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September Meeting: America the Beautiful — and Beyond

DATE: September 15, 2013
TIME: 2:00 to 4:30 p.m.
PLACE: Unity Church of Denver, 2031 S. University Blvd., Denver
CONDUCTOR: Thomas Riis

September Meeting: America the Beautiful – and Beyond

To kick off our 2013-2014 season, we're elated to have the guy who wrote the book (actually more than one) on American music. Tom Riis, Professor of Musicology and Director of the American Music Research Center at the College of Music at University of Colorado in Boulder, will lead a program titled "America the Beautiful--and Beyond."

Dr. Riis's program will include an international tour of song-based consort music "apt for sundry instruments" ranging from late 15th- and early 16th-Century chansons, madrigals, and chorales to Colonial New England psalm tunes, early 19th-Century shapenote melodies, and Black spirituals arranged for recorders by the beautifully expressive modern composer Will Ayton. If time permits, we may possibly do a cowboy song or two, and who knows what else?

Our Leader for This Meeting

Thomas L. Riis, the Joseph Negler Professor of Musicology at CU, earned his degrees from Oberlin College and the University of Michigan. Dr. Riis is a specialist in Musical Theater and writes and lectures on many topics in 19th and 20th-century American music. His book *Just Before Jazz*, devoted to African American Broadway shows, received an ASCAP-Deems Taylor Award in 1995. His latest book, *Frank Loesser* (2008), is a volume in the Yale Broadway Masters series. As a Fulbright Senior Scholar, he taught in Lueneburg, Germany in 2005-2006, and he was elected President of the Society for American Music in 2009-2010.

While his research and publications mostly focus on African American music and musical theatre, his other interests include medieval song and historical performance practice. He has played the viola da gamba since 1977, and he performed with the Ann Arbor Consort of Viols between 1979 and 1981, directed the Collegium Musicum at the University of Georgia between 1982 and 1990, and, during the same period, founded and directed a Renaissance chapel choir, Voix Fort Cleres. Riis remains active as a choral singer, viol player, and cellist.

President's Message on Membership & Dues

Greetings fellow recorder players, and welcome back for another great season of recorder playing with the Denver chapter! As a reminder, our first meeting/playfest of the 2013-14 season will be September 15th at 2 p.m., with Newbies beginning at 12:45. During the summer, Joe Wilcox, our program

director, put together another fun, exciting, and interesting program for the coming season. We are also in the early stages of planning a workshop in September 2014 in conjunction with the 10th anniversary of the Recorder Music Center at Regis University, the 75th anniversary of the American Recorder Society, and I believe, the 50th anniversary of the Denver Chapter!

I'm also happy to say that the chapter's Board has decided to keep our annual dues at the bargain rate of \$20. Even though this amount does not cover our annual program expenses, we have been able to continue operating in the black thanks to profits resulting from the Rocky X workshop. I hope you will agree that you've gotten your money's worth from your dues.

The Board has also decided to return to our previous practice of collecting dues at the beginning of the program year, with dues payable by November 15th of the program year. Last year we tried going to a system of having dues payable on the anniversary date of your previous year's payment. One reason for this was to try to better synchronize payment of chapter dues with National ARS annual dues. Unfortunately, this did not seem to help, and may have had an overall detrimental effect on our membership numbers. We will continue to collect annual National ARS dues (currently \$45) for those members who desire. If not an ARS member, we hope you will consider joining. The ARS is a great resource for recorder players, and the American Recorder magazine is a tremendous benefit/resource for members.

As I mentioned, we have seen declining membership numbers in our chapter the last year or so. I'm not sure of all of the reasons for this, but in response, the Board wants members to feel that they are getting something for their money. In addition to helping to pay expenses for our facility, guest faculty, and music copying expenses, members will receive an updated membership directory once or twice a year (sorry, we slipped on this a bit last year). As an added incentive to join the chapter, the Board has decided to offer member discounts to any chapter sponsored workshops. So, ...end of the sales pitch... please join! Membership registration/renewal forms will be available at our monthly meetings or by visiting the chapter website at <http://www.denverrecordersociety.org/Dues%20Form.pdf>.

