



NOTES

www.washingtonrecordersociety.org

February 2022

Dear Readers, We are so grateful to continue seeing many of you every month on our Zoom sessions. A silver lining to the Pandemic is gaining new members, including some beginning recorder players and some far-away participants. We are very glad you've joined us. This newsletter issue is geared toward the beginning players, but many of the mentioned resources are applicable for everyone. See you soon on Zoom!" **Monica Boruch, WRS President**

WRS Activities Ahead in 2022

WRS sessions will be held on Zoom. You will receive an invitation and music after registration.

Date	Meeting Type	Schedule	Group
2022			
03/07	Online	7:00-7:30 7:30-9:00	Virtual Happy Hour Session led by Miyo Aoki https://www.recorderworkshop.org/faculty/miyo-aoki
04/02-03	Amherst Spring Break Workshop		https://www.amherstearlymusic.org/workshops/spring-break-workshop This is not a WRS event, but many members have enjoyed this workshop over the years. The venue is St. George's Episcopal Church, Arlington, VA.
04/04	Online	7:00-7:30 7:30-9:00	Virtual Happy Hour Session led by Rainer Beckmann https://hpreorder.org/news/guest-conductors/2017/10/15/rainer-beckmann/
05/02	Online	7:00-7:30 7:30-9:00	Virtual Happy Hour Session led by Sarah Shoja and Teresa Deskur
06/06	Online	7:00-7:30 7:30-9:00	Virtual Happy Hour and Business Meeting Session led by Gwyn Roberts https://tempestadimare.org/about/leader-bios/

WRS Meetings

We will continue to meet monthly by Zoom for the remainder of the 2021-2022 Season. Brief recaps of our December, January, and February meetings appear below. We still may try to meet in person (in addition to the Zoom meetings) if COVID-19 public health issues subside in the Spring. Meanwhile, the in-person meeting previously scheduled for February 26 has been cancelled, but stay tuned for possible in-person meetings in April and May.

Zoom Meetings. Our next Zoom meetings will be on the first Mondays of March (3/7), April (4/4), May (5/2), and June (6/6). 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 instructor from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Links to information about the instructors for these sessions appear in the Schedule on the first page of this newsletter and on our web page. Participants will need to register to receive instructional materials provided by the instructors and the Zoom meeting invitation from the WRS meeting host. <https://www.washingtonrecordersociety.org/meeting-registration/> Zoom meetings are 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. When we meet again in person, our new venue is **St. Columba's Episcopal Church, 4021 Albemarle St., Washington, DC 20016**, where 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. Our agreement with the church is for use of the meeting space on Saturday mornings when we start meeting again in-person.

At in-person meetings (once they resume), 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. The WRS COVID-19 Policy (see below) will be enforced at all in-person meetings.

Special Events. We had our musical celebration of the holidays on Zoom this year (see below). Traditionally WRS presents a spring recital, but we will not do so this year.

Workshops. WRS will not host workshops this season. Amherst Early Music (AEM) will hold a weekend workshop on April 2-3, 2022, in Arlington. This workshop for recorder, lute, and viol players has become a great favorite of WRS members. Class size will be limited, but we encourage you to apply. <https://www.amherstearlymusic.org/workshops/spring-break-workshop>

Recent Meetings. David McGown led a holiday playing party for WRS members on Saturday morning, December 18, 2021. He pulled together a lively and eclectic assortment of seasonal music and created just the right spirit of fellowship for this Zoom meeting. Thank you, David!

Tish Berlin presented a Zoom class on Monday, January 3, 2022. The class explored works from England (Michael Praetorius) and Germany (J.S. Bach) that were inspired by a single cantus firmus—a pre-existing tune—yet achieved very different sounds through the use of intricate harmonies. The class also included works by Elway Bevin (1554-1638), a Welsh organist and composer.

Anne Timberlake invited her Monday, February 7 class to curse fate with a primal scream, and then presented a beautiful collection of arrangements of *Fortuna Desperata*, originally composed by Antoine Bunois in the 15th Century. The class ended with a different tune on the same theme: *Fortune My Foe*, by William Byrd.

