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November 16, 2014 Meeting: *Valued Friends & Borrowed Chords*

DATE: Sunday, November 16, 2014
TIME: 2:00 to 4:30 p.m.
PLACE: Unity Church of Denver, 3021 South University Blvd.,
Denver
CONDUCTOR: Richard "Dick" Wood

Valued Friends & Borrowed Chords

Something old, something new, something borrowed ...and now for something completely different! We asked Dick Wood to lead our November meeting because we wanted a surprise.

He describes his program as, "Eleven pieces of music I've written (most of it recent) honoring people I've played recorder with or using chord progressions I have admired, including a Beatles piece."

We count on these pieces to be fun, challenging, witty and un-stuffy. To find out why, you must attend the meeting.

Our Leader for This Meeting Explains Himself

This will be my third time leading the Denver ARS chapter, and I am pleased and flattered that you have asked me back. I see myself as a non-musician, bringing a program of my music to a group much more seasoned and knowledgeable than I am.

I retired a long time ago from Colorado College where I started off as a fund raiser and then spent 31 years as director of admission. The man who hired me called the profession "traffic cops in tweeds." I had a great job at a great college. Some of the Denver ARS members are CC grads: your own Joe Wilcox, Susy Wilcox (now in Oregon and no relation) and Erin Bell (noted blues singer with the Stop Time Band.)

I grew up loving music and playing chords on the guitar and piano for fraternity brothers, my six children and other singers. But I didn't know much about what I was doing musically and I still don't, really. I have a good ear, I'm told, and I have a marvelous program on my computer called Music Time Deluxe. With those two aids I've managed to put together over 150 pieces of recorder music since I learned to play the recorder nearly 30 years ago.

How fortunate I was to get involved with recorders! No sooner had I learned the fingering on my \$19 plastic alto recorder and was I playing with a group. I'm still playing with a group. They encourage me to write pieces so they can play them. Lucky me!

President's Message:

Hello everyone, I hope you were able to make it to the October playfest featuring Jennifer Carpenter. If not, I hope you can make it to the November meeting featuring one of our favorites, Dick Wood. Dick promises an entertaining selection of his own compositions and arrangements. I want to remind everyone that annual dues are due by November 15th (but you can bring it to the November meeting if you like). A registration form is available on our web page and will be at the November meeting. Your dues help to offset our expenses including use of Unity Church and payment for our guest conductors and copying fees. More importantly, your continued membership ensures the viability of the Denver ARS chapter. Thanks for your support!

Jon Casbon

...so much music, so little time!

Group Corner

News of the activities and postings from area musical groups having recorder players. Check the chapter website for a listing of all groups that we know of, including contact information.

Boulder Chapter ARS - Hello everyone: Here's what's on the docket for our next meeting on November 9th:

Our music director, James Grush, will conduct, and Carol Stanwood, soprano, will sing music of Dunstable, Dowland and Haydn, as well as three romantic poems by Tod Howard Hawks set to music composed by Dr. Grush. Then, "Cantate Domino a 12" of Hassler will again be in the playbooks as well as the usual "surprise."

I hope that many of you will be able to come and be a part of this special meeting. It's always a treat to play along with a singer. It gives new meaning to breath marks!

For anyone new attending: we meet in the basement at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 3700 Baseline, Boulder, CO 80303 at 2:15 PM. Enter through the east door which is adjacent to the parking lot.

(Group Corner, Continued from page 1)

Colorado Recorder Orchestra - The CRO celebrated its 10th Anniversary concerts in October with concerts in Fort Collins, Colorado Springs, and Broomfield. We will start looking at music to begin our 11th year on Saturday, December 6th, weather permitting. The rehearsal on December 6th will be an open rehearsal—all are welcome. We will be sight-reading music together. The theme for our next concert series will be Baroque music.

The rehearsal will be from 9:30 – 12:30 AM at St. Ambrose Episcopal Church, 7520 South Boulder Road, Boulder (actually close to Louisville). We would love to have guests come to rehearse with us. For directions, email rjterada@comcast.net or call 303-847-3020.

