

A.R.S. NEWSLETTER

A Supplement to American Recorder for the members of the American Recorder Society • September 1993

PLAY-THE-RECORDER PLANS IN PREPARATION

Once again the ARS plans to sponsor **National Play-the-Recorder Month** during March 1994. National Play-the-Recorder Month is an opportunity for



ARS Chapters and Consort Affiliates—and individual members—to reach out to the general public with appearances in libraries, shopping malls, cable television, and similar venues. The idea is to interest people in playing recorder and to attract new members for the ARS (and for local chapters, too!). As in previous years, we hope to offer all those who join the ARS during March a recorder and method book as a premium. During each of the previous two years, more than 180 people joined the ARS. In the November *ARS Newsletter*, we expect to announce specific plans. However, in order to have all plans in operation on time, we need to know which chapters and/or consorts plan to participate in this year's activities, and how many members would like to have T-shirts celebrating this year's activities. So, if your chapter plans to participate in any way and/or you wish to order a T-shirt, please let the office know as soon as possible. T-shirts will cost \$12.50 each, plus \$2.00 postage and handling. For information on bulk discounts, contact the office. More information will appear in the November and January *ARS Newsletters*.

Gene Murrow, right, and Martha Bixler, left, with members of The Bleeker Consort, leading beginners through their first notes on recorder at the ARS workshops.

WORKSHOPS AND SHOWCASE CONCERTS AT BOSTON EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL

As part of the ARS presence at the Boston Early Music Festival, held this year at Harvard University, June 13-20, board member **Gene Murrow** and immediate Past President **Martha Bixler** organized two mini-workshops, one "for those who've never played anything" (but always wanted to play an instrument) and one "for those with some musical instrument experience." Each workshop attracted over forty people. During the week, twenty-eight people joined the ARS. Every new member received a recorder, method book, and new member package.

The organizers wish to thank everyone who helped with the workshops, including **Leslie Kurtzberg** and **Bernice Chen**, members of the Boston Chapter, who helped with registration, and the members of The Bleeker Consort (**Debbie Segal**, **Ann Githler**, **Janie Schwab**, and **Julie Nelson**), who helped lead the musical responses and shared their talents with those in attendance. Special thanks to **Israel Stein**, president of the Boston Recorder Society, for all his help and encouragement with this year's BEMF activities.

Based on the success of these workshops, the ARS hopes to sponsor several more. Presently, we are arranging for a supply of recorders and books and will have a training video available. If your chapter or consort wishes to hold an ARS mini-workshop for beginners, please contact the office for more information.

Thursday and Friday, June 17 and 18, a series of showcase recitals by ARS member recorderists was presented at the Swedenborg Chapel (see Tidings, AR). Organized by board member **Valerie Horst** and *American Recorder* editor **Benjamin Dunham**, the series of recitals attracted large audiences and set the tone for a superb festival. Thanks and congratulations to all the participants.

Raffle Prizes at BEMF

The ARS held two raffles at the Boston Early Music Festival in June. **Rachel Devore** won the members' raffle prize: a Zen-On Metrina Multi 353 pocket digital quartz metronome. **Marianne Broadus** won



the new members' raffle prize: a Zen-On Metrina 315 quartz metronome. The **Zen-On Music Company** and **Mag-namusic** donated the prizes. Congratulations to the winners, and thanks to the ARS business members.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. I celebrated the beginning of the summer by meeting and greeting many of you at this year's Boston Early Music Festival. It was a very exhilarating experience. (See the report on BEMF on page one.)

Now to some business. The ARS has just finished a very successful year. In January we moved the office to Jackson, New Jersey. We have more room and will show a tremendous saving of more than \$6,000 in rent and utilities this year. This is money that will revert back to all members in the form of programs and services.

Membership is on the upswing. As I write this column, there are still about three weeks left in the ARS year, and final figures are not available. However, membership is running slightly ahead of last year, and this bodes well for the future of the ARS. In order to expand member services and programs, membership needs to increase every year. Many members give ARS memberships to friends and introduce them to the wonderful world of the recorder. If there is no chapter in your area, plan to start one. I will work closely with you and help in any way I can. Also, you should try to interest your local library in subscribing to *American Recorder*. Most community libraries will display literature and posters advertising your activities. Call or write me if you wish more information. I always enjoy talking to members and helping, if possible, with membership development. We have some programs that might help you develop a chapter.