Meeting Evaluations. The WRS board would like to thank all the participants who have taken the time to complete evaluations after our Zoom meetings. 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 and plans.

Resources for Beginners and Continuing Students of the Recorder

WRS is very grateful for the new members, especially the beginning players, who have swelled the ranks of our organization during the pandemic! Online resources for beginners have burgeoned in this period, and this section of the newsletter is our first effort to collect some of the main access points in one place. The information will be on the WRS website, and we expect to keep adding to it. <https://www.washingtonrecordersociety.org/links/>. Please send us your comments and suggestions.



Teacher Members of WRS

WRS is fortunate to have three members who provide instruction for adults and younger students—beginners and more advanced students, online and in person. They are:

Adéla 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

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

Email: crogentine@gmail.com

Website: www.learnrecorderwithcarole.com

American Recorder Society (ARS)

WRS is a chapter of ARS (but ARS membership is not required to be a member of WRS). ARS supports WRS directly by underwriting some of our costs for teachers for our Zoom meetings. Individual members of ARS may also receive numerous benefits (https://americanrecorder.org/benefits_of_membership.php). Initial memberships of ARS cost \$25, and annual dues are \$50/year thereafter.

Some ARS Resources Do Not Require ARS Membership

- First level beginner lessons are offered approximately quarterly. https://americanrecorder.org/free_online_recorder_lessons_f.php
- Technique videos (limited selection for beginners) are available. https://mms.americanrecorder.org/video/index.php?tags=21675&org_id=ARSO

Some ARS Member Benefits Are Targeted to Beginning Players

- Second level beginner lessons will be offered starting in March 2022. https://americanrecorder.org/second_level_beginner_recorder.php
- Instructional videos include a set of lessons with Vicki Boeckman. https://americanrecorder.org/ars_instructional_videos.php
- An extensive digital music library, including sheet music and play-alongs, can be searched by “easy” and “very easy.” https://mms.americanrecorder.org/members/compositions/composition_search.php?org_id=ARSO
- Regular emails notify members of upcoming Zoom classes from a variety of instructors.

Recorded Lessons

Anne Timberlake (our February Zoom instructor) has a large selection of webinars. They cost \$18 each, for as many viewings as you want. For beginners, she recommends Positioning and Movement, Breathing, Beautiful Sound, Articulation Toolkit, Low Notes Without Agony, and High Notes Without Tears. <https://www.annetimberlake.com/webinars>. Anne also has a blog with occasional tips for beginners, e.g., Seven Rules for Beginners (11/16/21). <https://www.annetimberlake.com/blog>

Sarah Jeffery/Team Recorder

Sarah Jeffery has been posting videos on YouTube for several years for all levels of recorder players. Search for “beginner” to get right to work. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-d6uVjIEkMY>. Or scroll the massive site for topical distractions.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yeO7wdFXCgk>. Jeffery also offers online courses, including one for beginners called Recorder Fundamentals. <https://sarahjeffery.com/Online-Course>

Online Courses

Jody Miller offers classes for “emerging musicians”—recorder players who know at least an octave of notes and can play some simple melodies in 4/4, 2/4, and 3/4 time. Starting mid-February, he will run a 6-week course, called Ensembles for Emerging Players, on Wednesday evenings for \$90. In March, he’s offering a 6-week course on Tuesday evenings called Recorder Therapy for \$90. Read more about these and his other classes at <https://www.fippleflute.com/online-classes>.

On the Internet, Nobody Knows You’re a Dog

Players of all levels benefit from individual preparation for playing sessions. WRS distributes music in advance of Zoom meetings to give each member time to figure out how to get the most out of a meeting. Preparation is especially useful for inexperienced players who want the pleasure of playing along but also need to listen and learn in an unfamiliar setting. We’ve assembled the following tips from our own experiences as beginners to help our newest players get ready for our Zoom sessions.

