



Newsletter

September 2019

Vol. 42 No. 7

Meeting Dates for 2019-20
September 14
October 12
November 9
December 14
January 11

Meetings:

The Recorder Society of Long Island, Inc. regularly meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month (September through May) from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Place: St. Luke Lutheran Church
20 Candlewood Path, Dix Hills, NY 11746
Playing begins at 10 a.m. with a break at 11:15 a.m. for refreshments and chat.

Finding Us:

Directions to St. Luke Lutheran Church:

Deer Park Ave. south from Northern State Pkwy. (Exit 42) or north from the L.I.E. (Exit 51).

Turn east onto Vanderbilt Parkway and after a very short distance turn right onto Candlewood Path; St. Luke will be directly in front of you. Follow the driveway on the left of the church to the rear parking lot.

Meetings are held in the education building, ground floor, rear of the church.

On the web at: www.RSLI.info

Publishing:

RSLI's newsletter is published in Sept., Jan. and April each year. Send news and announcements to: Margaret Brown, Editor maritbrown@optonline.net

Message From Our President

September 2019

Dear RSLI Members and Friends,

Welcome back to a new RSLI year of music, friendship and learning. I hope that everyone enjoyed his or her summer activities and now, with the fall season upon us, is eager to gather with fellow members at our September 14th meeting – the first of our 2019/20 calendar. This session will be led by our very own Music Director, Rachel Begley. Please note one exception to our year's meeting schedule: We'll meet on April 18, 2020 (3rd Sat.), not April 12.

I'm delighted to be working again with our wonderful, dedicated Board of Directors. They are the backbone of our organization; the ones who give of their time and talents to keep RSLI running smoothly, on solid financial ground, and well-fed. Please keep in mind that RSLI members are always welcome to attend board meetings, bring their thoughts and suggestions, and participate in discussions. This is your recorder society and you can help shape its future.

One of the many rewards of music-making is that there's always something new to learn and experience – we just have to reach out and grab it! Right around the corner there are some great opportunities you'll want to take advantage of: RSLI Skills Workshop on October 5th, CityRecorder on Oct. 26th & 27th (go to www.amherstearlymusic.org for further info), and RSLI Intermediate/Advanced One-Day Workshop on November 23rd.

So, pack those recorder bags, throw in a music stand, pencil, coffee cup, and seat cushion (if desired) and head for St. Luke Lutheran Church on the 14th. We'll leave the metronome on!

So many notes, so little time,

Diana

Board of Directors 2019/2020

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Rachel Begley, Music Director | Margaret Brown, Newsletter Editor |
| Diana Foster, President | Sheila Regan, Hospitality |
| Sue Hahn, Vice President | Kara Kvilekval, Workshop Coordinator |
| Beverley O'Connor, Treasurer | Karen Wexler, Librarian |
| Jean Johnston, Secretary | Patricia Laurencot, Web Manager |
| Pat Cassin, ARS Representative | Barbara Zotz, Member-at-Large |

Dear Friends,

It's been a while since you've had a letter from me in this Newsletter, but I hope that my contributions to this issue will more than make up for it!

Last year was another wonderful one for RSLI - so much beautiful playing, so much learning and progress, and so much fun and support for each other in our music-making! This is what being a Recorder Society is all about! The playing meetings, workshops and soiree were all fabulous in their different ways, and I'm hoping that this coming season we can enjoy more of the same, with, as always, a slightly different cast of characters.

I'm thrilled to now share with you the details of our amazing line-up of teachers for the year, not only for our playing meetings but also for our amazing workshops. This year I will share the playing meeting leader's music stand with talented colleagues, both familiar and new to RSLI, from the tri-state area and beyond, including Larry Zukof, Emily O'Brien, Daphna Mor, Valerie Horst, Wendy Powers, Larry Lipnik and Susan Thompson. I can guarantee you'll experience both new-to-you music and familiar styles, learn (and re-learn) something to improve your playing, and be energized by our group's achievements.

I'm also delighted by the range of workshops we are offering this year, beginning with our unique Skills Workshop, to be held on Saturday October 12. This one-day workshop has achieved great success in recent iterations, and has now evolved from its original dedication to less-experienced players to include players of all levels who want to improve their ensemble playing skills - from sight-reading to listening to rhythms to tuning to changing instruments to working with different meters to... Essentially, the workshop will be tailored to whatever challenges you face when making music with others! Workshop participants are expected to play at least 2 sizes instruments (ideally both c and f fingerings) and will be selected to form a cohesive group of players who can all learn from each other in a very supportive environment. A fun and rewarding experience will be had by all! An e-flyer including an application form will be going out imminently, so watch your inbox.

Those who have enjoyed her teaching in the past will be excited to know that I will be joined by the inimitable Gwyn Roberts for our annual Fall One-Day Workshop on Saturday November 23. This workshop features small group playing (up to 8 advanced or 12 intermediate players in each class) and will include a smorgasbord of musical delights for recorder ensembles from a wide range of musical styles. In previous years, this workshop has enjoyed more than 2 groups of players on occasion, and, as I did then, in the event of enthusiastic enrollment I will hire another inspiring teacher to join us. We aim, as at all our workshops, for well-matched and congenial groups for our teachers to get the best out of. As with our Skills Workshop, we hope to get an e-flyer for this into your hands (via your inbox) in the very near future.

