



NOTES

www.washingtonrecordersociety.org

May 2020

Letter From the President

I hope that all of you are safe, healthy, and doing well in this uncertain and challenging time. It is still too early to know whether and how we will be able to meet in person this coming fall. We will do whatever we can to make that happen, so long as we can get together in a way that keeps everyone safe. We will let you know in August about fall meetings and dues. We will follow church and governmental guidelines about how to meet safely. We are also working on alternative options. In the meantime, please take advantage of the opportunities discussed below—and don't forget to vote for the 2020–2021 Board of Directors (see page 2).

It is too early to tell whether **summer workshops and retreats** in the late summer will go forward. If we learn more, we will let everyone know.

Online opportunities. The pandemic has spurred many very creative musicians and recorder societies to develop a wide range of online classes, individual lessons, and other opportunities for us to continue to play our recorders (and other instruments) and to learn new things.

The **American Recorder Society** has compiled a very impressive list of online resources. Take a look at the many opportunities they discuss at https://americanrecorder.org/playing_it_safe_social_distan.php.

Amherst Early Music (AEM) is sponsoring **online classes** every Saturday and Sunday. Classes for the coming weekend are posted on Monday at <https://www.amherstearlymusic.org>, and people are asked to register no later than Friday morning. There have been a number of really first-rate offerings by noted recorder players and other musicians, some of which focus on technique, and others on learning more about particular styles of music and historical periods. The classes are described in more detail on page 3 of this newsletter..

The in-person **Amherst Early Music Summer Festival** has been postponed until 2021, but there will be an **online festival the week of July 6–11**. The schedule of online classes and performances is still being developed—more information will be posted on the AEM site, <https://www.amherstearlymusic.org/>.

Daphna Mor, a recorder virtuoso and singer who specializes in music of the Middle East, North Africa, the Balkans, and the Sephardic diaspora, is offering online classes every Monday (for intermediate players) and Thursday (for upper intermediate and advanced players). For more information, contact her at daphna@daphnamor.com.

Local teachers who are offering online individual lessons are:

ADÉLA GARDAVSKÁ-BALIMA

Phone: 240-688-2809

Email: cameladel@gmail.com

CAROLE ROGENTINE

Phone: 301-530-6386 (home); 301-523-5515 (cell)

Email: crogentine@gmail.com

Website: www.learnrecorderwithcarole.com

There are also a number of **professional teachers** in other parts of the country who have responded to the pandemic by offering individual lessons online. Teachers with whom a number of WRS members have studied include:

- Heloise Degrugillier—contact her directly at heloise.degrugillier@gmail.com.
- Tish Berlin and Frances Blaker—contact them through their website, www.tibiaduo.com.
- Gwyn Roberts—contact her through her Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/GwynRobertsRecorderTraverso>



Please note also that the **Von Huene Workshop** is open for online orders of sheet music, instruments, and accessories. I have used them recently several times, and they are fast and efficient! One of their new offerings is a really nice book of **solo music for soprano (and tenor) recorder**, with selections from the middle ages through the 21st century, many arranged by Eric Haas, a composer, recorder and flute player, and teacher who many of us know. The workshop is also open for instrument repair and revoicing. Check out the Von Huene site at www.vonhuene.com.

Concerts in the Washington, DC, Area

All concerts in the near future have been canceled. As things develop, you can learn more about upcoming concerts on the Facebook page of Early Music DC, <https://www.facebook.com/Early.Music.DC>.

Please Vote for WRS Officers by June 2!

Four people are running for election or re-election to the WRS Board: Monica Boruch, Carolyn Lincoln, David McGown, and Laura Schattschneider. Their biographies follow.

You can vote online or by sending an email to Daniel Bruner at pdanielbruner@gmail.com. Please vote no later than Tuesday, June 2. All votes will be confidential.

Here is the link to vote online: <https://forms.gle/6KeKMCttBFXNWF48>. Click on the link, fill out the form, and click on "Submit." (There is a place to add your name; it is optional.)

Biographies of WRS Board Candidates

Monica Boruch

I can say that music has been a part of my entire life, starting at a very early age singing in church choirs and taking piano lessons from age 5 all the way through college. I have a double-major college degree in Music Education and Music Therapy and was able to work as a music therapist for many years in various health care and education settings. For several decades, I worked

for Kaiser Permanente in Human Resources, where I did management training and organization development. During that time, I sang in multiple choirs and continued to play the piano. A few years ago I had the good fortune of hearing a recorder concert performed by several of our own WRS members. I was immediately hooked and started taking private recorder lessons and eventually joined WRS to get more experience playing with others.

