



# NOTES

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

December 2021

**Dear Readers,** Our 2021-2022 season started with *engaging* Zoom classes led by Emily O'Brien and Adéla Balima (see descriptions below). Héloïse Degrugillier will lead our December meeting. We have a full calendar of Zoom events ahead, and we hope to start meeting in-person soon. Feel free to reach out to me if you have questions or concerns. Happy holidays, stay safe, and see you all soon! **Monica Boruch, WRS President**

## WRS 2021-2022 Year Ahead

In-person meetings are at St. Columba's Episcopal Church, 4201 Albemarle St NW, Washington DC. Online meetings are on Zoom.

Date	Meeting Type	Schedule	Activity
<b>2021</b>			
12/06	Online	7:00-7:30 7:30-9:00	Virtual Happy Hour Session led by Héloïse Degrugillier <a href="https://as.tufts.edu/music/people/private-lessons-instructors/strings-early-music">https://as.tufts.edu/music/people/private-lessons-instructors/strings-early-music</a>
12/18	Online	10:30-11:00 11:00-12:30	Virtual Happy Hour Holiday Music Playing and Party led by David McGown
<b>2022</b>			
01/03	Online	7:00-7:30 7:30-9:00	Virtual Happy Hour Session led by Tish Berlin <a href="http://tibiaduo.com/biographies/">http://tibiaduo.com/biographies/</a>
01/22	In-person	10:30-12:30	Recorder Orchestra
02/07	Online	7:00-7:30 7:30-9:00	Virtual Happy Hour Session led by Anne Timberlake <a href="https://www.annetimberlake.com/">https://www.annetimberlake.com/</a>
02/26	In-person	10:30-12:30	Recorder Orchestra
03/07	Online	7:00-7:30 7:30-9:00	Virtual Happy Hour Session, instructor TBD
04/04	Online	10:30-12:30	Virtual Happy Hour Session led by Rainer Beckmann <a href="https://philadelphiarecordersociety.org/about.php">https://philadelphiarecordersociety.org/about.php</a>
04/16	In-person	10:30-12:30	Recorder Orchestra
05/21	In-person	2:00-5:00	Spring Recital and Reception
06/06	Online	7:00-7:30 7:30-9:00	Virtual Happy Hour and Business Meeting Session led by Gwyn Roberts <a href="https://www.facebook.com/GwynRobertsRecorderTraverso">https://www.facebook.com/GwynRobertsRecorderTraverso</a>

## WRS Meetings

**Zoom Meetings.** Our next Zoom meetings will be on the first Mondays of December (12/06), January (01/03), and February (02/07). Each meeting will begin with a virtual Happy Hour from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. and move promptly into a session led by a



noted teacher from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Links to information about the instructors for these sessions and additional Zoom dates appear in the Year Ahead and on our web page. Registration (<https://www.washingtonrecordersociety.org/meeting-registration/>) is required for Zoom meetings to receive instructional materials provided by the teachers and the Zoom meeting invitation from the WRS meeting host. Zoom meetings will be free to WRS members who have paid their 2021–2022 dues. Nonmembers may register for a single meeting for \$20. To help ensure the best possible experience with these online meetings, KEEP YOUR ZOOM APP UPDATED.

**In-person Meetings.** In addition to the full Zoom schedule, we have in-person meetings scheduled that we hope will be possible beginning in January. When we resume meeting in-person, there will be a new venue and a new schedule. In-person meetings will occur **monthly** (not bimonthly) on **Saturday mornings** (not Monday evenings) from **10:30 to 12:30**. The new venue is **St. Columba's Episcopal Church, 4021 Albemarle St., Washington, DC 20016**. There is a small parking lot at the church and plenty of street parking. The Tenleytown Metro station is 1.5 blocks from the church. The tentative dates for all in-person meetings for the season—including our special events—appear in the Year Ahead and are posted on the WRS website, [www.washingtonrecordersociety.org](http://www.washingtonrecordersociety.org).

When we meet in-person, we will all play together as a recorder orchestra under the direction of **David McGown**. David is an outstanding musician with extensive knowledge of recorder repertoire and music history. Music will be provided at the meeting. There will be a short break mid-session. At some point we hope to reintroduce “mini-concerts” as part of the meeting. The WRS COVID-19 Policy (see below) will be enforced at all in-person meetings.

**Special Events.** This year our **annual holiday party** will be held via Zoom on Saturday morning, December 18. We'll start with a virtual happy hour at 10:30, then play music from 11:00-12:30. David McGown will lead the session. You will soon receive an email with more details on how to register, including an invitation to send your holiday recipes to Laura Schattschneider, who will compile them for us to share.

