



Newsletter

September 2022

Vol. 46 No. 1

Message From Our President

September 2022

Welcome Back!

Here we are, ready to begin of another year of wonderful music-making with RSLI. I hope that your summer included some rewarding musical experiences and that you're eager to put newfound skills into practice. I look forward to playing with many of you on Sept. 10th from 10-12:30, and seeing those of you who will join us on screen via Zoom. This will be a 'hybrid' meeting conducted by our own Music Director, Rachel Begley. We expect the balance of our meetings (with the exception of May 13th) to be in-person only. If you are attending this or any of our meetings in person, it will be necessary to email an image of your COVID vaccination card (or Empire Pass) to Rachel in advance. We will continue to practice social distancing and encourage masking when you're not actively playing. In that same vein, we will not offer coffee, tea and snacks at "Coffee Break", but welcome you to bring your own.

You'll be happy to learn that we will (after a lo-o-ong 2+ years) be engaging guest conductors once again for the majority of our monthly playing sessions. We will also resume our regular (pre-COVID) yearly dues of \$40 and meeting fees of \$15/member, \$20/non-member, as well as continue to offer a one-time free playing session to "first-timers". I encourage all regular attendees, if possible, to pay their meeting fees upfront for the entire year (\$135 to minimize the process each month for our wonderful Treasurer. Your payment of \$175 covers it all!

It is as yet unknown whether RSLI will be able to offer specialized workshops as in past years, but please know that your board is working to get those activities back on our calendar as soon as possible. Many thanks to all of you for "hanging in there" as we work our way through these extraordinary times.

Your Prez,
Diana

Meeting Dates for 2022-23

September 10

October 8

November 12

December 10

January 14

Meetings:

The Recorder Society of Long Island, Inc. regularly meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month (September through January) from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Place: In-person at St. Luke, or virtually on Zoom .

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: RSLI.info

Publishing:

RSLI's newsletter is published in Sept., Jan. and April each year. Send news and announcements to: Margaret Brown, Editor maritbrown@optonline.net

Board of Directors 2022/2023

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Rachel Begley, Music Director | Kara Kvilekval, Workshop Coordinator |
| Diana Foster, President | Karen Wexler, Librarian |
| Jean Johnston, Secretary | Margaret Brown, Newsletter Editor |
| Beverley O'Connor, Treasurer | Patricia Laurencot, Web Manager |
| Larry Long, Member-at-Large | Pat Cassin, ARS Representative |
| Barbara Zotz, Member-at-Large | Rachel Begley, Music Director |

From our Music Director

Dear friends,

I'm very excited that the 2022-23 season looks like it will be a return to our regular style of programming after two whole seasons of it being rather different from the way we have run things for decades. After the pandemic hit, we had a few coffee meetings, a couple of workshop sessions (recorder care) and even our annual matinee performances, all online, of course. It meant a lot for us to keep connected with our recorder friends!

The 2020-21 season was our first full year with all meetings online only. It was both a pleasure and an honor to lead every playing meeting of the year, something I had never done in all my many years as Music Director. Then 2021-22 was the year when we held hybrid meetings, with some players joining us in person and some joining us online. It marked the second year of my leading all the playing meetings. And even with the spike in covid cases due to the emergence of the omicron variant (January-February), we met six times in person and twice online. What an achievement! It certainly is one matched by very few chapters of the American Recorder Society, many of whom are still meeting exclusively online, if they are active at all. Bravo to RSLI and its Board for making this happen!

And now to 2022-23. My aim this year is to return to in-person meetings, mostly led by guest musicians, just as we did for decades pre-pandemic. In the meetings that I conduct, I will still endeavor to provide a quality hybrid playing experience for those members who can't join us in person, but for those sessions led by a guest, that will not be possible, unfortunately. All the more reason to try to make it to the in-person meetings! Luckily for us, there is quite the incentive to do so, with our line-up featuring some longtime RSLI favorites, including Daphna Mor, Larry Lipnik and Wendy Powers. It should be another stellar season of wonderful music-making together!

