



December, 2023

NOTES

www.washingtonrecordersociety.org

Dear Readers,

Here is the winter newsletter for your reading pleasure! We are so grateful that you have joined us for another year of playing music together. A special thank you to our newsletter editor, Marge Hogarty. I wish you all a peaceful and healthy holiday season. **Monica Boruch, WRS President**

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.

T	Meeting	Time	Group
2023 Schedule			
Sat., 12/16	In-person	10:00am-1:00pm	Holiday party and music playing led by David McGown and Adéla Balima
2024 Schedule			
Sat., 1/20	In-person	10:00am-10:30am 10:30am-12:30pm	Meet and Greet Play music with Sarah Shodja and Teresa Deskur
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. 3/16 and 3/17	Amherst Spring Break Workshop		George Washington University
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



*Holiday Party on December 16 at St. Columba's
Music to be led by David and Adéla. Refreshments will be served.*



Return of Mini-recitals

Once upon a time before COVID, we regularly offered mini-recitals before our in-person WRS meetings. These were short performances by WRS members...duets, trios and small ensembles. It gave everyone a chance to play and hear our fellow members perform. Sometimes these groups were already established, and other times they got together for the direct purpose of preparing for the mini-recital. These mini-recitals also became integral in contributing to the end of year full recital that took place in May.

We are reinstating these mini-recitals at our monthly in-person Saturday meetings. If you are looking for people to play with, try checking out our Member Directory on the WRS website to see who lives near you. Chances are they would enjoy getting together just to play together and/or prepare for a mini-recital or the full recital. Also on the website, under the Members Only section, is a list of music selections you can choose from. Both the Members List and the music are password protected. Let me know if you need the password reminder.

If you would like to sign up for a mini-recital, please email me, and we will get you on the calendar. Available slots are in February, April, and June. Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 18, for the end-of-year WRS recital.

--*Monica Boruch*

Become a Better Player

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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Capitol Early Music—January Recorder Workshop and Concert

Mark your calendars for an all-day recorder workshop at St. George's Episcopal Church on Saturday, January 27, sponsored by Capital Early Music. The workshop program will include ensemble classes for intermediate level playing and up, taught by the well-known and beloved teachers: Rainer Beckman, Héloïse Degrugillier, Gwyn Roberts, and Sarah Shodja. On Sunday afternoon, January 28, the New World Recorders will perform a concert entitled *Beginning, Middle and End*. Watch for more information to come on how to sign up for this wonderful workshop and concert opportunity.

Amherst Early Music Spring Workshop

The Washington DC area will again host the Spring AEM workshop in March 2024. Save the weekend! Dates for the workshop are Saturday, March 16 and Sunday, March 17. The workshop will include recorders, lutes, viols and a chorus and will be held on the George Washington University campus. Stay tuned for more information in early 2024...and check out the AEM link below: <https://www.amherstearlymusic.org/workshops/spring-break-workshop>



Something Different—Improvise, Imagine, Play by Ear

Tina Chancey's **Christmas Collegium**, December 27-30, will be held in a zoom format this year. Three different imaginative approaches to improvisation will be featured. There will also be a play-by-ear workshop. Each class lasts 1 ½ hours.

Telling Stories. Wednesday, December 27 at 7pm. Learn to put sounds in a context through stories: poetic, narrative, cinema and more.

Patterns. Thursday, December 28 at 7pm. Play with visual patterns through the use of evocative OuiSI cards.

Elements of Style, Friday, December 29, 7pm. How are medieval, renaissance, and baroque improvisations different. What makes trills sound baroque? Tackle the process of improvising in a particular historic style.

Soundcatcher—Play by Ear. Saturday, December 30, 1pm. Free yourself from the tyranny of the printed page. Learn the practice of active listening, how to spot patterns, how to ground yourself with some nuts-and-bolts theory, and how to describe what you hear. Open to any level player, early, modern, and traditional, no music reading required.

Classes are \$20 each or 3 for \$50. All instruments are welcome. Scholarships available! Just ask.

Email Tina E. Chancey at tinachancey@mac.com to register, before you pay.

