Dear Sacramento Recorder Society members and friends,

It’s always good to get some rain, but that storm was really something. I hope your trees and fences survived without major damage. The sunny weather that has followed the rain has been especially nice! I’ve been starting to wonder when playing outside might be possible again.

I haven’t had a response from any SRS members sharing what they’ve been up to in the way of music. I hope that doesn’t mean that there hasn’t been any early music in your life. Please think about sharing something with us next month.

Next month! Play the Record Month! Here’s the link to the ARS PtRM page:
https://americanrecorder.org/play_the_recorder_month.php
(You may need to copy/paste)

The new composition created especially for 2021, “Transparent Letters Across the Sky,” was composed by Melika M. Fitzhugh who is based in Boston. The piece was inspired by a poem of Pablo Neruda from Book of Questions, 1973. Here’s the section of the poem:

"What happens to swallows who are late for school?
Is it true that they scatter transparent letters across the sky?"

The trilling and falls that are part of the piece sound beautifully birdlike. There will be an opportunity to play the piece as part of a Zoom orchestra. I’ve written about this elsewhere in the newsletter.

I continue to find cool things to listen to thanks to Facebook pages I’ve friended: American Recorder Society, of course, Classic FM, and La Societe de Flute a Bec de Montreal (sorry about the missing accents!). Here are some favorites:

- A great mashup of Baroque music and chocolat chaud:
  https://youtu.be/93RmpfF9cts
- Recommended by Glen Shannon, an arrangement of the Italian Concerto. It starts at about minute 6:
  https://youtu.be/Z0IpzsF8HK4
- Shira and friends. Three Peter Maunds (how does he do that?) spice up the percussion:
  https://youtu.be/_B36cJFfXS4

I’m looking forward our next chapter meeting on February 17th with Alexa Haynes-Pilon! See you there, in your little square!

Stay safe,
Patty Johnson
SRS newsletter editor
Conductors for 2020-2021

- February 17, 2021: Alexa Haynes-Pilon
- March 17, 2021: John Tyson and Miyuki Tsurutani
- April 21, 2021: Peter Maund
- May 19, 2021: Malachai Bandy

Our new meeting day and time during Covid are the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm.

An Invitation from the Mid-Peninsula Recorder Orchestra

Wednesday Evening, February 10, 2021

Fred Palmer and the Mid-Peninsula Recorder Orchestra invite you to be their guests for a virtual orchestra meeting and practice session on the evening of Wednesday, February 10. Fred will be leading the meeting and conducting us in playing several pieces of music. The Zoom session will open around 7:15 pm and the meeting proper and music will start at 7:30 pm.

The music includes music from a wide range of times: Mesomedes’ “Hymn to the Sun” from about 150 C.E., DuFay’s “Quel fronte signorille” from the fifteenth century; Schein’s “Suite No. 15” from the early seventeenth century, and Telemann’s “Overture in C major”, eighteenth century.

During music-playing times we will all be muted and playing along with the sound files that Fred will be playing from his computer as he conducts. Members of the orchestra are encouraged to play their assigned parts; guests may play whatever part they choose. (Of course anyone may actually play any part they wish; no one else will hear you so you have a great chance to experiment.)

Note: Email Patty Johnson (pjohnso1@gmail.com) if you are interested, and she will forward Ray White’s email with the Zoom link and music file.

Music Zoom Classes with Tish Berlin! To register, please visit http://tibiaduo.com/performances-and-teaching/, copy the registration/payment form and email your completed form to me at tishberlin@sbcglobal.net.

1. **Trill of the Baroque III** Tuesdays: February 16, 23 and March 2 and 9, 10:00 am - 11:30 am Pacific/1:00 pm - 2:30 pm Eastern. Take them all or just one. Each individual class is $25.00. We’ll drill essential ornaments – the trill, mordent, and appoggiatura – and put them into practice in Baroque duets and play-along continuo recordings. For intermediate to upper intermediate alto recorder players. Pitch: A=440. Part I and II are not prerequisites for this class.

2. **Tuesdays with Bach** Tuesdays: February 16, 23 and March 2 and 9, 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm Pacific/4:30 - 6:00 pm Eastern. Take them all or just one. Each individual class is $25.00. Each Tuesday we’ll work on a Contrapunctus from *The Art of Fugue*, as well as a harmonization of a chorale tune, using my GarageBand play-along recordings. Fugues will include 1, 7, 9, and 16. Geared toward upper intermediate to advanced recorders. Pitch: A=440.

