.org/spring_break_workshop. The website also contains information about other AEM programs, including the Winter Weekend Workshop in Philadelphia on January 12–15 (over the Martin Luther King weekend), and the week-long programs in July, on the campus of Connecticut College in New London, Connecticut.

The weekend will be an ideal introduction to AEM and an opportunity to explore early music and work on 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. Don't miss it!

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 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 Laura Schattschneider at les291@nyu.edu or David McGown at drmcgown@gmail.com.

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.

Shelley Gruskin Is Coming—Save the Date!

Save the date—Shelley Gruskin is coming to WRS on Saturday, April 7, 2018, for his 42nd recorder workshop.

There are many reasons for you to save this date, so many in fact that a full article would take up most of the *Notes*. To save space and your patience, here are just a few:

- Shelley was one of the original members of the professional early music group the New York Pro Musica, which helped put the recorder and early music on the map in the United States.
- Shelley has received a prestigious lifetime achievement award from the American Recorder Society for his many contributions to the recorder.

- By Shelley's own reckoning, he has led more than 500 recorder workshops here and abroad. Now that's longevity!
- Shelley is a masterful teacher whose zest for the recorder and early music remains undiminished.
- Shelley's connection to WRS goes way back, and he knows many WRS members by name.

Shelley's workshop will be at the Cedar Lane Unitarian-Universalist Church from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. In 2018, you will receive more information and a flyer to register. If you enjoy playing the recorder, want to learn more about early music, and want to improve your playing of Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque composers, pencil in this date—April 7th—for Shelley Gruskin's 42nd WRS workshop.

Telemann, Telemann, and More Telemann!

Gwyn Roberts Workshop

More than 20 WRS members and non-members attended this year's delightful and informative Gwyn Roberts workshop, held at the Church of the Atonement on Saturday, November 4. The workshop focused entirely on the works of Georg Philipp Telemann, including a few pieces that were played in recent performances of Gwyn's and her husband Richard Stone's Philadelphia-based baroque orchestra called *Tempesta di Mare*. This year the orchestra and its performing members and guests are examining Telemann's life and creative genius, performing a wide range of his works, some recently unearthed and never before played in public. Among the many cities the orchestra has been performing in during 2017 is Washington, DC, in October.

As mentioned in their "Telemann 360°" overview to the orchestra's performances this year, Telemann is praised as having a "peerlessly monumental catalogue of high-quality compositions in every style and genre spanning his six-decade-plus career."

And, in the words of the Guinness Book of World Records, "he is the most prolific composer of all time, with more than 3,000 works to his credit."

The diverse pieces that Gwyn brought to the workshop were all drawn from *Tempesta di Mare's* Telemann repertoire, some of which she arranged for recorders. Included was one piece that had never been performed in public.

Among the many pieces Gwyn brought for us and that we played were a 4-part rigaudon, an aria (slow movement), "Hornepipe" (4-part) and other gavottes (4-part), a harlequinade (4-part), and Concerto a-moll (parts only), Sonate d-moll (parts only), and Suite Nr.1 d-moll (parts only).

If anyone would like copies of the 4-part music Gwyn brought, please contact me at jtake@comcast.net and I will make copies for you.

Reminder—Please Pay Your 2017–2018 Dues!

This is a reminder to those of you who have not yet paid your 2017-2018 dues to please send your \$55 check to:

Brie Salzman
3412 Beret Lane

Silver Spring, MD 20906

or bring your payment to the next WRS meeting. Only members who are paid up for this year will be eligible for the WRS discounted registration fee for Shelley Gruskin's workshop on April 7, or a WRS-AEM scholarship for the AEM weekend workshop on March 17–18. (See the articles in this newsletter.)

Upcoming Capitol Early Music Events

This winter and spring, Capitol Early Music will be offering concerts and related workshops that we urge you to attend.

- Viol consort **Parthenia** will offer a concert on Friday, February 2, on Music in the Age of Shakespeare, and will offer a workshop on Saturday, February 3, on Playing

and Singing English Consort Music.

- 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 will offer a workshop for recorder players 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

Website: learnrecorderwithcarole.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: jbenaglia@aol.com

Puzzle Corner—'Tis the Season

My neighbor put up his holiday decorations the other day, and several lights had burned out since last year. The effect was somewhat muted by the missing lights, and I got to thinking what composers' names would look like with some of the letters missing. I've taken the letters of words associated with the holiday season from several composers' names. See if you can guess the words and read the names. For example, if I remove oil from Locatelli, I'm left with cate; or take sled from Delius and you have iu. See if you can restore these names to their full expression: DAA, II, BA, PLERI, OR, MEE, INON.

Listen to Interviews of Two WRS Members!

Two of our members are famous! Listen to the recent interview of **Maybelle Kagy**, talking about her experience as co-founder of the Out of Sight Dragons, a dragon boat team of blind and other visually impaired people. Maybelle also talks about

experience as a teacher and her musical activities, including her membership in WRS. Listen to her at <https://soundcloud.com/user-66750950/episode-eight-maybelle-kagy>.

If you listen to podcasts on your smartphone, simply search for Out of Sight Dragons in your smartphone podcast app.

You might also enjoy a podcast interview of **Brie Salzman** from this past October, in which Brie talks about his life and his love of cheese.

Listen to him at

<https://eopeople.net/brie-salzman/>.

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