



May, 2023

NOTES www.washingtonrecordersociety.org

Dear Readers,

As we welcome in the season of Spring, I want to thank you all for your continued support and commitment to WRS. It's been a busy few months of workshops, meetings, and concerts. In this issue of NOTES, we ask you to read about our updated bylaws, and VOTE for Board members at the link provided. Included as well are ideas for summer workshops to keep on playing! Thank you to Marge Hogarty for writing this latest newsletter issue. I look forward to seeing you at our last in-person and Zoom meetings of the year. **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., 5/20	In-person	10am-10:30am 10:30am-12:30pm	Meet and Greet Play music with Gwyn Roberts' Conservatory Students, Sarah Shodja and Teresa Deskur
Mon., 6/05	Online	7:00pm-7:30pm 7:30pm-9:00pm	Virtual Happy Hour and Business Meeting Session led by Nina Stern

Diversity Statement; Changes to WRS Bylaws

The WRS Board has approved a policy which clearly states that all members and guests are welcome at events. Although this has always been the policy, the Board wanted to ensure that all members are aware of the WRS welcome and that the chapter is aligned with similar statements of the American Recorder Society. The policy states that WRS is committed to building a diverse, supportive, and inclusive community of recorder players where all members, participants, and interested parties, whatever their gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, socioeconomic status, education, or disability, feel accepted, appreciated, and respected. We value and embrace diversity and mutual respect and aim to maintain an environment where all members feel welcomed. We celebrate diverse life experiences, as it is an integral part of the blended music we make together as a community. We acknowledge that our Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility mission is a shared responsibility and that all our members have a role in advancing our goals and values. If a person ever violates the policy, the Board will clarify consequences through updates to the bylaws.

At the same time, the Board removed statements about non-voting Board members which are no longer relevant. Click [here](#) to see the proposed bylaws with and without track changes in Word. Voting for the bylaw changes is on a ballot with the election of Board members for 2023-2024.

Two current board members are standing for reelection, Gabriel Johnson, and Judy McGraw. Their biographies appear on the next page.

A Musical Thought from Plato. *Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and charm and gaiety to life and to everything.*



Board Candidates' Biographies

Gabriel Johnson. Originally from Southwest Baltimore County, I have lived in Washington, DC since 2008, when I moved here fresh out of graduate school. I came to work as a laboratory technician for the herbarium at the National Museum of Natural History. Soon upon my arrival, I discovered that my hobby of recorder playing as an adolescent became a vital tool for coping with the trials and tribulations of adult life. Since then, making music with friends and family members has become a cherished pastime. Realizing the vital importance of making music for personal wellbeing as well as for bringing people together in community, I began volunteering at the Sitar Arts Center in Ward 1 to work with local young people as they discovered musical expression together in ensemble-based classes. In 2016 I relocated to the northwest region of the District and began attending the meetings of the Washington Recorder Society. The WRS has been such a tremendous resource and priceless community of recorder players for me. I have learned much about the depth and breadth of the recorder's storied repertoire, as well as essential techniques and interpretations that I could never have learned on my own. Besides, there is little fun in being an ensemble of one. Two years ago, just as the world turned upside down with the COVID-19 pandemic, I decided to serve on the WRS Board as the recording secretary. This experience has only reinforced the incredible importance of our mutual interconnections with the greater recorder-playing world. Moreover, I have witnessed first-hand how indispensable the WRS has been in strengthening these musical connections then and now as we continue together into the brave future. For these reasons, I would consider it a tremendous honor and privilege to continue to serve the WRS as a member of its Board and ensure that the Society continues to fulfill its mission for everyone.

Judy McGraw. I am running for a second term on the WRS board, and I wanted to reintroduce myself to those who are new or newly returning to the recorder community. Making music has been an important part of my life as far back as I can remember. I played modern flute through my school years and college. Over that time, I played repertoire from a variety of genres and enjoyed them all. As a teen, I bought a tenor recorder and used that as my instrument to bring camping and hiking. As a young adult, I slowly transitioned to recorder as my primary musical interest and started acquiring a wider range of recorders. I also started learning old-time banjo but found that my long work hours made it tough to make progress on two instruments. I am now retired from a long career as a social worker/psychotherapist. I worked in both public and private settings for several decades. In addition, I established my own practice and saw clients privately for almost thirty years. I feel lucky to have had such an interesting and fulfilling career, and also to have a world of music to enjoy in retirement. The luxury of time allows me to take recorder lessons, attend workshops, and participate in local ensembles. I try to play as often as possible. WRS continues to be a resource for meeting other recorder players, improving skills, and learning about the wider recorder world. I am happy to stay involved with WRS as we continue to evolve away from the lockdown of COVID-19 and develop the best mix of online and in-person experiences that we can offer.

How to Vote for Bylaw Changes and Board Candidates. Go to the following website: <https://forms.gle/97LBnMCvJTQij8rV7>, and vote online for the by-law amendment and board candidates.

Barry Moyer Memorial Workshop and Concert

On March 11, 2023, a group of 30 people gathered for a mini-workshop and concert to celebrate the life of Barry Moyer. The event was hosted by WRS. Barry was an avid recorder player and was known and loved by many. Jody Miller, Lawrence Lipnik, Lisle Kulbach, and Glen Shannon led the workshop and concert. (Glen sadly did not make it due to being snowed in.) The highlight of the weekend was the official premiere of Glen Shannon's new work written for Barry, *Missa super-brevis "Ave Barry, ursus coeli."* People came from all over the country to participate as well as several local WRS members. After an intense day of rehearsing, we all came together in the evening to play a beautiful concert that was attended by Barry's family and friends. It was a remarkable evening filled with lovely music, friendship, and some heartfelt tears.