Another traditional highlight of the year is our annual **spring recital**. At this event, WRS ensembles perform for our members, friends, and families. There are also opportunities for members and other local recorder players to perform as soloists, duets, trios, or in other small ensembles. We were unable to hold this event in 2020 or 2021, but we hope to revive it in 2022. The tentative date for this event is May 21.

**Workshops.** WRS has no plans to host workshops this season. We encourage members to participate in the Amherst Early Music (AEM) weekend, in-person workshop scheduled for **April 2-3, 2022**, near Washington. This workshop for recorder, lute, and viol players has become a great favorite of WRS members. We will provide more information about this event as it becomes available. WRS has some limited scholarship funds available for this event.

**Recent Meetings.** Emily O'Brien presented a Zoom class on October 4, 2021. She shared her trio arrangements of organ compositions by J.S. Bach with the participants and used them to illustrate the main theme of her lesson: When you're presented with a difficult passage in an ensemble piece that you can't master in one playing session, what do you do? Emily interspersed answers to that question with opportunities for participants to play along with her recordings of the trios. The links to the recordings she made for the class, as well as her notes (with additional links to other play-alongs) are available on the “Members Only” page of the WRS website.

Adéla Balima presented a Zoom class on November 1, 2021. She invited the participants to dive into the music of Jacob Van Eyck and explore his *Der Fluyten Lust-hof* (The Flute's Pleasure Garden), the most extensive collection of music for a single wind instrument. Adéla first provided biographical information about Van Eyck and historical information about the environment in which he played and collected music, and then examined some of his pieces in detail. Her lesson also covered practice techniques to improve “recorder mindfulness.” The notes Adéla used to conduct the class are available on the “Members Only” page of the WRS website, <https://www.washingtonrecordersociety.org/online-meeting-notes/>.

**Meeting Evaluations.** The WRS board would like to thank all the participants who have taken the time to complete evaluations after our Zoom meetings. Several teachers have told us they really appreciate the compliments and the suggestions for



improvement, and that none of their other clients provide such useful feedback. The board is also using the evaluations to hone the list of things we request of teachers as they plan our lessons, including attentiveness to the general playing level of our group and addressing audio/video issues prior to class time. Please keep the comments coming.

### **WRS COVID-19 Policy**

Participants in WRS in-person meetings must:

- be vaccinated against COVID-19,
- be free of COVID-19 symptoms,
- have no recent exposure to individuals known to be infected with COVID-19, and
- play only their own instruments during WRS meetings.

WRS leadership will stay informed and cautious about COVID risks. We will follow all mandates that pertain to the meeting site. We will make every effort to keep the membership updated about COVID-related changes in our schedule or plans.

### **Practice Tip from the American Recorder Society**

Members of the ARS receive a practice regimen ARS developed called Personal Study Program in Thirteen Stages to Help You Improve Your Playing. The first element of each stage calls for mastery of one or more scales and arpeggios. No groaning. As you increase your knowledge of scales and arpeggios, you can scan unfamiliar music and recognize where you already know the patterns of the fast notes and where you'll need to use tips like those provided in Emily O'Brien's October 4 lesson to most enjoy a playing session. Please consider joining the ARS if you're not already a member to access their abundance of recorder resources.

### **Jayne Sokolow Answers the *Whence Recorder Questionnaire***

Long-time member Jayne Sokolow has served as WRS President and as a small-group music leader.

Did you grow up in a musical family? No, I grew up in an immigrant, working-class town where people had little time or resources for playing or studying music. My family had no interest in music, and neither did any of my friends.

Did you sing or play other instruments before you took up recorder? My singing voice always has been mediocre. I took some clarinet lessons as a middle school student, but I had never had any real music instruction before I took up the recorder.

Do you sing or play instruments other than recorder now? I only play the recorder and krummhorn.

Do you compose or arrange music? No, but I would love to learn.

Do you think there's any type of music that doesn't sound good on the recorder? I think all music can sound good on the recorder if it is transcribed properly, although I would probably omit glockenspiel music.

What's your approach to playing recorder? I study the music carefully before I play, practice passages that might be challenging, and then play a piece slowly until I feel confident with the music and tempo. I try to follow Shelley Gruskin's advice: play rightly and not righteously.

How do you find the time? Time is always a challenge because of my work and other activities. I wish I could play music more often. However, I try to find time in the early morning or in the evening to practice.

