

A.R.S. NEWSLETTER

A Supplement to American Recorder for the members of the American Recorder Society • November 1997

KALAMAZOO RECORDER PLAYERS HOST ARS BOARD MEETING

The Kalamazoo Recorder Players, a chapter of ARS, arranged perfect fall weather and excellent hospitality to host the September 26-28 meeting of the ARS Board of Directors. Newly-appointed member Howard Gay was welcomed to the ARS Board by sitting members Martha Bixler, Virginia Ebinger, Frances Feldon, Cléa Galhano, Mel Mendelssohn, Gene Murrow, Bill Rees, Israel Stein, Judith Whaley, and Shelley Wold, and by ARS executive director Gail Nickless and AR editor Benjamin Dunham. With regret, the Board accepted the resignation of member Alison Melville.

President Murrow described the roles of ARS as a membership organization, a switchboard to connect individuals and organizations with services they need, and a producer of resources for its constituents and the general public. The Board elected Howard Gay as treasurer and expressed appreciation to Israel Stein for serving as interim treasurer during the past year. The Board conducted extensive discussion of the budget for the coming year and the best ways to manage Society funds responsibly in view of diminished income, mostly due to lack of growth in membership revenue.

Accomplishments of the past year were reported, including maintenance of an extensive list of print publications, new electronic communication resources, services to chapters, scholarships for workshops, and sponsorship of events at the 1997 Boston Early Music Festival. Discussions of how best to assist local ARS groups in becoming more effective centered on the scope of services the ARS can afford to offer to groups of fewer than 10 ARS members. Plans were set in motion to establish a videotape library, expand CD club sales to non-ARS members, and organize events at the June 1998 Berkeley Festival. The Board also reviewed designs submitted for an ARS logo and selected one of these for further refinement.

During the meeting, plans were outlined for a major effort called "A.R.S. Nova 2000." The process will include establishing a Long-Range Planning Committee, raising funds to support this committee's work, designating capital needs for the future, and launching a Capital Campaign to coincide with the 60th anniversary of the ARS (and the turn of the century).

The ARS annual meeting on Saturday, September 27, followed a pot-luck dinner hosted by the Kalamazoo Chapter. President Murrow introduced the Board members and each spoke briefly of his/her responsibilities. Kalamazoo and Detroit chapter members offered comments and questions about the Society's activities and products. Murrow then led a play-in featuring several selections for recorder orchestra including an arrangement of Peter Warlock's *Capriol Suite*.



ARS Board members during the fall meeting hosted by the Kalamazoo chapter.

PLAY-THE-RECORDER MONTH: PLAN NOW!

Now is the time to begin planning to celebrate the sixth annual Play-the-Recorder Month, set for March 1998.

Chapter representatives and consort contacts will receive a publicity packet in December containing step-by-step items to use in drawing media attention to your events. Any member may also request a free packet from the ARS office. Ideas for activities, drawn from last year's event reports, were published in the Tidings department in May AR and in the Chapters & Consorts department in September. The main thing is to be creative and have fun at your events showcasing the recorder.

Since the month-long celebration grew out of the first Play-the-Recorder Day in 1992, some chapters and consorts still find it most effective to choose one day in the month as a focus for outreach activities. Others may have the resources and enjoy the flexibility of having a series of events.

*Respectfully submitted,
Shelley Wold, secretary*

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Last summer I set aside a mailing from the Music Educators National Conference (MENC) with the idea of sharing part of it with ARS members. It contained some eye-opening information about how today's school music programs are funded.

First, the report provides background information to help us understand statistics, published in *The Instrumentalist* and other places, showing that school music budgets have increased.

In reality, those increases merely replaced funds that had been drastically slashed in earlier years. Rarely have the increases even returned school music budgets to levels where they were before cuts were made.

How are many school music programs being funded these days? According to MENC, it is through fund-raising. Candy bar sales, car washes, and other income-producing activities provide an average of 70% of high school music budgets and 56% of all school music budgets. That average figure masks some extremes, as evidenced by a quote from a Georgia music educator: "We raise funds like crazy. In the end, the county provides 4% of our total budget."

One of the ways in which a tight budget manifests itself is in the teacher-to-student ratio. MENC recommends one qualified music teacher to instruct each 400 students at the elementary level, or 1:400. The report quotes *Education Week*, a respected education publication, as listing ratios in the 1:800 range for New Orleans (LA) and Boston (MA), and ratios closer to 1:4500 in Los Angeles (CA).

