



September, 2023

# NOTES

[www.washingtonrecordersociety.org](http://www.washingtonrecordersociety.org)

## WRS 2023-2024 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
<b>2023</b>			
Sat., 9/23	In-person	10:00am-10:30am 10:30am-12:30pm	Meet and Greet Play music with David McGown and Adéla Balima
Mon., 10/02	Online	7:00pm-7:30pm 7:30pm-9:00pm	Virtual Happy Hour Session led by AnneTimberlake
Sat., 10/21	In-person	10:00am-10:30am 10:30am-12:30pm	Meet and Greet Play music with David McGown and Adéla Balima
Sat., 11/18	In-person	10:00am-10:30am 10:30am-12:30pm	Meet and Greet Play music with David McGown and Adéla Balima
Mon., 12/4	Online	7:00pm-7:30pm 7:30pm-9:00pm	Virtual Happy Hour Session led by Jody Miller
Sat., 12/16	In-person	10:00am-1:00pm	Holiday party and music playing led by David McGown and Adéla Balima
<b>2024</b>			
Sat., 1/20	In-person	10:00am-10:30am 10:30am-12:30pm	Meet and Greet Play music with David McGown and Adéla Balima
Mon., 2/05	Online	7:00pm-7:30pm 7:30pm-9:00pm	Virtual Happy Hour Session led by Nina Stern
Sat., 2/17	In-person	10:00am-10:30am 10:30am-12:30pm	Meet and Greet Play music with David McGown and Adéla Balima
Sat. and Sun. March	Amherst Spring Break Workshop		TBA
Mon., 4/01	Online	7:00pm-7:30pm 7:30pm-9:00pm	Virtual Happy Hour Session led by Annette Bauer
Sat., 4/20	In-person	10:00am-10:30am 10:30am-12:30pm	Meet and greet Play music with David McGown and Adéla Balima
Sat., 5/18	In-person	2:00pm-5:00pm	Spring Recital and Reception
Mon., 6/03	Online	7:00pm-7:30pm 7:30pm-9:00pm	Virtual Happy Hour and Business Meeting Session led by Gwyn Roberts



**Dear Readers,**

**Monica Boruch, WRS President**

*Welcome back to another WRS season! I hope you all had restful and healthy summers and kept your fingers limber with some music-playing. We begin with our first in-person meeting on Saturday, September 23rd and look forward to seeing many of you there. Like last year, we will offer Zoom classes as well with several wonderful teachers. This year, we plan on having our end of the year recital again so begin to think about what you might want to contribute. All are welcome to participate! I look forward to seeing you soon.*

**--Monica**

## **Amherst Festival 2023 Highlights**

Amherst Early Music is the largest presenter of Early Music workshops in North America and creates learning opportunities for amateur and pre-professional students to study with leading musicians in the field of Early Music. This year's Summer Festival was held at Muhlenberg College located in Allentown, PA this past July. You can attend for one and/or two weeks. This year several WRS members attended and shared their experiences below. We hope that you will think about attending next summer.

### **Carolyn Lincoln**

My favorite class was one about Shakespeare, either songs he referred to in his plays or words that he created for a play. At the end of the week, the class did a recorder and vocal performance which included witches stirring a cauldron and throwing in rubber spiders – great fun!

### **Daniel Bruner**

One of the most rewarding aspects of the Amherst Festival this year for me (I attended the second week) was the opportunity to play not only in groups of recorders, but in groups with mixed instruments and singers. My class on William Byrd's music consisted of viols, a cornetto, a dulcian, and singers, as well as recorders. I also had a class on Early 17th Century English Masque Music (dance music for elaborate events staged at court), with viols, lutes, and a theorbo, as well as recorders. To work for an entire week with these ensembles was a really rare and exciting experience for me. I strongly suggest that you go to one of the Amherst offerings if you haven't been, and that you sign up, not only for recorder-focused classes, but also for classes with other instruments and singers, if possible.

### **Betty Landesman**

I enjoyed participating in the wonderful Baroque orchestra (week 1) led by the wonderful Frances Blaker--something I look forward to every year. It was one of 3 classes giving my 415 alto a good workout! I also played in the recorder band during week 2; in the 4 pieces we performed in the student concert, I played 3 different recorders [SAB] in 2 different fingerings, switching back and forth. And they say playing Sudoku and doing crosswords are good for maintaining senior brain agility--this took the cake! And this year's opera was truly AMAZING!

