



Notes

May, 2024

www.washingtonrecordersociety.org

Dear Readers,

Our May Spring WRS newsletter issue is here! We are having our end of the year recital for the first time since 2019 on Saturday, May 18th. We hope you will join us. Many good wishes for a restful summer. See you all in September!

Monica Boruch, President

Spring Recital

For the first time in 5 years, WRS is holding a spring recital. A recorder orchestra, small groups and soloists have worked hard to prepare a wonderful program. It will be held at St. Columba's Episcopal Church, 4201 Albemarle St., NW, Washington, DC 20016. Don't forget to invite family and friends to attend and enjoy. There is a small parking lot at the church and plenty of on-street parking. The June on-line meeting will be held on Zoom. You will receive an invitation and music after registration for the session. To register, click [here](#).

Date	Type	Schedule	Group
2024			
Sat, 05/18	In person	3:00-5:00pm	Recital
Mon, 06/03	Online	7:00-7:30 7:30-9:00	Virtual Happy Hour and Business Meeting Session led by Gwyn Roberts

Vote for Board Members

Five of the Board members are up for re-election this year and have agreed to serve for another term. They are:

- [Monica Boruch](#), President
- [Carolyn Lincoln](#), Treasurer and Webmaster
- [Marge Hogarty](#), WRS Notes editor
- [David McGown](#), Music Leader
- [Adela Balima](#), Music Leader

Click on their names for more information about them. Then click [here](#) to vote.

Out and About Recorder Players

Oakland Terrace Elementary

A chorus of oos, ahs, and wows reverberated through the auditorium at Oakland Terrace Elementary as the great bass recorder bellowed its first note. This was the sound of 60 third graders instantly realizing that the musical potential of their recorders is exponentially greater than they had ever thought. This school, located in Wheaton, MD, is fortunate to have a wise, hardworking music teacher named Anna Harris, who invited WRS to share with her students the joy of recorder consort music--played on the whole family of instrument sizes and spanning over 800 years of history. Anna, along with Monica Boruch, Judy McGraw, and Gabe Johnson began by playing the popular "Baby Shark" tune starting on soprano and then adding each voice up to garklein and down to great bass. They followed up with "The Rakes of Mallow," "Bamboo Calypso," "Alle Psallite," and Este's "How Merrily We Live." (See photo below.) Then the students were divided into groups to learn Susato's "Danse de Hercules" from Anna and the WRS volunteers. Everyone then regrouped to play the piece together in 4-part harmony. The excitement and delight in the room was so palpable that the only thing the WRS players could talk about afterwards was their hope of returning next year.



St. Augustine Catholic School

Since January, Gabe Johnson has been volunteering at St. Augustine Catholic School near 15th & V St. NW in the district. After classes end for the day, most of the students stay for an additional couple of hours for after-school clubs, from fencing and soccer to painting and music. Anna Granger, a longtime volunteer with the DC Youth Philharmonic has been teaching recorder and ukulele for the “orchestra” class. This after school program serves as the only instrumental music instruction at the school and include students from all ages, kindergarten through 8th grade. Due to the important service this class provides and the complexity of the working with students from so many different age groups, Anna reached out to WRS for potential volunteers.

Since Gabe lives in that neighborhood and had taught at a similar afterschool program at the Sitar Arts Center, working at St. Augustine’s was a perfect fit. Here Gabe and Anna assist students in learning to read sheet music from a graded series of tunes, including “Hot Cross Buns,” “Alouette,” “Twinkle Twinkle,” and “Little Brown Jug.” The students receive a different colored “belt” to tie onto the bell of their recorder for each piece they learn. Then, as a group, the students learn to play a variety of tunes from all over the world as compiled and arranged by Nina Stern, creator of the *S’Cool Sounds* Curriculum. Combining these catchy tunes with harmony lines and percussion parts gives the students an excellent opportunity to develop ensemble skills. Finally, each class concludes with an exciting music theory game such as musical War, Go-fish, or Bingo. For the end-of-year assembly in June, the class will perform “Silent Night” as an ensemble, and other students will give solo performances of the pieces they have been exploring all semester.

Volunteering at this school requires a background check and orientation, so the summer months are a perfect time to reach out to Monica Boruch or Gabe Johnson to learn more. As a volunteer you not only guide these bright students on their own musical journeys, but you also develop your own skills as a recorder player with each assertive inquiry and brazen comment that only a 3rd grader could think of. These experiences can lead you to play with greater intentionality.