The MENC report ends with statistics showing that, in spite of these appalling ratios, many Americans place value on musical instruction. A 1994 Gallup poll showed that 93% of Americans think music is part of a well-rounded education. Other statistics seem to show that support for music education should be increasing, including a figure showing that 70% believe music participation corresponds to better grades and test scores (and this was years before the "Mozart effect" began to be widely reported).

How do recorder players fit in? We can acknowledge that music education is still suffering from a shortage of resources, and help to alleviate that shortage in whatever ways we can. Possibly the best way is by trying to improve teacher-to-student ratios with our own presence. Several ARS Chapters have organized ongoing programs in public schools, and some members have offered their individual services to public school teachers who appreciate having someone familiar with the recorder working even occasionally with their students. Others have formed Junior Recorder Society Clubs, which can build on classroom experiences or stand on their own. Some Clubs meet in conjunction with a Chapter's monthly meeting or as a church activity, rather than as an after-school group, thus making it possible for those with day jobs to help out.

It's no coincidence that each March the MENC sponsors Music in Our Schools Month and that each March is also Play-the-Recorder Month. Organizations working together can help improve situations, but effecting change often comes down to people making vital connections in their communities. That's where each of us fits in.

—Gail Nickless

SUPPORT THE ARS BY FLYING ON A FRONTIER AIRLINES "CARE FARE."
Call 800-243-6297. Mention the ARS and it will receive a donation. Frontier now flies to 16 cities, including Boston.

PLEASE GIVE TO THE PRESIDENT'S APPEAL

BERKELEY FESTIVAL HELP SOUGHT

At the conclusion of the 1996 biennial Berkeley Festival, a task force met to evaluate the success of the various events sponsored by the ARS. Based on that feedback, preparations began during the September meeting of the ARS Board for recorder events to be held at next summer's festival.

A task force also met following last summer's events in Boston to discuss ARS participation in the 1999 Boston Early Music Festival.

Anyone willing to serve on either task force should contact the ARS office.

Many tasks can be done via e-mail or telephone from anywhere.

PROFESSIONALS: PLAN NOW FOR THE GREAT RECORDER RELAY

Among the most popular events at recent summer early music festivals has been the ARS Great Recorder Relay, a series of vignette recitals showing the recorder in its many guises and raising awareness of the recorder as a serious instrument. Each Relay has attracted a healthy crowd, due to interest in hearing the recorder as well as the fact that it is one of the few free events offered.

Professional recorderists are invited to apply to perform on the Sixth Annual Great Recorder Relay, set for the weekend of June 12-14, 1998, in conjunction with the Berkeley Festival of Music in History. To apply, submit a program lasting 20-25 minutes along with a biography or resume; those who have not performed on a previous Relay must also submit a tape.

All materials must be postmarked before February 2, 1998. Contact the ARS office for more information and an application listing more specifics.

The ARS Special Events Committee will review the materials submitted. While superior performing skills are important, the committee is charged with constructing a recital series that shows a variety of repertoire and groupings, from solo to ensemble.

In addition to the volunteer performers, many volunteers are needed to make ARS events possible. Plan now to attend the festival and watch future ARS newsletters for a list of volunteer positions to be filled.

MEMBERSHIP REBATES SENT TO 15 CHAPTERS

Congratulations to fifteen chapters that recently received \$405 in rebates for 43 new members who joined the ARS during 1996-97.

ARS Chapters may receive \$10 for each new full ARS membership and \$5 for each new student member. Any smaller ARS group working to become a chapter may also request rebates for new members who join in order to meet the minimum of 10 ARS memberships required for chapter status.

For rebate purposes, a "new" membership is defined as having never been an ARS national member or as one who rejoins after not being a member for at least two years. A rebate form is provided to chapters for convenience, but it is not required that requests be submitted on that form—a letter may also be used to request rebates. Requests for new member rebates may be submitted at any time in the year prior to the end of that fiscal year on August 31. Rebates are included in the October mailing to all chapter representatives.

ARS GRANTS AVAILABLE TO ASSIST CHAPTERS

Amounts up to \$150 per fiscal year per chapter may be awarded by the national organization to support innovative ARS chapter projects. Chapter grant applications for projects starting any time after January 1, 1998, were mailed to chapter representatives in October with a November 14 postmark deadline for return to the ARS office. The deadline for grant applications for chapter projects beginning after July 1, 1998, is May 15.