Both our playing meetings and workshops are open to non-members as well as members, so please invite your recorder-playing friends to join us for any and all events. The more the merrier! First-time visitors to our playing meetings even get their first session free. At our workshops, RSLI members enjoy priority notification and registration in addition to discounted fees, but we also welcome players from "off the island", and regularly enjoy the company of players from NYC, Westchester, Connecticut and beyond. However, we set up these events especially for our members in response to their requests and enthusiasms, so please be sure to make the most of our wonderful music program!

I look forward to seeing you all at our various chapter events this year. I'm looking forward, as always, to beginning the season with our first playing meeting this coming Saturday September 14. Before then, be sure to dust off those recorder cases, swab out the wooden instruments and give the plastic ones a bath, and don't forget to throw a music stand, pencil and cushion into your bag along with your recorders. And it never hurts to play a little beforehand either!

All the best,
--Rachel

"It's not Magic, it's Neurology"

Gwyn Roberts talks about recorder practice technique in the most recent issue of "American Recorder". I'm sure you will find it very interesting to learn what is going on physically and neurologically when you practice. It turns out taking a break and even sleeping is essential to the learning process. Also practicing slowly at first and stopping at the point of mastery at a slow tempo helps the brain to consolidate what you have learned for better playing at a faster tempo. Serap Bastepe-Gray, a physician and professional musician and one of the founders of the Johns Hopkins Center for Music and Medicine discusses how to practice smart. "Most musicians believe that they are improving during practice. In reality, most of the neurological and physiological processes that lead to adaptation happen after practice is over...Sleep...is very important."





Officer and Committee Reports

Report from the ARS Representative:

The ARS just sent its most recent magazine issue, Fall, 2019, to members, featuring wonderful articles about the 20th Biennial Boston Early Music Festival, Gwyn Roberts weighing in on the neurology of practice in conversation with Serap Bastepe-Gray and a number of other topics. The accompanying Newsletter tells of ARS Scholarship winners who were able to attend a number of different workshops. Many photographs of member groups show the breadth of ARS's activities.

The included music for this issue is a tribute to Jennifer W. Lehmann: her arrangements of Missa Tubae: Gloria by Cousin and Of All the Birds by Ravenscroft. Ms. Lehmann founded the Members' Library Editions in 1987.

Best of all, for those who would like to become members and receive all of the above goodies, ARS is offering annual membership to first-timers or those whose membership has lapsed for 5 years or more for \$25! This is half the usual membership dues. A real bargain! See Pat Cassin, ARS Rep, for further information.

Pat Cassin, ARS Rep.

Report from the Treasurer:

As of September 2019, RSLI has a balance of \$10,578. We have an estimate of expenses for the year of \$3600.00 for rent, conductor's fees, and insurance. This does not include any additional expenses for workshops, refreshments, etc.

Last year was an excellent year for income, we were blessed with generous donations. Our income was \$10991.05 and our expenses were \$8913.94. The Advanced Spring workshop was not only a huge pedagogical and musical success, we were also in the green, taking in \$4720 in registration fees and spending \$4060 with a positive cash flow of \$660.

As we look forward to another wonderful year of playing meetings and workshops, please keep in mind:

We have a designated scholarship fund to assist anyone who finds the workshop fees, playing fees or dues a hardship. Please contact me if you have any questions about this.

We would also encourage anyone who can do so to contribute to RSLI and to the scholarship fund. RSLI is a not-for-profit 501c3 organization, so your gift is tax deductible.

Respectfully,
Beverley O'Connor, RSLI Treasurer



From the RSLI Library

The library is open! See Karen at the meeting to inquire about available music and instruments, or you may call her (631-751-5969) or email her - krwexler@gmail.com.



Music we have played...

Some of the music we played at our May meeting with Rachel conducting 15 players:

Pavana "La Cornetta"	Anonymous
Springtanz - 6	Pretorius 1571-1621
Happy Birthday Variations (1977)	Matthias Friederic
(14 variations for 3 voices, played on 8')	

Second Annual "Soiree"

RSLI's Second Annual Soiree took place at the home of our generous workshop coordinator, Kara Kvilekval, on the afternoon of Saturday, June 8. (Perhaps, given that it is during the afternoon, we should call it a Matinee instead?) This year featured a number of spirited (and sometimes anxious) performances by our talented members, and was enjoyed by a small but enthralled audience of supportive friends and family.

Margaret Brown kicked off the proceedings on alto recorder, playing "Silvester in der Morgenstond" by the 17th century Dutch composer, Jacob Van Eyck. She was followed by Liz Yenetchi and Diana Foster demonstrating their talents on other early music instruments, baroque flute and viola da gamba respectively, with a Gavotte and Allemande by French baroque composer, Jacques-Martin Hotteterre. Kara Kvilekval and Beverley O'Connor continued the Hotteterre theme with a Passacaille, this time on two alto recorders. "The Baroque Group", featuring Jean Johnston, Kara Kvilekval, Beverley O'Connor and Karen Wexler (all on alto recorders) with Diana Foster (on viola da gamba), wrapped up the performance part of our afternoon with a Concerto for 4 altos and continuo by Johann Christoph Schickhardt. Kudos to all of our performers! I hope that next year's program is just as enthusiastically performed and received; maybe it will even include other sizes of recorders!

