



NOTES

www.washingtonrecordersociety.org

November 2020

2020–2021 Virtual Season

WRS YEAR AT A GLANCE

Dec. 7 Lisette Kielson
Dec 21 Zoom holiday play-along
Jan. 4 Adéla Gardavská Balima
Feb. 1 Rachel Begley
Mar. 1 Tish Berlin
April 5 Frances Blaker
May 3 Anne Timberlake
June 7 Rainer Beckmann

We will be meeting once a month via Zoom. Most meetings will be on the first Monday of the month—with a Happy Hour from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. and a session led by a noted teacher from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Music for a session will be selected by the teacher, and made available in advance of the meeting—so you will have a chance to practice. The music may be in the form of duets, trios, quartets, or more voices. You will have the opportunity to play, along with the teacher (or a recording of multi-voice music made by the teacher). The teacher will also offer insights into the music, its performance, the composer, and the historical period; offer tips to improve your technique; and answer questions.

How the Zoom meetings work. Zoom instructions will be provided when you register for a session.

To receive the music for the session, you will need to register on our website, <http://www.washingtonrecordersociety.org/>. **WRS meetings led by a teacher will be free to WRS members who have paid their 2020–2021 dues. For \$20, you can register for an individual meeting, if you are not a dues-paying member.**

If you have any questions, feel free to contact any of us:

Daniel Bruner pdanielbruner@gmail.com
Monica Boruch fmboruch@comcast.net
Carolyn Lincoln carolyn.lincoln@verizon.net

Join Us for Upcoming WRS Events!

We have exciting events lined up for this holiday season! All meetings require registration, since they are on Zoom. Register at <https://www.washingtonrecordersociety.org/meeting-registration/>. We hope to see you at all of these!

The next in our series of highly successful monthly Zoom meetings will be **Monday, December 7**, featuring the highly acclaimed recorder player and teacher **Lisette Kielson**. Lisette is Past President of the American Recorder Society, Music Director of the Chicago Recorder Society, and Associate Director of the Recorder Orchestra of the Midwest. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees in flute performance from Indiana University and a post-master's diploma in recorder performance from the Royal Conservatory of The Hague. Lisette teaches workshops and master classes throughout the country, has performed with a number of early music ensembles, is a founding member of the Chicago Recorder Quartet and L'Ensemble Portique, and has made several CDs. Registration is free for WRS members, \$20 for nonmembers.



On **Monday, December 21**, we will have our **annual holiday get-together and playing session** for WRS members—on Zoom this year, of course! See the separate article in this newsletter.

Our meeting on **Monday, January 4**, will feature our own **Adéla Gardavská-Balima**! Adéla needs no introduction for WRS members, but for those of you who may not know her, she received her degree in Music-Recorder from the Evangelical Academy Conservatory in Olomouc, Czech Republic. Registration is free for WRS members, \$20 for nonmembers.

Newly Scheduled Holiday Playing Party and Recipe Exchange for WRS Members!

The very generous and talented David McGown is putting together music and play-along recordings for a Zoom playing session of holiday music on Monday, December 21. Because this is on Zoom, registration is required, as for our other meetings, but there is no charge for WRS members. Please visit <https://www.washingtonrecordersociety.org/meeting-registration/> to register.

One of the great pleasures of our holiday parties in years past has been savoring everyone's yummy food offerings. Although we won't be able to do that in person this year, the Board thought it might be fun to put together a WRS holiday recipe collection. If you have a recipe you'd like to add to the collection, please send it to Laura Schattschneider at les291@nyu.edu. If possible, please send your recipes in a format that can be edited (like the body of an email or a Word document). Please send them by December 12.

Many Thanks to Art Jacobson

The energetic and always amusing Art Jacobson has retired from the WRS Board after many years of service. Art joined WRS in 2001 and became a Board member in 2004. He served as WRS President for 7 years—from 2005 until 2012—and then was Treasurer for the following 3 years. We thought we would let Art share some of his memories with the recorder and with WRS in (an edited version of) his own words. Thank you, Art—and we look forward to continuing to see you on Zoom and when we resume in-person meetings! And we encourage other WRS members to share your memories with us, for future newsletters!

“If I were to be asked when I started playing the recorder, I would have to think back to my graduate school days at Rutgers University, in one of the Oranges (that’s a town, not a fruit). My fellow mate, who shared our wee apartment, thought it would be great to start a recorder group. That grad school recorder group experience was the beginning of my long attempt to gain recorder skills. It’s hard to believe for you young whippersnappers, but that was more than 60 years ago. And the playing quickly ended—after perhaps 1 year. I transferred to New Brunswick for a course change, in an attempt to get a Ph.D. in organic chemistry. The time it took trying to get that degree made recorder playing a passing thought.