Do you have suggestions on how the chapter can do a better job of supporting its members as well as promoting the recorder to the community? If so, feel free to talk to me or send me your ideas at denverrecorder@gmail.com.

Jon Casbon
President, Denver Chapter
...so much music, so little time!

Our Coming Season

Save room on your calendars for the varied and interesting programs in our 2013-2014 monthly meeting schedule. All are on third Sundays of the month except for April (which, to avoid conflict with Easter, is set for the second Sunday).

Date	Presenter(s)	Topic
September 15, 2013	Tom Riis	<i>America the Beautiful & Beyond</i>
October 20, 2013	Nancy Ekberg	<i>Ornaments of the World</i> (inspired by medieval Spain)
November 17, 2013	Anne Peterson	<i>Evolution of a Melody – "Browning" or "The Leaves be Green"</i>
December 15, 2013	Holiday Grab Bag	various
January 19, 2014	Evanne Browne	<i>An Age of Transformation – The Early Baroque</i>
February 16, 2014	Janet Handmaker & Dick Munz	<i>Rags, Tags and Dirty Jazz</i>
March 16, 2014	Karl Reque	<i>20th & 21st Century Treasures</i>
April 13, 2014	Marjorie Bunday	<i>The Art of the Chase: Rota, Canon, Chace, and Caccia of the Middle Ages</i>
May 18, 2014	Linda Lunbeck	<i>Dance Music: Medieval to Modern</i>

Note that we're having a normal monthly meeting in May 2014. In past years, we've usually held a workshop instead during that month, but we think in 2014 we'll have a unique opportunity for the year's special event in September. Watch your email and this newsletter for announcements

Group Corner

Colorado Springs Groups Meeting Weekly

Caramillo Consort (5 players, open group).....Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00

WoodDove Consort (5, 6, or 7 players, closed group).....Tuesdays, 11:30-12:30

The Fermatas: (5 players, open group).....Fridays, 9:30-10:30

The New Trio: (3 players, open group [we could be The New Quartet or The New Quintet]).... Fridays, 10:30-11:30

August Events

Caramillo Consort: Noontime Concert at Windsong Senior Living, Thursday, August 29, 11:45 a.m.

September Events

Caramillo Consort: Concert at Emeritus at Bear Creek, September 10, 10:30 a.m.

Future Events

WoodDove Consort: Madrigal Dinner at First Congregational Church, December 5, 6, and 8, 6:00 p.m. A blast! Everyone should come. Recorder concert during gathering time, as well as dinner music between courses.

Fermatas: Luncheon Concert, December 11, 12:00 noon at Grace Baptist Church—from Jeannine Bramwell

Four Winds Ensemble (Colorado Springs). FWE members had an enjoyable summer with a fairly light schedule. We participated in an arts & culture event in a private cabin near Colorado Springs, and performed a few of our favorites, including *Il est bel et bon*, Glen Shannon's *Peanut Butter ("Smooth") fugue*, and some Beatles arrangements. We also performed for a Saturday

evening meal at the Margarita Restaurant. We're playing at Jon Casbon's family reunion in September, and working on new ideas for our school outreach program. A couple of our members had the pleasure of "jamming" with Stop Time during one of their summer rehearsals.

StopTime had the pleasure of helping a few thousand racers celebrate their finish at the 35th Georgetown f to Idaho Springs Half-Marathon on August 10. We played a dozen or so jazz standards as they filed into the Idaho Springs High School football stadium. At one point, as often happens at our gigs, someone came up to us and said "I didn't know you

Hi Early Musicians:

This next year will be the beginning of the eighth year of our group. We play almost every Saturday at 10 am and two Mondays a month at 9 am. This summer we had an all day Schickhardt workshop in June and we played eleven of Schickhardt's concertos and sonatas for recorder.

