



NOTES

www.washingtonrecordersociety.org

September 2021

Dear Readers, Let's play some recorders! Mark your calendars for our full season of online and in-person meetings. **PAY YOUR DUES TODAY.** Listen to some inspiring music. Information on how to do all these things (and more) is in this newsletter. Feel free to reach out to me if you have questions or concerns. In the meantime, stay safe and see you all soon! **Monica Boruch, WRS President**

WRS 2021-2022 Year at a Glance

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
2021			
10/04	Online	7:00-7:30 7:30-9:00	Virtual Happy Hour Session led by Emily O'Brien https://www.emilydomain.org/Recorderland/bio/
11/01	Online	7:00-7:30 7:30-9:00	Virtual Happy Hour Session led by Adéla Gardavská-Balima http://adelabalima.com/
12/06	Online	7:00-7:30 7:30-9:00	Virtual Happy Hour Session led by Héloïse Degrugillier https://as.tufts.edu/music/people/private-lessons-instructors/strings-early-music
12/18	In-person	10:30-12:30	Holiday Music Playing and Party
2022			
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 https://www.annetimberlake.com/
02/26	In-person	10:30-12:30	Recorder Orchestra
03/18-20	Affiliate Workshop	TBA	Amherst Early Music Weekend Workshop George Washington University https://www.amherstearlymusic.org/
04/04	Online	7:00-7:30 7:30-9:00	Virtual Happy Hour Session led by Rainer Beckmann https://philadelphiarecordersociety.org/about.php
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 https://www.facebook.com/GwynRobertsRecorderTraverso



How WRS Meetings Will Work This Season

We will start the 2021-2022 Season meeting over Zoom, using the same meeting plan we used in our successful 2020-2021 season. We plan to resume meeting in-person as soon as it is safe.

Zoom Meetings. We start our 2021-2022 season with Zoom meetings on the first Mondays of October, November, and December. 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. Emily O'Brien (www.emilydomain.org/Recorderland/) will lead the first Zoom session of the season on October 4. Additional Zoom dates and links to instructor websites appear in the Year at a Glance and on our web page. Participants will need to register for Zoom meetings in order to receive instructional materials provided by the teachers and the Zoom meeting invitation from the WRS meeting host (www.washingtonrecordersociety.org). 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. Our last in-person meeting was in February 2020, and when we resume meeting in-person, there will be a new venue and a new schedule. 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 at a Glance and are posted on the WRS website, 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. Traditionally WRS holds an **annual holiday party**—playing holiday music and enjoying refreshments and each other's company. We held this event on Zoom in 2020 but hope it will be an in-person gathering this year. The tentative date is Saturday morning, December 18.

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. Instead of scheduling an in-person meeting for March, we are encouraging members to participate in the Amherst Early Music (AEM) weekend workshop in Washington, DC, scheduled for March 18-20, 2022. This workshop for recorder, lute, and viol players is held on the campus of George Washington University. We will provide more information about the event as it becomes available. Limited scholarship funds will be available.

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.



Pay Your Dues for 2021–2022 Now!

It's time to renew your membership for the 2021–2022 Washington Recorder Society year! The dues are still \$55. Membership helps you meet and play music with other recorder players, hear local consorts, attend local workshops at a discount, and perform in concert at our spring recital. It also entitles you to receive newsletters and email reminders, and to fully explore the riches of our website, including an online music library.

To pay online, visit our web page, www.washingtonrecordersociety.org, click on the Membership tab on the menu, and then click on Become a Member. If you prefer, you can complete the attached form and follow the instructions on the form for mailing a check. Please use this occasion to update your contact information if it has changed since last year.

Please pay your dues no later than November 1!

Where to Hear Early Music

Capitol Early Music

Capitol Early Music (<https://capitolearlymusic.org/>) has announced an in-person 2021-2022 season. First up, NOTA BENE viol consort will provide an all-day workshop on September 25 and perform in concert on September 26. A subscription for the season or tickets for individual workshops or performances are available through the Capitol Early Music website.

Other Local and Regional Groups

The following organizations have also announced their 2021-2022 seasons.

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>ADÉLA GARDAVSKÁ-BALIMA Washington, DC Phone: 240-688-2809 Email: cameladel@gmail.com Website: http://adelabalima.com/</p>	<p>RACHEL ISAACSON Arlington, VA Phone: 571-338-4606 Email: isaacson.rachel@gmail.com</p>	<p>CAROLE ROGENTINE Bethesda, MD Phone: 301-530-6386 (home); 301-523-5515 (cell) Email: crogentine@gmail.com Website: www.learnrecorderwithcarole.com</p>
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Thank you to Departing Board Member, Jane Udelson

Jane Udelson recently stepped away from her responsibilities as an *ex-officio* board member. The Board wants to acknowledge her many contributions to WRS.

Jane studied piano in college and afterwards developed a love for Renaissance music while singing in small choral groups. When repetitive motion injuries began to interfere with her instrumental music in the 1980's, Jane tried out a few plastic recorders and, once again, fell in love. She took lessons from Carole Rogentine, who introduced her to the WRS. Jane participated in the group then directed by Roger Morris, and also attended workshops around the country and the world. Along with Bruce Crane, she helped new recorder players and those with little experience playing in groups develop the skills needed to participate fully in the WRS ensembles. Jane served as vice president of WRS from 1991-1999 and as co-president from 1999-2005. For the past several years, she has organized the spring recital while also serving as an *ex-officio* board member.



