



The Sacramento Recorder Society

A place for early music of all kinds in Sacramento

A chapter of the American Recorder Society
An affiliate of the San Francisco Early Music Society

April, 2011

For more information about the Sacramento Recorder Society, visit our website at www.sacreorders.org

April Meeting

6:45 pm

April 5, 2011

at the Friends Meeting House
890 57th Street
between J St. and H St.

**Conductor for the Evening
Frances Feldon**

A Letter From the Editor

Dear Fellow Recorder and Early Music Enthusiasts,

I'm writing this on a wet March Saturday. Spring may be close, but it hasn't quite arrived yet! I've been thinking about workshops. I'm going to Tom Zajac's "Music from the Fringe" next Saturday. I've attended these MedRen collegiums for the last 2 years. Each year participants have discovered varied and interesting music and instruments. Last year the emphasis was on the colonial new world and someone brought a stringed instrument made from a turtle shell! The music's rhythms were based on native and African sources, so we played some lively and complex music.

The use of Google provided me with other workshop wish list choices. If I could just transport myself to North Carolina today, I could attend the Triangle Recorder Society's "March Madness" workshop, conducted by last year's SFEMS recorder workshop instructor, Saskia Coolen. She's playing a concert this evening too.

On April 9-10, I could join the Canberra Recorder and Early Music Society in Bundanoon, Australia for their annual weekend workshop.

Or, on April 16-17, I could head out to Cheddar, in Somerset, for a weekend at the Kings of Wessex School playing recorders with the Society of Recorder Players in the UK. Their president is Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, OBE (Robert, does the Queen know about you?).

Or, in June and July, I could attend one of the San Francisco Early Music Society's weeklong workshops. There are four choices this year. First the medieval / renaissance workshop, then the baroque workshop, and finally two recorder workshops (due to last year's high demand).

I may not make it to North Carolina today (the transporter's down). I probably won't get to Cheddar or Bundanoon. But I am already signed up for one of the SFEMS recorder workshops. I ended up on a waiting list last year, so I promised myself I would really be on the ball this year.

What's on your wish list? There's a list of possibilities on a later page in this newsletter. Make those plans now!! (Maybe with some planning I could get to Cheddar or Bundanoon next year!)

Best wishes,
Patty Johnson

Did you get a Winter Party CD? Experience the fun all over again! Available at the April meeting...\$5 suggested donation.

Meeting Schedule 2011

April 5, 2011 Frances Feldon

May 3, 2011 Judy Linsenberg*

*Note: Conductor change for May.

About the April Music and Our Conductor Frances Feldon

Frances Feldon presents a joyful theme for the pure delight of playing songs about wine and women (The Blessed Virgin Mary to shepardesses and pious maidens) by a variety of composers (medieval chant canon; Francesco Cortecchia; Josquin des Prez; Johannes Brahms; and Gustav Holst) across time: medieval, renaissance, Romantic, NeoClassical.

Francesco Cortecchio's "Bacco, bacco" about – guess who! – Bacco and the pleasures of drinking wine, is one of a set of madrigals sung during the interludes to an elaborate *intermedio* (play in several acts). The *intermedio Il commodo* (play by Antonio Landi) was performed for the grand state occasion of the wedding of the Duke of Cosimo to Eleonora of Toledo. As you might imagine, the performance was on a very grand scale! The madrigals are sung in costume, the singers portraying nymphs, shepherds, mermaids, sea nymphs who play flutes, and sea monsters who play lutes. For "Bacco, bacco", the finale, 20 celebrants, drunken ladies and satyrs, come on-stage playing pipes, tabors, violins, harp, cornetti, crumhorns, and tamborine.

The 14th century *Llibre Vermel de Montserrat* (Red Book of Montserrat) is a codex of devotional texts with some late medieval song. It was compiled at the monastery near Barcelona in Catalonia, which contains a shrine to the Virgin and was a major pilgrimage site at the time. Since there was no pilgrims' hostel, the visitors spent the night in the church. "[T]he pilgrims, while holding night vigil in the church of the Blessed Virgin...

sometimes desire to sing and to dance...in the church square, where only virtuous and pious songs may be sung; some suitable songs have been written down for this need. These should be used in a respectful and modest manner, so as not to disturb those who wish to continue their prayers and religious contemplations." We will play "O Virgo splendens" the way it is sung: as a canon in multiple parts.