The Monday group is working on trio sonatas as well as the standard Renaissance repertoire.

We currently have an opening for a recorder player, violinist or gambist in both the Saturday and Monday groups. You would have to be an intermediate level musician and be interested in a super sight-reading experience.

Give me a call at 303-455-0837 or write to willieco@aol.com

Bill Conklin

Rocky X—Reports

Mark Davenport's Rocky X Recorder Workshop
Sessions - May 17-19, 2013
Reported by Diane

Among the highlights of the Rocky X Recorder Workshop were Mark Davenport's sessions on Josquin des Pres and an Introduction to Barless Music. Dr. Mark Davenport is a notable scholar and performer of early music. He currently directs the Collegium Musicum at Regis University in Denver, where he is an Associate Professor and Director of the Music Program.

In the Josquin session Mark introduced us to Josquin des Pres and filled us in on some of the political maneuvering that went on when the Duke of Ferrara was looking for a new choir director.

Mark's session featured Josquin's 5-voice motet, Miserere Mei Deus, a setting of Psalm 51, written for performance during Holy Week 1504. Mark led us systematically through the challenges of this complex work, back to front, pointing out the structural features of the music. By the time we finally played it all the way through, we played the whole work musically, as an ensemble. By this time I was fully engrossed in the music and amazed at what we had accomplished in a relatively short time.

The class concluded on a lighter note with a reading of Josquin's 5 part version of a lively basse dance.

The session on barless music had nothing to do with the absence of alcoholic beverages at the refreshment table. By the time early music was written down the musicians already knew the melody and the rhythm. There was no need to impose a rigid metric structure. When music is written without bar lines, it is easier to see how the melodies flow and relate to one another. But for those of us who are used to seeing music written in measures, with a fixed number of beats per measure it is disconcerting to see a piece of music with no bar lines. Which note gets one beat? How do we keep together? What do we do when we get lost? Mark showed us how to find the fundamen-



Rocky X Session Leaders (L to R) Paul Leenhouts, Ann Peterson and Mark Davenport



Rocky Mountain Estes Park—just one of many spectacular views in this awe inspiring setting at the YMCA camp.

Group Corner continued from p.2

The Boulder Chapter of ARS will have its first meeting of the fall, Sunday, September 8th at 2:15 held at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 3700 Baseline, Boulder, 80303 (just east of Williams Village CU dorms). Our music director, Dr. James Grush will have new music that he has arranged for recorder ---music that you cannot find anywhere else! It has been clearly notated by our dedicated chapter member John Geohegan. Denver Chapter members are invited to attend as our guests. For further information, contact Boulder Chapter Sec-Treas, Trudy Wayne (trudydwayne@aol.com)

Rocky 10—Continued

More on Rocky X

"You're from California? Do you know....?" Yes, I usually did. The recorder world is a friendly one, and anyone who ventures out of home territory to try another workshop will nearly always run into friends of friends. This month, I attended the Rocky X workshop sponsored by the Denver Recorder Society in Estes Park, Colorado, May 17-19 and had plenty of small world moments. Ruth Harvey, for example, who used to own the Boulder Early Music Shop, remembered the time Billie Hamilton and I helped her run her shop at the Berkeley Exhibition. Someone else asked about that red-headed harpsichord player, and about the talented guy who plays with his right hand on top. Of course everyone knew Glen Shannon. At dinner, I met several past and present members of the ARS board and its executive director Kathy Sherrick and enjoyed stories about ARS history.

Paul Leenhouts, Mark Davenport, and Ann Peterson led about 60 of us in Big Bashes and smaller groups throughout the weekend. The setting was as breathtaking as that of Marin Headlands, as the workshop was held at a YMCA camp near the entrance to Rocky Mountain National Park. Like the Headlands workshop, the Saturday sessions were geared to different abilities and interests. There were plenty of after-hours sessions, too--often the best part of a workshop! Sadly, I didn't bring crumhorns; there was a group for that as well.

