



December 2016

# NOTES

[www.washingtonrecordersociety.org](http://www.washingtonrecordersociety.org)

## WRS YEAR AT A GLANCE

Dec. 5	Nova
Dec. 19	<b>Holiday Party</b>
Jan. 9	Nova
Jan. 23	Antiqua
Feb. 6	Nova
Feb. 27	Antiqua
Mar. 6	Nova
Mar. 20	Antiqua
Mar. 25	<b>Shelley Gruskin Workshop</b>
April 3	Nova
April 17	Auction and Antiqua
May 1	Nova
May 6	<b>Spring Recital</b>
May 15	Antiqua
June 5	Nova

Regular meeting and workshops at Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church

## Holiday Party on December 19

Please join us on Monday, December 19, for our annual holiday playing session and party. Under Dick Shrager's expert direction, we will play ancient and modern carols and other music of the season. We will also enjoy holiday beverages and snacks and each other's company. WRS will provide the beverages—please bring something to share.

We hope to see you on December 19!

## Fugues, Fugues, and More Fugues: A Workshop by Gwyn Roberts

In her WRS workshop on November 5, Gwyn Roberts focused on the art of the fugue, with numerous short illustrations of the varieties of this art form by baroque composers, including Bach (six pieces); Handel (two pieces); Johann Fischer (a chaconne); Purcell (another chaconne); Bencini; and modern composers Glen Shannon (Prelude and Fugue for Recorder Quartet) and James Howard Young (The Haircut Fugue), a former student of hers. She also included a two-page "Quick and Dirty Guide to Fugues" that outlines how fugues work and what to look for in fugal compositions.

A near-record 18 recorder players attended the workshop, about half WRS members and half guests.

Most of the pieces we played were in four parts. For each piece, Gwyn gave us our choice of instrument to play, as long as we were distributed appropriately. We would start by playing through a piece and then analyze what constituted the "subject," or the main theme of the fugue, and where and how each additional instrument entered to play its fugal parts. As we puzzled this out, Gwyn pointed out examples of the entrance of more than one subject in a particular piece, and whether the entries of the subject material were "regular" or "irregular" imitations of the fugal material. She also pointed

out where "development" material—musical elements related to the fugal subject but not the subject itself—were occurring in the pieces.

In summary, Gwyn pointed out that there are four rules to composing a fugue:

- Start with a subject in the home key (such as F or C major or minor).
- Add at least one other voice, with the subject at an interval of "perfection" (unison, fourth, fifth, or octave).
- Develop the subject by alternating modulating episodes (music that travels between entries of the subject) with subject entries in new keys.
- Bring the subject back to the home key to end the piece.

As usual, workshop participants expressed great appreciation and admiration for Gwyn's engaging and enthusiastic way of making such a complex topic so accessible.

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

"If you want to know whether you have written anything worth preserving, sing it to yourself without any accompaniment." Joseph Haydn

## 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](mailto:office@cedarlane.org). The church's website is [www.cedarlane.org](http://www.cedarlane.org).

## Recorder Music Available on the Internet for Free Download

As many of you know, WRS Board member and director of our Nova sessions, David McGown, has compiled an extensive set of four-part and eight-part pieces from Italy in the late Renaissance and early Baroque. We play some of these pieces in our Nova sessions, and the Antiqua Small Consort plays through some of them as well. All of the individual parts, and the score containing all of the parts, are available for download on the WRS web site, <http://www.washingtonrecordersociety.org/italian-canzon-books-available-for-nova-meetings-and-download/#more-959>. David has plans to compile more such sets of music for recorder ensembles—we can't wait for the next installment!

A freelance composer, recorder player, and lutenist, Stephen Arndt, has contacted WRS to inform us that he has a number of his own compositions, including one-part inventions for alto recorder and one-part inventions for tenor or soprano recorder, available on his web page for free download.

His inventions are also available at <http://www.verseandsong.com/song/recorder/one-part-inventions-2>. From that page, you can also access his inventions for tenor/soprano and his arrangements for recorders, or recorder and lute, of pieces by Petronius, Orlando di Lasso, and Palestrina. His web page also includes recordings of these pieces.

Stephen would love feedback from WRS members; you can leave a comment on his web page.

The WRS web site includes links to other Internet sites where you can access a wide range of musical scores for download. See <http://www.washingtonrecordersociety.org/free-sheet-music/>.

## Shelly Gruskin Is Coming—Save the Date!

Save the date—Shelley Gruskin is coming to WRS on March 25, 2017 for his 41st 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 over 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 5 p.m. In 2017, 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 Renaissance and Baroque

composers, pencil in this date—March 25th— or Shelley Gruskin's 41st WRS workshop.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:jbenaglia@aol.com)

**Puzzle Corner**

We're often told that it's the little things that make a difference.

In this issue of Notes, we have four composer names, all with the same missing letters.

When you find the missing letters, you can spell a small thing that makes a big holiday difference.

1. Dala
2. Duru
3. Lofer
4. Wofrrar

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