Spring Break with Amherst Early Music

Amherst Early Music Spring Break, directed by Letitia Berlin, took place on April 22 and 23, 2023, with 20 recorder players, 12 viols, 7 lutes, and 8 singers plus 9 teachers. The theme for the workshop was **Continental Conversation--Music of Italy and England**. The workshop took place at St George's Episcopal Church in Arlington, and, from the feedback we received, it was a huge success!

Nina Dodge, recorder player, wrote, "Thanks to you all for a great Amherst weekend and all the work and care that went into making it so. I'm so glad I could participate and stay for the full grand finale which was one of the high points of the workshop!" Caroline Marris, another recorder player, wrote, "I loved my very first AEM workshop. I had to pinch myself, I was really there, amongst all the wonderful music players. The teachers were so nice and knowledgeable and picked the best music for us all to play. I learnt so much and loved being able to play with others in such a supportive atmosphere the whole time. I hope to attend for the next time."

***A note and question to all:** we have outgrown our space at St George's so will be looking for a new venue next spring to host AEM. We need to find a space with 10-12 classrooms, rooms for chorus rehearsal and a tutti session, and Metro accessibility. Please let me know if you have any thoughts or ideas for a new location and we will scout it out for next year's workshop. Many thanks. Monica*

WRS Outreach Program—The Keese School

Members of WRS gave a presentation to an enthusiastic audience at Asbury Methodist Village on April 17, 2023, to the Keese School, a resident-run educational program. Carolyn Lincoln, a WRS Board member and Asbury resident, lectured about the history of music in general and recorders in particular. David McGown, WRS member and music director, talked about and showed his Renaissance recorders. Jayme Sokolow, former WRS Board member, demonstrated his contrabass recorder to the amazement of the audience.

The New Dawn Consort, composed of WRS members Cathy Schairer, Madeleine Moore, and Kate Richardson (also an Asbury resident) then played some Renaissance and Baroque pieces. Among them were Josquin's *In Te Domine*, *Sperave*, Dowland's *Fine Knacks for Ladies*, and a Baroque *Rigaudon* and *Bourrée* by Marc-Antoine Charpentier. In addition, David McGown played a 9th century *Ave Maris Stella*, a hymn to Mary, star of the sea.

During the final 15 minutes, audience members asked thoughtful questions about how we got started with recorders and even a wonderful question about the Washington Recorder Society. Afterwards, many people came to the stage to ask more questions and see the recorders up close. Several residents said they were now inspired to pull out those recorders and start playing again!

Jane Gentleman Memorial

Jane Gentleman, a long-time member of WRS died on February 7th of cancer. Before she died, she asked her daughter, Wendy, to make sure that WRS, recorders and music would be a part of her Memorial Service. On Sunday, April 30th, we fulfilled that promise. Approximately 20 members of WRS played together in her honor and memory. It was a great send-off and we're pretty sure Jane would have loved it.



PICTURES FROM RECENT EVENTS



AEM Workshop Students: Caroline Marris, John Johnson, Lea Tyler, Anthony Coyne, Cathy Schairer, And instructor Rainier Beckman



WRS Members at Keese School Demonstration: David McGown, Carolyn Lincoln, Madeleine Moore, Cathy Schairer, Jayme Sokolow, and Kate Richardson



American Recorder Society

WRS is a chapter of the American Recorder Society (ARS), which provides many resources for all recorder players, including its own YouTube 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/>. The initial membership fee is \$25, with an annual charge of \$55 thereafter, for access to many resources. Consider joining. 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/>. The ARS offers scholarships for workshops and classes. You can check out the following website for more information.



Become a Better Player--Summer Workshops

Amherst Early Music. Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA. July 2-9 and 9-16, 2023
 Music of the British Isles, directed by Frances Blaker, <https://www.amherstearlymusic.org/festival>

Mountain Collegium. Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC. June 25-July 1, 2023
 Classes in Renaissance, Baroque, and Contemporary Music, directed by Jody Miller, <https://mountaincollegium.org/>

The Mideast Early Music Workshop. LaRoche University, Pittsburgh, PA. July 16-22, 2023
 Music of Saints and Sinners, Music of the 15th century from the Burgundian Court of Philip the Good to the Papal Chapel of the Borgia Popes. <https://www.earlymusicweekmideast.org/>

Early Music Week at Pinewoods. Pinewoods Camp, Plymouth MA. August 12-19, 2023
 Exploring the world's most vibrant and compelling Renaissance, Baroque, and Medieval music as well as dancing together and enjoying all that the Pinewoods community has to offer, directed by Lisa Terry, <https://camp.cdss.org/camp-weeks/early-music-week-at-pinewoods/>

Local Instructors:

<p>ADÉLA BALIMA Washington, DC Phone : 240-688-2809 Email: adelabalima@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 Phones: 301-530-6386 (home); 301-523-5515 (cell) Email: crogentine@gmail.com Website: www.learnrecorderwithcarole.com</p>
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Where to Hear Early Music:

Look for Announcements Online for 2023-2024 Season

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>

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 “For Members Only” pages or contact our webmaster, Carolyn Lincoln carolyn.lincoln@verizon.net. The [Membership Directory](#) 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.

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 September issue, please contact Marge Hogarty at margehogarty@verizon.net by August 25, 2023. Your short ad should state your item or need and provide contact information.

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.

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
Marge Hogarty	Newsletter Editor, margehogarty@verizon.net
Adéla Balima	Music Director, adelabalima@gmail.com
David McGown	Music Director, drmcgown@gmail.com