

February, 2023



Dear Readers,

As we welcome in a new year, I look forward to playing more music with all of you both in person and online. This issue of the WRS newsletter is full of opportunities for you to choose from: concerts, workshops, classes, and online resources. We are grateful for the members who have been a part of WRS for years and for those who have recently joined. Many thanks to Marge Hogarty for writing this latest issue—and to the late Jane Gentleman, who had been a big help with our proofreading before her recent passing. (See obituary on page 5.) *Monica Boruch, WRS President*

WRS 2022-2023 Year at a Glance

In-person meetings are at St. Columba's Episcopal Church, 4201 Albemarle St., NW, Washington, DC 20016. There is a small parking lot at the church and plenty of on-street parking. Online sessions are held on Zoom. You will receive an invitation and music after registration.

Date	Meeting	Schedule	Group
2023			
Sat., 2/18	In-person	10:00am-10:30am 10:30am-12:30pm	Meet and Greet Play music with David McGown and Adéla Balima
Sat., 3/18	In-person	10:00am-10:30am 10:30AM-12:30PM	Meet and Greet Play music with David McGown and Adéla Balima
Mon., 4/03	Online	7:00pm-7:30pm 7:30pm-9:00pm	Virtual Happy Hour Session led by Anne Timberlake
Sat., 4/15	In-person	10:00am-10-30am 10:30am-12:30pm	Meet and Greet Play music with David McGown and Adéla Balima
Sat., 4/22 Sun., 4/23	Amherst Spring Break Workshop	See website	St. George's Episcopal Church https://www.amherstearlymusic.org/workshops/spring-break- workshop
Sat., 5/20	In-person	10am-10:30am 10:30am-12:30pm	Meet and Greet Play music with David McGown and Adéla Balima
Mon., 6/05	Online	7:00pm-7:30pm 7:30pm-9:00pm	Virtual Happy Hour and Business Meeting Session led by Nina Stern

March is Play the Recorder Month

The winter edition of American Recorder magazine contains one of the most special gifts ARS members receive all year, the Playthe-Recorder Month yearly composition. This year's composition, "Quo Vadis?" by Victor Eijkhout is a moody and mysterious piece that captures the uncertainty of Covid's early days and poses a question that lingers in the mind of many a recorder guild president in these timid times of in-person playing: "Whither Goest Thou?" Victor Eijkhout is a multi-instrumentalist with a history of playing in and writing for wind ensembles, jazz groups and other instrumental combinations. Currently, he plays regularly with the Austin Troubadours.

Have you played this special piece yet? You can download the Play-the-Recorder Month page of the ARS website, <u>https://americanrecorder.org/</u>, which has tools to ease you into the piece: a video with all the parts, by noted recorder player and teacher Emily O'Brien, and play-alongs--starring you--playing on whichever part you choose.



American Recorder Society

WRS is a chapter of the American Recorder Society (ARS), which provides many resources for all recorder players, including its own You Tube channel, which has many free videos and information. The ARS site also has free music and play-alongs. The web site address is https://americanrecorder.org/ Consider joining. The initial membership fee is \$25, with an annual charge of \$55 thereafter, for access to many resources. ARS recently encouraged the establishment of a new chapter: the North American Virtual Recorder Society (NAVRS). You can find information about how to join the chapter and participate in Zoom playing meetings at https://www.navrs.org/.

Become a Better Player

Local Instructors:

ADÉLA BALIMA	RACHEL ISAACSON	CAROLE ROGENTINE	
Washington, DC	Arlington, VA	Bethesda,	MD
Phone : 240-688-2809	Phone : 571-338-4606	Phones: 301-530-6386 (home); 3	01-523-5515
Email: adelabalima@gmail.com	Email : isaacson.rachel@gmail.com	(cell)Email: crogentine@gmail.com	
Website: http://adelabalima.com		Website: www.learnrecorderwithcarole.co	om

Barry Moyer Memorial Workshop and Concert

WRS is hosting a workshop and memorial concert on behalf of Barry Moyer on Saturday, March 11, 2023. Barry, an avid recorder player, lived in Virginia and died early in 2021. This one-day workshop, organized by Barry's friends, will be held at St. George's Episcopal Church in Arlington, Virginia, to celebrate Barry's life. All are invited to play. You do not need to have known Barry. It's a wonderful opportunity to play Glen Shannon's original piece, a new work in the style of a Renaissance mass, *Missa super-brevis "Ave Barry, ursus coeli*". This work was written with low recorders in mind, and it will be played on alto, tenor, bass, and great bass recorder, or we will play an alternate version for tenor, bass, great bass, and contrabass recorder (with some modest SATB doubling as necessary). Shannon will be teaching and conducting this piece in the workshop. Lisle Kulbach, Larry Lipnik, and Jody Miller will also serve as instructors, conducting music from the *Odhecaton* and more. The workshop will conclude with a formal concert by the workshop participants. Details about the workshop as well as registration information can be found at www.washingtonrecordersociety.org