“It wasn’t until I got a job at the NIH (where I still work) that I reconsidered recorder playing. After lessons that emphasized how fast one could play a recorder without making too many errors, and starting to write musical scores, like ‘Mary had a sort of small lamb,’ I quit again. Like the times before, this one due to marriage, children, mortgages,



teaching night classes, working at NIH, serving on my Temple's board, that stuff precluded my ability to continue recorder playing, unless it was to play a few notes so the kids would be entranced by the noise. Until, I think it was in 1999 or 2000, right before I retired from civil service, I decided to try to really learn to play the recorder.

"It was then, in about 2001, that I looked up recorder societies on the internet, found WRS, and brought my alto recorder to a meeting. I remember being absolutely fascinated by the music played by some small group at the meeting, and found myself seated next to Jayme Sokolow, then President of the WRS, in the large room in the Bethesda Unitarian Church. Without a music stand. Who knew to bring a music stand? Jayme lent me one of his. Thereafter, I joined the beginners' group with Kay Jones initially, and continued with first Jane Udelson and then both Jane and Bruce Crane as my teachers, and they were great and very patient teachers. Additional private lessons began a few years later with Suzana Cooper, followed by Rachel Isaacson. Please don't blame my teachers, they were excellent. It's the student

"When Jane Udelson and Myrl Powell, Co-Presidents, decided not to run again. Jane leaned on me, and I became WRS President. In 2012 Vickie [Walter] became President, and I became Treasurer. In 2015 a new group, with a much better President than I ever was, came to the leadership roles. On June 6, 2015, I became emeritus after about 14 years as a voting member of the Board, joyfully serving pretzels and tea for WRS Board meetings (truthfully, my wife Linda served the tea and provided the pretzels), until November 2020, when I retired from the Board. This, then, is a tale of a 16-year sojourn as a WRS voting Board member. I recommend that to all our WRS members, give it a shot—you don't need to hang in there quite that long, but it's a worthwhile effort.

"Now I am just an ordinary member of WRS. That is not entirely true, most, if not all, ordinary WRS members play the recorder fairly well.

"So, as the old melody goes, thanks—for the memory"

More Virtual Resources

Online Classes and Playing Sessions

Amherst Early Music is continuing to offer online classes every weekend. Many of the classes are recorder-focused; others offer opportunities to expand your horizons through singing or learning more about repertoires for other instruments. Classes are posted at the beginning of every week. Visit www.amherstearlymusic.org for more information and to register.

The American Recorder Society has a wonderful compilation of opportunities on its website, including classes, individual lessons offered by nationally famous recorder players, playing sessions offered by recorder societies in other cities, and resources for playing alone. Visit https://americanrecorder.org/playing_it_safe_social_distan.php. In addition, be sure and check out ARS' list of teachers around the country offering virtual classes and individual lessons, https://americanrecorder.org/more_social_distancing_resourc.php.



For those interested in folk, traditional, and non-Western music, Daphna Mor offers weekly classes. Contact her directly at daphnamor@beineinu.com. You will have an opportunity to hear and learn from Daphna through the Capitol Early Music events this November, cosponsored by WRS.

Several other recorder societies are welcoming players from other groups and cities to join in their meetings and playing sessions. These include:

Philadelphia Recorder Society, <https://philadelphiarecordersociety.org/>
Boston Recorder Society, <http://www.bostonrecordersociety.org/>
New York Recorder Guild, <https://www.nyrg.org/>.

Local teachers who are offering online individual lessons are:

ADÉLA GARDAVSKÁ-BALIMA

Phone: 240-688-2809

Email: cameladel@gmail.com

RACHEL ISAACSON

Phone: 571-338-4606

Email: isaacson.rachel@gmail.com

CAROLE ROGENTINE

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

Email: crogentine@gmail.com

Website: www.learnrecorderwithcarole.com

Upcoming Early Music Concerts

Washington Bach Consort

Beginning Friday, December 25, at 8:00 p.m. on YouTube and Facebook

Christmas Oratorio

<https://bachconsort.org/christmas-oratorio>

Tempesta di Mare

A virtual concert, December 11–20, recorded live and streamed on demand

English Orpheus

A Cabaret of Love, with tenor Jacob Perry

https://tempestadimare.secure.force.com/ticket/PatronTicket_PublicTicketApp#/events/a0S0H00000O1WN3UAN.



Folger Consort

A virtual holiday concert, December 11–January 5, recorded live and streamed on demand:

<https://www.folger.edu/events/christmas-with-the-folger-consort>.

Check Out the WRS Forum

If you haven't tried the Forum yet, click on <http://www.washingtonrecordersociety.org/forum-introduction/> for an introduction. After a one-time registration, you can see 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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