



May 2022

NOTES

www.washingtonrecordersociety.org

Dear Readers, Happy Spring to all of you! As we end this year and head into the summer, I want to thank EACH of you for your continued support and enthusiasm for the past year. WRS continues to thrive and grow in spite of continued Pandemic challenges. We have been able to still play and enjoy music together for which I am grateful. This newsletter contains many ways for you to stay involved with the recorder world over the summer. Keep on playing! We will meet again in September. Stay tuned!

Monica Boruch, WRS President

WRS 2021-2022 Season End

The June 6 online session will be on Zoom. You will receive a Zoom link and music after you register.

The May 21 in-person session will be at St. Columba's Episcopal Church, 4201 Albemarle St. NW, Washington, DC 20016. Closest Metro stop is Tenleytown on the Red Line.

Date	Meeting Type	Schedule	Group
2022			
05/21	In-person	10:00 AM 10:30 AM -12:30 PM	Doors open Playing session led by Adéla Balima and David McGown
06/06	Online	7:00 - 7:30 PM 7:30 - 9:00 PM	Virtual Happy Hour and Business Meeting Session led by Gwyn Roberts https://tempestadimare.org/about/leader-bios/

Election of WRS Board Members: VOTE TODAY!

Each year WRS holds an election for its voluntary leadership—a board of directors whose members serve staggered two-year terms. This year, three current board members are standing for reelection: Monica Boruch, currently serving as president; Carolyn Lincoln, currently serving as treasurer; and David McGown, currently serving as music director. Adéla Balima, who will be sharing the music director role with David McGown, and Marge Hogarty, who has been active in WRS since the late 1970's, have also volunteered to stand for election. Their biographies appear below under the heading Board Candidates' Biographies.

Two members are leaving the board. Laura Schattschneider has been a crucial presence on the board for many years, using her legal expertise to guide the redrafting of bylaws and several policy decisions. Holly Gwin joined the board in 2021 and served as the newsletter editor. Their work has been greatly appreciated.

HERE'S HOW TO VOTE

Click on this link to vote: <https://forms.gle/m8gmA1vA7LHHh24LA>

There will be a business meeting at the beginning of our June 6 Zoom session, at which the election results will be announced.

Board Candidates' Biographies

Adéla Balima

Music has accompanied my everyday life since childhood. My grandfather was a professional violin player and teacher, and my family accentuated musical education. I started playing the recorder when I was 5. Since then, I played recorder daily. I also started with modern flute, but in my heart, I have always preferred Early music. I studied recorder and Music education at the Conservatory in Olomouc (where Gottfried Finger comes from!) and in France. During my studies, I have met many recorder players who deepened not only my love for music but also my passion for teaching. I was a member of a group that played medieval, renaissance, folk,



and Christian genres. I have participated in Amherst Early music festival in the Baroque Academy and Recorder Virtuoso programs. Apart from music, I studied Cultural Anthropology, French Philology, and European and International Laws. Currently, I work in immigration law, play and teach recorder, and raise my 2-year-old.

I have been a WRS member since 2017. In 2019, I started co-leading our playing sessions with David McGown. During the pandemic, I was honored to lead two online WRS sessions in 2021. I would love to become a WRS Board member and serve with my musical experience, teaching skills, and passion for playing the recorder.

Monica Boruch

I can say that music has been a part of my entire life starting at a very early age singing in church choirs and taking piano lessons from age 5 all the way through college. I have a double major college degree in Music Education and Music Therapy and was able to work as a music therapist for many years in various healthcare and education settings. For several decades, I then worked for Kaiser Permanente in Human Resources where I did management training and organization development. During that time period, I sang in multiple choirs and continued to play the piano. A few years ago, I had the good fortune of hearing a recorder concert performed by several of our own WRS members. I was immediately hooked and started taking private recorder lessons and eventually joined WRS to get more experience playing with others.