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:

The ARS always wants to hear what your chapter is doing—especially if you have an upcoming workshop date that can be added to your listing on the ARS web site. Please make sure you have the following addresses on your mailing list:

- ARS, Box 631, Littleton, CO 80160-0631 U.S.A. (please delete any other address for the ARS office)
- *American Recorder* Editor, 472 Point Road., Marion, MA 02738 U.S.A.
- Israel Stein, Chapters & Consorts Committee Chair, 958 Neilson St., Albany CA 94706 U.S.A. (address change from previously-published information)

ARS COMMITTEES

Executive/Compensation/ Fund Development

Gene Murrow, President
Judith Whaley, Vice-President
Shelley Wold, Secretary
Howard Gay, Treasurer

Chapters & Consorts

Israel Stein, Chair
*Britt Ascher
*George Mastellone
*Marilyn Perlmutter
*Barbara Prescott
Bill Rees
Shelley Wold

Education

Judith Whaley, Chair
Gin Ebinger
*Bruce Larkin
*Scott Paterson

Junior Recorder Society

Gin Ebinger, Chair
Martha Bixler
*Elaine Clancy
Cléa Galhano
*Constance Primus
*Mary Halverson Waldo

Publications

Frances Feldon, Chair
Martha Bixler
Mel Mendelssohn
*Scott Paterson

Scholarship

Shelley Wold, Chair
Martha Bixler
Howard Gay
*Shirley Robbins
*Nancy VanBrundt

Special Events/ Professional Outreach

Cléa Galhano, Chair
*Benjamin Dunham
Frances Feldon
*Valerie Horst
Gene Murrow
Israel Stein

Special Membership Liaisons

A.R.S. Nova 2000 -
Mel Mendelssohn
American Recorder Teachers
Association - Judith Whaley
Education - Bill Rees
Membership - Bill Rees
Seniors - Martha Bixler

ARS/American Orff-Schulwerk Association Joint Advisory Committee

*Christine Raskind, chair
Jack Neill, AOSA President
Gene Murrow, ARS President
Gin Ebinger
*Leslie Timmons

*Indicates committee members
not on the ARS Board

If you have comments or suggestions for any ARS committee, please feel free to address those either to the appropriate committee chair or to the ARS office.

RECENT NEW MEMBERS TO BE WELCOMED WITH JANUARY CONSORT UPDATE

Since an updated list of ARS consorts is planned for mailing with the January issue of *American Recorder*, the list of all new members who joined this fall will accompany that consort list. Consequently, this issue does not contain a list of new members who joined since the cutoff for the September *American Recorder*, which is usually printed on the reverse side of the mailing flysheet.

Consorts wanting to be included in the January update are reminded to send your group's name and contact information along with your list of three ARS members to the office now.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DEADLINES

Feb. 2 - Postmark deadline for applications to perform on the ARS Great Recorder Relay during the Berkeley Festival. Info: 303-347-1120.

April 8 - Postmark deadline for summer workshop scholarship applications. Info: 303-347-1120.

NOVEMBER

15 "Music and Dance of the Renaissance," The Twin Cities Recorder Guild, at St. Paul's-on-the-Hill Episcopal Church, St. Paul, MN. Fac: Cléa Galhano, recorder, Julie Elhard, viola da gamba, Kate Stuart, dance, Jordan Sramek, voice. Info: Stuart Holland, 612-874-9768.

15 Introduction to Medieval Music, Princeton, NJ. Leader: Mary Benton. Info: 609-497-9195.

16 "Philip Van Wilder and the Music from the Court of Henry VIII, East Bay Chapter/ARS, at Holy Names College, Oakland, CA. Leaders: Marilyn Boenau and David Morris. Info: 510-283-7134; e-mail: bascher@holonet.net.

21-23 "Colonial Music and Its Roots," New York Consort of Viols Workshop, South Lee, MA. Info: Judith Davidoff, 212-580-9787.

DECEMBER

6 Francis Colpron Master Class, Toronto Early Music Players Organization, Toronto, Ontario. Info: 416-463-0578.

FEBRUARY 1998

27-March 1 Recorder and Viol Workshop, Rio Grande Chapter, at the Doña Ana Branch Community College, Las Cruces, NM. Fac: Deborah Booth, Morris Newman, Mary Springfels, Kathleen McIntosh. Faculty concert on March 1. Info: Joyce Henry, 505-522-4178 or 505-678-4789.

28 Verbruggen Recorder Workshop, Greater Cleveland (OH) ARS Chapter, at Middleburg Hts. Library. A workshop on early Baroque German and Italian music led by Marion Verbruggen. Info: Carolyn Peskin, 216-561-4665.

MARCH

20-21 Weekend Workshop, Brandywine Chapter, at Hope Lutheran Church, New Castle, DE. Leader: Tom Zajac. Info: Mary Wolfe, 302-654-1100; e-mail: 46658@udel.edu.