Four Winds Ensemble (Colorado Springs). The Four Winds have been busy lately. We enjoyed playing with several other local groups at the Colorado Springs Salon on October 11th. We performed Sonata #16 by Dario Castello. In case you have never heard the music of Castello, it is lively and challenging to play. He is known for two books of sonatas for varied numbers of instruments. Many of his sonatas are suitable for recorders. We have also had two elementary school gigs, performing an interactive program for third graders focusing on imitation, and including marching, saluting, hand gestures and sing-along. Now it is time to get ready for the holidays, with several gigs in mind...

Marylebone Garden Players - Marylebone Garden Players continues with the acquisition of lots of new baroque chamber sheet music. We have the orchestration to play the wonderful Telemann Concertos which require: recorders, flutes, violins, viola, cello, gambas and harpsichord. If you are recorder player who would like to play baroque music with a real chamber orchestra, there is a sub list for the Saturday group and there is room in the Monday group for another player. Bill Conklin 303-455-0837

Write Like Mozart:

An Introduction to Classical Music Composition

Would you like to have a better understanding of music? Are you interested in arranging or composing? This might be the class for you. The next session begins January 15, 2015. It is a great way to learn the basics of music composition, especially as applied to the Classical era. I learned a lot from this class earlier this year. I liked it so much I'm going to take it again! The instructor is excellent. An understanding of basic music theory is useful, but much of this will be taught during the class. It's free, so what do you have to lose? To learn more, go to <https://www.coursera.org/course/classicalcomp>. Jon Casbon

October Newbie News

Dick Munz, the Newbie host for the October meeting presented a significant challenge to five eager Newbies. He asked them to play a half dozen or so songs without benefit of music stands, or even printed music for that matter. According to Dick, "They performed brilliantly on the second try, if not the first. Or was it the third?"

November Newbie News

The leader for this month's Newbie session is Bruce Nelson. Bruce has been in the Denver chapter since 1990, and has played a lot of fun pieces in his time. He will be leading the group in some of his favorites, mostly from the Renaissance. He promises to "get eyes, brains and fingers working together." Further, he says "the pieces are easy enough that we should have a few brain cells left over to listen to what each other is playing—that's called ensemble!"

Sunday, November 16th, 2014, 12:45 to 1:45 pm,
4th and 5th Grade Classroom, second floor
Unity Church, 3021 S. University Blvd, Denver
Enter South door.

Are you a Recorder Newbie?

1. Do you know some recorder fingerings?
2. Can you read a little bit of music?
3. Have you wanted to play the recorder but never gotten around to it?
4. Are you already a recorder player but new to the Denver chapter?

If you've answered yes to any of these questions, you will want to attend the Newbie Playing Session sponsored by the Denver Chapter of The American Recorder Society. The Newbie Group gives players new to the recorder or new to the Denver Chapter an opportunity to play small ensemble music in a safe setting. Session is free of charge and open to the public. Drop-ins welcome. For more information, contact Janet Handmaker at recorderteacher@comcast.net or call 303-221-6066.

For Sale

Moeck Tenor recorder. It is maple, with a curved windway and double key. It comes with its original hard case. I have been told it would cost about \$680 if new. I am asking \$350. It has not been played very much and is in excellent condition. Contact: Laura Andersson, 719-575-9997 or 719-661-2461



Jack of all Trades

We all know the saying, but as recorder players we patently ignore its message. It couldn't possibly apply to us if we take our obsession seriously, or could it? Many of the relatively simple questions I am asked regarding recorder problems can be explained in some way as operator error. Does the problem begin with our recorders, the number of them we are expected to play, or our perspective? I'd like to spend a few moments exploring the latter.

