



the Mouthpiece

Volume 15, No. 4, December 2011

www.eastbayrecorders.org

Guest Conductor: Frances Feldon

Frances Feldon is a music teacher and freelance musician in the San Francisco Bay Area. She teaches recorder and baroque flute privately at her studio in Berkeley and teaches the recorder program at Albany Adult School. She is a regular conductor and faculty member at recorder workshops in North America. Ms. Feldon directed the SFEMS Recorder Workshop for nearly twenty years. She is the program director and a principal conductor for the newly-created recorder orchestra Barbary Coast Recorder Orchestra (BCRO). Ms. Feldon performs with Flauti Diversi, a baroque/contemporary chamber music ensemble. She has also performed with such ensembles as California Bach Society, Sonoma Bach Society, and Ensemble Mirabile. An ongoing project includes exploring jazz recorder and interviewing and writing on jazz and pop recorder players for the magazine *American Recorder*. She has conducted her arrangements of Gershwin and Ellington classics at international recorder festivals in Montreal and Holland. 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, California.



Music for December's meeting

Her program for the EBRS at the upcoming December meeting continues a long time interest in an exploration of musical settings of the famous Marian motet *Ave Maria (Hail Mary)*, and seems appropriate to the beginning of the holiday season. The *Ave Maria* prayer incorporates the words of the Archangel Gabriel and Elizabeth in praise of the Mother Mary, and ends with a personal petition to her. It served as the basis of many polyphonic settings in the Renaissance for both motets and masses, including a gorgeous setting by Ludwig Senfl (1537) given here in a transcription (by Hanneke van Proosdij and David Tayler). The Brahms setting (1858), originally for a quartet of women's voices (SSAA) and chamber orchestra, is a beautiful composition, well suited to recorders in an arrangement (by the conductor). We will warm up with a sweet simple setting by Jean Mouton. (ca.1459-1522).



Monthly Chapter Meeting
Friday, December 2
7:30 to 10:00 pm
At Zion Lutheran Church
5201 Park Blvd., Piedmont

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

Table of Contents

President's Message	page 2
SF Recorder Society Concert.....	page 2
Carmel Valley 2011	page 3
Renaissance Passions:	
Music of France and Italy Flyer	page 4
Bay Area Teachers Directory.....	page 5
Board Members Directory.....	page 5
Upcoming Events	page 5

President's Message

Dear Members,

Here's a reminder that January's meeting is our yearly Twelfth Night gathering. It has a special date and time, namely Sunday January 8 from 3:00 to 6:00 or so at Zion. Please plan to bring your delicious offerings for the potluck that always follows the play-in at our Twelfth Night party.



I hope you are all enjoying the new look of the newsletter. Cynthia Borcena is doing a great job with the design and layout. The new column format makes it very readable and her blocking technique highlights and clarifies information. I like the table of contents. Nancy Smith, our new editor, can always use more articles for the newsletter. Please help her out and contribute your thoughts and ideas and stories.

As of this writing I don't know if there will be a demo group at the December meeting. Here is a reminder that if you want to hear demo groups, you need to volunteer to play. You don't have to be a top-level player to be in a demo group. You will have an opportunity to practice the music in advance and a coaching session with the conductor goes with the territory. The coaching cost is nominal for each individual since it is split at least four ways. Let Linda Skory know your willingness to be in a demo group. I encourage established groups to volunteer because it is a little easier for them to schedule a get-together; however individuals are encouraged to volunteer. Being a part of a demo group is a fun experience and an opportunity to get to know better other members of EBRS.

I'm enjoying the change of weather and the advent of the holiday season. Happy Thanksgiving to all.

Susan Jaffe
EBRS President

SF Recorder Society Concert

The San Francisco Recorder Society (ARS chapter and SFEMS Affiliate) will be presenting its winter concert at 2:00 PM Sunday, January 15 at Christ Church Lutheran in San Francisco's Sunset District.

We produce a concert each year for two reasons: because we love to play music together, of course, but also to help sustain the chapter and pay our professional conductors for each month's meetings. This year we have decided to donate half of our proceeds to this wonderful church, without whose help we would not have a place to meet, perform and hold our workshops. The generosity of the pastors and the congregation is greatly appreciated, particularly in light of the fact that they are facing pressing repairs due to the age of their building.

Last year's "Away from the Roll of the Sea" concert was a rousing success – there were so many wonderful comments about the program from our audience. We expect that our presentation this year will be just as engaging. As always, we will have guest musicians who are not necessarily recorder players, so there will be plenty of variety. Our theme this year is "Love Stories."

We sincerely hope you will come to fill the seats, hear the unusual music the performers have chosen and help support the chapter as well as the church. Please share this announcement and flyer with your friends, family, neighbors, fellow members of your organizations – whether or not they happen to be musicians. All are invited to attend the reception following the concert.

For directions to the church:
Christchurchlutheran.org.

CARMEL VALLEY 2011

by Suzanne Siebert



Carmel Valley November 2012

TISH BERLIN has directed an early music seminar in Carmel Valley each year for about 14 years featuring recorders and viols, which also included a few other instruments (dulcian, harpsichord and baroque oboe) in the first week of this November. She was joined by the Farallon Recorder Quartet members (Annette Bauer, Frances Blaker and Louise Carslake) plus a viol professional (John Dornenburg week 1 and David Morris week 2) as teachers and coaches. The week-long seminar is held in the lovely Carmel Valley at Hidden Valley Institute for the Arts, and is sponsored by Road Scholar (Elderhostel).

