

The Mouthpiece



The Newsletter of the East Bay Recorder Society

Volume 13, No. 9

www.eastbayrecorders.org

May 2010

Monthly Chapter Meeting

Friday, May 7th

7:30 to 10:00 PM

at Zion Lutheran Church

With Judy Linsenberg

If your name begins with M through Z, please bring a snack for break, if possible. Everyone, bring a music stand, a pencil, and instruments (SATB if you have them). And please arrive in time to set up and be ready to play at 7:30.



Judith Linsenberg is one of the leading exponents of the recorder in the United States. She has performed extensively throughout the US and Europe, including solo appearances at the Hollywood Bowl and Lincoln Center. She has been featured with

the San Francisco Symphony, the San Francisco & Los Angeles Operas, the LA Chamber Orchestra, the Oregon Symphony, Philharmonia Baroque, American Bach Soloists, the Carmel Bach Festival, Musica Sacra of New York, and others. She is the winner of national performance awards, and has premiered several pieces for the recorder.

Ms. Linsenberg is Artistic Director of the Baroque ensemble Musica Pacifica, whose performances and recordings on Virgin Classics and Dorian have received international acclaim. They have been described as "some of the finest baroque musicians in America" (American Record Guide) and "among the best in the world" (Alte Musik Aktuell).

A Fulbright scholar to Austria, she was awarded the Soloist Diploma with Highest Honors from the Vienna Academy of Music. Her teachers have included Frans Brüggen, Marion Verbruggen, Walter van Hauwe, and Hans Maria Kneih. She is a summa cum laude graduate of Princeton University, and holds a doctorate in early music from Stanford University. She has taught at Stanford, the San Francisco Conservatory, and at numerous early music and recorder workshops throughout North America.

President's Message

Greetings everyone,

Music is coming to you from every direction at this time of year! There are a few I want to highlight. The first is a benefit concert for Eileen Hadidian given by AROW (American Recorder Orchestra of the West) on Saturday, May 1, 7:30 PM, at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 1501 Washington Ave, Albany. As most of you know, Eileen has been battling cancer for many years and the expenses continue to mount up. All the proceeds from this concert will go to Eileen. See the attached flyer for details.

Next is our annual Headlands event, Friday May 14 through Sunday morning May 16. We're the sponsors of this event so be sure and sign up. There's something of interest for almost everyone. You can get to the Headlands page on our website with this link: <http://www.symbolicsolutions.com/ebrs/headlands.html> You will find all the details including a registration form to download and print.

Hard on the heels of Headlands is the Berkeley Early Music Festival. Not only are there a number of really fine main attractions but there are many fringe events put on by our local artists. Check it all out on the SFEMS website <http://www.sfems.org/bfx10.shtml>.

The SFEMS summer workshops begin in June so there is no time to rest. Of particular interest to recorder players is the only all-recorder workshop in the country, held at St. Alban's in Oakland the week of July 18 - July 24. The bad news: it is such a popular workshop it is already full. Do not despair, however. The Medieval Renaissance workshop offers plenty of opportunity to tune up your recorder playing. This link: <http://www.sfems.org/workshops10.shtml> will take you to the SFEMS workshop page which details the Baroque and Medieval Renaissance Workshops held on back-to-back weeks beginning June 20.

Finally, Britt Ascher will host the annual EBRS summer play-in and party, date uncertain but possibly July 11. Look for more details on a summer play-in in the next newsletter.

Susan Jaffe

President

BABO is Born!

Well, actually, it made its debut months ago, but not everyone knows about it yet. So this is a good time to spread the news. Here is an abbreviated version of what Frances Blaker wrote in the program notes about her brainchild, BABO, which stands for Bay Area Baroque Orchestra.

“It all began in January of 2008 with an experiment. Would it be possible to create a real baroque orchestra using only amateur players drawn from many communities of talented Bay Area musicians interested in playing in historically informed style?”

The answer is an emphatic Yes!