3. **Explore the Ars Subtilior with members of Calextone: Tish Berlin, Shira Kammen, and Allison Zelles Lloyd** Friday February 19, 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm Pacific/4:30 - 6:00 pm Eastern. The fee for this class is $30.00. Singers and instrumentalists are invited to explore the mysterious and fascinating world of late 14th-century France with Calextone. Geared toward upper intermediate to advanced level. Pitch: A=440.
**Coming Right Up...Details to Follow!**

There are several neat things that are planned for Play the Recorder Month this year. First and foremost, on the official Play the Recorder Day, March 20 we will all play the 2021 piece, “Transparent Letters Across the Sky” together via Zoom (muted, but playing along). On March 6th we will have a chance to rehearse and hear from the piece’s composer, Melika Fitz-hugh.

The British Columbia Recorder Society is sponsoring a photography contest with three categories: photos, memes, and videos. Entries must include a someone playing the recorder, and be outside. There will be more information on the BCRS website: https://www.bcrecordersociety.com/

This website also has excellent suggestions and links listed at the top of the homepage under “Events” and “Resources”.

I am expecting to get more detailed information about these events in a few days and will email you when I get them. I’m off-sync with the other chapters newsletters. It’s a covid thing!

**Chapter Meetings In Other Areas**

(But now available on Zoom, there’s usually a per meeting charge or you could join their chapter)

- Highland Park Recorder Society
  Meetings on the second Monday of the Month
  Information: hprecorder.org

- Denver Recorder Society
  January chapter meeting with Jennifer Carpenter
  Sunday, January 17, 2020, 2-3:30pm, MST
  Information: denverrecordersociety.org

- Atlanta Recorder Society
  Virtual meetings
  Information: ars.atlema.org

**More Learning Opportunities**

**Alison Melville**

*Etudes Plus*

Four one-hour classes on February 10, 17, 24, and March 3 at either 10:30am, 1:30pm, or 7:00pm EST

Etudes may get short shrift during our practice time, but many of them are musical and fun to play. We will focus on etudes from the 18th and 20th centuries by Braun, Linde, Bruggen, and Staeps. We’ll finish with a short Scottish, Scandinavian, or Klezmer tune that echoes the focus.

Information: alison@alisonmelville.com

**Anne Timberlake**

*Sweetening Soprano Skills*

Wednesday, February 10, 7pm CST

While it is true that the soprano, in the hands of the uninitiated, can be a force for chaos, it can also be an instrument of great clarity and sensitivity.

Information: annetimberlake.com
**SFEMS Spring Workshops**

Come enjoy SFEMS's patented mix of playing, scholarship, and community! 2021 is almost here! While we are waiting for our vaccines, we can still study, play, and branch out into new areas of early music. These classes will have something for everybody, from lectures and demonstrations to play-along sessions!

Highlights include a five-class series on late medieval repertoire with Shira Kammen; one two-part class on historical dance with Jennifer Meller; and a special lecture on historical temperaments and tuning by the man who wrote the book on topic, Ross Duffin!

*Listen, practice, dance, ask questions, and interact directly with our faculty members—there's something for everyone!*

Saturday, February 13 @ 1PM:
**Mary Springfels**: *Chasing the Good Lai—Machaut’s Lai de la fontaine*

Sunday, February 21 @ 1PM:
**Cheryl Ann Fulton**: *To Pluck and Not To Plink - That is the Secret!*

Saturday, February 27 @ 3PM:
**Vicki Boeckman**: *Canons and Imitation across the Nations*

Saturday, March 6 AND Sunday, March 7 @ 3PM:
**Jennifer Meller**: *Whistle While You Dance: Sung Branles of 16th Century France /Branles of Mystery*

Saturday, March 13 @ 1PM:  
**Ross Duffin**: *The Tuning and Temperament Conundrum*

Sunday, March 14 @ 1PM:  
**David Morris**: *Boismortier Suite in G minor—And You're the Soloist!*

Saturday, March 20 @ 10 AM:  
**Bianca Hall**: *Madrigals of Hope and Renewal*

Saturday, March 27 @ 1PM:  
**Adam Gilbert**: *We’ll Meet Again—Songs of Greeting, Parting, Longing, and Hope*

Information for workshops: sfems.org
Availability will be different under Covid restrictions. Please check with teacher!

