WRS Washington Recorder Society

NOTES

September 2009

WRS on the Web: http://www.atmos.umd.edu/~baer/WRS

WRS
Year at a Glance
2009 - 2010

Sept 21	Antiqua
Oct 5	Nova
Oct 19	Antiqua
Oct 31	**CHANCEY WKSHP**
Nov 2	Nova
Nov 16	Antiqua
Dec 7	Nova
Dec 21	**HOLIDAY PARTY**
Jan 4	Nova
Jan 25	Antiqua
Feb 1	Nova
Feb 22	Antiqua
Mar 1	Nova
Mar 15	Antiqua
Apr 5	Nova
Apr 19	Antiqua
Apr 24	Gruskin Wkshp
May 1	**SPRING CONCERT**
May 3	Nova
May 17	Antiqua
Jun 7	Nova

When the Weather Outside is Frightful

During the winter months there is a possibility of inclement weather. Please use your best judgement with regard to safe driving conditions, but the policy of the Board is that meetings will be held on scheduled dates unless the Church is closed. You can call 301 - 493 - 8300 for a recording informing you if the Church is closed.

Tina Chancey to Lead Fall Workshop

Trick or treat will come early for WRS members who attend the Fall Workshop this year. The workshop will be held Oct 31 from 10 am til 5 pm at Cedar Lane Unitarian Church. Tina Chancey will be our leader. Many of us know Dr. Chancey, as an outstanding string player, as a founding member of Hesperus and former member of the Folger Consort, and as the wife of our late Music Director, Scott Reiss. She is an accomplished musician and an outstanding teacher.

The workshop theme is "The Versatile Recorder: celebrating the many musical styles played on the recorder, including Medieval, Irish, Sephardic, New World Spanish, and 14th century French.

The workshop, suitable for intermediate and advanced players, will include both part music and tunes, with a section on 'Arranging Christmas Music' and another on 'Having more fun with your recorder by sharpening your skills.'

A flyer with an enrollment form is included with this issue of NOTES.

A Brief Introduction to WRS

Just a word of explanation for new members, or those with poor short term memory.
WRS has two different meeting styles.

Our Antiqua meetings begin with a mini-concert by a local group. We then break into smaller playing groups for the remainder of the evening. These are:

Group 1: (Jane Udelson and Bruce Crane, leaders). This group is open to anyone who would like to work on ensemble skills, rhythmic accuracy (counting) and playing of learning to play both F and C instruments. We will read through a variety of music, ranging from Medieval to Contemporary, and prepare a selection of pieces for the Spring Concert. We hope some members already play, or will be willing to learn to play, the bass recorder, as we will include some 4 part music in our repertoire.

Large Ensemble (Richard Shrager, leader). "The Large Ensemble is designed for people who prefer playing in sections, although some one-on-a-part playing will be available for willing souls. This group was previously known as the Post - Baroque Group. The reason for the change is to allow us to venture into Renaissance and Baroque literature, which Post-Baroques just don't do.

Mixed Consort: (Myrl Powell and Ferd Baer, leaders). Myrl says "We welcome players of viols, buzzies and percussion, as well as recorders. Those considering this mixed consort should feel comfortable sight-reading and playing one on a part."

On alternate meeting dates we play as the WRS Nova

group. Nova was founded by Roger Morris, and is now led by Richard Shrager. It is mainly a survey group, reading music from many periods, usually with some unifying theme at each meeting. The group usually meets on the first Monday of the month, but holidays sometimes cause shifts, so consult the NOTES for specific dates. One of the advantages of WRS membership is the use of the music library. It is available to members during the periods before Antiqua meetings. If you are unfamiliar with this opportunity, ask Myrl Powell to show you how it works.

The President's column

Change. We see it occurring slowly as we move with it, but looking back we are surprised at how quick it was. We can all think of change in material things, in email, TV, the printed page on paper, the web stores, and know of recent change in economic terms, in the loss of jobs, the loss of wealth in the stock market. And with all of those changes, the recorder continues, as our new (to WRS) Workshop Leader, Tina Chancey will show us in her October 31, 2009, Workshop where she will present music from medieval monophonic dance and polyphonic motets, to folk tunes that present musical challenges on the recorder, the native American rhythms and Sephardic music from quite different parts of the world, both old and new. For those of you who were not here when her late husband, Scott Reiss, was the Music Director of WRS and so are unfamiliar with their work, let me briefly mention that Tina was a founding director of Hesperus, which is, to quote a web site (http://www.tinachancey.net/), an innovative group that is involved in cross-over fusions of European medieval and Renaissance music with American traditional music, Appalachian, Cajun, vaudeville and the blues. And Tina is a most remarkably wonderful teacher, as her students will tell you, a multi-instrumentalist who favors stringed instruments, and who has also played recorders professionally. We are fortunate in having Tina join us as a Workshop Leader in our new session of 2009-2010; I, and all of the members of the Board are unanimous in highly recommending her to you. We hope to see many of you at her Workshop.