I attend as many Amherst Early Music workshops as I can and try to play with other WRS members as often as I can. I started studying with Gwyn Roberts a few years ago. I can honestly say I love playing the recorder! I have very much enjoyed serving as your President for the past two years and would be honored to serve again.

Marge Hogarty

I was born in Chicago shortly after my parents met in the church choir and married. Introduced to piano at an early age, I still have the family piano in my home. I began recorder in the late 70s, when my son brought a soprano home from elementary school and failed to play it. And so, it began for me.

I have been a member of the Washington Recorder Society on and off since then. More recently, I came back to recorder playing in 2010 when I joined the OLLI consort at the Osher Lifetime Learning Institute at George Mason University. I play twice a week, still on zoom, with members of this group and enjoy attending workshops to improve my skills.

Professionally, I have a M.A in French from Middlebury College, which led to my teaching and tutoring French in several states. After my children grew up, I worked as a travel agent and then, for many years, as a real estate agent in Reston, Virginia. Now an active retiree, I still sing with my church choir, where I have been a member for 36 years. I also enjoy gardening, traveling, reading, keeping up with my grandchildren, and learning new things. I am very happy that the WRS has a beautiful new meeting site, and I hope I can help it to thrive in this space.

Carolyn Lincoln

My first instrument was the piano, since both my parents were amateur pianists. In school, I picked up the violin and played it through college. In my early working career (in information technology), a few friends played the recorder, so I learned the soprano and alto to join their jam sessions. I later formed a string quartet at my church and then added viola when we needed one. All the time, I was also singing in choral groups. When I retired in 2016, I decided I wanted to spend all my time on music. I got a few more recorders, joined WRS and am thrilled at all the opportunities to play even though it has mostly been virtual lately. I also play in the New Dawn Consort. I have been on the Board since 2018 and serve as the Treasurer and Webmaster.

David McGown

I was a brass player from grade school to college; my first introduction to the recorder was in my freshman year at Virginia Tech. I played in the school Collegium Musicum and the New River Consort on recorder, cornetto, capped and double reeds while pursuing dual degrees in Music and Mechanical Engineering. After graduating, my musical activities tapered off until 12 years ago, when I took up serious study of the recorder again, joining WRS, studying with Gwyn Roberts, participating in Amherst Early Music workshops, and meeting many amateur and professional recorder players from all over the world. I have performed in a number of local ensembles over the past decade, and have played at the Maryland Renaissance Festival, Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival, and several churches in the DC Metro and Baltimore areas.



Prior to the Pandemic, I served as a WRS Music Leader, directing regular WRS sessions. I ran the 2020 and 2021 Holiday remote sessions. With the return to in-person WRS sessions, I am continuing my music leader role. I have been a WRS Board member since the fall of 2014 and look forward to continuing in service to the local recorder community.

WRS Meetings

We will have two more meetings—one in-person, one on Zoom—this season. Brief recaps of our March, April, and first May meetings appear below.

On May 21, 2022, we will meet **in-person** at **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 doors will open at 10 AM, and beginning at 10:30 AM, David McGown and Adéla Balima will lead the playing session. Music will be provided at the meeting. The WRS COVID-19 Policy (see below) will be enforced at all in-person meetings.

Gwyn Roberts will lead our last Zoom meeting of the year on June 6, 2022. Participants should register at <https://www.washingtonrecordersociety.org/meeting-registration/> to receive instructional materials provided by the teacher and the Zoom meeting link from the WRS meeting host. 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.

Recent Meetings. On March 7, 2022, Miyo Aoki led a class with the theme of “Common Threads.” In the 15th and 16th centuries, composers often took melodies from each other’s work and made new settings of them, sometimes creating surprising or humorous juxtapositions by combining two pre-existing melodies together in new ways. Miyo illustrated this practice with pieces by Hayne van Ghizeghem, Jean Japart, Ludwig Senfi, and Anonymous. In advance of the class night, Miyo provided ideas (and offers of assistance) for how to get the most out of the class depending upon which instruments a participant played, and the class itself combined lovely tunes with music history and technique.

