



# Notes

February, 2024

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

Dear Readers,

Our February WRS newsletter is here! We are headed toward Spring, and I look forward to seeing you in person and/or at our Zoom meetings over the next few months. Special thanks to newsletter editor, Marge Hogarty.

Monica Boruch, 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.

Sat., 2/24	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	3:00pm-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

## SPRING RECITAL IS BACK!

For the first time since 2019, WRS will hold a spring recital. It will take place on Saturday, May 18 at 3 pm at St Columba's Church. It will provide an opportunity for WRS members to perform as a group, as well as to showcase soloists, duets and other small ensemble groups. It's a great time to share your favorite piece of music; plan now for what you would like to play. All levels are welcome. Each group will perform for a maximum of ten minutes, and there will be a printed program. Non-performing family and friends are welcome and encouraged to attend. An informal reception will follow. Email the name of your piece, performers' names and approximate timing to Monica at [fmboruch@comcast.net](mailto:fmboruch@comcast.net) by May 6, 2024.

## Become a Better Player

### Calling All Recorder Players—Amherst Early Music Spring Workshop

The Washington, DC area will again host the spring AEM workshop on Saturday, March 16 and Sunday, March 17. The workshop will include recorders, lutes, viola de gamba, and a chorus. It will be held on the George Washington University campus with an all-participant *Tutti* section on Sunday. Come register at <https://www.amherstearlymusic.org/workshops/spring-break-workshop>.

### 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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### Out and About Recorder Players

On January 28, 2024, *A Musical Celebration of Candlemas* was performed by Consort Anon and The Maryland Renaissance Revelers at St. Matthew's Methodist Church in Bowie, Maryland. The concert raised \$475 for the Bowie Interfaith Food Pantry. WRS participants in the concert were Mary Anne Espenshade, Eric Schwartz, and Helen-Jean Talbott. Other members, Monica Boruch and Rachel Isaacson, were unable to attend. Watch the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GKNr5kg26RY>.

### American Recorder Society

March is "Play the Recorder" month. Many chapters, consorts and recorder orchestras are being creative to plan ways to illustrate the versatility and beauty of this wonderful instrument. The centerpiece of the month is the commissioned piece, *een mentaliteit* by Providence-based composer Jamie Allen. It was inspired by the late recorder icon, Frans Brüggen (1938-2014) who was known for saying, "*blokfluit spelen is een mentaliteit*." (Recorder playing is a state of mind.) ARS members will have received the piece with the Winter, 2023 edition of the American Recorder Magazine.

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

NAVRS has a new music director, Annette Bauer. She will be leading the March 23 meeting, "Spring is in the Air." She has selected music from across the centuries that celebrate the season of spring, the return of longer days, bird song, and the reawakening of nature. The Zoom link will be live, beginning at 1:30 pm Eastern time. In addition, a Members-Only meeting will be held on March 3. Rotem Gilbert will conduct a workshop entitled "A Woman's Voice: Musical Settings of Poetry." 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.

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. 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

## **Mollie Habermeier Answers *Whence Recorder* Questionnaire**

### **Did you sing or play other instruments before you took up recorder?**

I started playing recorder in elementary school, and I had not previously played an instrument. I wanted to continue with music, and the teacher told me to pick a “real” instrument, so I switched to clarinet. I played clarinet through high school and college, but then I didn’t play any instruments for years. When my daughter was playing recorder in elementary school, I remembered how much fun it was, so I started playing recorder again.

### **Do you have a musical family?**

As I was growing up, there were often classical music recordings playing, and I was taken to performances, but my parents did not play musical instruments.

### **Do you sing or play instruments other than recorder now?** No.

### **Do you compose or arrange music?** No.

### **Do you think there’s any type of music that doesn’t sound good on the recorder?**

I used to think that classical orchestral music did not sound good on recorder. Then I participated in a WRS performance of Grieg’s “Peer Gynt Suite” and really liked it, so I don’t think that any more. Helen-Jean Talbott wrote the arrangement. It calls for many recorder sizes, from the smallest to the largest. Most people don’t have them all, but the WRS as a group does.

### **What’s your approach to playing recorder?**

I play to enjoy the music, and to enjoy playing with other people.

### **How do you find the time?**

Even when I am busy, I try to play at least 10 minutes a day, just to keep the momentum going.

### **Do you have a teacher?**

Yes, I take lessons from Gwyn Roberts.

### **Do you play duets or in larger ensembles? Do you attend workshops?**

Yes to all. We are fortunate to have a lot of recorder players and players of other early instruments in this area. I attend music workshops here and other places.

### **Do you approach performance with enthusiasm or dread?**

I do get nervous about performing, but I remind myself that the audience is there because they enjoy the same music that I do, and I am giving them a chance to hear it.

### **How long have you been a member of WRS?** Since 2010.

### **Is there a performer—solo or group—that has inspired you throughout your recorder-playing life?**

I have been listening to the Baltimore Consort since before I returned to recorder. I grew to love early music listening to them.

**What are your 3 favorite recordings featuring recorder?** My favorites vary, but my current one is the video of Purcell’s “Strike the Viol” performed by Les Musiciens de Saint-Julien and François Lazarevitch. There is an audio version, too, but in the video, you can see the musicians enjoying playing together.

### **If you were a castaway on a desert island, which one of your recorders would you hope you had with you?**

Either a renaissance tenor, because I love the full and beautiful tone, or a baroque alto.

## Website Has a New Look

The WRS website, <https://www.washingtonrecordersociety.org/>, has a new look but the same great content. The main page provides an introduction to the organization and the latest news. The footer has links to the meeting schedule and newsletters. The menu and the buttons both take you to more detailed information such as links to handy websites. Check out the Members Only section for a directory of members and the Roger Morris Collection of recorder music. Email [carolyn.lincoln@verizon.net](mailto:carolyn.lincoln@verizon.net), if you need the password.

## 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

## Board of Directors

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>
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