Before the Zoom Meeting

1. Don’t forget to register! When you receive the sheet music by email (usually within the week before the Zoom session), review it as soon as possible. Print it or save it in a format you can write on.
2. Ask your (personal) recorder teacher to go over the sheet music with you. She can help you identify the best parts for you to choose to play and how to fit those parts onto your instrument(s).
3. Search for a recording (maybe with your teacher’s help) that can help you hear how the parts go together.
4. With the Zoom instructor’s suggested tempo(s) in mind, you may want to plan to leave out some notes, for example:
 - All the fast notes (the notes connected to each other). Substitute rests for notes you decide to leave out.
 - Some fast notes. Just play the first note in a group of connected notes and substitute a rest for the other(s).
 - The ornaments (for example, trills or grace notes). Just play the main note.
 - The notes that are too low or high for you right now. Substitute rests.
 - The notes you haven’t learned yet. Substitute rests.
5. Mark up your music (in pencil!) according to your plan. Try playing the music through slowly at first, and then at the tempo(s) suggested by the instructor. You may wind up putting notes back in or taking more notes out. The Zoom meeting format (**you’re the only one who hears what you’re playing**) readily accommodates playing your own customized part.

During the Zoom Meeting

6. If you don’t feel ready to play, study the music while you listen the first time a piece is played. Try playing the second time through.
7. If you have a question, ask it. There are no stupid questions. Use Chat if the question occurs to you when the instructor hasn’t specifically opened the floor to questions.

After the Zoom Meeting

8. Review the session with your recorder teacher. Discuss what you liked about the music as well as how the preparation process worked out.
9. Search for easier arrangements of music by the same composers or from the same time periods.
10. Use the Forum on the WRS website to share the tips that worked best for you.

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/>

Monica Boruch Answers the *Whence Recorder Questionnaire*

Monica Boruch is WRS President and a volunteer with the Sibley Hospital's Senior Association.

Did you grow up in a musical family? WFMT, a Chicago classical radio station, or a classical LP were always playing in my house. When I got to pick the house music, we listened to the Brahms variations on a theme by Haydn! I also had my own small record player and remember calling my mother very excited one evening when I played *Some Enchanted Evening*, sung by Ezio Pinza on a 45 RPM (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fkrt3NMvMHU>). Neither of my parents played an instrument, but all their children took private music lessons for years, though only I stuck with it.

Did you sing or play other instruments before you took up recorder? I started taking piano lessons at age 5 and continued through college, where I was required to practice 5 hours a day. It was a happy day when my parents rented a piano for my apartment. I also played modern flute for a few years in middle school. I have always been an enthusiastic singer participating in church, school, and symphony choruses.

Do you sing or play instruments other than recorder now? I've been a member of the Maryland Renaissance madrigal group for the past 15 years. Since the Pandemic, I started studying the transverse flute with Gwyn Roberts and hammered dulcimer with Ginger Hildebrand.

Do you compose or arrange music? I have not composed or arranged music as such, but I take a weekly class with Tina Chancey to learn about and practice Early Music improvisation.

Do you think there's any type of music that doesn't sound good on the recorder? I prefer listening to and playing Early Music, but I think the recorder lends itself quite nicely to more modern music and current living composers.

What's your approach to playing recorder? It's multifold. I've been playing for 5 years, so I've reached a point where I can combine learning and refining my playing with work on specific pieces of music. For example, to learn French ornaments, I worked for a few months on Boismortier Suites. To get better at my rhythm, I work on pieces with tricky rhythms. During the Pandemic, I began doing 4-part multi-track recordings using the Acapella app, which is a great way to simulate playing in an ensemble.

How do you find the time? I am retired but remain quite busy. I have gotten into a serious routine of practicing every evening for about 2 hours. It's one of my favorite times of the day. Because I take private lessons, I'm always working on something specific, which keeps me motivated to prepare in the best way I can for that next lesson. I try to take my instruments with me when I go away so I stay in the groove.

