

**WRS
YEAR AT A GLANCE**

Dec 21	Holiday Party
Jan 4	Nova
Jan 25	Antiqua
Feb 1	Nova
Feb 22	Antiqua
Mar 7	Nova
Mar 21	Antiqua
Mar 26	Gruskin Workshop
Apr 4	Nova
Apr 18	Auction and Antiqua
May 2	Nova
May 14	Spring Recital
May 16	Antiqua
Jun 6	Nova

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

Forty-first Gruskin Workshop Approaches

Two years ago, we celebrated Shelley Gruskin's 40th WRS workshop with a special cake. This year, we will be hosting Shelley's 41st WRS workshop on Saturday, March 26th from 10 AM to 5 PM at the Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church. The theme of this year's workshop is "From the Late 18th-Century Baroque to the Early Recorder Revival of the 1940s." We will play Baroque ensemble pieces from the late 18th century from French, German, and Italian composers. These will include Antonio Vivaldi, Alessandro Scarlatti, Alessandro Marchello,

Gottfried Keller, and Johann Christoph Pepusch. In addition, we will play a neo-Renaissance suite composed in 1928 by Arnold Dolmetsch, a French-born musician and instrument maker who spent most of his life in England and who became a leading figure in the revival of early music. Join us for yet another delightful workshop by Shelley Gruskin. You will be informed and entertained, and the music will be charming. You can register by completing the workshop form and sending it to Jayme Sokolow along with a check for \$55. For non-members, the fee is \$60. If you have any questions about the workshop, please contact Jayme at JSoko12481@aol.com or 301/933-3989. See you at the workshop!

Holiday Party

This month our Antiqua meeting will be our annual Holiday Party. Under the direction of Richard Shrager, we'll play some ancient music suitable for the season and then we'll take a break. At this time members will bring forth the delicious nibbles (salty or sweet) and effervescent potables they've brought. After much sampling and noshing, we'll go back to playing and end the evening with a number of

carols, again led by Richard Shrager. Don't miss the fun of our winter social gathering, and don't forget to bring something to share.

Thanks Again

As our membership remains small but stable, the Society has come to rely on the generous donations of members and friends to provide the extra amenities that make membership so enjoyable. Thanks again to the donors listed below who have made contributions to the Society since we thanked donors last season:

Ferdinand Baer, John Benaglia, Padric Brown, Daniel Bruner, Suzana Cooper, Bruce Crane, Lisa Fahlstrom, Ellen Farrell, Anne Hilnton, Rachael Isaacson, Art Jacobson, Gary Meyer, Dale Neiburg, Marjorie Newman, Carole Rogentine, Laura Schattschneider, Richard Shrager, Jayme Sokolow, Jane Udelson and R. L Wise.

Ferd Baer Moves to Colorado!

Ferd Baer, a long-time member of WRS and a former officer, is relocating to Colorado. Ferd joined WRS in 1978 and was a board member for over 20 years. He served as treasurer, secretary, and web master, and designed WRS's first web site.

(Over)

At WRS, Ferd was an avid reorder player and viola de gamba player who led the Antiqua mixed consort for several years. He will be remembered as a genial, soft-spoken, and gracious individual who always seemed to have a twinkle in his eye.

Ferd is moving to Colorado to be closer to his son, who lives outside Boulder. Ferd hopes to become active in Boulder's vibrant early music scene and in the American Recorder Society and Viola de Gamba Society of America's chapters there.

Ferd's Colorado address is 2525 Taft Drive, Apt. 225, Boulder, CO 80302. He can also be reached at 303/658-0634 and baer@atmos.umd.edu. Ferd said that "I will miss WRS and the many musical friendships I've developed over the years." We will miss Ferd too and will fondly remember the many contributions he has made to WRS over almost four decades.

Roberts Workshop A Smash Hit

Gwyn Roberts' November 14 workshop was a big standout for the 20 WRS members and non-members who participated. In her inimitable fashion, Gwyn brought music with parts suitable for players at all levels, from low intermediate to advanced; and her technical

coaching was informative for everyone. This year she coached us through delightful, four- and mostly five-part music of the German baroque era, including works by Schutz, Schein, Scheidt, and Fasch (the latter a close friend and colleague of J.S. Bach) arranged for recorders. She also threw in some Pezel and a piece by Hammerschmidt. Many of us were so captivated by the music that we decided to purchase some of it. The four-part Fasch Sonate g-Moll was the last and most challenging piece we played. As Gwyn noted, there would be challenges for the "jocks" in the room, which there were!

On the technical side, Gwyn's theme was learning to play *with* your recorder rather than *against* it. The amount of air needed to blow a small instrument, such as a soprano, in tune and nicely is quite different from that required to blow a bass or great bass. Playing with each of your instruments means taking in just the right amount of air required to make a good, rounded, and in-tune sound (that is not squeaky or overblown). For larger instruments, one should take in a breath that is deep and available from low in the lungs. Gwyn also encouraged us to store extra air in different parts of the body, such as low, "wide," and "out to the side" of the diaphragm. She said to put the air in a "comfortable place" and

not to "top off the tank" by taking in shallow high breaths while playing. At the request of workshop participants, Gwyn illustrated how to produce a clear and reliable high F on the alto recorder, by placing the thumb high on the thumb hole.

Answer to last issue's puzzle:

The names of ten composers you could find in the piece entitled Serenade for two altos are Arne, Ades, Rota, Lawes, Eaton, Arnold, Wolf, Walton, Sate and Soler. You may have found others.

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Puzzle Corner -

Here's a quick one to think about over a glass of eggnog. Find the name of a famous Russian composer of the 19th - 20th Century.

Take the first two, middle two and last two letters of the name. Add the Letters T, N and K.

Rearrange to arrive at the name of a favorite seasonal character.