Anne Timberlake's Spring Tune-up Course

The recorder is an exquisitely sensitive instrument, and learning to play it in tune is among its most challenging and frustrating aspects. In this live four-week small group course, Anne will take you on a deep dive into recorder tuning, learning and practice strategies for improving tuning, while supporting one another in the process. The four live sessions are scheduled for Tuesdays, March 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 5pm ET. To register, visit Anne's website and complete the purchase process. Upon purchase, you'll receive a link to download a pdf "ticket" that includes live Zoom links to all sessions. The cost of the complete course is \$96, which includes all four live sessions, weekly practice programs, and chat support as needed for the duration of the course. She is also offering a one-session Webinar for \$18: Tools of the Trade: Musical Must-Haves and How to Use Them, on March 8, 2023 at 8:00pm. Website: https://www.annetimberlake.com/webinars



Where to Hear Early Music

Local and Regional Groups Have Announced Their 2022-2023 Seasons

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

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

 Tempesta di Mare https://tinyurl.com/yc8frxnt

 Capitol Early Music https://capitolearlymusic.org/

 Piffaro—The Renaissance Band https://www.piffaro.org
 Piffaro has several concerts coming up. See below.

Concert—The Medici Ensemble Presents A Musical Conversation

Capitol Early Music will be bringing us another wonderful concert on Sunday March 26 at 3:00pm at St. George's Episcopal Church, 915 N. Oakland in Arlington, VA. The Medici Ensemble consists of Michael Lynn on flute and recorder, Alan Choo on baroque violin, Ruby Braillier on viola da gamba, and Mark Edwards on harpsichord. A baroque ensemble, they will be exploring virtuoso chamber works from France, Germany, and Scotland. Go to the Capitol Early Music website for details and ticketing: https://capitolearlymusic.org/

A Streaming Concert from Piffaro

Piffaro, the Renaissance Band, has been active in the recorder community since its inception in 1980. The American Recorder Society honored the ensemble with its Distinguished Achievement Award in 1980. During the pandemic it began producing concert videos, which were met with so much enthusiasm outside the band's Philadelphia home that they have elected to continue offering them.

Its latest on-line concert, *Music from Austrian Court and Countryside*, will be streaming from April 1-11, 2023. Artistic director, Priscilla Herreid describes the program. "Much of this program explores the music and influence of the 16th century composer, Paul Hofhaimer, the bulk of whose surviving works are lieder. These songs have richness and depth and fit beautifully on a consort of recorders. The most famous composer on our program is Heinrich Isaac, and we will play his beloved *Innsbruck, ich muss dich lassen*". Other interesting works fill out the program.

Tickets are \$22 and provide unlimited access. For tickets and additional information go to https://www.piffaro.org

Check out the WRS Website!

The WRS website <u>www.washingtonrecordersociety.org</u> is set up to help you make the most of your membership. Check your welcome letter for the password to the "For Members Only" pages or contact our webmaster, Carolyn Lincoln <u>carolyn.lincoln@verizon.net</u>. The <u>Membership Directory</u> (a members-only feature) helps you locate members who live near you (in case you want to start a new ensemble or hitch a ride) or identify that 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.

The Forum has been discontinued and replaced by our new classified advertising section, below.



Judy McGraw Answers the Whence Recorder Questionnaire

Judy McGraw is a board member of WRS.

Do you have a musical family? I did not grow up in a musical family. My mother insisted that each of her children pick a musical instrument to study by the end of elementary school, so we all played something throughout childhood. I was the only child that caught the bug of music-making.

Did you sing or play other instruments before you took up recorder? According to family lore, from a very young age I would sit at our piano (that nobody played) and invent tunes. While parents were intrigued, siblings were mostly annoyed. So I was enrolled in formal piano lesson by the time I was seven. While I remember liking the piano, the teacher was formal and taught mostly adults so the "fit" wasn't great. The summer when I turned 12, I went to summer camp in Wisconsin and heard one of the counselors playing modern flute in the woods. The appeal was instantaneous. I came home wanting to switch instruments immediately. The adults felt that I had some aptitude for the piano and didn't want me to stop lessons, so the compromise was for me to continue the piano and start the flute. Needless to say, most of my practice time became dedicated to the flute, and piano lessons ended shortly thereafter. I played modern flute through college and into adulthood for several years.