I look forward to seeing you all again soon!

—Rachel

Don't forget NAVRS

For anyone hungry for more playing time, remember our new opportunity in the form of NAVRS - North American Virtual Recorder Society. This young and fabulous organization is thriving and very welcoming. Our own Rachel Begley is the Music Director and Liz Yenetchi is the Secretary. They meet on the last Saturday of the month, so no conflict with RSLI!

Just to freshen your memory, the North American Virtual Recorder Society (NAVRS) is an online community of recorder players. They welcome all experience levels from emerging players to professional. Their goals are simple - to promote the recorder and to provide a safe, inclusive space for playing and having fun. Get in touch to learn more about how to join this community. NAVRS is a Chapter of the American Recorder Society.

Upcoming NAVRS Playing Meetings

September 24 - Rachel Begley!

October 29

November 19

December 17

NOTE: All sessions begin at 2:00 PM, EDT. The Zoom link will be "open" at 1:30 PM, EDT

Check out their website - www.navrs.org for more details. At \$20 a year annual membership, this is a bargain you can't pass up and there are lots of appealing extras!!

**Kudos to Patricia and Diana!**

They spent several hours this summer, hunched over their respective computer screens, updating and improving our RSLI website. Thank You Patricia and Diana. Diana even said it was fun! Go have a look.



News Bulletin!

Gene Murrow Retiring

Gene Murrow, the Founder and Executive Director of Gotham Early Music Scene (GEMS) has announced his retirement after 15 years at the helm. He has truly changed and expanded the dimensions of the New York early music landscape. He has drawn together a very able and visionary Board of Directors, as well as attracting benefactors, advocates, educators and stellar musicians, all of whom have brought early music to a new level in the New York area. Gene is not leaving the “scene”, as he will continue as President of the Board. The Board has appointed John Thiessen, the current GEMS Director of Education and Concert Production to be the next Executive Director. Quoting Gene, “John is a highly respected musician (natural trumpet), contractor, and administrator... and is enthusiastic about taking on this new role.”

When you look at the GEMS website, you will be amazed at the huge array of concerts available throughout the city. There are not enough days in the month to fit them all in! GEMS is indeed a rare gem. Thank you Gene Murrow!

He asks that we consider making a special gift to GEMS to support this exciting new chapter in their life. Also, check out the website gemsny.org and join the mailing list, if you haven't already done so. It offers a wealth of tempting concerts and events, especially if you live close enough to the city to take advantage of them!

NYRG Up and Running

The New York Recorder Guild is off to an excellent start with in-person playing and an impressive list of conductors. They meet the third Saturday of each month from 1:30 - 3:30, in an attractive new location - The Church of Saint Mary the Virgin at 145 W 46th St. “The hall is airy and spacious with lovely acoustics and ample opportunity for social distancing.” Sounds inviting!! Daphne Mor will be leading the first session, September 17. Google NYRG for more details including their roster of conductors.

Another News Bulletin

Louise Basbas Music Before 1800 Retires

On April 29, 2022, Louise Basbas announced her intention to step down as Executive and Artistic Director of Music Before 1800. She was its founder and executive director for almost 50 years. She will continue to serve on the board while they find a new Director. As the founder, in 1976, she has also been a pioneer in broadening the spectrum of early music in New York, and MB1800 been labeled “Gotham’s flag-ship early music presenter” by *The New Yorker*.

Tickets for the exciting 22-23 season are on sale. Go to mb1800.org for more info.



City Recorder Bonus!

On Sunday October 23, after the close of City Recorder (*see page 5*), you might consider this wonderful concert presented by Music Before 1800 at Corpus Cristi Church, titled *Bach: The Arnstadt Connection*.