### **Zulema Garraffo**

I had a wonderful week. I participated in the recorder band, working on tuning and interpretation, and ending with 17 recorders playing pretty much in tune. I took a Renaissance Consort class, where I was humbled in a positive way, I am now trying to find ways to play more with my Renaissance instruments and correct my mistakes. We played Binchois and Dufay in Valerie's early notation class, including a beautiful challenging isorhythmic motet by Dufay. Playing from the manuscript with a great teacher added to discovering the intricacies of the piece, and added satisfaction when we found a good solution to fit the tenor part with the two higher voices. I came back motivated to keep studying and playing. The concerts were very good. All added to a great week.



### **Judy McGraw**

Several of my classes this year included a mix of instruments, and it was fun to make music with different families of instruments. One class even included a dulcian and a cornetto, which was quite an experience! I love walking around campus and hearing appealing music coming from different directions. It's fun to meet with other students in between classes, to play for fun or to review something from a class. Being around so many people that are excited about the same music that I enjoy is very refreshing. There are a few people that I have met at previous festivals and only see during that week; I enjoy seeing them and having a chance to chat. The faculty concert is a highlight of the week, of course. But I also loved some of the drop-ins and salon concerts. I think that my favorite this year was the salon concert by Alyssa Duryee in the chapel. She invited all the attendees to sit around the piano as though we were in a salon, and played music of a later period, including one by Beethoven....and the whole event was just gorgeous. There were no programs, so she introduced each piece and gave some historical context as she went along. Amazing. The time flew by.

### **Ellen Farrell**

I attended Week 2 of the Amherst Early Music Festival this year and couldn't have asked for a better experience. I've been a regular participant in the Summer Festival for many years, and, in my experience, classes are always interesting and worthwhile, but it's not always possible for the organizers to create classes with players at perfectly matched levels. This year I caught the brass ring: two renaissance recorder classes, an a cappella singing class that accommodated my less than stellar sight singing, and a notation class focused on music by Dufay, Binchois and the *Contenance Angloise* for this "English" year. All wonderful music with terrific teachers. It's hard to pinpoint what makes Amherst so special; certainly, the organization, hard work, and good humor that all of the staff and teachers bring to the week is a big part of it. I think the secret ingredient, though, is the experience of sharing a week filled with playing music, listening to performances, and talking with others who are as passionate about early music as I am.

### **Monica Boruch**

This was my 3rd year at AEM. It's an incredible opportunity to immerse yourself in music and learning. Many of us who attend are amateur musicians who get to spend a week with professional teachers from around the world who share their experience, wisdom, and skills with us. The faculty is supportive, patient and encouraging! On top of the daily class time, we get to hear several faculty concerts and performances which are always such a treat. The workshop is geared to accommodate people at different levels of musical experience so even if you are a fairly new player, you will be put in a level of class accordingly and get experience playing in small ensembles. I loved my week there meeting lots of other musicians, challenging myself to get better on my instruments, and bringing home lots of things to continue working on.

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### **Pay Your Dues for 2023-2024 Now!**

It's time to renew your membership for the 2023-2024 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, click [here](#). If you prefer, you can follow the instructions on the website 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!**



## Mini-Concerts

WRS is planning to reinstitute the mini-recital series as part of our monthly in-person meetings on Saturdays. This was a very popular feature to our meetings pre-pandemic and we are excited to offer them again. Groups/individuals will perform for the first 15-20 minutes followed by our all member playing sessions for the remainder of the meeting. All early instruments are welcome. If you are interested in performing, please contact Monica at [fmboruch@comcast.net](mailto:fmboruch@comcast.net) to discuss scheduling. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn repertoire and gain performing experience to a friendly and supportive audience!

## 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. The ARS offers scholarships for workshops and classes.



## The North American Virtual Recorder Society

The North American Virtual Recorder Society was initially an idea that grew out of the pandemic, as a safe space for players who didn't feel comfortable meeting other players in person. It continues to serve a community of players who don't have a local chapter or consort, who cannot gather with other players, or who simply want more playing time. Its first virtual playing session, in December, 2021, attracted over 100 players. Today membership has grown to 189 and represents 4 Canadian Provinces and 36 U. S. States. President Mike Richart said, "I'm excited at the abundance of opportunities we'll have to learn and grow together as a recorder community...and invite you to join us."

The year-round playing meetings feature ensemble music for players of every age and stage. Music Director Rachel Begley wants members "to experience the joy of having different music teachers." The next playing meeting, on Sunday September 26 from 2:00 to 3:30pm, will be led by Rachel. Your first playing meeting does not require annual membership, but after that you must be an NAVRS Chapter member to attend. The annual membership fee is \$20, and playing meetings are \$15 per session. To sign up, go to <https://www.navrs.org>. The website also includes details about ways to make the most of virtual playing as well as information about this year's program.