On April 4, 2022, Rainer Beckmann presented a program titled *A Franco-Flemish Affair*. He selected “perky” dances collected by Susato and juxtaposed them with 16th and 17th century polyphonic pieces by Brumel, Arcadelt, and Duarte. He also included an anonymous basse-dance on the La Spagna tune. Rainer’s class offered good tunes, good tips, and extraordinary pacing.

On April 16, 2022, clear blue skies and congregants arranging flowers for the Easter service the next day welcomed the WRS members who attended our first meeting at St. Columba’s church—and our first in-person meeting since early 2020. Monica Boruch, WRS president, enthusiastically welcomed the resumption of in-person meetings and asked the attendees (who included several first-timers) to introduce themselves. David McGown and Adéla Balima, our music co-leaders, reintroduced attendees to ensemble play with a mix of instruction (methods to improve tone, tips on phrasing) and beautiful renaissance and baroque compositions. The two-hour session went by too fast. Parking is easy, the meeting room is comfortable, restrooms are nearby. Please join us for the next in-person meeting on May 21, 2022, if you can. Music played: Renaissance dances (misc.); *Apri’l Mio Dolce Carcer*, by Jacob Arcadelt; *Par droit je puis bien complaindre et gemir*, by Guillaume DuFay; and *Suite in G (Z. 770)*, by Henry Purcell.

On May 2, 2022, Teresa Deskur and Sarah Shodja offered a joyful peak into their collaborative process when playing Renaissance and Baroque music. They played together “live” while meeting participants played a third part of trios by Salamone Rossi, Gaspar Fernandez, James Hook, and Johann Mattheson. We could hear their improvisations and interplay on ornamentation and articulation, and then they explained their approach. Teresa and Sarah are students of Gwyn Roberts and they will soon graduate from Peabody. Their enthusiasm for the instrument and the repertoire was inspiring.

Meeting Tips. One tip that came up in each of our recent meetings: Pay attention to the lyrics (when they’re available). Lyrics inform phrasing, breath, and articulation, as well as context, mood, and meaning. In addition, each of our teachers has suggested ways to learn from music that is either too easy or too hard. Too easy? Use the playing session to work on your tone, read the



lyrics, improve your phrasing, switch instruments, add ornamentation, or listen down (for what the lower instruments are doing). Too hard? Use the playing session to develop the listening skills needed to jump back into the played music when you get off track.

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 or plans.

Don't Take a Vacation from Recorder

Just when WRS has started meeting in-person again, we have a summer break. But that shouldn't stop you from making progress on your own, or with help, until WRS kicks off its 2022/2023 season in September. You can pick a technical topic (double-tonguing maybe?) and dig into every YouTube video you can find on it. You can pick a repertoire topic (French galliards anyone?) and read and listen broadly online while learning to play a few of your favorites. If you want more structure, our local teachers will continue offering lessons over the summer. Or call some WRS members who live near you (find them in the Membership Directory) to start a summer jam session—in-person or on Jam Kazam or Jamulus. And don't forget about all the wonderful online and in-person offerings such as the selections below.

Meet the Parents

WRS is a chapter of the American Recorder Society (ARS). ARS provides many resources for recorder players of all levels. Some are free to all, others are free to members.

Classes for beginners: https://americanrecorder.org/free_online_recorder_lessons_f.php

Second-level classes: https://americanrecorder.org/second_level_beginner_recorder.php

Consider joining ARS. The initial membership fee is \$25, and with an annual charge of \$55 thereafter for access to a wide variety of resources.

ARS recently encouraged the establishment of a new chapter: the North American Virtual Recorder Society (NAVRS). NAVRS has playing meetings (via Zoom) scheduled for May 21 and June 25. You can find information about how to join the chapter and/or participate in monthly meetings at <https://www.navrs.org/>.