I had only a few difficulties navigating foreign territory. I was staying with cousins on the opposite side of town and had to avoid elk on the road on my way to the workshop every morning. I took my cousin's suggestion for a shortcut but missed a turn while looking at the imposing roadside geology. And I went for a walk at lunchtime on Saturday and nearly forgot to go back for the afternoon session; I could have wandered up a path and passed the rest of the day looking for wildflowers, walking the labyrinth, or visiting the massage hut. Fortunately I did return in time for Paul's session on Argentinian composer Astor Piazzolla.

Rocky X is held every other year in Estes Park, and there are many more workshops around the country. It's a great way to travel--and I promise you will find Billie Bugs wherever you go!

Thanks to Kathy Canan, who wrote this report for her local chapter's newsletter



Paul Leenhouts



Rams Horn Lodge housed participants of Rocky X in addition to on site rehearsal rooms!

Peace Corps Ukraine Report by Paul Brunson

Hello fellow Colorado recorder players from the far away land of Ukraine! Pat asked me to do a brief snippet (25 words or less!) of my experiences to date as a Peace Corps Volunteer here in Ukraine. Since some of you already receive my sporadic blog, I will try not to repeat myself. Overall, it has been a very humbling experience. To come to another country such as Ukraine with its rich culture and turbulent history and offer to help is truly unique, as is the cultural exchange (one of the Peace Corps goals). I have to come appreciate the wonderful hospitality and friendship of my Ukrainian counterpart, Olena, and the other friends that I have made at the University without whose help I would not be able to succeed. I also love my daily experiences with my **half baked Russian** in trying to communicate with the women coordinators at the front desk of my dormitory as to my daily needs, where I am going for the day, etc. At night I do get a chance to practice not only my Russian, but also my recorders in the adjacent conference room. My eventual goal is to connect with some Ukrainian musicians to play with. I have found one of the PCVs (Peace Corps Volunteers to those of you less informed, hahaha!) who enjoys singing madrigals, so we hope to get together this month to indulge our mutual interest. Today I had an interesting experience with a simple project that brings into focus the issues and cultural moments. I want to do a repair job to the seats of two swing sets in the childrens' playground next to our buildings, but there didn't appear to be any resources in the building to get the job done (boards, sandpaper, saw, screws, glue). One of my Ukrainian friends from my English Club was kind enough to cut up some left over boards and delivered them to me over the weekend at my dorm room, that I can use to repair the seats. I also have the Ukrainian maintenance man in my building who has agreed to set the boards with screws once they are ready to be installed. So off I went to the local mini hardware store and purchased a saw, some screws, sandpaper and a small paint brush (all for \$5 or so!). However, upon returning no one seems to know if there is a bit of left over paint or sealant that I can use to protect the boards from rain, snow, and the weather. If I can eventually solve some of these issues I am hoping that it may stimulate a larger volunteer effort to paint and repair the whole set of playground equipment, which is in rough shape and probably dates from the 1960s. The lesson that I am learning is that you have to start where the community is at, think small to begin with, engage as much community support as possible and be PATIENT! I think that I am beyond my 25 allotted words, so keep playing the wonderful music, savor every note and know that I am thinking of all of you!

This note is my personal experiences and in no way is meant to represent Peace Corps policy or views.

Paul
PCV Group 45



Czar's cannon in Donetsk



My first soccer game at DomBass stadium with Kamala, the husband of my counterpart



Swing set

Workshop Announcement

Save the Date!
Rio Grande Bi-Annual Early Music Fall Workshop
September 27-29, 2013, Las Cruces, NM
Enjoy an Early Music Weekend in Southern New
Mexico
For Recorders & Viols

Faculty: Adam and Rotem Gilbert, Mary Springfels, Dale Taylor

Join us for our Bi-Annual workshop, for a weekend of early music fun, classes, playing sessions and a concert, in beautiful southern New Mexico. Friday afternoon September 27 - Sunday noon, September 29.