Where to Hear Early Music

Look for Announcements Online for 2024-2025 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>

Become a Better Player

Local Instructors:

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

I cannot remember any time in my long life that music was not present in some way. And much to my surprise, the recorder has followed me and is playing a dominant role in my life as an oldster!

My immigrant parents probably never gave an iota of thought to giving us children music lessons, as they worked very hard just to make ends meet. Although I did not have the opportunity to have music lessons, I found music everywhere for free, such as singing with friends, listening over and over again to favorite songs on 78s and LPs, learning how to dance the swing steps, and going to teen dances at the YMCA. My older sister eventually bought an old beat up piano, and I taught myself to read music and play the piano using a John Thompson first year book.

I always felt that music was an essential element of child development for discipline, growth in aesthetics, awareness of musical beauty, and solid citizenship. During my years as a teacher, when budgets for music teachers were cut, I formed school choirs, and, in the classroom, taught music literacy through the soprano recorder. One year I invited a group of recorder players from the Santa Cruz Recorder Society (much like WRS) to demonstrate the instruments and was wholly surprised and delighted to hear and see the variety of instruments and the range of beautiful sounds an ensemble can create. The volunteer group from the recorder society opened the recorder world to me and my students on that day. After hearing the ensemble, I tucked away the idea that someday I would seriously pursue the recorder.

That time came after I retired and moved to Maryland. I met Annie Brown at church, and our friendship began by taking out our dusty old recorders and practicing and laughing together while we explored the wonders of the instruments. We expanded our repertoire, bought books of music, and added members to our group, eventually playing well enough to perform at church.

Joining WRS seemed like the next step to take if we wanted to become more proficient. Besides, we wanted to explore more music and play with a larger group. Initially, we were somewhat intimidated by the fast-moving pace of the sight-reading sessions. But Dick Schragger, who led the sessions at the Unitarian Church on Cedar Lane, put us at ease. With humor, he laced each piece with history, anecdotes, and musical analysis. We were thrilled by the richness of all the instruments and the choice of music. We also were happy to find that WRS players were very friendly and understanding. It has been a joy to meet new friends, not only to share food and conversations, but to make music together.

Two years ago, I encountered a health issue that affected my lungs, i.e. pulmonary fibrosis. I was beginning to fear that I would have to give up the recorders, but I read that one of the therapies for increasing and improving lung function was to play either the harmonica or recorders. Imagine that! As if I needed to have an excuse, I've been using my health condition as a reason to practice daily. This consistent practice (self-therapy) has brought amazing benefits to both my lungs and my musicianship. It is the most enjoyable therapy I have ever had.

I'll never be able to figure out my journey through life. Musical interests sprinkled throughout the years, and eventually the recorder, have become the means to bring me all the best things in life: wonderful friendships and an active musical life full of lovely music--boosting my energy, soothing my soul, and improving my health.

American Recorder Society

WRS is a chapter of the American Recorder Society. ARS 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.

This spring, ARS is promoting a learning experience for intermediate players of soprano and alto recorders as well as other instruments; the Old Avoca Schoolhouse in Avoca, Nebraska will be streaming 3 on-line sessions on Tuesday, June 18 at 7pm CDT, Wednesday, June 19 at 10am CDT, and Friday, June 21 at 7pm CDT. Different duets from *Classical Tunes for Two, Volume 1* will be featured at each session. For more information and to register, go to https://greenblattandseay.com/workshops_classical.shtml

Keep on Playing Recorder This Summer! Consider a Workshop!

Want to level up a notch?

Want to gain experience playing with others?

Want to learn new music and practice more?

Want to immerse yourself in the world of Early Music?

Learn more below:

Mountain Collegium from June 30 - July 6

<https://mountaincollegium.org/>

Amherst Early Music/Week 1 from June 30 - July 7/ Week 2 from July 7-14

<https://www.amherstearlymusic.org/festival>

Next Level Recorder Retreat Southeast 2024

August 25- August 30

Contact Leticia Berlin :

tishberlin@sbcglobal.net

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, 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, fmboruch@comcast.net
Judy McGraw	Vice President, j.and.j@verizon.net
Gabe Johnson	Secretary, gabriel.p.johnson@gmail.com
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Marge Hogarty	Newsletter Editor, margehogarty@verizon.net
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David McGown	Music Director, drmcgown@gmail.com