Frances has gathered together some 25 members who between them play recorders, flute, oboe, bassoon, viola, violin, viola da gamba, cello, archlute, and harpsichord.

Frances coaches and directs this group in the varying styles of music of the 17th and 18th century. She has spent many weeks arranging and rehearsing a repertoire that includes works by John Adson, Alessandro Scarlatti, Francois Couperin, Jean Baptiste Lully and Vivaldi. BABO has now completed four large sets of music ready for performance. What a huge asset to our musical community!

The most recent performance, in Richmond on April 16th, was delightful. Everyone played ‘with heart’ and all the demanding work and rehearsals produced a wonderful amateur concert. I, for one, am already looking forward to the next one.

Elisabeth Canfield



Practice Makes Perfect

(thanks to Jason LeBrun!)

The summary of the rule is: If you can play the selection three consecutive times correctly, move the metronome up; if you play the selection three consecutive times incorrectly, move the metronome down. Here’s how it works: Select a passage which is causing you problems. If the passage is particularly long, break it down into overlapping pieces. It’s important that they’re overlapping: if they don’t overlap well enough, you will not learn the “breaks” between the pieces.

Set your metronome at a speed at which you are fairly certain you can play the passage. Now start the 3-in-a-row process. Play the passage completely through. If you make it through in a manner that is acceptable to you (at least without technical mistakes, certainly), then mentally note “1” in your head. Play the passage again. If you make no mistakes, mentally note “2”. Then play it a third time. If you make no mistakes, mentally note “3”. At this point, you’ve made it through the passage three times perfectly, so move the metronome up one click.

In this process, if you make a mistake, erase your count and note “minus 1” in your head. If you are consistently making mistakes at the current speed, you’re probably starting off too fast. If you play the passage with mistakes three times in a row, move the metronome *down* one click. If you play the piece incorrectly twice, but then correctly, you jump from minus 2 to 1 in your head. Similarly, if you play the piece correctly twice, but then make a mistake the third time, you jump from 2 to minus 1 in your head. Whenever you reach 3 or minus 3, you move the metronome up or down, respectively. Continue this process until you’ve reached the target speed for the part.

Once you reach your target speed, it’s advisable to continue the process for 2-3 clicks more. This is because a) there’s a variance at which a conductor will start a piece and b) you get nervous in performance, so it’s better to leave yourself a little bit of technical wiggle room.

This process can be very tedious, but it works really well because you don’t cheat yourself into thinking you’ve mastered a part after playing it correctly once.



Upcoming EBRs Events 2009-2010

(All at Zion Lutheran Church, 5201 Park Blvd., Oakland, starting at 7:30 pm unless noted)

Friday, May 7—Playing Session w/ Judith Linsenberg

May 14, 15, and 16—East Bay Recorder Society’s Marin Headlands Recorder and Viol Workshop. Save the Dates!



Some East Bay Recorder Teachers

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East Bay Recorder Society



Marin Headlands Recorder and Viol Workshop is almost here! May 14-16 2010

Have you registered yet? It's easy. Just go to the EBRS website and click on the Headlands Portal Page, or go right to <http://www.symbolicsolutions.com/ebrs/headlands.html>. There you'll find all the information about this special event and a registration form to print out and send in. There's still time, but do it soon! Remember, if you register before May 1 there's a discount. You do not want to miss this chance to be immersed for a whole weekend in playing your recorders or viols and learning about the various composers and topics from our expert and talented conductors. So register now, and pass the word on to others who might be interested. You can still order your beautiful t-shirt, also. Do you have trouble printing out a form? Contact me: Merlyn Katechis, 510-593-4679

BERKELEY EARLY MUSIC FRINGE and MAIN STAGE CONCERT INFORMATION

The twentieth anniversary Berkeley Festival & Exhibition will take place June 6-13 at various locations in Berkeley and beyond. A cornucopia of delights for early music lovers, the Festival will feature main stage concerts, a conference and exhibition sponsored by Early Music America, and self-produced "fringe" concerts presented by performers from around the world, including many of our local favorites. For more about the Berkeley Festival, a full calendar of events, and information about how to order tickets, go to the SFEMS website at sfems.org. The following may be of particular interest to EBRS members:

