

ARS American Recorder Society

13 East 16th Street
New York City, N.Y. 10003



NEWSLETTER #2 SPRING 1981

B.J. Hopkins, Editor

From SHELLEY GRUSKIN, ARS President:

The ARS has recently renewed its contract with Galaxy Music Corporation for further publications of American Recorder Society Editions. Projects in Renaissance, baroque and educational materials are now in the works. Along with these undertakings, the Society is in a position to make lasting contributions to the musical public by publishing first-rate original pieces for the recorder. We are anxious to stimulate activity in this area. Therefore, should you come in contact with any fine compositions, please refer the composers to our Editor of contemporary music, Colin Sterne, Dept. of Music, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260.

The ARS has received a grant from the Henry S. Gross Foundation for a survey on the possibility and advisability of developing a Commercial Division of the Society. Results of the survey will be reviewed by the Board of Directors in September.

We have had some difficulties with a new computerized mailing service, causing annoyance and frustration to some members. Mary Ann Fleming at the New York office and the mailing-house have been sending out apologies and copies of the magazine by first class mail. We regret the inconvenience, but are confident the problems have been surmounted and that we can keep this from happening again.

ENCOURAGING NEWS FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE Martha Bixler, Peter Seibert and Connie Primus met in Denver February 15-18 to prepare examinations for Level III of the ARS Education Program. These exams will be offered at some ARS workshops this summer, and later at other locations. It is not necessary to attend the workshop in order to take the exam.

Tests for Level III will be administered by an individual approved by the Committee. In form and content the exams will follow the Level III Study Guide published in the November 1980 American Recorder. All examinations will be tape recorded and graded by an examination committee in September. The fee for each exam, approximately one hour long, will be \$50. Accompanists should be furnished by the examinee if possible. The Level III exam does not attempt to evaluate teaching skills, but those who pass will receive a certificate and recognition in the ARS Directory.

Level I, for those who have recently begun to play recorder, has been prepared by a sub-committee chaired by Gerald Burakoff and will appear in the May American Recorder. As yet there are no official exams for the Levels I & II, but the Study Guides for all levels can be used for self-evaluation.

Please watch the American Recorder for announcements of the workshops that will offer Level III exams and for further details on our Education Program and on the testing procedures.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM OBERLIN Oberlin Conservatory has announced the 10th Annual Baroque Performance Institute June 14-July 5. Master classes, lectures, coached ensembles, as well as faculty and student concerts are open to beginners and the experienced.

The international faculty includes: August Wenzinger, viola da gamba; Robert Willoughby, flute; Marilyn McDonald, violin; James Caldwell, oboe and viola da gamba; Catharina Meints, Viola da gamba and cello; Lisa Goode Crawford, harpsichord; Max van Egmond and Penelope Jensen, voice; James Weaver and Penelope Crawford, harpsichord and fortepiano; Michael Lynn, recorder; Philip Levin, bassoon. The emphasis will be a celebration of Telemann's 300th Birthday.

Oberlin has a number of baroque instruments which can be borrowed by students who do not have their own. Auditors will be accepted at a reduced tuition fee. Further information available from James Caldwell, Oberlin Conservatory, Oberlin, Ohio 44074.

THE ERWIN BODKY COMPETITION was established by the Cambridge Society for Early Music to encourage young singers and instrumentalists to perform music composed before 1791. Auditions will be held on May 30 for qualified applicants, who must be under age 30. The auditions are open to the public. The winner will be given the Award and \$1500. Ensembles may enter as a group provided all members meet the requirements. Candidates must perform on instruments appropriate to the period, and demonstrate both technical proficiency and a grasp of the various schools and styles appropriate to the instrument or voice.

REACTION FROM FRANCE In response to the statement in the interview with Steve Rosenberg (American Recorder, November 1980): "The French are individualistic. They don't really get into recorder groups and societies. There are some, but nothing like England or America", there came a friendly letter from Michelle Tellier stating that the Association Française pour la Flûte à Bec had just been created in Paris. A P.S. said "Dear Steve, things are changing!!" The address is 5 Rue Fondary, 75015, Paris.

THE WAVERLY CONSORT This scholarly and prestigious group is in the midst of a 4-months tour of the Eastern US. We recommend most urgently that you attend any of these forthcoming concerts in your area.

New York appearances include an Elizabethan Program on April 3 at the Metropolitan Museum; the music of William Byrd and others on April 9 and 11 at the Alice Tully Hall; an Easter Program April 12 & 19 at The Cloisters; the Elizabethan program will be given April 15 in Shephardstown, West Virginia.

SPEAKING OF TELEMANN, March 14 was the 300th birthday of the most prolific composer of the German Baroque. Many ARS Chapters as well as other musical groups commemorated the event with special programs and concerts. Among them was the PATS (Palo Alto [California] Telemann Society), established six years ago to promote further knowledge and appreciation of GPT. The Society meets every few months to play scheduled and unscheduled works of Telemann and publishes scholarly articles in their quarterly Der Neue Music-Meister. Information on PATS and their editions of GPT's Trio Sonatas can be obtained by writing Fred Palmer, 1419 Arden Lane, Belmont, CA 94002.

The folks down in Orange County, Southern California, marked the tricentennial in a rather different fashion. APS member Don Bowlus set words to an Allegro from one of Telemann's Canonic Duos. How about extending the celebration by using it at one of your chapter meetings this year?

EXHILARATING NEWS !!

An anonymous benefactor has blessed the Society with an outstandingly generous gift, which in the words of ARS Treasurer Philip Levin, is "enabling us to develop momentum in several areas of vital importance."

WHO'S INTERMEDIATE?

The Columbus (Ohio) Chapter has devised an excellent and detailed set of criteria for sorting players into four levels of ability. For a free copy send a stamped envelope to B.J.Hopkins, Box 5007 Oakland, Calif. 94605.



THE "HORSE CONNECTION" From the Twin Cities (Minn) Chapter came the following speculation: "Webster's Col - legiate Dictionary says that "fipple" comes from the old Norse word meaning "lip of the horse". How could two such different ideas be associated? Perhaps because one could neigh or whinny on the Vikings' fipple flute? Or that in positioning the instrument, the player's jaw became elongated and stood out prominently? Or was it the horsey set rather than the sea-farers who played it? Or possibly society people accused them of having "the lip" to play such an instrument in the "ong company?"

The following month the newsletter contained the following reaction: "I am sub - mitting my non-verbal response in the en - closed drawing; in my contribution to this perplexing, -- neigh, -- thought-provoking issue, please sign me "Horace Sens".

CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME

To Richard S. Zellely, who has been working since September to form the new Daytona Beach Chapter of the ARS. He has secured for meeting space the facilities of the Daytona Beach Community College, where he is instructor in music. The college is gradually acquiring its own collection of recorders and other historical instruments.



NOW is the time for all good Early Music People to make plans for their yearly summer workshops. Check out the attractive goodies on pages 184-185 of the February American Recorder.

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