

Newsletter
Hudson Mohawk Chapter of the ARS
Late Fall Update Edition 2009

A note from the Editor's desk:

The newsletter contains the Spring 2010 meeting dates for the Chapter (see below). Our first conductor for the New Year will be Laura Hagen on January 7th (unfortunately, I will be away – embarrassing as she is my mentor). We are fortunate to have Laura during this time as she has now spent a year and a half at the Jacob's School of Music at Indiana University. Laura has been doing intensive graduate study (and teaching!) in recorder and early music; she is currently studying under Han Tohl and formerly with Eva Legêne. The Fall 2009 conductors were excellent and we thank you!

November Recital:

The recital this year was incredibly diverse, entertaining, and educational. Each of the consorts (and a soloist!) brought unique music that ranged from early to contemporary, from purely instrumental to mixed instrumental and vocal, and from pure consort to broken consort. What a treat to learn the new music demonstrated!

Scholarship Reminder:

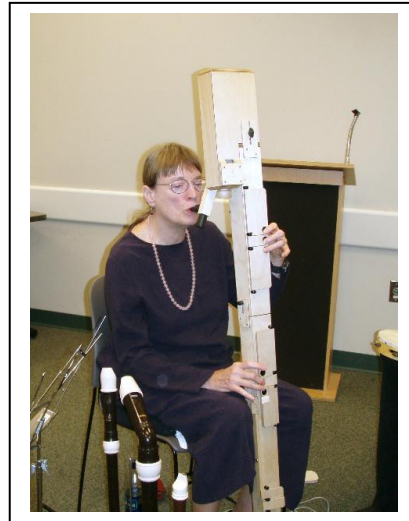
. The Adirondack Baroque Consort supports a national Scholarship and also the *William and Jane Coffey Regional Recorder Scholarship* through our Hudson-Mohawk ARS chapter.

http://abconsort.org/abconsort/who_we_are.html

Dues Reminder:

Cheap at \$15! 'Nuff said! Contact Carol Turner, Chapter Treasurer if your dues are not paid. Her address is 1478 New Scotland Road, Slingerlands, NY 12159. 439-5765
turnerart@nycap.rr.com .

Favorite Instruments : Nancy Crowther



“I first met Paetzold contrabasses at Pinewoods Early Music Week, a few years ago. A fellow campers had one, and used it in a class we took together for a week. I immediately loved the rich, dark, low sound, a full octave lower than a regular bass recorder. But it seemed like a pipe dream that I would ever play one, much less own one. The following year, someone used one at a Pinewoods group play-in. Somehow I was offered the chance to play that one, and was astonished that it was almost the same difficulty as playing a regular plastic Yamaha bass. Every hole is keyed, which means that you do not have to have the hands of a giant to play one. The finger placement is about as far apart as on an alto, and the reach is actually easier than on a tenor. Now, given that I loved the sound, why was I more interested in a Paetzold than a regular Baroque-style contrabass? Primarily, price!

The Paetzold contrabass is about half the price of a Baroque contrabass. The second reason is size, and ease of carrying and playing. Because the top of the Paetzold is folded over 180 degrees, the length required to make it twice as long as the regular bass is "hidden", and you do not have to manipulate, carry, or stand beside a straight instrument which is as long as necessary to make the low sound. You can sit down to play it. The third reason is the plastic bocal is easier to clean and blow into than the curved brass bocals I have seen. My wonderful husband presented me with a card saying we should get a Paetzold great bass on my birthday last year. But the great bass is a "C bass", which means I would need to learn to read tenor fingerings on bass clef. I had a lot of new recorder pieces on my plate at that time, and did not have the time to invest in learning what is, essentially, a new fingering. So I asked if we could please modify the present to be a contrabass, which uses the regular "F" fingerings on the bass clef. So we did get one, and since then I am often asked to play it in group or small consort settings, to add that wonderful sound. Playing the notes is a bit different than a regular bass; the thumb manipulation is different, and the low f# and g# are played differently. The other difficulty is hitting the right octave when you blow; you have to shape your mouth and throat differently to get the lowest notes. So there has been some practice required, but it has been worth it."