David McGown Answers the *Whence Recorder Questionnaire*

David McGown directs the WRS recorder orchestra and serves on the WRS Board of Directors

Did you grow up in a musical family? My mother often played show tunes on piano while the whole family sang along. Musical instruction was expected growing up, and fortunately the school system (Arlington County, VA) had a very strong music program.

Do you sing or play instruments other than recorder? My mother gave me piano lessons early. In 5th grade I took up trumpet and added french horn and euphonium in high school. I picked up recorder the start of my sophomore year in college. Right now, I mostly play recorder and renaissance capped reed instruments (crumhorn). I do play a 19th century version of the recorder called the csakan.

Do you compose or arrange music? I compose variations and improvisations for solo performance. I have done occasional arrangements.

Do you think there's any type of music that doesn't sound good on the recorder? Percussion, maybe? But I have tried an electrified recorder with an effects generator that can do a lot of crazy things. We steal music from every other instrument ... anything is game!

Do you have a practice regimen? I try to work on dexterity, articulation, and support for 1/2 hour or more daily before working on music. I listen carefully to what I am doing and make an effort to correct problems when they arise. If I skip a day, I feel guilty the entire day and cannot wait to practice on the next day.

How do you find the time? I get up early in the morning before my workday and practice for at least an hour. I practice again in the evening, and sometimes at a noon break.

Do you have a teacher? I studied with Gwyn Roberts and have had lessons with Heloise Degrugillier and John Tyson. I've also had one-off lessons or masterclasses with several notable recorder players.

Do you play duets or in larger ensembles? Do you attend workshops? Yes.

Do you approach performance with enthusiasm or dread? Enthusiasm, if I am well prepared. If I feel confident, I enjoy the moment of performance and, especially, the satisfaction if it turns out well.

How long have you been a member of WRS? About 11 years.

Has membership benefited you in ways you didn't anticipate? I joined after a 25-year hiatus from recorders, so it gave me the opportunity to hone my skills and learn to play bass recorder. The unexpected benefit was learning how to plan and direct ensembles.

Do you have any funny stories about meetings, recitals, or other group activities over the years? It wasn't funny at the time, but once I dropped and cracked the head of my recorder just before a performance. A quick repair with tape and dental floss to seal the crack got me through the performance OK.

Is there a performer that has inspired you throughout your recorder-playing life? Frans Bruggen.

Which performer is your favorite recent discovery? Julia Fritz—she has an impressive recording of early baroque music (*Notari and Fontana*).



What are your 3 favorite recordings featuring recorder? Flanders Recorder Quartet—*Bach*; Frans Bruggen—*Frans Bruggen Edition* (ok I cheated, it is a 12 CD box set); Saskia Coolen—*Diminutions and Ostinati*.

If you were a castaway on a desert island, which one of your recorders would you hope you had with you? My Prescott transitional G-alto at A-465; perfect for a lifetime with Van Eyck.

If you could have one more instrument, what would that be? My Von Huene Bressan Voice Flute; it's great for exploring Bach cello suites.

Which recordings would be essential to survival? Very difficult to decide, but: *Bach Cello Suites*—Paolo Pandolfo on Viola da Gamba—gives me inspiration for tackling the cello suites on recorder; *Mahler 6th Symphony*—my favorite of Mahler's symphonies, with Benjamin Zander conducting; and *Haydn 2032*—I'm cheating again since this is a set that won't be completed for years—maybe I can get the new ones sent to me while in isolation.

What is a Csakan?

David McGown mentioned he plays the csakan ("walking-stick flute"), a keyed recorder. It first appeared in Budapest in the early 19th century, and it was popular in Vienna from 1820 to 1850. Composers of that era (including A. Heberle, probably the csakan's inventor) wrote over 400 original pieces for csakan, and some of it is available on IMSLP. Ernst Kraemer was the major composer of csakan music and also the recognized virtuoso on the instrument. The csakan is a transposing instrument in A flat. The Mollenhauer firm got its start in the early 19th century by making csakans and other woodwinds, and the 5th generation retired head of the firm (Bernard Mollenhauer) made David's csakan.

Open <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZE4pCymCPO4> to see and hear the csakan. Or ask David for a show-and-tell at an online happy hour!

Check out the WRS Website!

The WRS website (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).

The Forum (<https://www.washingtonrecordersociety.org/forum/>) has a lot of networking potential if more people start to use it. That page lets you share timely (I have an instrument for sale; I'm looking for a duet partner) and timeless (here's a way to do remote recordings; here's a few thoughts on practicing) information with the full membership. You must register for the forum the first time you use it, but that's a straightforward process and not necessary for subsequent access.

The Membership Directory (a members-only feature) helps you locate members that live near you (in case you want to start a new ensemble or hitch a ride) or identify that really nice person you sat next to whose name you only partially understood.

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. Check it often.

WRS Board Members

Monica Boruch	President, fmboruch@comcast.net
Judy McGraw	Vice President, j.and.j@verizon.net
Gabe Johnson	Secretary, gabriel.p.johnson@gmail.com
Carolyn Lincoln	Treasurer Webmaster, carolyn.lincoln@verizon.net
David McGown	Music Director, drmccgown@gmail.com
Holly Gwin	Newsletter Editor, hollygwin@icloud.com
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