



February 2018

NOTES

www.washingtonrecordersociety.org

WRS YEAR AT A GLANCE

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.

Important Announcement: We Need Your Vote on a Possible Move of WRS Meetings

To the members of the Washington Recorder Society:

The Board of Directors recommends that **WRS move our meetings in 2018–2019, beginning September 2018, to the Church of the Atonement, located at 10613 Georgia Ave, Silver Spring, Maryland.**

Moving from Cedar Lane, which has hosted WRS for many years, would be a major decision, and we do not make it lightly. This article explains why we are making this recommendation. It also explains how you can vote on whether to accept the recommendation or, alternatively, vote for WRS to remain at Cedar

Lane Unitarian Universalist Church, our current location. Of course, we will abide by the decision of the majority of voting members.

Cost

We estimate that moving to the Church of the Atonement will be approximately one-half as expensive for WRS as staying at Cedar Lane next year.

Our rental costs for 2017–2018 are as follows:

Rental of space at Cedar Lane for Nova and Antiqua meetings	\$2,745
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Gwyn Roberts workshop, November 2017 (at Church of the Atonement)	200
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Shelley Gruskin workshop, April 2018 (at Cedar Lane)	240
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Spring Recital, May 2018 (at Church of the Atonement)	450
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Total rental costs	\$3,635
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We anticipate that if we stay at Cedar Lane next year, our rental costs (to Cedar Lane for Nova and Antiqua and workshops, and to Church of the Atonement for the Spring Recital) will be at least that high, and perhaps somewhat higher (if Cedar Lane increases our rent).

By comparison, the Church of the Atonement has offered us the following rental for 2018–2019: Rental space for Nova and Antiqua meetings, for two workshops, and for the Spring Recital \$1,650

Facilities at Church of the Atonement Compared to Cedar Lane

For the price listed above, the Church of the Atonement will rent their chapel to us for Nova meetings and for Antiqua concerts and meetings, and one or two smaller downstairs meeting rooms for breakout sessions. This is comparable to the facilities that we have at Cedar Lane. (One exception: Cedar Lane rents space to us for a sheet music library, whereas the Church of the Atonement cannot accommodate that. However, we have not used the sheet music library in some years, and are in the process of disposing of it in any event.)

Other Considerations

This past year, Cedar Lane altered our arrangement with them on two occasions:

- At the end of March, they informed us that they needed to cancel or reschedule our April 17 Antiqua meeting because they had scheduled a religious meeting for that night, and the participants objected to the noise we would create. We rescheduled the meeting at some inconvenience to members.
- At the May 15 Antiqua concert and meeting, Cedar Lane had scheduled a large event in their main sanctuary, without notice to us, and played loud music over the intercom system throughout the evening, making it impossible for us to use the main room that we always use. Fortunately, we were able to move into the Chapel at Cedar Lane, but we

never received an explanation from the church.

By contrast, the Church of the Atonement's office manager, Sue Morrison, is a recorder player and well known to many of us in WRS, and she is enthusiastic about hosting us.

Transportation

Many of you are familiar with the Church of the Atonement already, from attending our annual Spring Recital and/or from Gwyn Roberts' workshop last fall. The church is located at 10613 Georgia Ave in Silver Spring, at the intersection of Georgia Avenue and Plyers Mill Road. There is ample parking on the same level as the entrance to the church, making parking somewhat more convenient at night than at Cedar Lane.

There is a Metro station (Wheaton, on the Red Line), which is about a 15-minute walk from the church, or about a 10-minute bus ride.

You can see the church on Google Maps at <https://www.google.com/maps/place/Church+of+the+Atonement/@39.0296525,-77.0491817,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x89b7cf228d510293:0xd8efa359572716f1!8m2!3d39.0296484!4d-77.046993>, and the website of the church has driving directions at <http://atonementlife.org/directions>.

We urge you to investigate how convenient this location would be for you, on Monday evenings, compared to Cedar Lane.

Your Vote Is Important!

We will hold a special business meeting at the beginning of the Nova meeting on **Monday, April 9**. We have enclosed a ballot that you can complete and either mail or give to a

Board member at the April 9 meeting or in advance of that meeting.

We look forward to discussing this important matter with you. In the meantime, don't hesitate to talk to me, or any Board member, at a WRS meeting, or contact me at pdanielbruner@gmail.com or (202) 669-3388.

Remembering Dick Shrager

Late last year, we lost a much-loved and highly respected WRS member, musician, and mentor: Dick Shrager. For many years, Dick led our Nova "recorder orchestra" and our large-group playing sessions on Antiqua evenings.

