



Newsletter

September 2023

Vol. 47 No. 1

Message From Our President

September 2023

Dear RSLI Members and Friends,

I don't know about you, but I feel like this summer just *flew* by. One compensation is that September brings us to the start of another wonderful year of music-making with the Recorder Society of Long Island. So, mark your calendar for the second Saturday of every month through May, and pack up your recorder bag for our first meeting on Sept. 8th. RSLI's Music Director, Rachel Begley, will conduct the session and expertly coach us beyond the notes into some amazing music.

This is a HUGE year for RSLI — our 50th anniversary! Your Board is aiming to kick off the celebration at our regular meeting in January. In the meantime, we continue to gather ideas on how to best mark this milestone, and will welcome your thoughts and suggestions.

This past summer had many musical opportunities on offer in the form of workshops and concerts. If you had the chance to attend and/or participate in something wonderful, I hope that you will take the time to share your experience with your fellow RSLI members. You never know when your enthusiasm and encouragement will open a new door for someone else.

More workshops are a 'coming. Amherst Early Music's "CityRecorder" in NYC is happening Oct. 21-22. Check www.amherstearlymusic.org for details. Our plans include an RSLI all-day workshop for intermediate and advanced players, as well as a weekend workshop for advanced players in the spring. Stay tuned for further details.

Music holds the key,

Diana Foster, Pres. RSLI

Meeting Dates for 2023/24

September 9	January 13
October 14	February 10
November 11	March 9
December 9	April 13
	May 11

Meetings:

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

Place: In-person at St. Luke Lutheran Church.

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 2023/20234

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

Dear friends,

It's hard to believe that the (meteorological) summer is now behind us and that our 2023-24 season is just days from beginning. It's even harder to believe that this season is my 30th as Music Director! Back in 1994, RSLI's then Music Director, Ken Andresen, decided to found the Recorder Orchestra of New York, based on Long Island and consisting of local players. Since starting RONY was a massive undertaking, Ken decided to focus his creative and administrative energies on his new endeavor, leaving the position of Music Director for RSLI vacant.

At the time, I was a young performer/teacher/graduate student who had just started a Doctor of Musical Arts degree program at Stony Brook University, having completed my Master of Music degree in recorder performance months earlier. I was definitely qualified for the position, if a little green around the gills, and I was excited about the possibilities. More to the point, the previous winter my husband and I had applied for Green Cards, and in the Spring we bought a house in Port Jefferson Station (where we still live), so it certainly looked like we were going to stick around for a bit... Now, if anyone back then had said that I would still be in this position five years down the road, much less THIRTY YEARS, I am pretty sure I would have laughed them out of town, and backed slowly away from the position! Suffice it to say, it's been TEN times the length of time I expected to be in office as Music Director. Ah, the innocence of youth...

And now, these many years later, there are such wonderful memories of my time as Music Director, as well as a few peculiar ones too! I'll share more of those in the next newsletter. Some faces from way-back-when are happily still playing with us, along with those from the past twenty years, ten years, even the last couple of years who have added immeasurably to our times making music together. I am so proud to be a part of **our small but mighty recorder community** on Long Island, and am immensely grateful for your years of support.

Our nine-month season begins in just a few days, and I am happy to be leading the first meeting. This was a tradition handed to me by Ken, and I really enjoy getting to meet our members at the beginning of the season, especially those I haven't seen for a while and those new to our chapter. It really is a wonderful way to welcome RSLI members back to our playing activities after the summer break.

I have something a little different planned for this meeting, something that should put smiles on your faces - repeatedly! - and something I hope you will enjoy. Actually, it's not that different - it just feels that way to me! And while there may be some surprises and challenges along the way, it's sure to be something that fans of both Renaissance AND Baroque music will have a lot of fun playing.

Our October Meeting will feature Ruth Cunningham. Ruth is an extraordinary musician who began her career as a teenager, playing recorder in various endeavors, followed by teaching at workshops like Amherst Early Music. That was when I first met her. In 1991 we were suitemates for the 2-week festival, both on the cusp of major career changes. Ruth is widely known for her beautiful singing, particularly with the group *Anonymous 4*, who took the classical music world by storm in the 1990s and 2000s with their exquisite performances and recordings of medieval music. Though it is her voice that is seen as central to her career, Ruth has remained an instrumentalist too, and brings all her many talents together in her improvised performances. And it's that improvisation that is at the core of her most recent incarnation as a musician: *sound healing*. Indeed, one of our members regularly enjoys time with Ruth, experiencing the healing power of her singing and instrumental playing, featuring harp, wind and other instruments. All this is to say that our time with Ruth will feature these many sides of her life as a musician, but will focus primarily on our making music together. We'll enjoy both Medieval and Renaissance music under her expert direction, interspersed with a gentle introduction to playing notes that aren't on the page, and experiencing sound, and music in particular, as a healer. It's sure to be a fascinating session!

For our November meeting, I will once again be leading the music-making: you'll hear more details as we get closer. And for December, we look forward to welcoming back our dear friend and one of our favorite teachers, Daphna Mor. Daphna always visits us with enthusiasm and energy. She leads with finesse and a depth that can come only from a brilliant and seasoned player, paying expert attention to both the big picture and the little details. It will be a wonderful way for us to wrap up 2023!

The 2024 segment of our season will be described in more detail in the next newsletter, but suffice it to say, our teachers are RSLI favorites, some of whom we have enjoyed for years (decades), and others who have been more recent additions to our roster of teachers: Priscilla Herreid, Wendy Powers, Susan Thompson, and RSLI's first Music Director, Susan Iadone. I'm delighted they are returning to share music with us once more.