## Out and About Recorders

### The WARPes at Burke Center Library

The WARPes, an informal collection of Virginia recorder players, meets for fun and practice each Wednesday morning. On Saturday June 24, seven of their members, including WRS members Marge Hogarty and Ed Feinberg, helped celebrate the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Burke Center Library with a thirty-minute performance showcasing instruments from the soprano to the bass. Musical selections, ranging from the sublime to the ridiculous, included Bach's *Largo* and *Baby Shark*. Needless to say, many of those in attendance were young children. For the purposes of this performance, the acronym WARP stood for Well Aged Recorder Players, since most members are active retirees. The group was particularly pleased to have the opportunity to volunteer its services for this event in order to demonstrate its appreciation to the Fairfax County Public Library system for making its meeting rooms available for its weekly practice sessions. Anyone interested in joining the WARPes should contact Marge Hogarty, [margehogarty@verizon.net](mailto:margehogarty@verizon.net)

### Cedarwood Consort at Westminster School

This spring, Capitol Early Music (CEM) received an inquiry from Matthew Locke, the music teacher at Westminster School in Annandale, VA. He explained that one of the school's academic goals is to connect students' study of history with arts related subjects and asked if they could provide a demonstration for middle school students who study the Medieval and Renaissance eras. CEM is not a performing organization, but the Cedarwood Consort (Ellen Farrell, Mollie Habermeier, Judy McGraw, and Reiko Yoshimura on recorders, joined by Michael Stover on lute) offered to prepare a short program of Renaissance music and to take questions from the students. On May 22, they presented music that showcased the full range of recorders from soprano to great bass, and some of the varieties of music that were heard in those times: secular and liturgical vocal music and dance music. The students were quite attentive and asked lots of questions. The consort enjoyed the opportunity, and the school was most appreciative.

### In Memoriam

Helen Elliott, long-time member of WRS and former board member, died August 13, 2023 at the age of 97. Helen was a recorder student of Carole Rogentine for many years, worked at NIH, and was an avid horseback rider. We send our condolences to her family.

## Become a Better Player

### Local Instructors:

<b>ADÉLA BALIMA</b> Washington, DC Phone : 240-688-2809 Email: <a href="mailto:adelabalima@gmail.com">adelabalima@gmail.com</a> Website: <a href="http://adelabalima.com">http://adelabalima.com</a>	<b>RACHEL ISAACSON</b> Arlington, VA Phone : 571-338-4606 Email : <a href="mailto:isaacson.rachel@gmail.com">isaacson.rachel@gmail.com</a>	<b>CAROLE ROGENTINE</b> Bethesda, MD Phones: 301-530-6386 (home); 301-523-5515 (cell) Email: <a href="mailto:crogentine@gmail.com">crogentine@gmail.com</a> Website: <a href="http://www.learnrecorderwithcarole.com">www.learnrecorderwithcarole.com</a>
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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://tempestadimare.my.salesforce-sites.com/ticket/#/>

Capitol Early Music <https://capitolearlymusic.org/>

Piffaro—The Renaissance Band <https://www.piffaro.org>



## Capitol Early Music – 2023-2024 Concert Season

Capitol Early Music has announced a new season consisting of three extraordinary Sunday afternoon concerts, each to be preceded by an all-day workshop related to their performance. Subscriptions are now available.

**Ravensong Players – October 8, 2023 – “Under Diana’s Stars”**  
**New World Recorders – January 28, 2024 – “Beginning, Middle, End”**  
**Camerata Transcontinental – May 12, 2024**

Featuring a variety of early instruments and a soprano, the Ravensong Players will recreate the goddess Diana’s starlit bower under the stars with music by Monteclair, Rameau, Couperin, and Purcell. In January, New World Recorders will present musical narratives from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The final concert of the season brings us an ensemble gathered from across our continent, taking us on a musical tour across England and the European continent, featuring recorders, viols, and lute. More details about the performers, as well as ticketing information, is available at <https://capitolearlymusic.org/>. The price of a subscription is \$105.

All concerts will take place at Saint George’s Episcopal Church, 915 N. Oakland St., Arlington, VA at 3pm. Registration for workshops opens 6-8 weeks beforehand. These concerts and workshops present a wonderful opportunity to enrich our lives with music from the instruments, performers, and music we love.