Speaking of memberships, we need your help with a problem we are experiencing. Every year the office mails out about 2,500 first-renewal notices. Only about 1,000 of you respond to the first notice. Therefore, we need to send you a second notice. This second notice costs the ARS an additional \$705: \$435 in postage, \$150 in paper, envelopes, copy supplies, computer ribbons, etc., and \$120 in fees to hire people to fold, stuff, and stamp. Then, from this second renewal notice, only about half (750) respond, forcing us to spend another \$352.50 to send out a third and final notice. We hate to lose any member and try to give members every opportunity to respond. (Unfortunately, after three notices, we must drop you from active membership.) Please, in the future, do respond to our first renewal notice, even if you do not wish to renew. A sixty percent savings in second and third renewal notice costs could provide two to three more scholarships to summer workshops, or provide additional funds for membership development, and/or revert back to member services in other ways.

On a positive note, the new **JRS CLASS PROGRAM FOR BEGINNERS** is ready for distribution. You may order your copy by sending a check for \$19.95 or providing the office with your Visa/Mastercard number and expiration date and charging your order. We have already distributed over fifty copies and expect this to be a popular item. So far all reviews have been very favorable.

Be sure to read the November *ARS Newsletter* for a report on the September Board Meeting in Seattle and information on any new programs adopted at this meeting. 1993-94 promises to continue the momentum begun this year and be even more exciting than the year just concluded.

—Alan G. Moore

MASTERCARD PROGRAM

As most members know, the ARS has its own Mastercard. MBNA America plans to call all ARS members who do not presently have an ARS Mastercard in late November/early December to explain the benefits and answer questions. Anyone who has instructed the ARS not to release his/her name to other organizations will not receive a telephone call from MBNA America. However, other members may object to receiving calls of this kind. Therefore, if you do not wish to receive a call explaining the benefits of carrying and using the ARS Mastercard, please notify the office before November 15.

For every member who agrees to receive a card (free for the first year), the ARS receives a small payment. Also, every time a member uses his/her card, the ARS receives a small payment. If only ten percent of ARS members agree to receive an ARS Mastercard and use it to pay for five purchases a month, the ARS will receive payments of over \$3,000 a year. This money will fund more member services and programs and help keep dues at the lowest possible level.

Some members may object to the ARS participating in this kind of program. However, during tough economic times, the ARS needs to maximize its revenue. This program promises to help the ARS bottom line, if members will support the program. Executive Director Alan Moore reports that he has used his card for ARS travel and other business related expenses and that he has had a most positive experience. On two occasions he has needed to call customer service and has always received prompt and courteous attention to his problems.

EAST BAY COMPOSITION CONTEST WINNERS

Winners of the East Bay Recorder Society's 1993 "Original Composition Contest" were **Martha Bishop**, Atlanta, Georgia, first prize for *Recorders on Parade*; **Brad Osness**, Sausalito, California, second prize for *Andante for Five Recorders*; and **Suan Guess-Hanson** of Bloomington, Illinois, third prize/honorable mention for *Moderato and Allegro*. Ten playing members of the Chapter and an invited audience voted in agreement on the awardees.

MEMBERS PASS ARS EXAMINATIONS

Lisa Hoffman and Bob Riter of the Rochester Chapter and Georgene Fabian of the Upper Valley Chapter have achieved Level I status.

Achieving Level II status are Drew Rutz of the Columbia Basin Chapter; Marianne Weiss-Kim, Jacqueline Baron, and the duo of Victoria Blanchard and Gary Porter, members of the New Orleans Chapter; Caroline E. Howels of the Upper Valley Chapter; and Randi Louise Juergens of Bloomington, IN; and Tilke Judd (age 11) of the Princeton Chapter.

Special thanks to the following individuals who graciously consented to administer or grade Level II examinations where there was no chapter available to do so: Martha Bixler, New York, NY; Marie Blankenship, Kalamazoo, MI; Carla Kaatz, Ellensburg, WA; Betty Parker, Santa Fe, NM; Scott Paterson, Toronto, Ontario; Marie-Louise Smith, Bloomington, IN; Joan Wilson, Princeton, NJ; and Ken Wollitz, New York, NY.

In addition, special recognition to the following teachers who prepared the students who successfully passed Level I or Level II examinations: Thomas Axworthy, La Mirada, CA; Martha Bixler, New York, NY; Marie-Louise Smith, Bloomington, IN; Dot Swayze, Tunbridge, VT; and Joan Wilson, Princeton, NJ.