After this musical feast, all the assembled company enjoyed time in the sun on the scenic deck, along with a delicious array of food and drink. In case you were wondering, that included hummus and crackers, diy shrimp cocktails, an amazing platter of cheeses, Rachel's lime and ginger dessert, and other savory and sweet delights, accompanied by wine and other beverages, as well as conversation and laughter. All in all, we had a lovely afternoon together in convivial company, sharing our love for recorders, recorder music and our fellow recorder players. Be sure you come next year!

Reported by Rachel Begley



Gems from GEMS

Ready. Set! It's Concert Time!! Tune up your ears and look at these enticing possibilities. It would be nice to live closer to the city, but if you can get there, wonderful music awaits, and Gene Murrow and GEMS has created a wonderful place to look and be tempted. Here are some of the upcoming concerts mentioned in the GEMS Newsletter:

September 14 - The Sebastians Opening Concert
studio One, Alchemical Studios, 104 West 14th St. NYC

September 19 - Opening Concert - American Classical Orchestra
Alice Tully Hall

September 21 - Opening Gala: House of Time - Vivaldi Violin
Festival with Alana Youssefian, baroque violin
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 3 West 65th St, NYC

September 26 - Opening Concert - Artek: Fantini Futuro
509 Atlantic Avenue (Corner of Third Avenue) Brooklyn

September 26 - Opening Concert - The Clarion Music Society:
Motets of Bach & Brahms
Church of St. Jean Baptiste

September 29 - Opening Concert - The Cramer Quartet:
Springtime in September
St. John's in the Village 3-5PM

October 11 - Opening Concert - Abendmusik - New York's Early
String Band (with Larry Lipnik and Pat Neely)
The Svenska Church 5 East 48th Street, NYC 7:30PM

October 12 - New Amsterdam Consort - Baroque String music with
Julliard graduates
St. John's in the Village 218 West 11 Street, NYC 7:30PM

This list just scratches the surface of coming attractions. Be sure
to go to the GEMS website and get on their email list if you
haven't already. It's a great resource!

Thank you Gene Murrow!
gemsny.org

Tom Beets in the news!

As reported in the September issue of American Recorder, on May 19, 2019, Tom gave the North American premiere performance of a concerto by Graham Fitkin. This amazing piece required 6 different recorders (soprano to contra bass) changed multiple times to be played within the 23 minute, one-movement concerto. Read the whole fascinating story in the ARS Magazine. The live performance from can be heard at <https://youtu.be/CMUcrcQBjU>.

New York Recorder Guild

The new season begins **Thursday, September 26** with **Pat Neely** conducting. Session Leaders for the coming year are:

October 24: Daphna Mor
November 21: Wendy Powers
December 19: Deborah Booth
January 23: Joan Kimball
February 27: Susan Hellauer
March 26: Larry Lipnik
April 30: Valerie Horst
May 28: Pricilla Herreid
June 18: End of Season Bash!

Meetings take place at All Souls Unitarian Church 1157 Lexington Avenue. Doors open at 6:30 PM. Downbeat is at 6:45 PM sharp. Visit nyrg.org for more information. If you can get to the city on Thursdays, this would be a great way to play with some of our favorite coaches!



Let's Dance!!

For all you dancers among us, here is a fun place to get dressed up and have a wonderful evening of music and dance. Go to the website for dates, times and places of the events on Long Island.



**Long Island Traditional Music
Association**

Giving you that old song and dance...

A not for profit organization

Visit us on www.LITMA.ORG

Join/Like us/Follow us on Facebook

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Amherst Early Music

City Recorder

October 26 - 27
Ella Baker School
NYC

Valerie Horst, Director

The main focus is recorders!

Choice of at least two concerts on Saturday
Ex Borea and Tenet
plus

Capella Pretensis Sunday at 4pm
Music Before 1800

Go to info@amherstearlymusic.org for more
information

RSLI

Skills Workshop

Rachel Begley

October 5, 2019

St. Luke Lutheran Church

Come and sharpen up those skills and
techniques. A great way to get in shape!

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RSLI

Intermediate - Advanced Workshop

Rachel Begley & Gwyn Roberts

November 23, 2019

St. Luke Lutheran Church

Flyers coming soon!

2018-19 RSLI MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Zip _____

Telephone (include area code): _____

email: _____

Membership: \$40/yr. *Additional tax-deductible contribution:* \$ _____

\$ _____ **Total enclosed** (checks payable to RSLI)

Please fill out and submit at the next meeting or mail to:

Beverley O'Connor, 77 Washington Hgts. Ave, Hampton Bays, NY 11946

**I would like to help RSLI
with:**

Coffee setup _____

Refreshments _____

Publicity _____

Fundraising _____

I am interested in being on the
RSLI board of directors _____