Josquin des Prez's "Bergerette savoyenne" is a skillfull setting of a ballade about a Savoyard shepherdess who wishes to keep her religious integrity intact despite the attentions of a noble suitor. Its imitative entries and masterful use of counterpoint contribute to its playful and cheery effect.

Johannes Brahms was a traditionalist and innovator at same time. He studied and patterned his counterpoint on that of Bach, but utilized it along with a Romantic approach to harmony and melody. "Der Jager" (The Hunter) is from German Folksongs, Op 11: "A good hunter wished to go hunting – to go hunting to the heights of heaven/ What should he come across upon the heath? Mary, the lovely Virgin." "Rede Madchen," which has the same theme as Josquin's "Bergerette," is from Lifesong Waltzes, Op 52: "Speak dearest maiden, you whose glance has hurled into my cool heart these wild, passionate feelings..."

"This Have I Done for my True Love" by Gustav Holst is a lovely song in simple neo-classical style, with affecting harmonies. Holst had the model of a renaissance madrigal style in mind when he wrote this song. The text is an old Cornish poem.

Frances Feldon is a Berkeley CA musician who works primarily in the San Francisco Bay Area. She teaches recorder and baroque flute privately at her studio in Berkeley and through her recorder program at Albany Adult School. She is a regular conductor and faculty member at recorder workshops throughout North America and has conducted

(continued on next page)

classics at two international recorder festivals (Holland and Canada). Ms. Feldon directed the San Francisco Early Music Society's Recorder Workshop for twenty successful years. Current projects include Flauti Diversi, a baroque/contemporary chamber group; performing contemporary works for recorder and multiple percussion in a duo with multiple percussionist Karolyn Stonefelt; exploring jazz recorder; and interviewing and writing on jazz and pop recorder players for the magazine American Recorder. She produces her own concert series, "Baroque and Beyond." Ms. Feldon studied recorder and baroque flute at Indiana University, where she completed a doctorate in collegium directing. She has taught at Indiana University, UC Davis and The Greenwood School in Mill Valley, CA.

Upcoming Workshops

May 20-22: Marin Headlands Recorder and Viol Workshop, Point Bonita YMCA, near San Francisco, CA. With each coming tide of that mighty metronome, the Pacific Ocean, our Marin Headlands Recorder Workshop 2011, perched at the edge of the ocean and embraced in greenery, gets nearer. Again this workshop will swell with harmonies of recorders, viols, and perhaps a psaltery or drum. Intermediate and advanced players are warmly invited to join members of the sponsoring East Bay ARS Chapter, at this annual event. This year's faculty includes familiar and new faces: David Barnett, Tom Bickley, Cindy Beitmen, Frances Feldon, Judy Linsenberg, and Farley Pearce. Music offerings will range from easily playable to challenging.

Contact: Merlyn Katechis
2923 Adeline St. Berkeley, CA 94703
510-593-4679

merlynk@berkeleymusic.com
symbolicsolutions.com/ebrs

May 20-22: Rocky IX Workshop, Estes Park, Colorado. More information:
coloradorecorders@gmail.com

June 19-25: Medieval and Renaissance Workshop, "Music from the Edges of Europe," Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA. Director: Tom Zajac. More info at www.sfems.org

June 26-July 2: Baroque Music and Dance Workshop, "The Italian Connection," Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA. Directors: Frances Blaker and Kathleen Kraft. More info at www.sfems.org

July 10-16 and July 17-23: Recorder Workshops, Week 1: "Harmony of the Spheres"; Week 2: "Gods and Monsters"; St. Albert's Priory, Oakland, CA. Directors: Rotem Gilbert and Hanneke van Proosdij. Information: www.sfems.org

July 10-16: Port Townsend Early Music Workshop, an opportunity for players of recorder, viol, and historical winds to study and play music of the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the Baroque, and the 20th century, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, Washington. Information: www.seattle-recorder.org

Recorders Out and About.

March 9: Baroque and Beyond played at Westminster Presbyterian Church at noon. Those in attendance enjoyed the excellent performances of their fellow SRS members!

March 11: Sine Nomine, with additional members Susan Titus and Carol Thompson, participated in Sacramento Country Day School's annual Renaissance Faire. The weather was lovely, the performances went well, and adults and children had a great time!

April 14: Mark Schiffer and Kathryn Canan will be performing in a recital given by students of Hanneke van Proosdij and Louise Carslake in El Cerrito.