Do you have a teacher? I have had several good teachers -- Kay Jones, who taught me the recorder, and for a while I studied with Scott Reiss.

Do you have a practice regimen? When I am preparing music for a performance, I try to practice daily whenever the opportunity arises.



Do you play duets or in larger ensembles? Do you attend workshops? I have been playing in three-to-five person ensembles for thirty years. I enjoy attending the WRS workshops, especially those of Gwyn Roberts and Shelley Gruskin.

Do you approach performance with enthusiasm or dread? I am enthusiastic about performing, but I must confess that I am also a little nervous. However, I think being slightly nervous sharpens my senses and enhances my focus.

How long have you been a member of WRS? I joined WRS around 1988.

Has membership benefited you in ways you didn't anticipate? Having never read or played music before, I found that playing the recorder at WRS has been incredibly stimulating and enjoyable. Also, I never could have anticipated that I would become a WRS board member and president and serve on the board for thirty years, which I have always enjoyed.

Do you have any funny stories about meetings, recitals, or other group activities over the years? At WRS board meetings, I always dueted with fellow board members over the caramel popcorn snacks. I am so glad that I am in the habit of arriving early to meetings, for that enabled me to position myself in such a way that the caramel popcorn was always within arm's length.

Is there a performer that has inspired you throughout your recorder-playing life? I have been inspired by multiple music performers and groups throughout my recorder-playing life. They would be Scott Reiss, Shelly Gruskin, Opera Lafayette, and the Tallis Scholars.

Which performer is your favorite recent discovery? Voces8 is my most favorite recent discovery. They are the best a cappella group I have ever heard, and their ability to sing instrumental music is nothing short of miraculous.

What are your 3 favorite recordings featuring recorder? Telemann's *Solo Works* with Marion Verbruggen, Handel's *Recorder Sonatas* with Erik Bosgraaf, and the Amsterdam Loeki Stardust Quartet's *Virtuoso Recorder Music*.

If you were a castaway on a desert island, which one of your recorders would you hope you had with you? That is a tough question to answer – I guess it would be my Moeck alto recorder.

If you could have one more instrument, what would that be? I wish I could play the Baroque oboe.

Which recordings (up to 3, of any kind) would be essential to survival? Another tough question, but here are my picks: Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, Puccini's *La Boheme*, and Handel's *Concerti Grossi Op. 6*.

## **Where to Hear Early Music**

### **Capitol Early Music**

Capitol Early Music (<https://capitolearlymusic.org/>) has two more programs in its 2021-2022 in-person season. The March program highlights baroque dance, and the concert will feature Anne Timberlake on recorder. In April, the Farralon Trio (Letitia Berlin, Frances Blaker, and Vicki Boeckman on recorders) will perform and provide a workshop. Ticket sales for the concerts and workshop registration will open 6-8 weeks before the events.

### **Other Local and Regional Groups**

The following organizations also have upcoming concerts.

Washington Bach Consort <https://bachconsort.org/upcoming-concerts/>

Folger Consort <https://www.folger.edu/performances-events>

Tempesta di Mare <https://tempestadimare.org/concerts-events/2021-2022-season/>





## Become a Better Player

These local instructors teach adults and younger students, in-person and online.

<p><b>ADÉLA BALIMA</b>          Washington, DC          Phone: 240-688-2809          Email: <a href="mailto:cameladel@gmail.com">cameladel@gmail.com</a>          Website: <a href="http://adelabalima.com/">http://adelabalima.com/</a></p>	<p><b>RACHEL ISAACSON</b>          Arlington, VA          Phone: 571-338-4606          Email: <a href="mailto:isaacson.rachel@gmail.com">isaacson.rachel@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>CAROLE ROGENTINE</b>          Bethesda, MD          Phone: 301-530-6386 (home); 301-523-5515 (cell)          Email: <a href="mailto:crogentine@gmail.com">crogentine@gmail.com</a>          Website: <a href="http://www.learnrecorderwithcarole.com">www.learnrecorderwithcarole.com</a></p>
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## Gabriel Johnson Answers the *Whence Recorder Questionnaire*

Gabe Johnson is a WRS board member and volunteer at the Sitar Arts Center

Did you grow up in a musical family? My mother was a music teacher for 2 years. She and my father are Methodist ministers, so protestant church music was always a part of my life.

Did you sing or play other instruments before you took up recorder? As a child I tried trumpet and piano, but they didn't stick.