What brought you to recorder playing? I bought my first recorder as a teenager. It was a tenor, a very mediocre one, and I used it primarily as my instrument to take camping. I played mostly folk music and used my flute technique, not understanding the differences at that time. Over the decades, I have played other instruments for periods of time, but always gravitated back to flute, and finally to recorder. In my 30s, I started expanding my collection of recorders and now consider recorder my primary musical interest.

What is your current recorder-playing focus? I have retired, so I have time to take lessons, play with a variety of musical friends in the area, and attend workshops. Each musical opportunity enriches my life in some way, and that has been a real treat. We recorder players are an interesting bunch.

How long have you been a member of WRS? Since I live in Virginia, it was tough for me to participate in WRS, so I did not join until after I retired around 5 years ago. But I had been playing recorder in the area for a long time, so I quickly went from new member status to participating on the WRS board. I try to support the recorder community where I can at this point.

Do you approach performance with enthusiasm or dread? When I have the opportunity to perform, I am both excited and terrified. I hope that by challenging myself to do more performing, I will maintain the excitement and lessen the anxiety.

Do you have a performer that has inspired you throughout your recorder-playing life? As far as favorite performers, I tend to listen more to whatever group I have last enjoyed in live performance. So my favorites change. Currently, I often listen to CDs by the Farallon Quartet and/or the Flanders Quartet.

If you were marooned on a desert island, what instrument would you like to have with you? I regularly enjoy playing recorders that are different in size and in timbre. I try to play music of some type every day. When I have satisfied the recorder itch, I also listen to CDs from other genres and eras. It would never work for me to be marooned on a desert island: I have too many instruments and too much music on old technology that I would want access to.



Classified Advertising

This new section of **Notes** will allow you to form a consort and/or seek additional players, seek recommendations for music for an occasion or a topic, sell or give away music or an instrument, seek recommendations on where to purchase a recorder or related item, and pass along items of general interest to recorder players. To submit an ad for the May issue, please contact Marge Hogarty at <u>margehogarty@verizon.net</u> by May 1. Your short ad should state your item or need and provide contact information.

Volunteers Needed. WRS is looking for volunteers who might be willing to support some Washington DC (zoom) and Silver Spring (in person) public education music classes in March. Activities might include playing recorder and/or teaching a simple tune to elementary students. Contact Judy McGraw at <u>i.and.j@verizon.net</u> or Monica Boruch at <u>fmboruch@comcast.net</u>

WRS In-Person Meetings—Revised COVID Policy Modified as of 11/20/22

WRS leadership will stay informed and cautious about COVID-19 risks. We will make every effort to keep the membership updated about COVID-related changes in our schedule or plans. The WRS Board recommends that members follow current CDC guidelines for vaccination. In addition, participants in WRS in-person meetings must:

- Be free of COVID-19 symptoms.
- Have no recent exposure to individuals known to be infected with COVID-19.
- Play only their own instruments during the meeting.

Obituaries

Jane Gentleman. Jane Gentleman, a longtime member of the Washington Recorder Society, died of cancer on February 7, 2023. Jane grew up in the DC area, the only child of the civil liberties and constitutional lawyer, Joseph Forer, and the public-school teacher, viola player and volunteer English instructor, Florence Forer. Jane loved life, and was passionate about math, music, and most of all, her family. Jane received degrees in Mathematics and Statistics from the University of Chicago. She received her Ph.D. and worked for many years at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada. As a statistician, she had a long and distinguished career, and won the Janet L. Norwood award for outstanding achievement for a woman in the statistical sciences. In 1999, she came to Washington, DC to take a position as Director of the Division of Health Interview Statistics at the National Center for Health Statistics. Jane joined WRS in 2005. She was the close companion of the late Dick Shrager, former music director of WRS, and both were fixtures of the WRS community. Together with Steve Mullany and Jean Cioffi, they founded the Columbia Recorder Quartet, which frequently performed at WRS and local community events. She missed Dick terribly after he passed away and continued to have conversations with him. The family plans to hold a musical memorial in the spring. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in her honor to Planned Parenthood <u>https://www.plannedparenthood.org/</u>

Diane Mularz. Diane passed away peacefully at her home in Falls Church, Virginia on the morning of January 10, 2023, after a long battle with cancer. She was just 72. Diana was an exceptional software engineer and distinguished mathematician. She was known for her personal presence in and around those close to her, as well as her attention to detail, regardless of whether it was focused on software design or the arts that she loved. She was a juried quilt artist, belonging to the Potomac Fiber Arts Guild, as well as a longtime member of the Virginia Recorder Society and the Washington Recorder Society. A celebration of Diane's life was held on January 21, 2023.

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, <u>carolyn.lincoln@verizon.net</u>
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