Do you have a teacher? Yes, I've been studying recorder with Gwyn Roberts since 2018.

Do you play duets or in larger ensembles? Do you attend workshops? I am currently not a part of any ensemble but frequently play duets with other recorder friends. I have attended multiple Amherst Early Music (AEM) workshops.



Do you approach performance with enthusiasm or dread? I guess a bit of both. Performing in front of people definitely makes me nervous, but it's getting easier now that I make myself perform in public as much as I can. It's a challenge that I enjoy and learn from.

How long have you been a member of WRS? I joined WRS in 2018.

Has membership benefited you in ways you didn't anticipate? Yes! I was not sure what to expect but the warm welcome of all the members combined with the opportunity to play with small and larger ensemble groups is wonderful.

Do you have any funny stories about meetings, recitals, or other group activities over the years? Since the Pandemic, during my Zoom or JamKazam lessons, I have several times been interrupted by dogs in the middle of a class or lesson. I help take care of other people's dogs in my house, and when they bark, pee, and/or pull the cords out of the electrical outlet, you have to laugh—after you deal with the disaster!

Is there a performer that has inspired you throughout your recorder-playing life? My teacher introduced me to Tempesta di Mare, Philadelphia's Baroque Orchestra. Through attending their concerts, I have become aware of music by new composers and repertoire that are both beautiful and inspiring to me.

Which performer is your favorite recent discovery? I enjoy listening to Dorothee Oberlinger play recorder and have several of her CDs.

What are your favorite recordings featuring recorder? I keep discovering new CDs, but my three favorites right now are: 1). The Passion of Musick/English and Celtic Music of the 17th Century; 2) Les Delices/French music for viols and recorders from 1639-1715; 3) Dorothee Oberlinger Ensemble 1700 TELEMANN.

If you were a castaway on a desert island, which one of your recorders would you hope you had with you? Alto 440.

If you could have one more instrument, what would that be? I wouldn't mind upgrading my plastic Yamaha bass to a better wood model.

Which recordings would be essential to survival? I guess I'd have to go with composers rather than specific recordings. Those would be Bach, Telemann, and Handel.

How did you connect with Sibley Senior Association and Club Memory? A few years ago, I began work as a volunteer/caretaker with an adult neighbor who has memory challenges. I learned about Club Memory, and she and I went twice a month to join other people also experiencing memory changes and their care partners. Eventually, Club Memory became a comfortable and enjoyable community for her. When the Pandemic hit, Club Memory began conducting weekly Zoom sessions offering a multitude of subjects including music, which gives the members a wonderful opportunity to stay connected with each other as a community.

How does music figure into the club's overall activities? When we were meeting in person, music was one of the regular Club Memory's activities for the members. Singing, rhythm instruments, and guitar provided a wonderful structure for them to participate in a comfortable, relaxed way. The music continues to serve that purpose even on Zoom. Music allows them to help make connections with their past and with each other. I have done several live sessions for the Club, primarily playing recorder and hammered dulcimer. One time the theme was JS Bach, so we discussed him, his music, and the members' experience with similar composers. I had pre-recorded a 4-part Bach multi-track Psalm, so I was able to discuss and show them the different sizes of recorders as well. Another time, I led familiar songs and even with the Zoom latency, everyone unmuted and sang together. That was a special moment when we saw the joy on some of their faces as they sang these songs that were near and dear to them. Music does indeed light up their faces!



Is there a way for other WRS members to get involved with this effort? Yes, once live meetings start again there is a possibility for WRS members to lead an interactive session and/or do a small group performance for Club Memory. I invite all WRS members to contact me (fmboruch@comcast.net) to discuss the possibilities.

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 on the WRS website lets you share timely (e.g., 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 website includes all the WRS news, and it stays up-to-date! You can find sheet music, the meeting schedule, contact information for teachers, and much more. It's a treasure trove! Check the website often.

WRS Board Members

Monica Boruch	President, fmboruch@comcast.net
Judy McGraw	Vice President, j.and.j@verizon.net
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