

# Denver Recorder Society

November 2018

A Chapter of the American Recorder Society

For more information about the Denver Recorder Society, visit our website at: [www.denverrecordersociety.org](http://www.denverrecordersociety.org)



## November Meeting:

**DATE:** Sunday, Nov.11, 2018

**TIME:** 2:00-4:30

**PLACE:** Unity Spiritual Center  
3021 South University Blvd.,  
Denver

**CONDUCTOR:** Joe Wilcox

## Our leader for this meeting:

### Joe Wilcox

Joe Wilcox, our November leader, is an enthusiastic player of recorders and other instruments. For several years, he was Program Director for our Denver Recorder Society. He enjoys finding old music (especially Renaissance music) that is suitable for recorders and transcribing it so that he and his friends can play it. He also composes new, original music for recorders.

## This month's program:

### "Two Guys Writing Tunes"

Our program will include some of Joe's own music and several pieces by his old

pal Marchetto Cara. 500 years ago, Marchetto worked in the Italian city of Mantua. Mantua wasn't an especially big or economically important town, but it was a cultural powerhouse. Marchetto composed mainly in a genre called frottola (plural = frottole), a precursor to the Italian madrigal. Frottole were usually published as vocal ensemble music with Italian texts, but they were also performed by instruments (including recorders). They were evidently popular, for they were printed in large numbers.

Frottole are usually not very serious, and they are fun to play. Mostly homophonic (i.e., with all parts moving in the same rhythm), they are more accessible and modern

sounding than much of the more intellectually demanding Renaissance polyphony. Their texts are often extravagantly emotional or sometimes downright comical.

Joe's compositions will include two new pieces: a set of Variations on a Simple Tune and a Fantasy for Sopranino and Recorder Choir. The Variations are based on an original theme, a theme that sounds in some ways like a children's song or a not-very-demanding fiddle tune. Each variation is some kind of transformation of that initial theme. An interesting mental exercise is to try to figure out how each variation is related to the opening theme. Some variations are obvious; others are not.

The score for the Fantasy for Sopranino and Recorder Choir has the following quotation attached to it: "... journeys never made are sometimes more deeply inscribed on the imagination than those actually undertaken." [from Nicky Gardner, a British travel writer.] This epigraph is intended as a stimulant for the intuitive understanding of the piece, and the composer declines to say more on the subject. The Fantasy uses original melodic materials, but Joe likes to claim they are fragments from an imagined song played on a wooden flute by a solitary traveler. Bits & pieces of melody are assembled and harmonized into a dream-like collage. Players at our November meeting will comprise the recorder choir for this reading, and our past President Jon Casbon has generously and bravely consented to play the sopranino part. Marchetto's

music and Joe's may have roots in the folk music of their native countries. We'll warm up with an Italian folk song and an American folk song.

By the time you receive this newsletter, the wonderful weather that exists as I write this will have disappeared – probably for the remainder of the season. Today we have our patio door open, and the cats are enjoying the antics of our silly squirrels as they dig holes all over the yard searching for the "treasures" they hid in the spring. I wish them luck. I think they need a lot of luck.

### **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:**



**Sharon Bolles**

One of our very own, Joe Wilcox, is leading us in November. Please be sure to check the write up further in the newsletter for more information. And please remember that due to schedule conflicts, this meeting is on the 2nd Sunday, November 11th!

Have you renewed your ARS and Denver Chapter memberships yet? This is a great time to do it, before the holiday season fully descends upon us all and obliterates all other

thoughts. Click on this link to go to the new membership form on our website:

[Membership Form](#)

~ Sharon

## **Newbie Group News:**

### **November 2018**

Sharon Bolles will host the Newbies for the November meeting.

Sharon was introduced to music in the 3rd grade, borrowing her dad's trumpet to learn how to play in the school's beginner class. She continued playing trumpet, then French horn through her Music Education degree. She taught herself to play recorder as a way to play for fun (no lessons or performances to work on!) while in college. Following college, she found out that life did not allow much time for "distractions" like her recorders, and they found their way to the dusty shelves of various homes along the way of life. Once retirement approached, music beckoned and fit into her schedule again. The recorders were more practical (and fun!) to take up this time, and she is enjoying this renaissance to the fullest. Sharon will lead the Newbies in a potpourri of simple yet very pleasing medleys. There are easy chants from very early times, to more modern rounds such as Flow Gently Sweet Afton. Most are Soprano

or Tenor, and Alto – unless you play Bass and want to beef up your skills in playing Bass in treble clef.

Although not necessary, there are opportunities to try "alto up" if you like, as well.

### **October 2018**

October's Newbies had a great time playing through some 2 - and 3 - part rounds transcribed from the 'Novello School Round Book,' first published in 1852. Woody Colahan, October's Newbie host, exclaims "What a great source of material this is! Can't wait to do this again."



### **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?



### **Four Winds Recorder Quartet (Colorado Springs):**

Due to travels we haven't had a lot of time to rehearse, but we are working towards some holiday performances. We've been invited to participate in Colorado Springs' annual "Festival of Lights" with a performance in the Pioneer Museum on December 1st. We'll also be performing at the annual Tri-Lakes Community Handbell Choir Christmas concert on December 8th. We have some new holiday music to work on, and always enjoy performing this time of the year.

~ Jon Casbon

### **Highland Chamber Orchestra**

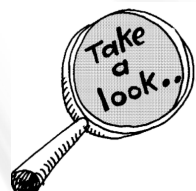
Highland Chamber Orchestra continues two weekly playing sessions. One on Saturday morning and one on Monday morning. The group is finishing up 12 years together and we have played a ton of music. Some players have actually been here that long. We have both recorders and strings from local community orchestras along with harpsichord. Our repertoire covers a huge majority of the music written (and currently published) between 1200 and 1900.

## **Denver Chapter of the American Recorder Society's 2019 Augusta Bleys Competition**

This competition is open to all composers: professional or amateur, academically-trained or self-taught. Each composer may submit up to two compositions which will be judged by a panel and first, second and third place prizes will be awarded. The deadline for submission is March 1, 2019.

Please click below to go to our website and get much more detailed information about the competition.

[2019 Augusta Bleys Composition Competition](#)



### **UPCOMING PROGRAM SCHEDULE:**

**Dec 16** – Holiday / general membership meeting  
**Jan 20** – Anne Peterson  
**Feb 17** – Karl Reque  
**Mar 17** – Dick Wood  
**Apr 14** – Competition Final \*\*\*



## **EMGO presents Switzerland**

**Join us for an intimate, six-day recorder workshop in Switzerland! August 25 - 30, 2019. This intensive workshop will cover many musical styles including Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, and beyond. Open to all players at the intermediate to advanced level. Our faculty features four beloved and accomplished recorder instructors: Clea Galhano, Laura Kuhlman, Gayle Stuwe Neuman, and Philip Neuman. Students will play in both small groups and large ensemble.**

**Intermediate to advanced recorder players are encouraged to apply, but musicians in voice, viola da gamba, and double reed instruments are also welcome. In addition to making beautiful music, workshop attendees can explore the region through planned excursions and optional trips. A visit to the K ng Factory! You'll also have the opportunity to enjoy locally focused cuisine and experience Swiss hospitality at its finest.**

**Deadline for registration is December 1, 2018 and space is limited. Fees and online registration can be found on the EMGO website: [www.EMGO.org](http://www.EMGO.org) or email: [GayleNeuman@gmail.com](mailto:GayleNeuman@gmail.com) or [EstherSaulle@yahoo.com](mailto:EstherSaulle@yahoo.com) for further information.**

