



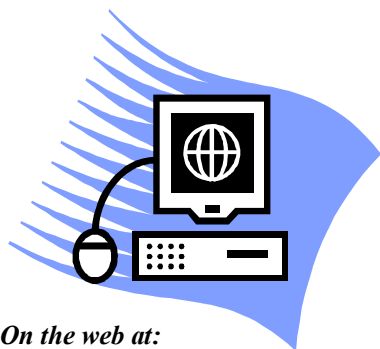
# NEWSLETTER

September 2010

Vol. 35 No. 1

## Editor's Notes:

This is the first issue of the **RSLI Newsletter** designed for electronic distribution via email and publication on RSLI's website:



On the web at:

**www.RSLI.info**

Our goal is to make distribution more convenient and economical for RSLI and allow greater flexibility with content. As this "coming-of-age" approach evolves, we look forward to bringing you a wider variety of features, photos and **COLOR!**

If you receive this issue via "snail mail" it means that we do not have a valid email address for you. We will phase out all regular mailing over the course of this coming year. To continue receiving the **RSLI Newsletter** you must provide us with an email address as soon as possible.

Send your name and email address to: [rsli\\_ny@yahoo.com](mailto:rsli_ny@yahoo.com)

**Diana Foster, Newsletter Editor**

## A Message from: RSLI's President

Dear Fellow Musicians,

I hope all of you have had a happy and healthy summer despite the heat, and are all rested up and ready for RSLI play sessions to resume. Our first meeting will be at St. Luke on Saturday, September 11th from 10 am to 12:30 pm. Remember, we like to start playing precisely at 10, so come early to set up your instruments. Our Music Director, Rachel Begley, will be leading us in some wonderful music and will advise us of upcoming guest conductors.

On Saturday, October 16th, RSLI is holding an all-day workshop at St. Luke. You'll be hearing more about this from Rachel, as well as from our Esteemed Workshop Coordinator, Margaret Brown. This is in addition to our regular monthly meeting on October 9th. There is also the possibility of a workshop with members of the Flanders Recorder Quartet sometime in April 2011.

Our Treasurer, Pat Cassin, reminds everyone that our annual dues are \$40. It is a big help to RSLI if you pay in full at the Sept. meeting (see pg. 4). Remember also, we have a \$10 playing fee per session. These fees help pay for our rehearsal space, refreshments and our conductors. As always, guests and newbies are invited to attend a one-time free meeting.

Finally, Sheila Regan, our Refreshments Maven would appreciate any donations of goodies for the September meeting. Please let her know if you can help. I am very excited about our upcoming season and look forward to seeing all of you!

Regards,

**Barbara**

## The Recorder Society of Long Island

### Directory of Officers 2010/2011

Rachel Begley, Music Director	Margaret Brown, Workshop Coordinator	Patsy Rogers, Librarian
Barbara Zotz, President	Diana Foster, Newsletter Editor	Karen Wexler, Librarian
Sue Hahn, Vice President	Patricia Laurencot, Web Manager	Barbara Zotz, Asst. Librarian
Pat Cassin, Sec./Treasurer		Sheila Regan, Refreshments

## GoodSearch.com GoodShop.com

**GoodSearch** and **GoodShop** are search engines which donate 50 percent of its sponsored search revenue to the charities and schools designated by its users. You use GoodSearch & GoodShop exactly as you would any other search engine. Because they're powered by Yahoo!, you get proven search results. The money donated to your cause comes from its advertisers — the users and the organizations do not spend a dime!

If you want to try this easy way to generate a bit of income for RSLI just go to either site and enter: RECORDER SOCIETY OF LONG ISLAND as your charity and click the VERIFY button. Then do your internet search or shopping from their site.

## Meetings:

**The Recorder Society of Long Island, Inc. regularly meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month (Sept. through May) from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Dix Hills, NY.**

**Playing begins at 10 a.m. with a break at 11:15 a.m. for refreshments and chat.**

## Finding Us:

### **Directions to St. Luke's 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 Pkwy. and after a very short distance turn right onto Candlewood Path; St. Luke's 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.*

## Workshops: "Chant Camp" — Nancy Tooney



Those of us of a certain age probably learned to read music from early piano lessons. At the same time, we may have learned and sung the pop music of the day, as well as nursery rhymes and folk tunes, by ear. I've been thinking about this dichotomy this past year, especially in the context of Medieval music. In early June, I participated in a weekend "Chant Camp" on the music of Hildegard von Bingen directed by Susan Hellauer. Susan is a long time member of the group Anonymous 4 that specializes in the performance of chant and other very early western musical forms. Arriving Friday in time for a yummy dinner at Wisdom House in Litchfield, CT, we set to work that evening to prepare a program for a public concert the next day. Gulp.