Pay with PayPal (tinachancey@mac.com)

Zelle (Tina E. Chancey or 703 407 0642)

Venmo (tinachancey@cs.com)

Or mail payment to Tina Chancey, 3706 North 17th St., Arlington, VA 22207

Free Music Available from ARS

To improve your practice sessions or find pieces for your group to play, go to the ARS site for free music and play-alongs. The website address is <https://americanrecorder.org/>. 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 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 Saturday, December 16 from 1:30 to 3:00pm EST, will be led by Wendy Powers. The 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. The members-only workshop is \$20. 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 WARPs (Wednesday AM Recorder Practice) performed at the Fairfax Country Club on December 1 for the OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) Christmas Party. They also played at the Burke Center Library on November 22 for a simple Kiddie Koncert and demonstration of instruments. Most guests were under two years old, but they were well-behaved and enjoyed performance of some of their favorite songs. WRS members Neale Ainsfield, Ed Feinberg, and Marge Hogarty were among the performers.

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.org/>

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

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

Concert—Songs from Ireland and Scotland

The *Magdalena* ensemble is coming to DC on Sunday, January 7, 2024 at 2:30 pm. Immerse yourself in the unique sonic tapestry of period instruments playing Irish and Scottish tunes, from heart-rending ballads to raucous dances. The concert will be held at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 301 A Street SE, Washington, DC 20003. Pay what you can, with a \$20 suggested donation per person. For more information, go to <https://www.magdalena-ensemble.com/about>.

“Good Tidings We Bring to You and Your Kin”



Marge Hogarty Answers the *Whence Recorder Questionnaire*

Marge Hogarty is the editor of WRS *Notes* and serves on the Board of Directors.

Did you grow up in a musical family? My father, who had a beautiful baritone voice, sang in glee clubs and choirs from his college days until his death in 1988. He and my mother met in a church choir. He purchased the family piano when I was about 8, and I took lessons from his choir director, and later from Sister Juliana, OSB, at my elementary school.

Do you sing or play instruments other than recorder? I don't have a solo voice, by any means, but have sung in choruses and church choirs since my high school days. I play the piano, but for myself only. When I was in elementary school, I played the E flat horn pretty well, then in college borrowed my sister's guitar from time to time, learning simple chords.

Do you think there's any type of music that doesn't sound good on the recorder? I'm not sure how to answer this question, but I prefer early music on the recorder. Nineteenth century and later, not so much.

Do you have a practice regimen? I must confess that I am not very disciplined or regular about practice, but I practice extensively when I have to learn a hard part or prepare for a performance.

Do you have a teacher? The recorder first appeared in my life when my son, now 54 years old, brought home a soprano from his 3rd grade music class. He went nowhere with it, but I picked it up and taught myself to play before I started playing with others. I don't have a teacher now, but long ago I took some private and group lessons from Scott Reiss. I also attend workshops when I can.

Do you play duets or in larger ensembles? I zoom with 3 other people every Tuesday morning—2 other recorder players and a violinist. I also play in person with the WARPs (Wednesday AM Recorder Practice) in various Fairfax Public Library conference rooms. There are usually 6 to 8 of us, and we play a wide variety of music—old and new. I have attended a few workshops, and would like to do more in the future.

Do you approach performance with enthusiasm or dread? No fear. Or only when I have over-practiced a tricky part.

How long have you been a member of WRS? I first joined WRS in the late 70s and played through the 80s. After I inherited the family piano in 1988, I focused on that and took lessons for a while. I came back to recorder playing in 2006 and returned to WRS around 2012.

Has membership benefited you in ways you didn't anticipate? Well, I never expected to be editing this newsletter, although I have edited various publications during college and later. I was an English and French major and have always liked to write.

Is there a performer that has inspired you throughout your recorder-playing life? Scott Reiss, a founding member of the Folger Consort, and my niece Molly McDolan, a professional baroque oboist.

Which performer is your favorite recent discovery? Adéla

Check out the WRS Website

The WRS website 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. 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 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

Classified Advertising

A veteran recorder player (SATB) new to the area is looking for compatible players in the Gaithersburg area. Contact information: Howard Bluth, landhbluth@toast.net or phone 301-869-4350

WRS Board Members

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