That the members of the Board are unanimous in recommending Tina Chancey's Workshop, is somewhat surprising – to me. Your Board, with the possible exception of Vickie Walter who is a long-time WRS member but newly elected to the Board, has been together for a very long time. I'm the newcomer. I have been President for a bit over 4 years and a member of WRS for only about 8 or 9 years, so my perspective may be a little different from those who have been members for 20 or 30 (or more?) years. The Board, I have found, is a group of individuals who expend considerable effort in their individual ways to help maintain the WRS as an on-going organization of recorder players. They do not always (or often) agree with each other on topics that arise for discussion, some are fiscal conservatives, others are much less so, nor do they all participate in the Antiqua and Nova sessions and in the Workshops. And they reflect our membership – who also do not all always participate in the various WRS groups and Workshops, yet they, like our members, still want to maintain the recorder as a viable living instrument, and this I find remarkable – regardless of change, and the considerable impact of change on our lives, we continue to play the recorder – some well, and others, like me, less well, but we all try and we all appear to enjoy doing so.

Thanks are due, from me and from all of our members, to those on the Board who help make the WRS function, to our Vice-President Helen Eliot who initiated the Tina Chancey Workshop, to the Recording Secretary and our web master Ferd Baer (the web is our primary mechanism for enticing new members), to our Treasurer who has not fled to Brazil (though I doubt we have enough money in the Treasury to enable that journey) Margaret Turner, and to our Board Members-at-Large Anne Hinton and Vickie Walter who present us with refreshments (a huge temptation, the cookies, which I have made a resolution to resist this year) at the Antiqua session and in the Workshops. Of course, we all depend on the wise advise of our past Presidents who serve Ex-Officio, Jane Udelson, Myrl Powell, and Jayme Sokolow, although we generally plough forward ignoring that advise (just kidding, you former Presidents may be old but you still lead the way – no, wait, I didn't mean old old, just been around WRS longer).

And we can't forget the

(next page)

NOTES, where I am permitted to write these overlong columns that the editorial experts on our Board detest. The NOTES and the artistic Workshop flyers are brought about by Bruce Crane. Bruce may not want to be on the Board listening to all of the squabbles, but he does yeoman work with our newsletter and flyers, and also as co-leader with Jane Udelson of the Antiqua Intermediate Group, in which I am famous as the member who appears most often. There are two other Antiqua groups, the Mixed Consort led by Ferd Baer and Myrl Powell (Myrl also arranges the Antiqua's mini-concerts and the WRS Spring Concert in May, and maintains our calender), and the Post Baroque that has been led for a huge number of years by Dick Shrager. Dick's work with WRS is a story that would occupy a very long column. Shrager runs the Nova session of WRS. He leads the Nova group (on the first Monday eve of the month if holidays don't conflict), and also leads the Holiday party in December. He plays many musical instruments (and does that very well), knows his recorder music, and is an exceptional leader. We are grateful to him.

Lastly, I would like to remind the members of WRS that we have a closet full of recorder music that you can borrow and play and learn. One of the many advantages of paying your dues. The music is divided into parts (e.g., two part, three, etc), and the key to the cabinet can be obtained from any Board member during Nova or Antiqua sessions. Please make use of the music, it is there for you. And we look forward, or I do, to hearing from our members occasionally or often. Tell us how we can become a more effective organization, how we can gain new members, and retain our old ones. We need your advise, we must work together if we are to keep WRS functioning well.

Let us then begin our 2009-2010 session – the WRS will be celebrating its 49th year since its founding in 1961 and it's 47th year, on January 1, 2010, as a member of the American Recorder Society. Not too many organizations last that long. I will look forward to seeing many of you at our opening Antiqua on September 21, and do try to keep me away from the cookies.

Teachers Can Sharpen Playing Skills

Taking lessons from a Recorder Teacher can focus one's attention on regular practice. Teachers can help a player to see problems with one's physical approach to the instrument and provide feedback on interpretation of musical material.

WRS members have a close relationship with several area teachers: Carole Rogentine (301 350 6386); and Suzanna Cooper (301 718 6454). Both of these teachers give individual and group lessons, and coach small groups. Kay Jones and John Begnalia are former area teachers who are still active in support of WRS.

Boston area recorderist, John Tyson, visits the Washington area from time to time. Lessons with John can be arranged through Jane Udelson (202 966 0331).

Solution to June's Puzzle

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        F   B     P
        A   I  L  I
        U   Z  I  E
      A R G E NTO  R
 GL I ER E   T  O   N
  U   E       PL E YE L
 A L BEN IZ     F
   L   S     DUFAY
GAY    K  R
 L     YOUMANS
 I BERT   B
 N        I      HAHN
 K      F I N ZI   U
 ALAIN    S        B
   L   BA T T I S H E L L
   K      E        R  A
   A   CU I           L
   N      N           O
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