



Newsletter

May 2020 Vol. 42 No. 3

Meeting Dates for 2020

- January 11
- February 8
- March 14
- April 18
- May 9

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

Message From Our President

May, 2020

Dear RSLI Members and Friends,

I trust this finds you all faring well, and coming up with creative ways to deal with the many challenges that have been presented to us during this health crisis. If you, or any of your loved ones, are an essential worker – I extend a heartfelt “thank you” for putting yourself on the line to keep the rest of us safe.

It pleases me to tell you that I have polled RSLI’s current Officers and Board of Directors, and each and every one of them has agreed to serve for another term. This group has worked extremely well together, and I am grateful for their continued support and enthusiasm. Any member, of course, may be nominated for office and placed on the ballot prior to our Annual Membership Meeting and Election of Officers, which we expect will be held in September.

Once again, RSLI members are invited to socialize at a “virtual” coffee break to be held on May 9th from 11 a.m. to 12 noon. Members will receive a Zoom Meeting invite by email prior to date. There were 12 members in attendance last month and it was great fun catching up and getting some laughs. We really hope to see you there!

Directly following the Coffee Break will be a Hands-On Recorder Care Workshop with Rachel Begley. This is the follow-up to her May 2nd lecture-demonstration, which I hope many of you were able to attend. The class is supported by RSLI and free to all members.

That’s all I have to relay for now, but you will be contacted as soon as we learn whether it’s possible to go ahead with plans for our 3rd annual *RSLI June Matinée* on June 13th.

My very best to you all,
Diana Foster, Pres.

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 |

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 Music Director

Dear Friends,

I never thought that I would be writing to you this Spring with RSLI having canceled a significant part of its yearly offerings including the Spring Weekend Workshop. 2020 is indeed a strange year, with a very unclear path ahead, not least for music-making in the company of others.

The May newsletter is traditionally the place where we look back on the activities of the year, and this year is no exception. In fact, with such an uncertain future, let's celebrate our recent past! 2019-2020 brought our usual diverse selection of musicians to lead our playing meetings, with both old friends and new faces. In the line-up of conductors for playing meetings, I was joined by Connecticut's Larry Zukof, Boston's Emily O'Brien, and New Yorkers Daphna Mor, Valerie Horst and Wendy Powers in a wide variety of music, ancient and modern, sacred and secular, joyful and somber, some of it written specifically for recorders, some for voices or other instruments then arranged for recorders, and some co-opted for recorders just for the occasion. Don't forget that RSLI keeps a record of the music played at all our playing meetings on its website, so you can always look up that piece you remember so fondly, or see what you missed when you were unable to attend a playing meeting.

Among the musicians we had hoped would visit us this year are Ros Morley, a new-to-us leader based in Brooklyn, Susan Thompson from Connecticut, and the recorder artist and teacher extraordinaire, Reine-Marie Verhagen from Utrecht in the Netherlands. Hopefully, they will guide us when playing meetings and workshops are possible again.

Given these exceptional times, instead of leading the May playing meeting as I had been scheduled to do, I offered RSLI members the chance to learn instead about the many things you can do to keep your recorders in tip-top playing condition. I was very pleased to have so many members and guests come to RSLI's first ever Recorder Care class, held online via Zoom last weekend. The first half of the session addressed preventative care and the second half addressed cleaning and oiling wooden recorders. There were many intelligent questions and suggestions, and I think everyone came away having learned something new. I'm looking forward to this weekend's followup session at which I can watch the participants in action, as they demonstrate their new-found skills!

Even though our music-making is significantly curtailed right now, there are actually a number of opportunities for playing and learning, just not in formats that we are accustomed to. As a teacher, the only opportunities available to me right now are through connecting with players online. It has been an interesting experience to move to a format in which nothing can take place in "real time": no playing duets with my students, no clicking my fingers to help with keeping the pulse, no coaching of ensemble playing, no ability to work on blending of sound or tuning with one another. However, it's not all bad! In fact, rather than only detracting from the musical experience, the new reliance on technology can actually enhance musical development. Don't let your lack of technological know-how hold you back - we are ALL learning as we go here!