I attended week 1 along with other EBRS members Elizabeth Canfield and Susan Richardson. The sky was brilliant blue the first four days, and the air was filled with darting hummingbirds seeking nectar from the rosemary and Mexican sage bushes surrounding the west facing deck off the lounge.

The schedule had us attending four classes each weekday: technique, orchestra (for all of us under the baton of Frances), and two electives. I opted for an informal masterclass with John and a Baroque consort class with Tish for my electives. In the latter we experimented with some Vivaldi and a few other Baroque composers, and then chose a piece by Pierre Prowo for alto recorders, oboes (oboe 2 being played by me on my 440 Hz baroque oboe joined by two tenor recorders on the oboe 1 line), bassoons (played by two viols) and our faithful harpsichordist, Nina Bailey to play at the Friday evening recital.

The faculty played a concert Sunday evening (joined by a singer and lutenist as guest musicians) after we arrived and then another concert Tuesday evening. Wednesday afternoon was free time for all. Some rested, some practiced, and many went hiking, biking or sight-seeing. My husband and I visited the Monterey Bay Aquarium and admired, once again, the sea otters and other aquarium residents (sea horses, penguins, etc).

In the associated photo, I am shown to the right playing my oboe during the Prowo piece, while to the left are some of the orchestra players (totalling about 35 strong) during a tuning session at our dress rehearsal. For the first piece played at the recital by the orchestra, four of the viols were seated on a platform together with the harpsichord. They had a dramatic part and were well raised to highlight their skill and bravado! Our second orchestra piece was recently composed by Frances Blaker. We gave its world premier performance.

Sign Up Now for the
EBRS 2012 Winter Workshop:

Renaissance Passions: Music of France and Italy

A Workshop with

Frances Blaker

for intermediate to advanced players

Saturday, February 4, 2012 • 9:30 AM – 4:30 PM (Registration at 9;
Ready to play at 9:30)
Hillside Community Church, 1422 Navellier Street, El Cerrito*

About the Workshop

EXPLORE MUSICAL EXPRESSION OF PASSIONATE TEXTS, both secular and sacred, from renaissance France and Italy with a sampling of works from the medieval and baroque periods. How do we, as recorder players, imitate the musical expression of voices and texts? As a contrast to vocal music, we'll also play a few purely instrumental pieces.

Directions and map are on the back of this flyer.* Bring instruments (pitch: A=440), music stand, and bag lunch. Music is included in workshop fee; PDFs will be sent beforehand upon request. Snacks and beverages will be provided for breaks. **For more info, contact Carol Coon at ccoon.wildwood5@att.net, 510/236-3949.

About the Conductor



FRANCES BLAKER is active around the country performing, teaching, and writing the "Opening Measures" column in the *American Recorder Magazine*. She teaches privately and at workshops throughout the United States, including the San Francisco Early Music Society Baroque Workshop, Port Townsend and Amherst Early Music. Ms. Blaker is the author of the acclaimed *The Recorder Player's Companion* and a collaborator and performer on the Disc Continuo series of recordings. She regularly appears with Tibia, the Farallon Recorder Quartet, and Ensemble Vermillian, and has performed as a soloist in the United States and Europe.

2012 EBRS Winter Workshop Enrollment Form

Enrollment is limited, so be sure to reserve your spot early!

WORKSHOP FEES: EBRS/SFEMS/ARS members \$45
Non-members \$50

Please make checks out to EBRS and mail with this form to:
Carol Coon, 51 Wildwood Place, El Cerrito, CA 94530

EBRS member SFEMS member ARS member Non-member

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone (day) _____ (eve) _____

Email _____

Instrument(s) _____

Special needs _____



EBRS is an affiliate of the
San Francisco Early Music Society
and a chapter of the
American Recorder Society.



participants _____

fees \$ _____

donation \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

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Upcoming Events

Saturday, December 3, 2 pm, Grace Lutheran Church, 3149 Waverly, Palo Alto. The Mid Peninsula Recorder Orchestra presents a Holiday Concert directed by Frederic Palmer.

Friday, December 9, 6 pm, St. Mark's Mark's Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 2300 Bancroft way, Berkeley. Judy Linsenberg and Katherine Heater perform Bach.

Friday, December 16, 8 pm, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. The Women's Antique Vocal Ensemble Christmas Concert 2011, a traditional Festival of Lessons and Carols.

SFEMS Presents Magnificat Baroque Ensemble, *Weihnachtshistorie* (*Christmas Story*), Warren Stuart, Director Heinrich Schütz

Friday, Dec. 16, 8:00 pm, First United Methodist Church, 625 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto

Saturday, Dec. 17, 7:30 pm, St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College, Berkeley,

Sunday, Dec. 18, 7:30 pm, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 1111 O'Farrell Street, SF

Saturday, Jan. 21, 2012 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 330 Ravenswood Avenue, Menlo Park,. Mid Peninsula Recorder Orchestra Winter Workshop presents International Block Party directed by Glen Shannon

Sunday, January 29, 2012 4 pm, The 2012 EBRS Members' Recital, Hillside Community Church, 1422 Navellier St. El Cerrito

February 4, 2012 EBRS one-day workshop, particulars TBA

Friday, February 24 to Tuesday February 28, Carmel Valley Road in Carmel Valley. *Tibia Adventures in Music* (Letitia Berlin and Frances Blaker) presents the 2012 Next Level Recorder Retreat.

April 28-30, 2012, Sitka Center on Cascade Head, Lincoln City, Oregon. Wind and Waves Recorder Workshop led by Frances Blaker, Letitia Berlin, Cléa Galhano, and an instructor to be announced

May 18-20, 2012, Marin Headlands Recorder Workshop, YMCA Point Bonita Center on the Marin coast

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