Teacher Certification Materials

Any member who is interested in Level II or Level III teacher certification should send for the revised Teacher Certification Requirements, dated May 1993, and the two accompanying pages—"Preparing a Video/Audio Tape for Teacher Certification" and the "Teacher Certification Evaluation Form."

LINSENBERG IN INDIANA

ARS Board member Judith Linsenberg has been appointed visiting faculty member at Indiana University's Early Music Program for the fall semester, filling in for Eva Legêne, who is taking a sabbatical.

Some chapters and members are still sending newsletters and other information for publication in *AR* and the *ARS Newsletter* to the old address. Please make the change to: 472 Point Road, Marion, MA 02738.

WINNER OF RSC ESSAY CONTEST ATTENDS PINEWOODS EARLY MUSIC WEEK

This year, Kay Collins-Thompson was the winner of an essay contest, sponsored by the Recorder Society of Connecticut, to award a summer workshop scholarship. She attended the Pinewoods Early Music Week, and her winning essay is printed here:

The purposes of the Recorder Society of Connecticut being quite broad and general, namely: "the enjoyment of recorder playing...with an emphasis on technique and interpretation," participation in a [recorder] workshop by any member would lend itself naturally to the enhancement of these objectives. Assuming that the strength of the group is derived by the energy brought to it by each individual participant, it would follow that what amplifies the musical growth of one member promotes the health and vigor of the Society as a whole.

...As a newcomer to the RSC, I have so far felt that I have received much more from the Saturday workshops than it has been possible for me to give back. Encouraged by the optimism of the members and our intrepid leader to return week after week, even if I can play only half the notes the first couple of times through the music, I sit un-abtrusively in the back row, unsure fingers busily and earnestly trying to find the right notes.

Of my enjoyment of recorder playing there can be no doubt. The hours spent practicing attest to that. With the assistance of my patient teacher, Elise, progress *is* being made.

Participation in a workshop would be a thrilling experience for me, and I hope, be an additional means for me to progress from the pure enjoyment of playing to the advancement of technique and interpretation, both equally important elements of group playing.

RALPH TAYLOR, 89, EARLY EDITOR OF AMERICAN RECORDER

Ralph Taylor, who was editor of *American Recorder* in 1961, died June 24 at the age of 89. He was an active member of the American Recorder Society, and had taught recorder at New York University's Adult Education Department and directed the Instrumentae Anciens group.

Mr. Taylor was co-owner and manager of the Casswell-Massey apothecary business, which had been founded in 1752 in Newport, Rhode Island. He was known to entertain people with information about the prescriptions and cosmetics ordered by theatrical stars like Lillian Russell, Edwin Booth, and Sarah Bernhardt and historical figures like Edgar Allan Poe and George Washington.

Highly Recommended!

ARS INFORMATION BOOKLETS

1. *Recorder Care*, by Scott Paterson
2. *American Recorder Music*, by Constance Primus
3. *Music for Mixed Ensembles*, by Jennifer Lehmann
4. *Improve Your Consort Skills*, by Susan Prior
5. *Playing Music for the Dance*, by Louise Austin
6. *The Burgundian Court and Its Music*, coordinated by Judith Whaley

Each \$10 (members); \$20 (non-members),
plus \$2 postage and handling (\$5 for 3 or 4 packets).

Call ARS national office, 908-363-5656,
or write ARS, Box 1067, Jackson, NJ 08527.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

18 **Annual Meeting, American Recorder Society**, in Seattle, Washington. Info: 908-363-5656.

18 **"Enhancing Musicianship," Rhode Island Recorder Society**, at Providence Country Day School. Fac: Deborah Booth and Morris Newman. Info: Richard Carbone, 401-949-0823.

OCTOBER

1-3 **Fall Workshop, East Bay Chapter**, at Headlands Institute, Marin Headlands. Fac: Eileen Hadidian, Shira Kanmmen, David Morris. Info: Kathy Cochran, 510-483-8675.

1-7 **XI Workshop for Early Music, Jerusalem, Israel**. Info: Mishkenot Sha'ananim, Box 8215, Jerusalem 91081, Israel.

2-3 **Fifth Annual Fall Workshop, "Sur Selva,"** 25 Fitzwilliam Road, Jaffrey, NH. Sponsored by the Monadnock Chapter/ARS. Fac: Sheila Beardslee, Martha Bixler, LaNoue Davenport, Kenneth Wollitz. Info: Janet French, Box 427, Alstead, NH 03062, 603-835-2220.