ReZoom Relations

Many of the teachers who have provided classes for WRS over Zoom the past two years continue to have active online presences even with the resumption of in-person playing opportunities. Check out their offerings.

- Adéla Balima: <http://adelabalima.com/>
- Rainer Beckmann https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9vmoq_4WXAA
- Tish Berlin: <http://tibiaduo.com/>
- Rachel Begley: <http://rachelbegley.com/>
- Frances Blaker <http://tibiaduo.com/>
- Lisette Kielson <https://www.lisettekielson.com/>



- Emily O'Brien: <https://www.emilydomain.org/Recorderland/bio/>
- Gwyn Roberts : <https://tempestadimare.org/blog/gwyn-roberts/>
- Anne Timberlake: <https://www.annetimberlake.com/>

Hit the Road

Many wonderful festivals are reconvening in-person this summer, and some are offering opportunities for virtual attendance as well. ARS posts a List of Workshops and Festivals at https://americanrecorder.org/workshops_festivals_in_2022.php. You can stay on the East Coast (see selections below) or travel far afield.

Amherst Early Music is a favorite of many WRS members. See what they have coming up at <https://www.amherstearlymusic.org/>. There's a Memorial Day Weekend Workshop, Litchfield, CT, May 27-30, 2022, and an Early Music Festival, Bethlehem, PA, August 7-14 and August 14-21, 2022.

Mountain Collegium will offer a Zoom Early Music and Folk Music workshop June 16-19, 2022, and resume their in-person workshop at Western Carolina University (in Cullowhee, NC) on June 26-July 2, 2022. There is a special program for emerging recorder players to ease folks new to the recorder into the world of workshops. Find more information at <https://www.mountaincollegium.org/mc-online>.

Country Song and Dance Society will hold its Early Music Week, Plymouth, MA, August 13-20, 2022. <https://camp.cdss.org/registration/>

Try the Bloom Early Music Workshop, Bloomsburg, PA, September 2-4, 2022. <https://www.mountaincollegium.org/bloom>

Dip your toe in international waters with CAMMAC (Canadian Amateur Musicians, Musiciens Amateurs du Canada). <https://cammac.ca/>. Their many activities during the year include an 8-week summer festival in the Laurentian mountains in Harrington, Quebec, this year on June 26-August 21, 2022. Sign up for your favorite week(s), based on your preferred instrument and music genre; e.g., Week 2 (July 3-10) is Early Music Week, and Week 3 (July 10-17) is Chamber Music Week. They also offer online activities. Many activities are bilingual (French and English).

Become a Better Player

These local teachers provide instruction for adults and younger students, in-person and online:

<p>ADÉLA BALIMA Washington, DC Phone: 240-688-2809 Email: cameladel@gmail.com Website: http://adelabalima.com/</p>	<p>RACHEL ISAACSON Arlington, VA Phone: 571-982-2283 Email: isaacson.rachel@gmail.com</p>	<p>CAROLE ROGENTINE Bethesda, MD Phone: 301-530-6386 (h); 301-523-5515 (c) Email: crogentine@gmail.com Website: www.learnrecorderwithcarole.com</p>
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Carole Rogentine Answers the *Whence Recorder Questionnaire*

Carole Rogentine teaches recorder and formerly served as WRS music director.

Do you have a musical family? My mother was a violin performance major in college and played throughout her life. My husband played recorder, bag pipes, and saxophone. My daughter Kristin plays viola—she once played with Frances Blaker and Tish Berlin in Charlotte during a church service. My daughter Sarah played flute.

Did you sing or play other instruments before you took up recorder? I played piano, organ and sang in many choral groups in high school, college and after I graduated.



Do you sing or play instruments other than recorder now? I accompany my recorder students on harpsichord. I play piano and sing at my church.

Do you compose or arrange music? No, but I improvise when I accompany my students on harpsichord. Typically, there are just hints—a simple bass line, chord suggestions—for what the continuo part should sound like, so I like to vary my performance each time I play a piece. It's fun for me and a challenge for my students: Are they listening to their partners? Can they maintain composure when they hear something unexpected?