Online private or group classes can actually be very focused and results-oriented. In addition to working with local teachers, online lessons mean that you can also take lessons from a teacher in a

completely different location. Some teachers use the online format to develop musicianship using technological means that aren't possible in the kinds of classes we are used to having, and still others include a kind of micro-masterclass where each player benefits from the attention of both their teacher and their fellow musicians. Amherst Early Music has been holding weekend sessions with a wide variety of teachers on different topics. Early Music America has also held sessions, and we can expect more and more to appear in the coming weeks and months. DO try to take advantage of classes and/or teachers that interest you.

RSLI is all about sharing our love for recorders and for its music. The joy of making music together in person, being able to react to each other's sounds and feeling part of an organic, vibrant whole, is something that cannot (yet) be replicated in a world in which we are physically isolated from each other. There's nothing quite like it in this life.

During these dark days, let us all remember that while it may take some time, and we don't know how soon it is likely to be, WE WILL PLAY TOGETHER AGAIN! In the meantime, please join us for RSLI's online Coffee Hour social at 11am on the second Saturday of each month. See you there!

—Rachel



~~~~*Music We Have Played*~~~~

On February 8, Wendy Powers led 16 players in a session entitled "Wine, Women, and Song" :

Orlando de Lassus (1532-94): *Den Wein der schmeckt a 5* SA8TTB

Maddalena Casulana (fl.1566-83): *O Notte, o cielo, o mar* (arr. Eric Haas) - SATB

Gilles Binchois (c. 1400-1460): *Deuil angoisseux a 3* S (A8)TT(B) - text by Christine de Pizan (died 1430) in honor of deceased husband

Glen Shannon (b.1966): *Jazzy Prelude* (Moeck 803) - SATB





### **Report from the Treasurer for May 2020:**

Hello everyone, I hope this newsletter finds you healthy and handling social distancing as best you can.

Our finances have remained rather stagnant since our January newsletter, as would be expected. Our account balance as of the beginning of May is \$11,415. Our expenses have been minimal; we did reimburse the coaches scheduled for the cancelled meetings .5 of the coaching fee, and our rent was limited to just January and February. We did not have any incoming revenue.

Hoping to see everyone at the May Zoom Coffee break!! Be well.

Respectfully,

Beverley O'Connor, RSLI Treasurer

### ***From the RSLI Library***



If you need music to fill in these long days, look at the library listings at [RSLI.info](http://RSLI.info), and find something you would like to play. Karen will email you a PDF of it, as long as it's not a book!



(631-751-5969) or email her - [krwexler@gmail.com](mailto:krwexler@gmail.com).

### ***Proposed Slate of Officers for the RSLI Board***

Diana Foster - President  
Beverley O'Connor, Treasurer  
Kara Kvilekval, Workshop Coordinator  
Pat Cassin, ARS Representative  
Margaret Brown, Newsletter Editor  
Barbara Zotz, Member-at-Large

Sue Hahn, Vice President  
Jean Johnston, Secretary  
Karen Wexler, Librarian  
Sheila Regan, Hospitality  
Patricia Laurencot, Web Manager

If anyone would like to be nominated for the Board in any of these positions, please let Diana or Jean Johnston, the Secretary, know so your name can be added before the Annual Meeting.

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS



## Virtual Activities

Check Out:

### Amherst Early Music

Virtual Classes via Zoom workshop!

Watch for announcements in your email or go to the Amherst website.

### Music Before 1800

Watch Sile Antico's distanced performance of *Spem in alium* on Youtube, a 40-part motet by Tallis, using smartphones and tablets. Amazing!

### Montclair Early Music

Offered a link to several Amsterdam Loecke Stardust albums

<https://youtu.be/0YUuN4alQNM>

Be sure to support our music friends when they ask for \$ help. Think of AEM, ARS, BEMF, MB1800, Artek and even RSLI. Let's help everyone stay afloat until we can play together again!



## RSLI

**Zoom Coffee Break!**  
 Saturday May 9, 11am - 12n  
 Followed by  
 Recorder Care Workshop  
 with Rachel Begley

**Annual June Matinée**  
 June 13 - 1pm - 4pm  
 Home of Kara Kvilekval

*Keep your fingers crossed!*



## 2020-21 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:**

**Beverly 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 \_\_\_\_\_