

WRS

YEAR AT A GLANCE

May 3	Spring Recital Presbyterian Church of the Atonement
May 5	Nova
May 19	Antiqua
Jun 2	Nova

Regular meetings at Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church. Check NOTES for workshop and recital locations.

WRS Website Now Online

The new website for WRS is now active after much ado. It is an important feature of our presence in the community and a place where members can find information. Ferd Baer will continue to be our webmaster, but after many years the board though it best to stop relying on Ferd and the University of Maryland for a home on the web.

The address of the new site is washingtonrecordersociety.org When you get a chance, look it over. Many thanks to Vickie Walter, our President, who spent countless hours working with developers to give us this wonderful new feature.

Board Election Will Take Place in May

It's time for elections to the WRS Board again. This year instead of electing three members we will have four nominees. Helen Eliot will become an ex-officio member after one year of her current

term because of health reasons, and Ferd Baer and Art Jacobson will step down and become ex-officio members. We want to thank all three for their years of service to WRS and look forward to their sage advice in their new positions.

The members nominated to fill the three two year terms and the one half term are Anne Hinton (for re-election), Brie Salzman, Daniel Bruner and David McGown. Decisions about who will fill which offices and terms will be decided at the next Board meeting.

Brief bios of the nominees follow:

Anne Hinton - I have been playing recorder now for over 14 years, having started in a class under Kay Jones. Recorder has become a very important part of my life.

I am energized by the possibilities for WRS in the coming years and would like to be a part of it's movement toward a more diverse, vibrant, community oriented organization.

David McGown - I was a brass player from grade school to college, and was first introduced to the recorder as a freshman in engineering at Virginia Tech. I played in the school Collegium Musicum and as a member of the New River Consort under John and Susan Howell. In November 2010, I picked the recorder back up again and joined WRS in the fall of 2011. I am currently studying with Gwyn Roberts and John Tyson. I am active in

a number of ensembles, including Sine Nomine (Columbia, MD), Fiati Affinati (DC), Concerto Degli Imperfetti (DC), and others. I directed the WRS Brookside Gardens Holiday Concerts for the past two years, and am President of Capitol Early Music, a local organization sponsoring concerts and workshops for the recorder and early music community in the Metro DC area.

Brie Salzman - I started playing the recorder with my family when I was 5. I took lessons from Elloyd Hanson for several years in New York City and played with a small group in College. Then for many years until I joined WRS in 2010 I tootled alone, mostly improvising. Now I am a member of the Palisades Quintet, La Trois Becs, and, since 2012, have been taking lessons with Gwyn Roberts. Joining WRS has brought back that magic I knew playing music with family and friends many years ago and has kindled a new passion for playing ensemble music that I would to like share and to spread. I hope to be part of a board that will attract new players to WRS and brings back some of the members who have stopped attending our meetings.

Daniel Bruner - In junior high, high school and college I studied the flute, although I was never a music major. After law school, I moved to Washington,
(more over)

D.C. and started playing recorders, but stopped after about a year because of the pressures of being a lawyer. Almost 30 years later, I realized that I wasn't getting any younger (it takes me a while for things to sink in!) and decided that I shouldn't keep postponing important things. I have always really loved listening to early music, and so I started playing it again. I bought my first recorder (since the early 1980s) in 2010 and joined WRS in 2011. I study with Suzana Cooper and play in several groups, and look forward to doing what I can to help WRS flourish.

Spring Recital Coming Up May 3

Join us for the Washington Recorder Society's annual Spring Recital on Saturday, May 3, at 3 p.m., followed by a beverage and cheese reception.

This year, due to scheduling issues at our regular location, the recital will be held at the Presbyterian Church of the Atonement, 10613 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20902.

The recital will feature performances by about 10 groups and individuals, including members of the two Antiqua groups. It will begin at 3 p.m. in the church sanctuary and will end between 4:30 and 5 p.m.

The recital will be followed immediately by a beverage and cheese event in the reception room outside the sanctuary. The day will end by 6 p.m.

Performers may arrive as early as 1 p.m. for practice. Dick Shrager's large Antiqua/Nova group will meet in the sanctuary at 2 p.m., and several practice rooms will be available for other groups.

Jane Udelson is again serving as coordinator of the performing groups. For more information, email her at jtake@comcast.net

We look forward to seeing you there!

A Gruskin Milestone

March 1, 2014 was a very special day for recorder players and guests, for on that day Shelley Gruskin presented his 40th WRS workshop. At the lunch break, WRS returned the favor by presenting Shelley with a delicious pink cake that honored this achievement while the group sang a "happy 40th workshop" in his honor.

The theme of this year's workshop was "Baroque Ceremonial Music: Handel's Water Music and Music for Royal Fireworks and Concertos by Bach, Marcello, and Chédeville." We did not play any music by Chédeville or Marcello but instead focused on Handel's Water Music and Music for Royal Fireworks after warming up on a Bach orchestral suite.

After briefly describing the characteristics of Baroque ceremonial music, we launched into the music under Shelley's gentle instruction. Throughout the workshop, Shelley emphasized three points about playing this kind of music.

First, he humorously but firmly admonished us not to tap our feet to the beat, pointing out that the beat should be in our heads and not in our feet. Several times, he observed that by the end of musical pieces, those tapping their feet were not in unison.

Second, we practiced "playing the rests." Shelley pointed out that the silences in our musical parts were just as important as the notes we played. He encouraged us to end our phrases crisply and accurately and enter promptly after rests to create the clearest and most pleasing musical affects.

And third, Shelley also encouraged us to play expressively. He explained that music is more than just playing the notes correctly. Good playing involves accurate phrasing, the use of proper breathing and tonguing techniques, and the

ability to listen carefully to the other parts. There were many times during the workshop when Shelley had us practice short phrases and sections of the music to hone our ability to play more expressively.

To help us improve our playing, Shelley sometimes did Baroque dance steps while we tooted and illustrated his points by playing passages on his soprano or alto recorders. Would that we could play as well as Shelley!

Our musical journey began in Germany and then traveled to London. For an energetic day, it was an enjoyable and instructive trip.

Join us next year for Shelley's 41st WRS recorder workshop.

A Big Thank You

Washington Recorder Society wishes to thank Ms. Laura Schattschneider for her contribution to WRS.

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