



NOTES

www.washingtonrecordersociety.org

May 2021

Letter From the President

Since I have left the Washington, DC, area for a new life in Delaware, I wanted to express my gratitude for the Washington Recorder Society and for the kindness and support that so many of you have offered me over the last 10 years.

I started playing recorders in 2010, after a musical hiatus of more than 30 years. (I played modern flute from junior high school through college, never as a music major.) When I joined WRS in 2011, it took me a while to muster the courage to do much more than show up for the meetings, but I received a lot of encouragement from WRS members. I have been a Board member since 2014, was Co-President with Vickie in 2016—2017, and President since 2017. I feel that I have learned a lot, and hope that I have made some small contribution to WRS and its future. This past year and a half have certainly been challenging, but I am proud of our Board and members for stepping up to develop a virtual program that, I think, has been successful.

I am sorry that I won't be able to help with WRS' transition to a new, post-pandemic model, but I hope to participate in whatever virtual meetings WRS may continue, and perhaps even visit in person for weekend workshops. I am continuing lessons with Heloise Degrugillier, and have found recorder players in the Delmarva area to join, so I will be keeping up, and hopefully improving, my skills!

Best wishes, and keep playing—together and individually!



Daniel Bruner

Join Our Last Meeting of the 2020–2021 Season With Noted Performer and Teacher Rachel Begley

Please join next Zoom meeting—the last of this season!—on Monday, June 7, with Rachel Begley. Rachel is a well-known teacher and performer in the recorder, historical bassoon, and early music communities. Those of us who took her recent class on bass recorder technique, through Amherst Early Music, were energized by her imaginative approach to bass recorder music, from Renaissance pieces to her transcription of the bass part to the Beatles' *I Saw Her Standing There*. Rachel will bring our 2020–2021 virtual season to a memorable conclusion. Register for the session at <https://www.washingtonrecordersociety.org/meeting-registration/>.

Board of Director Elections for 2021–2022 Are Just Around the Corner!

Major changes are in the works for the 2021–2022 Board of Directors. Several Directors whose terms are expiring will not run for re-election: Daniel Bruner, Jane Larrick, and Jeff Snider. But we are happy to report that three great WRS



members have agreed to run for 2-year terms, beginning this year: Holly Gwin, Gabe Johnson, and Judy McGraw! Their bios follow.

Holly Gwin

I have loved making music since my parents taught me to sing on road trips to grandma's, but when I started working (in science policy), I barely managed to keep my piano tuned. I stopped commuting in 2009 (after my husband and I started a climate change mitigation business), and devoted those "bonus" hours to playing hammered dulcimer and composing/arranging. (You can hear some of my music at <http://canisavem.com/>.)

Ten years later, ready for a new challenge, I checked out WRS to find a teacher. The first big chord played during my first meeting made me so happy I decided that recorder and WRS should get more of my attention. I played briefly with two recorder ensembles before the "shutdown." (We've managed to resurrect one of them over JamKazam.) I would like to join the Board to contribute to making opportunities for people to play and learn music together.

Gabe Johnson

Originally from Southwest Baltimore County, I have lived in Washington, DC, since 2008, when I moved here fresh out of graduate school. I came to work as a laboratory technician for the herbarium of the National Museum of Natural History. Soon upon my arrival, I discovered that my hobby of recorder playing as an adolescent became a vital tool for coping with the trials and tribulations of adult life. Since then, making music with friends and family members has become a cherished pastime.

Realizing the vital importance of making music for personal wellbeing as well as bringing people together in community, I began volunteering at the Sitar Arts Center in Ward 1 to work with local young people as they discover musical expression together in ensemble-based classes.

In 2016 I relocated to the northwest region of the District and began attending the meetings of the Washington Recorder Society. The WRS has been such a tremendous resource and priceless community of recorder players for me. I have learned so much about the depth and breadth of the recorder's storied repertoire, essential techniques, and interpretations that I could never have learned on my own. And besides, even if I could learn these things by myself, it wouldn't be nearly as much fun. So I would consider it a tremendous honor and privilege to serve the WRS as a member of its Board and ensure that the society continues to fulfil its mission in our ever-changing world.

Judy McGraw

Thank you for considering my appointment to the WRS Board. While I have not been active in the society until relatively recently, it seems as though I have played recorder "forever." Actually, I studied modern flute from childhood through college, and played music in a variety of genres. My first recorder was a tenor, bought when I was a teen, and was used mainly to join in with music-making around a campfire.



I retired a few years ago after a long career as a social worker/psychotherapist. I worked in both public and private agencies over several decades. In addition, I established my own office and saw clients privately for almost 30 years. Very busy, always interesting—sometimes too interesting.

While I enjoyed my career, I am enthusiastic about being retired. Now I have the luxury of time to take recorder lessons and attend multiday workshops. I have also been working on the fundamentals of early notation so that I can eventually read fluently from facsimile.

I have dabbled with the study of other instruments along the way, but always seem drawn back to the recorder. While solo practice can be satisfying, I look forward to the time when we can feel safe to rejoin our existing ensembles or create new ones. WRS has been a musical resource through this difficult period, and I hope to support the society's continued responsiveness to the recorder community by joining the Board.

Voting procedure. We will send a link to the online ballot 2 weeks before our June 7 meeting, and again 1 week before the meeting.