Do you think there's any type of music that doesn't sound good on the recorder? The range of the piece is important. Some music doesn't fit the range of the different recorders. My groups have always played everything from medieval to modern pieces. I like variety.

What's your approach to playing recorder? My focus is on a specific piece that I am working on for my lesson. I work on places in the music with technical challenges after I have played the piece a few times. I play bass line and harpsichord part to see the total picture. My students focus on technical exercises, breathing, articulation, repertoire, playing duets with me, playing different periods of music.

How do you find the time? I have a busy schedule so I mark my days on my calendar with PR. I love to practice. I take lessons once a month and need to practice daily to prepare for my lessons and playing with my students.

Do you have a teacher? Gwyn Roberts is my teacher.

Do you play duets or in larger ensembles? Do you attend workshops? I have taught recorder for many years working with all levels, all ages. At the present time I play duets and trios with my adult students on Jam Kazam and in person. I have attended many workshops and I am on the faculty of Levine Music. I coached my ensemble Kokopelli for many years and played with several performing groups.

Do you approach performance with enthusiasm or dread? I used to play in several performing groups but don't now. I have always enjoyed helping my students prepare for performances. Performing can be challenging. I try to transfer what I have learned about coping with my own performance anxiety to my students. It helps to get experience performing to reduce the anxiety level. Just do it.

How long have you been a member of WRS? I have been a member for many years. Several years ago, I served as the music director for WRS. At the beginning of meetings, we would enjoy a short concert, and sometimes my group Kokopelli would perform. Then we would break into small groups based on skill level to play for the rest of the meeting, and I coached the advanced group of players. I also participated in board meetings.

Has membership benefited you in ways you didn't anticipate? I have made many friends and have enjoyed directing groups and playing at the workshops that I have attended.

Do you have any good stories about meetings, recitals, or other group activities over the years? I attended the Capitol Early Music workshop recently and saw many friends that I hadn't seen since the beginning of the Pandemic. We were all hugging each other and talking so much that it was difficult for the musicians to continue with their concert after the intermission.

Is there a performer—solo or group—that has inspired you throughout your recorder-playing life? Gwyn Roberts, Tempesta di Mare, Washington Bach Consort, Saskia Coolen, Dorothea Oberlinger. I listen to pieces that I am working on and encourage my students to do the same. You Tube is a great resource.

What are your 3 favorite recordings featuring recorder? Frans Bruggen, "Telemann Italian Recorder sonatas", "Recorder Sonatas and Fantasias" and "Mancini Sonatas" with Gwyn Roberts. I also like recordings with Dan Laurin, Marion Verbruggen, and Vicki Boeckman, and Sarah Jeffery has some great teaching videos on You Tube.



If you were a castaway on a desert island, which one of your recorders would you hope you had with you? I would take my Denner alto recorder from Von Huene.

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 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 the website 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, drmcgown@gmail.com
Holly Gwin	Newsletter Editor, hollygwin@icloud.com
Laura Schattschneider	At-large, les291@nyu.edu

Many Thanks to Laura Schattschneider

Laura Schattschneider is stepping down from the WRS Board this year. Laura first joined the Board in 2015 and started out by being the designated “snack bringer” for meetings. Over the past 7 years, Laura was the Vice President for a while, helped update the Bylaws, stuffed and mailed dozens of newsletters (back when we were still mailing hard copies), and generally helped conduct the day-to-day business of the organization. Although she’s stepping down, she’ll continue to serve as a resource for the Board on an as-needed basis, and she is looking forward to seeing many of you at WRS’s regular meetings.

Farewell from Holly Gwin

WRS gave me wonderful teachers, friends to share the quest for better musicianship, and an opportunity to serve (briefly) a thriving organization of music lovers. Thanks! Keep up the good work.