Please visit our workshop web page for more information:

<http://rgrecorders.org/2013Workshop.aspx>

Friday evening begins with a dinner followed by playing sessions led by faculty members. Select from a variety of classes all day Saturday. Enjoy breaks, Lunch, Dinner and the Faculty Concert. Sunday morning includes more classes.

We will let you know when class descriptions, schedules and registration are available.

[Sylvia Burke, President, Rio Grande Recorders](#)
[Joyce Henry, Special Programs - Workshops, Rio Grande Recorders](#)

Las Cruces is located at the intersection of Interstates 10 and 25 in southern New Mexico, about 45 miles north-west of El Paso, TX, 230 miles south of Albuquerque, NM and about 173 miles east of Tucson, AZ

Rio Grande Recorder Chapter of the ARS

<http://www.rgrecorders.org>

September 2013 Newbie Announcement

Bruce Nelson, a Denver chapter member since 1990 will host September's Newbie group. Bruce selects pieces he remembers enjoying when he himself was a Newbie. They include compositions by Bach, Poser, Mozart, Morley, Telemann and others.

Sunday, September 15, 2013
12:45 to 1:45 pm,
4th and 5th Grade Classroom, second floor,
Unity church
3021 S. University Blvd, Denver
Enter south door.

Do you know of anyone who might enjoy playing with the Newbies? Please spread the word. There is no charge for the session. For more information, contact Janet Handmaker at 303-221-6066. Drop-ins welcome.

For Sale

For Sale: Moeck bass recorder #253, hard maple, four keys (including low F#), direct blow. Hard case, neck strap, cleaning rod, fingering chart. Like new. \$400. Bruce Nelson, 303-755-7808, BANelson3@Q.com.

Not Related But Interesting

THE LANDFILL HARMONIC ORCHESTRA INSPIRING!

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=UJrSUHK9Luw

From
Susan Wilcox
susan@fullduck.com
www.fullduck.com
503-575-6269

Denver Chapter Members/Friends as of May 2013

Karen Anderson, Jann Benson, Rebecca Beshore, Bobbie Blanc, Paul Brunson, Marlys Butler, Jon Casbon, Sally Collins, Bill Conklin, Virginia Cortes, Lynda Coy, Keith Emerson, Michael Emptage, Barbara Fahey, Nancy Fey, Judy Fritz, Joice Gibson, RoseMary Glista, Elaine, Granata, Pam Grotegut, Janet Handmaker, Pat Heid, Eve Johnson, John M. LeVett, Bob McCarroll, Lisa, McInnis, Pat Midyet, Dick Munz, Lori Murphy, Jennifer Myers, Bruce Nelson, Gail Nickless, Susan Osborn, Margaret A. Peterson, Ed Pinfield, Sally A. Pyle, Justine Romero, Miriam Rosenblum, Virginia T. Schlieker, Mary Scott, Pat Selby, Mary Sloan, Victoria Taylor, Gerrie Vendegna, Diane M. Wagner, Trudy Wayne, Joe Wilcox, Marianne Zwahlen.

Starting in September we will be collecting dues for the September 2013 to May 2014 season. Dues for the Denver Chapter are \$20 and are due by November 15, 2013. We also accept payment for ARS National Dues if you would like us to process the national dues for you. Please complete the Dues Form under "Join" on the website and submit the form with the dues.

Editor's Corner

Well, there you have our Welcome Back Newsletter 2013-2014. This has been my biggest newsletter ever! My hope is that nothing was missed. We welcome your activities and stories to share with the membership. Be sure to date the issue you wish your material to be in and for sure let me know that it is for the Newsletter. I look forward to seeing you at the meetings and making music!