If you play both the guitar and violin, and someone asks you about the number of instruments you play, the obvious answer is two. The answer is the same if you question a violinist who also plays the viola. How about you, the recorder player? Disregarding any other instruments we play, recorder players invariably refer to the recorder in the singular, not the plurality they actually play. If you add up the number of recorder sizes you actually play, do they add up to one? Why do we pretend they should be counted unequally. A tenor sax looks an awful lot like an alto sax, but ask a saxophonist if they are they same instrument and he will quickly tell you they are two completely individual beasts.

A master violinist is expected to play only the violin. She learns over time every aspect of her instrument, every nuance, its flaws as well as its strengths. Years of training on the same instrument teaches her how to coax every possible desire she can dream up, even as far as exploiting the instrument's weaknesses. Yet recorder players, even as beginners, are expected to play multiple instruments. There is little functional difference between the violin and viola as compared to the tenor and alto recorders. They play similarly, yet you read for them differently. And although the two bowed instruments might seemingly be the same, no violinist sees it that way. As recorder players, we regard all recorders as simply variations on a theme. From the Lilliputian garklein to the Brobdingnagian contrabass we somehow consider them the same instrument. While you might not play every size, I'm going to guess you play at least four of them. How are we to surmount the myriad complexities of the entire recorder family if we regard them as one and the same? Even if we accept the desire to specialize on all sizes, how could we if we own and play multiples of every size? How many sopranos or altos do you own? Can we be masters of that many instruments? Is it possible for us to learn all the subtleties of every recorder the same way a violinist might learn on a single violin? I offer a simple fix to these questions of instrument diversity. While most of us won't give up our collections, or alter the practice of playing everything always, perhaps all we need to do is change perspective.

Let us begin to approach every recorder size as its own

personality. Accept that the tenor is a completely different animal than the soprano or the alto. Find enjoyment in knowing you play not one, but a multitude of instruments. Learn to breath and play each recorder as it yearns to be played. Learn to control the instrument in your hands and not an idea of one that isn't. Feel its intricacies, learn its subtleties, and accept its limits. Caress its unique form and voice. Delight in the tonal color only that instrument possesses and with the dedication it deserves. Approach each recorder as the individual it is, and rejoice in the fact that although you might be a Jack of all trades, with patience and a new perspective you may cease to be a master of none.

My name is John. I am a recorder maker and repair technician. I am a lifelong luthier who looks forward to going to work on my dreams everyday. I will be answering your questions each month and sharing in this love we share. I am asked regularly about what can be done to improve recorders. I would be happy to answer any questions regarding the care and maintenance of your instruments. Please submit any repair and general recorder questions to Orthwest@gmail.com or contact me directly by phone 772-321-1498. I await your call. John Orth

Suzuki Recorder Training Workshop Coming to Denver

Are you a recorder teacher interested in becoming certified to teach Suzuki Book 1 for Recorder? Nationally-known Suzuki recorder teacher trainer Mary Halverson Waldo is coming to Denver to teach the training workshop in winter/spring 2015. For dates, cost and other details please contact Miriam Rosenblum at miriam@reillyrose.com or (303) 770-2247.

Denver Chapter Members/Friends in Good Standing as of October 2014:

Jon Casbon, Bill Conklin, Judy Fritz, Joice Gibson, RoseMary Glista, Janet Handmaker, John M. LeVett, Lori Murphy, Dick Munz, Bruce Nelson, Justine Romero, Miriam Rosenblum, Virginia Schlieker, Pat Selby, Mary Sloan, Victoria Taylor, Rose Marie Terada, Bill Urban, Gerrie Vendegna, Diane Wagner, Trudy Wayne and Richard Wood.

Is your name missing from this list? If so, that's because the next annual dues cycle has begun and we haven't received your dues yet. We are now collecting dues for the September 2014 to May 2015 season. Dues for the Denver Chapter are \$20 and are due by November 15, 2014. We also accept payment for ARS National Dues if you would like us to process the national dues for you. If your annual ARS dues are renewable at a later date, please pay your chapter dues now. You can renew by completing the Dues Form under "Join" on the website (or at the end of this newsletter) and submitting the form with the dues. Make checks payable to 'Denver Recorder Society.'