Tish Berlin, recorder, with Yuko Tanaka, harpsichord, David Morris, viola da gamba/cello, and Shira Kammen, viola/violin: Tuesday, June 7 at 4p.m. Trinity Chapel, 2320 Dana, at Durant, Berkeley. \$15. \$10. Music of Corelli, Telemann, Bach, and others. Call 519-559-4670 or e-mail: tishberlin@sbcglobal.net for more information or reservations.

Wild Rose Ensemble: Folk, Baroque and Beyond. Friday, June 11, 3p.m. at Trinity Chapel, 2320 Dana, at Durant, Berkeley. \$15 \$10. Tish Berlin and Frances Blaker, recorders; Shira Kammen and Joey O'Donnell, violin/viola; Barbara Blaker-Krumdieck, cello; Henry Lebdinsky, harpsichord; Robbie Link, bass. Call 510-559-4670 or e-mail tishberlin@sbcglobal.net for more information or visit sfems@sfems.org for tickets.

Berkeley Festival Main Stage Concerts sponsored by the ARS

1. Friday, June 11, 9:00 am to 12:00 The Return of the ARS Recorder Relay! Admission Free.
2. Saturday, June 12, 10:00 am to 1:00 p.m. Master Class with Marion Verbruggen.

Both events will be held at Loper Chapel of First Congregational Church in Berkeley.

Please visit www.americanrecorder.org for applications

Please Note: This is not a complete list of all Fringe Concerts.

Please visit SFEMS website - Find out what else is on the calendar for the Berkeley Festival.





Ensemble AROW's 10th Season!



Garden of Delights

a musical experience beyond Eden



Experience the moods, colors and the emotive power of music as the members of AROW play recorders ranging in size from soprano to sub-great bass and feature works by

Brahms · Hovhaness · Mozart · Offenbach
Poulenc · Satie · Schubert · Shostakovich



Four 2010 concert dates:

Sunday, March 28, 3:00 PM
Foothill Presbyterian Church
5301 McKee Road, San José

Saturday, April 10, 7:30 PM
Occidental Center for the Arts
4008 Bohemian Hwy, Occidental

Sunday, April 11, 2:30 PM
Eden United Church of Christ
21455 Birch Street, Hayward

Saturday, May 1, 7:30 PM *
St. Alban's Episcopal Church
1501 Washington Ave, Albany

* **Special benefit concert for Eileen Hadidian**

For details about concerts or contributing to the benefit, contact
Richard Geisler: richgeis@aro.net or Greta Haug-Hryciw: gr8asf@yahoo.com

The American Recorder Orchestra of the West
is an affiliate of the San Francisco Early Music Society



AROW announces its 10th concert season!

This year's concert series, "Garden of Delights – an experience beyond Eden," features richly beautiful pieces that highlight the emotive power of music: some rousing, some sublime, others contemplative.

All proceeds from our May 1 concert will directly benefit treasured Bay Area recorderist, Baroque flutist and Healing Muses founder, Eileen Hadidian. Eileen has been fighting a fierce battle with cancer for 12 years, which has created ongoing physical, but also financial challenges. Eileen gives so much to the community through her teaching and through Healing Muses, bringing soothing music, played on Celtic harp and wooden flutes, to Bay Area medical centers. She was named Albany's 2010 Woman of the Year for this important work. This is our opportunity to give something back to Eileen. (www.healingmuses.org)

If you are unable to attend the concert but wish to make a contribution of any size for her benefit, please write a check to **Eileen Hadidian** and mail it to Greta Haug-Hryciw, PO Box 370069, Montara, CA 94037. Eileen will attend the May 1 concert, at which time the checks will be presented to her. For more information, please contact Greta: gr8asf@yahoo.com

Thank you very much for your generosity.