The texts of early religious music such as chant were written, but the music was preserved orally. Singers learned by listening and memorizing. And that's how Susan taught our group. She would sing a line or phrase and we'd repeat it, building up the music in a stepwise manner. As she pointed out, a church or monastery probably only had a single copy of a manuscript, hence music was memorized and the written version likely was occasionally used as a reminder. Facsimiles of some early manuscripts show chant as texts with a variety of little squiggles that indicated when a pitch went up or down, with no particular indication of exact pitches, eg. no clefs. With the introduction of lines and a staff came the introduction of a few symbols for notes, but no specification of the length of the note. With chant, as Susan pointed out, the phrasing of the text itself and the important syllable in each word of the text is a key to the duration and intensity of the associated note in performing chant. So the music becomes text-driven and not sing-song. Hildegard's chants are unusual in that the music rises and falls over much a wider range than the more familiar Roman chant.

The group spent all day Saturday learning (not memorizing – whew!) chant by Hildegard and other early forms such as antiphons, versicles, and hymns to prepare a Vespers service as an evening public concert. Thankfully, Susan had prepared the music in sort of modern notation for us to use. Wisdom House had hung facsimiles of illustrated manuscripts related to Hildegard and her "visions" in the church auditorium, adding to the ambiance. The performance was a great deal of fun and went very well, despite our short prep time. The audience was most appreciative.

The next morning, we spent a couple of hours working from a facsimile of a Hildegard work written in German neumes – a mix of squiggles and vague shapes written on a four line staff that gave indication of pitches, melismatic passages and other ornamentation for the text underneath it. Again, we learned the music by listening to Susan and repeating it and, by the end of the session the manuscript seemed much less terrifying. "Reading" the music became much less important than placing more trust in ears and memory. I'm hoping the singing experience carries over into my recorder playing.

# Concert Reviews & Upcoming Events:

## — Nancy Tooney

RONY, the Recorder Orchestra of NY, presented its spring concerts at two Long Island locations this year: St Patrick's Church in Glen Cove (thanks to Pat Cassin) and the First Baptist Church of Babylon (Thanks to Tim Campbell). The program included lively music from the Medieval and Renaissance periods as well as a movement from Ralph Vaughan Williams' *English Folk Song Suite*. Music written in a more serious vein included a Bach choral, the Bieble *Ave Maria* and Hovhaness's mystical *Prayer of St. Gregory* with Long Island's own Stan Davis as clarinet soloist.



If you like to plan ahead, the world famous Flanders Recorder Quartet will give a concert on Thursday, 4/28/11 at 8 p.m. at the American Academy of Arts & Letters. The performance is part of the Miller Theater Concert series and reasonably priced tickets are available through their web site.

Recorder virtuosos Nina Stern and Reine-Marie Verhagen gave a marvelous performance at the Spring 2010 benefit for the Amherst Early Music Festival, a little more relaxed and free-wheeling than your usual concert — even the non-recorder players in the audience were delighted.

Closer to home and closer on the calendar, plan to attend one of RONY's Fall 2010 concerts scheduled for 3 p.m., Sunday October 24<sup>th</sup> at Jefferson's Ferry, South Setauket, NY and 4 p.m., Saturday October 30<sup>th</sup> at Peconic Landing, Greenport, NY.

## Announcing Amherst Early Music's Columbus Day Weekend Workshop 2010

Friday, October 8 to Monday, October 11, 2010  
at Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA



With recorder virtuoso  
Marion Verbruggen (the Netherlands)

Wendy Gillespie, viol (Indiana University, Fretwork)

Aaron Sheehan, voice (Wellesley College)

and

Recorder: Eric Haas, Valerie Horst, Larry Lipnik, Patricia Petersen,  
Tricia van Oers, Tom Zajac (Wellesley College)

Viol: Laura Jeppesen (Wellesley College), Larry Lipnik, Sarah Mead

Baroque Flute: Suzanne Stumpf (Wellesley College)

Renaissance Reeds: Marilyn Boenau, Daniel Stillman, Tom Zajac

Harpichord: Frances Fitch

Lecturer: Claire Fontijn (Wellesley College)

Come to Boston for a fabulous weekend of music, camaraderie, and fall foliage! Beautiful Wellesley College welcomes us back for a three-day workshop that is sure to inspire you and invigorate your playing. Meet new singers and players, and re-connect with old friends as we enjoy a fall harvest of musical delights! Our wonderful faculty will coach you in ensembles throughout the day.

Contact: [info@amherstearlymusic.org](mailto:info@amherstearlymusic.org) or visit [www.amherstearlymusic.org](http://www.amherstearlymusic.org) for further details.

# The Recorder Society of Long Island

## 2010-11 RSLI MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

### MEMBERSHIP FEE:

- Adult \$40
- Student \$10

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (include area code): \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to help RSLI with:

Coffee setup \_\_\_\_ Refreshments \_\_\_\_ Publicity \_\_\_\_ Fundraising \_\_\_\_

I would be interested in being on the RSLI board of directors \_\_\_\_

Membership: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Tax-deductible contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Please fill out and submit at the Sept. 11th meeting or mail to:**

Pat Cassin  
12 Sherman Road  
Glen Cove, NY 11542