A man of many talents, Dick worked for more than 40 years as a research mathematician at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), while also pursuing a wide range of musical interests. Besides his many contributions to WRS, he directed the NIH Singers, the NIH Madrigal Singers, the NIH Chamber Singers, the NIH Horn Choir, the Montgomery County Jazz Guitar Workshop, the Early Music Society of Maryland in Baltimore, the Cedar Lane Church Choir in Bethesda, and Cedar Lane Church's chamber choir Gruppo Piccolo. An accomplished recorder player, he led two outstanding small recorder ensembles with his partner Jane Gentleman, also a long-time WRS member: the Columbia Recorder Quartet and the Three Seasons.

In addition to being an accomplished wind instrumentalist, Dick was a singer, an arranger, and a composer. His arrangements of Renaissance and Baroque pieces for recorders, as well as music as varied as Brahms motets, songs by Vaughan Williams, jazz, and ragtime, delighted WRS members. Dick was also well known, and much appreciated, for his dry wit and his inventive puns.

Besides children, grandchildren and a sister, Dick is survived by his longtime partner and WRS member Jane Gentleman.

Jane has generously donated Dick's extensive library of recorder sheet music to WRS. We miss him greatly, but his many contributions to WRS and to the musical life of the Washington, DC, area will live on.

Shelley Gruskin Is Coming—Time to Register!

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

This year, there will be two themes for Shelley's workshop. In the morning, the workshop will focus on "Descriptive Music, 14th through 18th Centuries: Programmatic Depictions of Birds, Animals, Smoking, Etc., Etc." This should be great music and great fun, especially for those who like imitating different species of birds on their recorders.

In the afternoon, the workshop will focus on "The Renaissance Art of Cantus Firmus Composition: A Quest for Originality—Dufay, Josquin, and Dowland." Who could have a better afternoon than with these three musical giants?

The workshop will take place at the Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church, 9501 Cedar Lane, Bethesda, MD, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Refreshments will be provided. Bring your instruments, music stands, and a lunch.

The workshop fee is \$55 for WRS members and \$65 for non-members. For more information about the workshop, contact Jayme Sokolow at 301-933-3989 or jayme.a.sokolow@gmail.com.

Checks should be payable to Jayme Sokolow and mailed with your registration form to Jayme Sokolow, 4312 Garrett Park Road, Silver Spring, MD 20906.

The Gruskin workshop flyer and form are enclosed with this newsletter.

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, register for Shelley Gruskin's 42nd WRS workshop. You are in for a rare treat. Shelley is a great teacher and entertainer.

Upcoming Early Music Concerts and Workshops

Capitol Early Music is sponsoring a concert of four amazing recorder virtuosos and teachers, featuring J.S. Bach's *Art of the Fugue*, on Friday evening, April 20. The musicians include **Gwyn Roberts and H lo se Degrugillier, both well known to many WRS members.**

The following day, April 21, the players will offer an all-day workshop for recorder players.

For more information, and to purchase tickets to the concert and register for the workshop, visit www.capitolearlymusic.org.

Other Concerts of Interest

On **April 22** at 4:00 p.m., at the Church of the Epiphany in DC, **the Peabody Renaissance Ensemble and Baltimore Baroque Band** will offer a free concert of vocal and instrumental music to welcome the spring. For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/1942197426096195>.

The **Folger Consort** will perform music of the French Baroque **April 27–29**, with violin, viol, lute, flute, harpsichord, and soprano **Rosa Lamoreaux**. For more information

and to purchase tickets, visit <https://www.folger.edu/events/ovid-s-vineyard>.

On May 19 (in DC) and May 20 (in Silver Spring), the vocal ensemble Chantry will offer two seldom-performed Renaissance masterpieces: *Prophetiae Sibyllarum* by Orlando de Lassus, and *Missa Sine Nominee* by Josquin Desprez. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit <https://www.chantrydc.com/concert-3>.

There Are Still Spaces Available for the Amherst Early Music March 17–18 Workshop in DC!

If you haven't yet registered for the "Spring Break" workshop on Saturday and Sunday, March 17–18, please check it out at <https://www.amherstearlymusic.org/spring-break-workshop>. Scholarships and reduced work–study tuition are still available for WRS members. You can see the list of exciting classes at https://www.amherstearlymusic.org/sites/default/files/SpringBreakClassChoices_2018.pdf. Don't miss this opportunity!

Puzzle Corner—Minimal Movement

I've placed my recorders on the floor from smallest to largest: soprano, soprano, alto, tenor, and bass. If I pick up any two lying together and put them in another position, what are the fewest moves it will take to reverse the order to bass, tenor, alto, soprano and soprano?

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

ELF and BA, DAA and OR result in Balfe, DeFalla, and Loeffler. GELT and INON, II are Ellington, and Ligeti. SANTA and MEE and PLERI are Massenet and Palestrina.

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