### Check out the WRS Website

The WRS website [www.washingtonrecordersociety.org](http://www.washingtonrecordersociety.org) will 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](mailto: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.

### 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 sessions.

### WRS Board Members

Monica Boruch	President, <a href="mailto:fmboruch@comcast.net">fmboruch@comcast.net</a>
Judy McGraw	Vice President, <a href="mailto:j.and.j@verizon.net">j.and.j@verizon.net</a>
Gabe Johnson	Secretary, <a href="mailto:gabriel.p.johnson@gmail.com">gabriel.p.johnson@gmail.com</a>
Carolyn Lincoln	Treasurer Webmaster, <a href="mailto:carolyn.lincoln@verizon.net">carolyn.lincoln@verizon.net</a>
Marge Hogarty	Newsletter Editor, <a href="mailto:margehogarty@verizon.net">margehogarty@verizon.net</a>
Adéla Balima	Music Director, <a href="mailto:adelabalima@gmail.com">adelabalima@gmail.com</a>
David McGown	Music Director, <a href="mailto:drmcgown@gmail.com">drmcgown@gmail.com</a>



## Classified Advertising

To submit an ad for the December issue, please contact Marge Hogarty at [margehogarty@verizon.net](mailto:margehogarty@verizon.net) by November 1, 2023. Your short ad should state your item or need and provide contact information.

**FREE MUSIC STANDS.** Carole Rogentine has 4 music stands to give away. Contact her at [crogentine@gmail.com](mailto:crogentine@gmail.com)

**INSTRUMENTS FROM THE ESTATE OF MARILYN KNEGO.** Marilyn lived in Philadelphia and was a student of Gwyn Roberts. Her instruments are being sold “as-is”, and will be on display at the September 23, 2023 in-person meeting of WRS.

	CURRENT PRICE NEW	ASKING PRICE
Prescott Renaissance tenor (keyless) No. 2784 with case and thumb rest	\$2625	\$2000
von Huene Ganassi Soprano No. 9556 with case	1200	800
von Huene Rippert alto (@440) No. 9403with case	2400	1900
von Huene Bressan Tenor in D (voice flute) No. 11596 @415 with case	2800	2100
Hulsens (?)soprano at 415, boxwood; no maker’s mark on instrument but Marilyn’s husband Bob has a receipt for a Hulsens 415 instrument), no case	1265	800
Moeck soprano		200-300
Yamaha plastic tenor, no case	99	50
Cornamuse alto (Unidentified maker)	783 (EMS)	500
Cavallaro 7 slot (SATB) recorder roll	115	50
NB these are no longer in production; a substitute is the Canzonet 6 or 8 slot rolls \$119/ \$155 new		

**INSTRUMENTS FROM THE ESTATE OF JANE GENTLEMAN.** Jane, a longtime member of WRS, left her instruments to us so that we could sell them for our benefit. These will be displayed for inspection/purchase at the September 23 in-person meeting. In addition to those listed below, there were two more expensive instruments which have already been sold. Jane passed away earlier this year, and we thank her for her generous gift.

QTY	Maker	Model	Pitch	Material	List/Market Price New	Source	Suggested Price
3	Yamaha	Soprano Recorder, YRS-312B	A440	ABS Plastic	\$20	Amazon	\$10
3	Yamaha	Alto Recorder, YRA-312B	A440	ABS Plastic	\$38	Amazon	\$19
3	Yamaha	Tenor Recorder, YRT-304B	A440	ABS Plastic	\$67	Amazon	\$34
1	Yamaha	Tenor Recorder, YRT-304B, key added on hole 4	A440	ABS Plastic	\$207	The extra key was custom installed at \$140 charge at Lazar Early Music	\$104
3	Yamaha	Bass Recorder. YRB-302B	A440	ABS Plastic	\$268	Amazon	\$134
2	Yamaha	Alto Recorder, YRA-402B	A440	Ecodear Plastic	\$32	Amazon	\$16
2	Yamaha	Soprano Recorder, YRS-402	A440	Ecodear Plastic	\$29	Amazon	\$15
2	Yamaha	Alto Recorder, YRA-314B	A440	ABS Plastic, Wood Grain	\$40	Amazon	\$20
1	Yamaha	Soprano Recorder, YRS-302B	A440	ABS Plastic	\$32	Amazon	\$16
1	Aulos	Sopranino Recorder, A507B	A440	ABS Plastic	\$18	Amazon	\$9
1	Cavallero	Instrument Roll nSATB			\$125	No longer available, Last price at Von Huene	\$63