Take lessons from a recorder expert!

Sacramento area:

Kate Canan is available for recorder lessons or ensemble coaching. Contact her at 916-996-7932 or kacan-an@yahoo.com. She’s now in Grass Valley, at 469 Pine Street (95945). Kate is currently teaching online via Zoom or FaceTime. Of course, she’s also happy to have people drive up here, take a lesson on the back porch, and go hiking at Empire Mine State Park across the street.

These teachers are in the Bay Area (or willing to come to Sacramento, if there’s enough interest):

Greta Haug-Hryciw, SRS member and conductor, would love to give lessons before chapter meetings. Contact Greta at (415) 377-4444 or at gr8asf@gmail.com.

Frances Feldon, conductor of the Barbary Coast Recorder orchestra and music director of the ensemble Flauti Diversi, is available for lessons. She can be contacted at fran-feldon@gmail.com.

Judith Linsenberg, the director of the Baroque ensemble Musica Pacifica, holds a doctorate in early music from Stanford, and has extensive recorder teaching experience. She may be contacted by phone at 510-459-5958.

More information about teachers is on our blog:
http://sacrecorders.wordpress.com/

Find Us Online!

The SRS website is at http://www.sacrecorders.org. There you can find current and archived newsletters, information about lessons, concerts, and workshops, and more announcements from the wider early music world. Anyone can add more information by commenting on the posts. You can check the site for new information any time, or you can receive email notices of new posts by entering your email in the “Follow” field. Please send Kate an email if you have information to share with our members: kacan-an@yahoo.com.

We are also on Facebook. Just search for Sacramento Recorder Society and be sure to “like” us!!

Consider joining one of the larger organizations which make our own SRS possible:

The San Francisco Early Music Society, with whom we are affiliated, offers excellent workshops and concerts in the Bay Area. Their website: www.sfems.org
American Recorder Society, of which we are a chapter, is the national organization which promotes recorders. Their website: www.americanrecorder.org

SRS Non-Member Meeting Policy
Please be aware...

Our virtual meetings in conjunction with the San Francisco Recorder Society cost $15. Please contact and pay the San Francisco Recorder Society if you’d like to join our great virtual meetings!
Website: https://arssanfrancisco.org/
About the Sacramento Recorder Society

The Sacramento Recorder Society, founded in 1982, is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization. It is a chapter of the American Recorder Society and an affiliate of the San Francisco Early Music Society. We welcome recorder players of all ages and abilities as well as players of other early music instruments such as lutes, viols, sackbuts, shawms, curtals, krummhorn, and percussion. Beginners are urged to study privately and learn fingerings and become comfortable reading music before joining the recorder orchestra.

We meet monthly (in non-Covid times) from September through June, from 6:45 pm to 9:30 pm on the first Tuesday of each month, at the Friends Meeting House, 890 57th Street, between J St. and H St. Most of our meetings are conducted by a professional early music specialist who teaches recorder technique and relevant music history and theory while exploring music of many eras.

Many of our members also play in smaller groups in members’ homes during the rest of the month.

Sacramento Recorder Society Board 2020-2021

Co-Presidents: Gail Crawford and Susan Titus
Vice President: Mark Schiffer
Secretary: Patricia Johnson
Treasurer: Doris Loughner
Members-at-Large: Robert Foster and Carol Thompson

For information on SRS, please contact the following board members by email: gail.crawford1@gmail.com or susanlee448@att.net

Listening to Early Music

Here are some possibilities:

- Sunday Baroque, which airs from 7am to 11am on 88.9 FM, KXPR.
- Harmonia provides podcasts at its website: indianapublicmedia.org/harmonia
- The Chicago Early Music website provides access to many early music resources. Go to earlymusicchicago.org, then click on “ensembles,” then click on “beyond”
- Magnatune.com allows you to listen to music free and pay when you choose to download, or you can subscribe for $15/month for unlimited downloads
- Millennium of Music: “The sources and mainstreams of European music from the thousand years before the birth of Bach.” http://www.millenniumofmusic.com
- recorder-radio.com streams a variety of recorder music 24 hours a day
- Also available online: Concertzender Oude Muziek (mostly early music, there’s an announcer every so often who is speaking Dutch). You can find these stations using Tune In Radio.
- The Boston classical station, WCRB, has an early music stream. Go to classicalwcrb.org, click on the play button, and the early music stream is one of your choices. Click on it!