Belgian Vox Luminis, the highly praised ten-voice ensemble joined by strings and continuo, returns to Music Before 1800 to perform cantatas by the Bach family. Johann Sebastian Bach, himself, researched the relationships that connected the impressive musicians who made up his family tree. A cantata by Dietrich Buxtehude both separates and compliments the mellifluous flow of Bach family works. The program culminates with J. S. Bach’s mighty Easter cantata, Christ lag in Todesbanden, BWV 4. Go to mb1800.org for tickets.

Report from the Treasurer:

I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer. As we start the new RSLI season we have an account balance of \$11,603. Our account balance has been fairly stagnant during the summer break. However, we look forward to the influx of dues and fees in September. I'd like to encourage everyone to pay their playing meeting fees for the entire year. This cuts down on the administrative work for you as well as me. I've been paying for the entire year for several seasons now, and it is relief to have it taken care of. If I can't attend a meeting, I know that it's a contribution going to good use.

A gentle reminder for those of you who pay via PayPal, please be sure to use the "Send to a Friend" option. If you don't use that option, even though you're paying the full amount, RSLI takes a hit and doesn't get the full amount.

Respectfully,

Beverley O'Connor, RSLI Treasurer

Meeting Dates for 2022-23

St. Luke has approved our meetings on the second Saturday of each month, with the exception of April, when we will meet on April 15 (which is the third Saturday). So mark your calendars and make your plans accordingly. And fingers crossed we will continue to meet in person! (Be sure Rachel has a copy of your vax card!!)

The September and May meetings will be hybrid.

If you wish to join us either in person or on zoom, please register in advance by emailing Bev (beverley.oconnor@stonybrookmedicine.edu). The playing fee is \$15 for members / \$20 for non-members. The first session is free to newcomers. 2022-2023 dues of \$40 can be paid at the same time via Paypal or Venmo or by check. We encourage regular attendees to pay dues and meeting fees for the entire season (\$175) to minimize book-keeping headaches for Beverley.

From the RSLI Library

If you need music to practice at home or play with a group, look at the library listings at RSLI.info, to find something you would like to borrow. Librarian Karen can bring it to our meeting. Instruments are also available. If you have borrowed instruments and are considering purchasing them, let Karen know. And please return loaners if you're no longer using them. Happy playing!
(631-751-5969) or email her - krwexler@gmail.com.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Early Music is Thriving!!

ARS - American Recorder Society

If you are a member of ARS you will have just received the August/September Newsletter. Be sure to check it out, and don't forget to join!! ARS.org

Boston Early Music Festival

BEMF Chamber Opera Series:

Lully's *Idylle sur la Paix* and
Charpentier's *La Fête de Rueil*

In New York City on December 3 and 4!!

Presented by Morgan Library & Museum or

Go to BEMF.org for more information!

Montclair Early Music at Washington's Headquarters presents a concert featuring music from George Washington's era Sept 17, 3pm Morristown, NJ

More places to play and hear music:

Amherst Early Music

City Recorder!

Ella Baker School

October 22 - 23

GEMS

Check their listings, and don't forget the Thursday mid-town concerts. Every Thursday at 1:15, there is a concert. Check GEMS for locations, venues, and performers. There are some real treats awaiting those lucky enough to be nearby on Thursdays!! gemsny.org

Parthenia

Anima Sola with guests Laura Heimes, Soprano
and John Mark Rozendaal, Viol
Corpus Christi Catholic Church - Fri. Nov 8 at 8PM

2022-23 RSLI MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Telephone (include area code): _____

email: _____

Membership: \$40/yr. _____

Monthly Playing Fee \$15/month or \$135 for all 9 sessions _____

Additional tax-deductible contribution: \$ _____

\$ _____ **Total enclosed** (checks payable to RSLI)

I want to help RSLI:

Coffee setup _____

Refreshments _____

Publicity _____

Fundraising _____

RSLI Board of Directors _____

Please fill out and submit at the next meeting or mail to:

Beverley O'Connor, 77 Washington Hgts. Ave, Hampton Bays, NY 11946

Payments can also be made through your PayPal or Venmo account to: treasurer@rslinfo