So without further ado, it's time to dust off those cases, give your instruments a little cleaning if they need it (they usually do!), and maybe even do a bit of practice before the September playing meeting! (Music will be available in pdf form on request a few days in advance.) I look forward to seeing you all and making music together with you again soon!

—Rachel

Happy Birthday to Us!!

This is the year we are celebrating our **50th** Birthday!! Imagine that. It seems like just yesterday this fabulous organization was taking its baby steps and building a home for passionate recorder players all over Long Island and beyond. Maybe we weren't all there at the beginning, but the enthusiasm and loyalty have been part of us the entire time. The changes of venue, weather, directors, and pandemics have just made us stronger! And we have been lucky enough to have our own Rachel Begley as Music Director for the second half of our existence - 30 years and going!! Under Rachel's extraordinary leadership, we have become the recorder society to be envied and teachers actually enjoy coming to us..... at least they say they do! So let's celebrate all year, playing beautiful music and delighting in our joyous niche of music.



RSLI Playing Meeting Leaders for 2023-2024 50th Season

- September 9 - Rachel Begley
- October 14 - Ruth Cunningham
- November 11 - Rachel Begley
- December 9 - Daphna Mor
- January 13 - Priscilla Herreid
- February 10 - Wendy Powers
- March 9 - Susan Thompson
- April 13 - Susan Iadone
- May 11 - Rachel Begley

Exciting News from Music Before 1800

2023/2024, Season 49 is headed for a fabulous year under new administrative director Robby Meese, offering a delectable array of concerts, starting with **Juilliard415** and Robert Mealy on October 1. On October 29 they present **Le Poeme Harmonique**, music of Lully & Cavalli. November 19, **Tenet** with Shira Kammen. **Winter Wassail** at Assembly Hall Riverside Church December 17 will round out 2023. But that's just the start of more ambitious programs in the new year. Go to their website and check out the ticket packages and the rest of the programming!

MB1800



ARS News

- The longtime American Recorder Editor **Gail Nickless** will step down after the Summer 2024 issue of American Recorder, having by then completed 30 years of exemplary service both as Editor and as the ARS Executive Director. She leaves tough shoes to fill!

- ARS Membership Structure is changing Sept 1. This will mainly mean a slight increase in membership fees, and there will now be 4 membership categories: Standard, Lifetime, Business, and Partner.

Check out the website ARSamericanrecorder.org for all kinds of goodies - articles, reviews, workshops, chapters....



News Bulletin from Early Music America

Alissa Duryee has been selected as the 2023 recipient of the Joan Benson Clavichord Award. We have heard her in concert at Amherst. Congratulations Alissa



RSLI
celebrates
50 years
1974 — 2024



Don't forget NAVRS!

Lots of interesting playing has been going on at NAVRS. Just to freshen your memory, the North American Virtual Recorder Society is a lively online community of recorder players. They welcome all experience levels from emerging players to professional. NAVRS is a Chapter of the American Recorder Society and our own Rachel Begley is the Music Director.

On September 17, Gwyn Roberts will lead a workshop on "Alternate Fingerings for All" This will be from 7:30- 9 PM

On September 23, Rachel Begley will lead the regular playing session from 2-3:30 PM

On October 1, Annette Bauer will lead a workshop from 7:30- 9PM

The Zoom link for all of these will open 15 minutes before the down-beat, and the times are EST.

Remember, you must be a member to participate!

Get in touch to learn more about how to join this community. For more info, go to www.navrs.org

Report from the Treasurer: September 2023

Although summer is waning, I'm excited to be starting another year for RSLI. As we start the new RSLI season we have an account balance of \$10,278.50. We're in good shape, with last year's rent and our insurance for the coming year already paid. We did not quite break even this year. Last year we started with an account balance of \$11,603. I 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, it 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 always a 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 and 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

Play the Recorder Day!

Save the Date

This year the SCMEA Play the Recorder Day will be March 16, 2024. This is a great opportunity to spread the news about recorder playing past 4th grade! Those of us who have participated in previous years agree that it's a fun day, and a nice way to show-case RSLI. Mark your calendars. It would be nice to get a larger group to join the fun this year! This event is a legacy of Gene Reichenthal's great enthusiasm for recorder for all ages. So let's give RSLI a chance to shine!

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!!

NYRG News

The New York Recorder Guild is going strong and set for a busy new season. Their dates for the fall season are Saturdays:

- September 16 - Deborah Booth
- October 14 - Daphna Mor
- November 11 - Nina Stern
- January 20 - Deborah Booth

Meetings are from 1:30 - 3:30, with doors open at 1. They meet at Church of Saint Mary the Virgin on 145 W. 46th Street. Bring a stand light!

Go to the NYRG website for member info & playing fees.



And more music:

ARTEK www.artekearlymusic.org

Parthenia parthenia.org

Alkemie alkemie.org

Midtown Concerts www.midtownconcerts.org

Music Mondays musicmondays.org

Boston Early Music Festival BEMF.org

More places to play and hear music:

Amherst Early Music

City Recorder

Saturday October 21 & Sunday October 22

The Ella Baker School

317 East 67 Street, Manhattan

Great Faculty:

Rachel Begley, Deborah Booth, Eric Haas*, Susan Hellauer, Valerie Horst, Susan Iadone, Emily O'Brien*, Wendy Powers

*Coming from Boston!



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

2023-24 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