APRIL

4-5 Spring Weekend Workshop, T.E.M.P.O., Toronto, Ontario. Leader: Lucie Laneville. Info: 416-480-0225.

17-19 Quincy Early Music Consort Workshop, Quincy, IL. Ensemble class for intermediate and higher levels. Leader: Louise Austin. Info: Gerry Wagner, 217-224-8657.

26 "Bingen da noise, Bingen da funk: A Survey of German Music from Hildegard to Hindemith," Annual Spring Festival, New York Recorder Guild, at Teachers College. Fac: Lucy Cross, Frances Blaker, Letitia Berlin, and David Bellugi. Info: M. Zumoff, 212-662-2946; e-mail: mzumoff@aol.com.

MAY

8-10 "Springtime in the Rockies" Recorder and Viol Workshop, Denver Chapter, at Estes Park, CO. Technique, ensemble playing, and large groups for all levels. Fac: Tom Zajac, Mark Davenport, and Karl Reque. Info: Gerrie Fisk, 303-759-4420; e-mail Mary Scott at swmscott@earthlink.net.

JUNE

6-14 Berkeley Festival & Exhibition, University of California at Berkeley. Jean-Phillipe Rameau's *Platée*, Hesperion XX, and Il Complesso Barocco, Alan Curtis, director. Info 510-642-9988.

ON TOUR/IN CONCERT

Cléa Galhano: (with Belladonna) Oct. 18, Sundin Hall, St. Paul, MN, sponsored by Shubert Club; 19, Still Water, MN; (with Rosen Ensemble) Nov. 22, St. Paul, MN; (with Galhano/Montgomery Duo) Dec. 5, Rehoboth, MA; 7, The Art Complex Museum, Duxbury, MA; 8, Middletown, CT.

Dan Laurin: (with his Trio) Nov. 7, University of Vermont Lane Series, Colchester, VT; 12, Chicago Chamber Music Society, Lake Forest, IL; 15, St. Columba Episcopal Church, Washington, DC; 16, St. John's College, Annapolis, MD; (with Jakob Lindberg) March 29, Music Before 1800, New York, NY; April 3, San Diego Early Music Society, Encinitas, CA; 5, Early Music Guild of Seattle, Seattle, WA.

Judith Linsenber: (with Musica Pacifica) Nov. 20-22, concerts and outreach performances, Sutter Creek and San Andreas, CA; Jan. 10, Albany, CA; 11, San Jose Chamber Music Society, San Jose, CA; Feb. 22, Sacramento, CA; 27, Old First Concert Series, San Francisco, CA; (with Musica Pacifica) March 1-2, Gualala, CA; (with Seattle Baroque Orchestra) May 1-3, Seattle, WA; May 30-June 1, Tage AlterMusik, Regensburg, Germany.

Alison Melville: Dec. 12, Toronto Consort, Toronto; Jan. 22, Univ. of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario; 31 Baroque Music Beside the Grange, Toronto; Feb. 27, Toronto Consort, Toronto; March 2-14, Opera Atelier, Tokyo, Japan; 27, Toronto Consort, Toronto; March 30-Apr. 4, Toronto Symphony, Toronto; Apr. 2-4, Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, Toronto; 17, Toronto Consort, Toronto; May 16, Baroque Music Beside the Grange; May 22-June 9, Opera Atelier, Toronto, and Singapore.

The Recorder Orchestra of New York: (premiere performances, directed by Ken Andresen) Nov. 21, Setauket, Long Island; 21, Bayshore, Long Island. World premieres: *Cantus Serius* by Hans Ulrich Staeps and *Through the Seasons, with Persephone* by Edward Green. Info: 516-477-1190; e-mail: dianafoster@juno.com.

Marion Verbruggen: (with the Portland Baroque Orchestra) Nov. 21-23; (with the Flanders Recorder Quartet) Jan. 23-24, 1998 Pittsburgh Renaissance & Baroque Society, PA; 25, Univ. of Maryland, College Park; Feb. 1, Clayton State College, Morrow, GA; 28, Chapel, Court & Countryside, Cleveland, OH; (with Tafelmusik) March 6-8, 10, Toronto, Canada. Other dates TBA. Info: Sue Endrizzi, e-mail, CAMendrizz@aol.com.

Calendar Listings

Fill out the information below and send it to ARS Newsletter, 472 Point Road, Marion, MA 02738, or fax to 508-748-1928. Deadlines: 1st of month preceding issue date. Plan to announce events a month before they take place.

Date: _____

Name of Event: _____

Where: _____

Presented by: _____

Description (including faculty, if workshop): _____

Contact information: _____