Music at the Pruyn House:

As in past years, three of our consorts are providing music for the Pruyn House **Holiday Open House** on Sun Dec 6 during the afternoon. It is a performance well received by the public. The following groups will appear: Sweetbriar II, Crow Hill Consort, Corelli Clash.

Workshop Committee News:

We are still receiving recommendations for the Spring Workshop, tentatively scheduled for April 24th. As the names of the presenters are not yet finalized (and the Newsletter gets a wide distribution), we will leave out the current suggestions to avoid conflicts with prospective conductors. Workshop Committee members and/or consultants (I believe) include Lee Danielson, Ole

Christensen, Allen Lescak, Jack Ishman, and Michael Murphy.

President's Corner:

It was a good fall, with good attendance at the Pruyn House and a great informal Fall Recital. It's not too early to think about the Spring workshop. If you have ideas on instructors or themes or other activities for the workshop, let Ole, Alan, or Michael know. In the midst of the flurry of this holiday season, I hope you find time to play a few tunes on your favorite instrument!

Lee Danielson

Consort and Member News:

- **Jack Ishman** will be playing at the Victorian Stroll on Sunday, December 6th at 2-4 PM at the Bournebrook Antiques Store, 172 River Street, Troy, NY 12180
- **The Adirondack Baroque Consort** will be performing 6, 7 & 8 PM at Temple Sinai, 509 Broadway (Rt. 9), Saratoga Springs, NY at Saratoga First Night (12/31/09). The program is "Classics for Kids," and will feature two outstanding recorder students from the Malta Avenue Elementary School, Ballston Spa, NY.
- On Saturday, May 22, 2010 at 7 PM **The Adirondack Baroque** Consort will be in concert at the Hurley Reformed Church, Main St., Hurley, NY, under the auspices of the Hurley Historical Society. The program is "In and Out of Dutch," and will celebrate the musical heritage of the settlers of the region.
- **The Bleecker Consort** will be performing with the 27 member Siena College Community Chorale on December 14th at 7:00 P.M., Serazen Hall, Siena College, Loudonville, NY. This will be under the direction of Professor Joanna Towse.
- The Bleecker Consort will also be playing a miniconcert and Christmas Ever service at the Delmar Reformed Church.
- **The Hagen Consort** will perform for the residents of McAuley House and the Sisters of Mercy in the Mercy Motherhouse Chapel on December 20th, at 4:00 P.M., New Scotland Ave., Albany, New York.

Music Library:

You all have the previous announcements about the extensive music library. Please see Nancy Crowther to sign out pieces (which we encourage!)

Meeting Date Conductor/Events

Thur. 1/07/10	Laura Hagen
Wed. 01/20/10	Ole Christensen
Thur. 02/04/10	Jack Ishman
Wed. 02/17/10 Music	Bring Your Own
Thur. 03/04/10	Joseph Loux
Wed. 03/17/10 Henzler	Richie & Elaine
Thur. 04/01/10	Ann Githler
Wed. 04/14/10 Music	Bring Your Own
Sat. 04/24/10	Workshop (TBD)
Thur. 05/06/10	Debbie Segel
Wed. 05/19/10	Recorder/Choral Ensemble (Details TBA)
Thur. 06/03/10	Spring Recital
Wed. 06/16/10	Picnic 6:00-7:30 Joseph Loux

Important Chapter Information and Web Links:

HMRS Website and Yahoo Group Page:

- <http://www.hudsonmohawkrecorder.org/>
- <http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/hudsonmohawkrecorder/>

Consorts:

- **Adirondack Baroque Consort**
http://abconsort.org/abconsort/who_we_are.html
- **Corelli Clash**
<http://www.corelliclash.org/>
- **Sweetbriar**
- **The Bleecker Consort**
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=168565940063>
- **Crow Hill Consort**
- **Hagen Consort**
- **Yamaha Mamas**

Recorder Resources:

- **The Recorder Shop**
<http://www.therecordershop.com/>
- **Courtly Music**
<http://www.courtlymusicunlimited.com/>
- **Von Huene Workshop**
<http://www.vonhuene.com/>
- **Prescott Workshop**
<http://www.prescottworkshop.com/>