In the meantime, if any other WRS members would like to run for the Board, please let Daniel, Carolyn, or Monica know as soon as possible.

Thank You to Our Departing Board Members

This year, five of our Board members are stepping down from those responsibilities. Our current President, Daniel, has a separate letter of farewell, since he has moved out of the Washington, DC, area. We want to acknowledge here the many contributions that the other four retiring Board members have made to WRS.

Jayme Sokolow has loved early music for many years. He was introduced to playing the recorder in 1986 through a class taught by Kay Jones—a WRS member and champion of the arts and the recorder for many years until her death several years ago. After studying with Kay for 2 years, Jayme joined WRS in 1988. He was elected to the Board in 1989 and became President of WRS in 1991. In 1999 he stepped down as President but has remained an *ex officio* Board member through this year.

Besides serving as President and on the Board—and our only contrabass player for many years!—Jayme has been invaluable to WRS in other ways. He has coordinated the WRS Antiqua Small Group for many years. He also has arranged for annual WRS workshops by Shelley Gruskin, noted player of recorders and other wind instruments, and one of the pioneers of the early music revival in the United States, for several decades.

In Jayme's own words: "WRS has brightened my life and immersed me in the wonderful world of early music. I am grateful for many things in my life, and WRS is certainly one of them. Although I am leaving the Board after thirty years, I intend to remain active in WRS for as long as possible. I cannot think of a better tonic for my mental and emotional health. And where else can I play the contrabass?"



Vickie Walter started playing the recorder more than 35 years ago, beginning by learning the fingering and playing along with her favorite Celtic music CDs. Some years later she took a course with music teacher and longtime WRS member Kay Jones, and joined WRS in 2004. She took group lessons with Suzana Cooper and later with Scott Reiss, and over the years has participated in many WRS workshops taught by Gwyn Roberts and Shelley Gruskin. Since joining the Board, Vickie has been a guiding force for WRS. She served as Treasurer from 2010 through 2012, and as WRS President from 2012 through 2016 (the last year as Co-President with Daniel Bruner). After retiring as President, she remained on the Board in an *ex officio* capacity. She also edited the newsletter, and served as WRS webmaster, for a number of years.

Jane Larrick has been a loyal member of WRS for more than 25 years. She taught herself to play the recorder and later studied for several years with Suzana Cooper. She served on the WRS Board from 2002 to 2004 and rejoined the Board in 2016. Jane has been our newsletter editor since 2016.

Jeff Snider started playing the recorder when he was 8, and played various brass instruments in middle school and high school. He started playing the recorder again in his mid 30s, and joined WRS several years later. Jeff was elected to the Board in 2016, and has served as WRS Secretary since then.

We are sorry to lose these great people as Board members, but are happy that they are remaining members of WRS, and look forward to continuing to play with them!

Online Opportunities This Summer!

Although we all hope that we are slowly moving back to making music together in person, classes, festivals and concerts remain virtual for the summer. But there are lots of opportunities!

Capitol Early Music's last concert and workshops of the season are May 21–22, with the amazing medieval and Renaissance group Alkemie. For more information and to register, visit <https://capitolearlymusic.org/>. See a preview at <https://youtu.be/Llfbp-aspes>.

Amherst Early Music's online Memorial Day Weekend Workshop is May 29–30, with many exciting classes. AEM continues to offer classes most weekends, and will be announcing a “hybrid” Summer Festival, with online offerings and some in-person classes in Philadelphia, New York, and Boston. Information and registration is at <https://www.amherstearlymusic.org/>.

The **San Francisco Early Music Society** is offering a wide range of classes in May, June and July. <https://sfems.org/sfems-workshops/summer-2021-virtual-extravaganza/>.

The **Mountain Collegium**, a much-loved annual festival of early music and folk music, is offering an exciting range of classes, which can be purchased singly or in packages, June 29–July 3. <https://www.mountaincollegium.org/>.



A number of teachers continue to offer online classes and individual lessons. Visit the American Recorder Society's web page for more information, <https://americanrecorder.org/>.

Upcoming Early Music Concerts

Folger Consort

The 2021 Folger Consort season will perform at **St. Mark's Church on Capitol Hill**—a block from the Folger—and at **Washington National Cathedral**. Please continue to check back [at https://www.folger.edu/folger-consort](https://www.folger.edu/folger-consort) as details about the 2021 season programs and guest artists are announced. Performances planned at this time follow; please note that dates, times, and locations are subject to change. ***The Thames*—Henry Purcell and the Music of 17th-century London**

June 4–6, 2021, at St. Mark's Church.

Tempesta di Mare

For the 2020–2021 season brochure, go to https://issuu.com/tempestadimare/docs/20-21seasonbrochure_final_rbg/5

Local Teachers Offer Online Lessons

The following local teachers offer online individual lessons:

ADÉLA GARDAVSKÁ-BALIMA

Phone: 240-688-2809

Email: cameladel@gmail.com

Website: <http://adelabalima.com/>

RACHEL ISAACSON

Phone: 571-338-4606

Email: isaacson.rachel@gmail.com

CAROLE ROGENTINE

On the recorder faculty of Levine Music, studies with Gwyn Roberts, former music director of WRS. Teaches on Zoom and JamKazam for now. Harpsichord accompaniment provided through an app. Teaches teens, adults, private lessons, groups, and ensembles.

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

Email: crogentine@gmail.com

Website: www.learnrecorderwithcarole.com

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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