I attend as many AEM workshops as I can and currently play with the Palisades Recorder Group. I started studying with Gwyn Roberts about a year and a half ago. I can honestly say I love playing the recorder! I'd be honored to serve on the WRS Board and would bring a combination of leadership skills, musical experience, and lots of enthusiasm.

Carolyn Lincoln

My first instrument was the piano, since both my parents were amateur pianists. In school, I picked up the violin and played it through college. In my early working career (in information technology), a few friends played the recorder, so I learned the soprano and alto to join their jam sessions. I later formed a string quartet at my church and then added viola when we needed one. All the time, I was also singing in choral groups. When I retired in 2016, I decided I wanted to spend all my time on music, I joined WRS and am thrilled at all the opportunities to play, both in the meetings and workshops. I have been on the Board since 2018 and serve as the Treasurer and Vice President. I also manage the WRS website.

David McGown

I was a brass player from grade school to college; my first introduction to the recorder was in my freshman year at Virginia Tech. I played in the school Collegium Musicum and the New River Consort on recorder, cornetto, capped and double reeds while pursuing dual degrees in Music and Mechanical Engineering. After graduating, my musical activities tapered off until 10 years ago, when I took up serious study of the recorder again, joining WRS, studying with Gwyn Roberts,



participating in Amherst Early Music workshops, and meeting many amateur and professional recorder players from all over the world. I have performed in a number of local ensembles over the past decade, and have played at the Maryland Renaissance Festival, Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival, and several churches in the DC Metro and Baltimore areas.

I direct the WRS Nova ensemble and co-lead the Antiqua Mixed (Small) Group ensemble with Jayme Sokolow. I have been a WRS Board member since the fall of 2014, and look forward to continuing in service to the local recorder community.

Laura Schattschneider

I started playing the recorder at around age 7. While in high school, I studied with Larry Lipkis and performed with the Moravian College Collegium Musicum, then studied with Michael Lynn for a couple of years in college. As other life and career interests took hold, I gradually stopped playing regularly. A few years ago, two friends from church told me about the Washington Recorder Society. I started attending meetings, and eventually joined Carole Rogentine's group Kokopelli. WRS has helped me to rediscover how much fun it is to play music with others. I have been on the Board for several years now and would be happy to continue serving in that role.

AEM Online

Like so many other musical groups, AEM has had to cancel their workshops and summer festival. They have therefore launched AEM Online, which consists of four classes given each weekend using Zoom. At the beginning of each week, AEM posts a description of the classes on their website, <https://www.amherstearlymusic.org/>. You can then sign up for one or more classes and pay a nominal fee of \$25. The choice of classes typically targets a variety of instruments such as viols and recorders, along with song. The recorder topics have ranged from a master class to a survey of a particular type of music with student demonstrations to a play-along with accompaniment to instruction on specific techniques.

The instructor provides a link to the music or attaches material to an email to each student before the class. AEM organizers provide instructions on Zoom and also a practice session for those new to Zoom.

When the class time arrives, students log onto Zoom via the provided link. The host explains how to use the platform and what settings work best for recorders. Then each student introduces themselves and where they are calling from. The instructor spends the remainder of the class time on the musical topic. Although online platforms do not work for playing as an ensemble, the instructor sometimes invites students to "play along" while their audio is muted. The student can hear the instructor and themselves, which is good practice and illustrates points the instructor is making.

If you have not had the pleasure of participating in AEM Online yet, visit the website and check out next weekend's offerings!

Virtual Consort on the WRS Forum

Even though we cannot play together in person, some musical groups are going the virtual route. The New Dawn Consort, for example, recorded "Stella Splendens," which they had been working on before the pandemic. "Stella Splendens" ("Splendid Star") is a piece from the "Libre Vermell de Montserrat," a 14th century manuscript still in the monastery of Montserrat near Barcelona. Holly Gwin, who created the recording with her husband, Bill Chandler, has posted it to the WRS Forum.

If you haven't tried the Forum yet, here's a good opportunity. Click on <http://www.washingtonrecordersociety.org/forum-introduction/> for an introduction. After a one-time registration, you can hear "Stella" and see the other posts about online lessons and opportunities in these unusual times. If you have something to share, please post it so other Forum users can enjoy it as well.



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