New Feature on the American Recorder Society Website

The American Recorder Society has collaborated with Knowlera Media to produce a series of online "how to play the recorder" videos. This was made possible by funds contributed by ARS members. There are two series: "How to Play the Recorder" and "How to Play Simple Songs on the Recorder" featuring instruction by Vicki Boeckman. Check them out at the link available at the ARS website (left hand box on the main page): www.americanrecorder.org

Sacramento Recorder Society Board 2010-2011

President: Robert Foster

Vice President: Mark Schiffer

Secretary: Patricia Johnson

Treasurer: Doris Loughner

Members-at-Large: Steve Sherman, Dorothy Orolin

Chairperson-at-large: Gail Crawford

For information on SRS, please contact the following board members by email:

rfoster@london.com or

marschif@gmail.com

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, krummhorns, and percussion. Beginners are urged to study privately and learn fingerings and become comfortable reading music before joining the recorder orchestra.

We meet monthly from September through June, from 6:45pm to 9:30pm 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.

Support the Sacramento Recorder Society

Since the SRS is a not-for-profit organization, some members choose to make monetary donations directly to our chapter. Other individuals have donated gently-used recorders and sheet music to the chapter, and those items then

find new homes with other SRS members in return for a donation. Do you have an idea for how SRS can raise additional funds? Let a Board member know.

Refreshments at Monthly Meetings

Please sign up to help with refreshments at our monthly meetings. Cookies, fruit, crackers, cheese, juice, tea...it doesn't need to be complicated. Many thanks to Elsa Morrison for the March goodies!

Are you on Facebook?

So is the Sacramento Recorder Society! A big thanks to Steve Sherman, who set up our page and brought us from the 15th to the 21st century! Just enter "Sacramento Recorder Society" in the search box at the top of your Facebook page. Indicate "Like" and SRS postings will show up on your page. Check us out and leave comments and information.

Listening to Early Music

Here are 4 possibilities:

Sunday Baroque, which airs from 9am to 1pm, is the newest addition to KXPR's Sunday line-up. Sometimes the program strays into the pre-baroque (such a good thing!).

Harmonia, the program which is unfortunately no longer heard on KXPR radio, provides podcasts at its website:

[http://indianapublicmedia.org/harmonia/
www.recorder-radio.com](http://indianapublicmedia.org/harmonia/www.recorder-radio.com) streams recorder music 24 hours a day. Google can translate the German into quaint English for you. The music covers a broad spectrum from very old to very modern.

The Early Music Chicago website has a lengthy list of early music performing groups with links to their websites, blogs, and other resources. Go to <http://earlymusicchicago.org>. Then click on "ensembles"; then click on "beyond."

The June Chapter Meeting

It'll be here before you know it!! We will have our annual business meeting/election of officers and then proceed to our second annual "Open Mic Night." Plan your performance now!! We'll also have a tag sale so save music and arts-related items to contribute.

2010 -2011 Early Music Concerts

Saturday, April 2: Baroque Workshop Fund-raiser Concert, presented by the Baroque Workshop faculty (Frances Blaker, Kathleen Kraft, Kati Kyme, Rita Lily, and William Skeen) with guests Christine Brandes and Phebe Craig, St. Albans Episcopal Church, Albany, 3:00 pm. Information: (510) 559-4670 or baroqueworkshop@sfems.org

Saturday, April 2: Voices of Music, "Evening with the Stars," free concert, featuring winners from the Young Artists program and members of Voices of Music, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, San Francisco, 8:00pm. Information: www.voicesofmusic.org

Sunday, April 10: Canconier, "The Wonder of the World: Music from the Court of Frederick II (1194-1250), St. Albans Episcopal Church, Albany, 7:00pm. Information: www.musicsource.org or www.canconier.com

Friday, April 15: Hopkinson Smith, Spanish Guitar Music of the 17th Century, First Lutheran Church, Palo Alto, 8:00. Information: www.sfems.org

Saturday, April 16: Hopkinson Smith, repeat of Friday performance, St. John's Presbyterian Church, Berkeley, 7:30. Information: www.sfems.org

Sunday, April 17: Hopkinson Smith, repeat of Friday performance, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, San Francisco, 4:00. Information: www.sfems.org

Sunday, May 1: Les Violons du Roy, baroque program with tenor Ian Bostridge, Zellerbach Hall, Berkeley, 3:00pm. Information: www.calperformances.berkeley.edu