Do you sing or play instruments other than recorder now? I like playing folk music on tin whistle and ocarina. I enjoy the sound of my Aulos one-keyed flute. I've tried to play the mandolin and the renaissance cornetto.

Do you compose or arrange music? No, but since I learned how to use MuseScore and NoteFlight, I have transposed and rearranged downloadable music files so I can play recorder with others. I am also really passionate about finding computer programs to make music print-outs as large and clear as possible.

Do you think there's any type of music that doesn't sound good on the recorder? Probably, but I haven't heard it yet.

What's your approach to playing recorder? I learn to play whatever music and styles other people are playing so that I can play with them. Playing in consorts is one of my favorite things about recorder.

How do you find the time? I make time. At-home practicing is stress-relief and therapy; getting together with others to make music is a great morale booster and lifts my spirits.

Do you have a teacher? I currently take lessons with Héloïse Degrugillier to learn how to play French baroque duets. I have been in Rachel Isaacson's group lessons.

Do you have a practice regimen? "Survival practice." I practice the most pressing things whenever I can find the time.

Do you play duets or in larger ensembles? I play duets every Friday night. About twice a month I play with the Sligo Creek Recorder Club which is currently quintet.

Do you approach performance with enthusiasm or dread? I always approach performance with enthusiasm because I view it as a learning experience. I am told that there are certain mistakes that I will only make while performing and it is only by performing more often that I can learn how to deal with them.

How long have you been a member of WRS? About 5 years.

Has membership benefited you in ways you didn't anticipate? WRS has given me such a great appreciation for the breadth and depth of recorder repertoire as well as proper technique for playing it. It has also been such a joy to meet other recorder players; there aren't a lot of us out there in the world.



Is there a performer that has inspired you throughout your recorder-playing life? Amsterdam Loeki Stardust because they were featured on the Joy of Music program with Diane Bish.

Which performer is your favorite recent discovery? I enjoy listening to the Seldom Sene consort, and for solo music I enjoy Dan Laurin.

What are your 3 favorite recordings featuring recorder? Amsterdam Loeki Stardust BWV 550 (alla breve e staccato) with garklein; Baroque Music for Recorder (Nonesuch Records H71064); Sarah Jeffrey, The Wellerman Variations.

If you were a castaway on a desert island, which one of your recorders would you hope you had with you? It would be a hard choice between my Kulossa alto and my Aulos tenor.

If you could have one more instrument, what would that be? Mandolin

Which recordings would be essential to survival? The complete Tafelmusik by Telemann from Brilliant Classics; D'Oyly Carte (1959) performing H.M.S. Pinnafore; and Hans Syberberg's 1982 film of Parsifal.

How did you come to work with the Sitar Arts Center? A friend who worked there said they desperately needed a volunteer to teach a music theory game class. And he said that no experience teaching was necessary.

How many children are studying recorder at the Center? What ages and playing levels? Before the pandemic the music curriculum was revised to emphasize group and ensemble skills, and we had 3 recorder classes with a total number of ~40 students. Our classes largely follow the methods developed by Nina Stern and S'Cool Sounds. The number of recorder private lessons and ensemble classes offered in the future largely depends on the number of volunteers available to lead such classes.

How could other WRS members become involved? They can contact me ([gabriel.p.johnson@gmail.com](mailto:gabriel.p.johnson@gmail.com)) or contact the Sitar Arts Center's Director of Community Arts Education whose contact information is on the staff section of the webpage: <https://www.sitarartscenter.org/about-us/staff/> The next semester starts in February so now would be an excellent time for anyone interested in becoming a volunteer to contact them and learn more.

## Check out the WRS Website!

The WRS website ([www.washingtonrecordersociety.org](http://www.washingtonrecordersociety.org)) is set up to help you make the most of your membership. Check your welcome letter for the password to the "members only" pages or contact our webmaster, Carolyn Lincoln ([carolyn.lincoln@verizon.net](mailto:carolyn.lincoln@verizon.net)). The website includes all the WRS news, and it stays up-to-date! You can find sheet music, the meeting schedule, contact information for teachers—it's a treasure trove. The Forum is a great venue for buying or selling instruments, making connections with other players, sharing ideas. Check the website often!

## WRS Board Members

Monica Boruch	President, <a href="mailto:fmboruch@comcast.net">fmboruch@comcast.net</a>
Judy McGraw	Vice President, <a href="mailto:j.and.j@verizon.net">j.and.j@verizon.net</a>
Gabe Johnson	Secretary, <a href="mailto:gabriel.p.johnson@gmail.com">gabriel.p.johnson@gmail.com</a>
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