16 **Fall Workshop, Recorder Society of Connecticut**, at St. Joseph's School, Danbury, CT. Info: Elise Jaeger, 203-792-5606.

23 **"Baroque Ornamentation," Upper Valley Early Music Society**, Hanover, NH. Leader: Sheila Beardslee. Info: Barbara Prescott, 603-643-6442.

29-31 **"Music of Medieval and Renaissance England," Texas Mountain Chapter**, at Indian Lodge in the Davis Mountains, West Texas. Fac: Deborah Booth and Morris Newman. Info: 212-864-6490, or 915-837-5745.

30 **Atlanta Recorder Society Workshop**, for recorders, Baroque flute, and viols. Fac: Gerald Moore, Katharine Bull, Martha Bishop, Jody Miller. Info: Glenn A. Middleton, 404-662-2260, or 404-448-7168.

NOVEMBER

6 **"Late Baroque Music of Eastern Europe," Seventh Annual Workshop, Village & Early Music Society**. Music of Buxtehude, Telemann, and the Moravian composer Vejvanovsky. Leader: Frederick Palmer. Info: Richard Geisler, 916-477-2293.

10-14 **American Orff-Schulwerk Association, Twenty-fifth Anniversary Conference**, Indianapolis, Indiana. "The Drum, The Voice, The Dance." Info: Cindi Wobig, 216-543-5366.

20 **"Renaissance Divisions," Upper Valley Early Music Society**, Hanover, NH. Leader: Sheila Beardslee. Info: Barbara Prescott, 603-643-6442.

DECEMBER

4 **Holiday Recorder and Viol Workshop, Rockland Recorder Society**, Stony Point, New York. Director: Tom Zajac. Info: 914-429-8340.

JANUARY

29 **"A Panorama of German Ensemble Music," Mid-Peninsula Recorder Orchestra Workshop**, in Palo Alto,

CA. Director: Peter Seibert. Fee: \$20. Info: Diana Fischer, 839 Cumberland Dr., Sunnyvale, CA 94087; 408-730-0728.

FEBRUARY

5 **Workshop for Recorders and Viols, Sarasota (FL) Chapter**. Clinician: LaNoue Davenport. Info: Lynelle M. Williams, 813-493-4322.

APRIL

9 **Boston Recorder Society Workshop**. Fac: Eric Haas, Sheila Beardslee, John Tyson, Sarah Mead. Info: Israel Stein, 617-876-5647.

23 **"Early Music in the Redwoods: Early Rhythms," South Bay Recorder Society**, in Saratoga, CA. This is the first event of a newly formed ARS chapter. Info: Don Watson, 408-266-3993.

MAY

18-24 **Twenty-third Annual Meeting, American Musical Instrument Society**, in Elkhart, Indiana. Write Dr. Margaret Downie Banks, 414 E. Clark St., Vermillion, SD 57069-2036.

JUNE

5-12 **Berkeley Festival & Exhibition: Music in History**, featuring Jordi Savall and Marion Verbruggen. Info: Cal Performances, 101 Zellerbach Hall, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720.

OCTOBER 1994-1995

Advanced Orff-Schulwerk Course in Music and Dance Education, at the Orff Institute, Salzburg, Austria. Deadline: December 1, 1993. Write Orff Institute, Frohnburgweg 55, A-5020 Salzburg, Austria; 0662-88-908, or FAX 0662-24-867.

NY RECORDER GUILD WORKSHOPS

A series of Saturday workshops. For further information, call 212-662-2946.

ON TOUR

Michala Petri (IMG Artists): January 7, 8, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, St. Paul, MN; 13, 15, Rochester Philharmonic, Rochester, NY; 17, Peace Center for the Performing Arts, Greenville, SC, recital with Lars Hannibal, lute; 22, Ambassador Auditorium, Pasadena, CA, recital with Lars Hannibal, lute; 24, National Arts Center Orchestra, Ottawa, Ontario; 26, 27, 28, Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Toronto, Ontario. The orchestral programs will include a new concerto for recorder and orchestra by Gary Kulesha.

Amsterdam Loeki Stardust Quartet (now with Aaron Concert Management): February 20, Case Western Reserve, Cleveland, OH; 24, Greenville, SC; 26, Argonne National Lab, Chicago, IL; 27, Yale Collection of Musical Instruments, New Haven, CT

Flanders Recorder Quartet: currently arranging dates for 1994 and 1995. Contact Valerie Bernstein 11260 Overland Ave., Suite 15-B, Culver City, CA 90230; 310-287-1031, FAX 310-815-8133.