Tuesday, May 3: Les Violons du Roy, all Bach program with harpsichordist Alexander Weimann, Zellerbach Hall, Berkeley, 8:00pm
Information: www.calperformances.berkeley.edu

For more concert information see these websites:

San Francisco Early Music Society:
www.sfems.org

UC Berkeley's CalPerformances:
www.calperformances.org

UC Davis: www.mondaviarts.org

Lessons with Greta Haug-Hryciw

San Francisco Bay Area teacher, Greta Haug-Hryciw, SRS member and SRS conductor, is available on April 5th for lessons. Individual (private) lessons are \$50 / hour, with a minimum of two and up to four students scheduled consecutively on the same day. Contact Greta at (415) 377-4444.

Lessons with Judy Linsenberg

Judy is the director of the Baroque ensemble Musica Pacifica, holds a doctorate in early music from Stanford, and has extensive recorder teaching experience. Private or group lessons and coached ensembles are offered at her studios in Oakland and Palo Alto, and she will also come to Sacramento to teach if there are enough students. Please contact Judy more information by email at judy1@sbcglobal.net or by phone # 510-444-4113.

Lessons with Eileen Hadidian

Eileen Hadidian is offering recorder lessons in a nurturing home environment in Albany. Beginners are welcome. She has 30 years of teaching experience, a DMA in early music from Stanford, and is a former faculty member of Mills College. Contact: ehmuse@comcast.net

Sacramento Area Player Offers Lessons

Kathryn Canan is available for recorder lessons or ensemble coaching. She teaches all levels, adults and children, daytime or evening, in her Citrus Heights home. Contact Kathryn at 916-723-2409 or kacanan@yahoo.com.

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

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

Join a Recorder-focused Online Group!

Hanneke van Proosdij has started an online recorder group so recorder players can share messages, pictures, and videos with like-minded people world-wide. Check it out at:

<http://recorders.ning.com>

Thanks to Frances Feldon, our April conductor, for finding the following poem:

Vow

*(On Discovering Oneself Listed on the Back of a Concert
Program as a "Museum Friend of Early Music")*

May I forever a Muse-
Um Friend of Early Music be;
May I be never loath to thrill
When three-stringed rebecs thinly trill,
Or fail to have a lumpish throat
When crumhorns bleat their fuzzy note.
I'll often audit, with *ma femme*
Duets of psaltery and shawm;
Cross-flutes of pre-Baroque design
Shall twit our eardrums as we dine,
And Slavic guslas will, forsooth,
In harsh conjunction with the crwth
(Which is a kind of Welsh vielle
As all us Friends know very well),
Lull both of us to sleep. My love,
The keirnines (Irish harps) above
Tune diatonically, and lyres
Augment august celestial choirs
That plan to render, when we die,
"Lamento di Tristano" by
Anonymous. With holy din
Recorder angels will tune us in
When we have run our mortal race
From sopranino to contrabass.

John Updike

CD's of Early Spanish Music

Recommended by Robert Dawson, our March conductor

Tomas Luis de Victoria:

Ad Vesperas - ensemble La Colombina
Jeudi Saint dans Les Espagnes - La Colombina
Feria VI in Passione Domini - La Colombina

Francisco Guerrero:

Motetes, "Canciones y Villanescas" - La Colombina

Composers Juan del Encina, Juan Vasquez, & Gurerrero:

Canciones, Romances, Sonetos - La Colombina

Note: ensemble La Colombina, directed by Josep Benet, is a great choice, but not always easy to find.

Cristobal de Morales:

Dialogue Motets - Consortium Carissimi
Missa de Beata Virgine - Ensemble Jachet de Mantoue [*This CD will be very hard to find in the USA; you can order it from amazon.de or from amazon.uk but it will be costly because of postage. However, it's possibly the finest performance of this stuff I've ever heard.*]

Alonso Lobo

Sacred Music - The Tallis Scholars

Juan Garcia de Salazar:

Complete Vespers of Our Lady - Capilla Peñaflores
[*This is another very fine ensemble whose CDs are not readily available in the USA.*]

Philippe Rogier: (A Fleming with strong Spanish connections)

Missa Domine Dominus noster - La Fenice/Choeur de Chambre de Namur/ Jean Tubery

Assorted Composers:

The Victory of Santiago - The Concord Ensemble
Canciones y Ensaladas - Ensemble Clement Janequin
The Toledo Summit - Orlando Consort