

Newsletter

Fall 2016

Hudson Mohawk Recorder Society

www.hudsonmohawkrecorder.com

President's Message

Let's make music!

Our Hudson Mohawk Recorder Society (HMRS) kickoff is September 8th, and I am looking forward to our new season.

Being part of the HMRS provides me with a life balance. I am in the present moment when I make music. I tune out everything but the music in front of me in order to focus on all the pieces of the puzzle – melody, harmony, rhythm and more in order to interpret the composer's feelings. And the outcome is never exactly the same. But it always feels so good to have made music, and allows me to go back refreshed to whatever is waiting for me in 'real life'. *continued on page 4*



Save These Workshop Dates!

Save these dates for upcoming HMRS workshops!!! Both workshops will be at the Carondelet House in Latham.

The Henzlers will be leading a workshop on Sunday, November 13th. Heloise Degruglier will be joining us again on Saturday, March 25th.



HMRS Plays Coburg Village Retirement Community

Over 100 residents enjoyed an HMRS concert in June of this year. Pictured above from the left: Kathy Kuhrt, Pat Rabl, Lynne Priestley, Mona Judd, Jutta von Schwerin, Lee Danielson, Sue Wright (hiding behind Mike) and Mike Kuhrt.

Three Groups Featured at Annual Recital

The HMRS annual recital in June highlighted three groups----Crow Hill, Sweetbrier and Pinebush Players.

Players among all the groups included: Linda Botimer, Lee Danielson, Judy Pardee, Marie-Luise Carreno Maass, John Scherer, Jutta von Schwerin, Sue Wright, Carol Turner, Kathy Kuhrt, and Mike Kuhrt.

The highlight of the evening was the performance of *La Bomba* by Mateo Fletcha by the Pinebush Players—the piece was easily 10-12 minutes long. This is a piece that HMRS has been practicing all year in our regular meetings, and it was a pleasure to hear it played so well and in its entirety.

Groups pictured to the right and starting at the top: Sweetbrier, Pinebush Players and Crow Hill.



Pictured on the left: Jack Ishman on mandolin, Judy Pardee, Lee Danielson and Linda Botimer on “veggie” sopranos and Melanie Axel-Lute on fiddle and soprano.

Members Gather to Play Dance Tunes

Several HMRS members have joined the community dance band, Megaband, sponsored by the Dance Flurry organization.

The group gathers to practice music for contra and square dancing. The first gig where the Megaband will play is Sunday, September 11th at the Buhrmaster Barn at Pruyn House. All are welcome to come--- potluck at 5pm and dance at 6pm. Caller will teach steps.

You know you are going to have a good time when the names of some of the tunes you are practicing include: *Johnny, Johnny Don't Get Drunk; Hen's Feet and Carrots; Stool of Repentance; and The Torment.*

Sweetbrier Performs at Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library

Sweetbrier played a selection of renaissance recorder music for the first annual Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library *Renaissance Faire* in August. Performers included Lee Danielson, Sue Wright, Jutta von Schwerin, Monica Judd and John Scherer.



Recorders Play at Schenectady Church

Marie Luise Carreno-Maass, Carolyn Hermes, Janith Mason and Linda Botimer performed in June for an early summer church service. The service was at Zion Lutheran Church in downtown Schenectady.

Organist Scott Trexler also performed and accompanied the group. Scott played organ preludes and a postlude, thematically connected to the pieces Marie-Luise had chosen for this service.

Calendar

Go to the *HMRS* website for info about these and other dates:

www.hudsonmohawkrecorder.com

2016 Fall Meeting Dates:

Thurs Sept 8th –Kathy Kuhrt
Wed Sept 21st -The Henzlers

Thurs Oct 6th -Kathy Kuhrt
Wed Oct 19th –Joseph Loux

Thurs Nov 3rd –Kathy Kuhrt
Wed Nov 16th The Henzlers

WORKSHOPS AND

RECITALS:

Sunday, Nov 13th- Henzler's workshop

Thurs Dec 8th -Informal Recital

Music Donation to HMRS Library

HMRS is grateful for a generous donation of sheet music for recorder from Joanne Razzano of Latham. Joanne presented the music in memory of her late brother-in-law, James Razzano.

Forgot the HMRS meeting date??

Go to our website www.hudsonmohawkrecorder.com any time for the latest on meetings, workshops and our occasional newsletter.

Hudson Mohawk Recorder Society

All meetings are at Pruyn House,
207 Old Niskayuna Road., Latham, NY
12110 518-783-1435

www.pruynhouse.org/

All meetings start at 7pm except for 3
meetings in January, February and March
which start at 3pm.

President: Kathy Kuhrt

kathykuhrt@gmail.com

Immediate Past President: Lee Danielson

Secretary: Linda Botimer

chall7@nycap.rr.com

Treasurer: Lynne Priestley

Facilities and Webmaster: Judith Pardee

Librarian: Mike Kuhrt

birdman329@gmail.com

Outreach: Michael Murphy



Lycaeides Performs at Adirondack Camp

Lycaeides gave a concert in late August at the
Pyramid Lake Life Center near Paradox, NY.

Pictured from left: Carolyn Hermes, Peter Haley,
Michael Murphy, Linda Botimer, Marie Luise Carreno-
Maass and Bob Shultz.

President's Message

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I hope you also enjoy making
music and will find time to join us at
HMRS as we explore the recorder
repertoire with other recorder
enthusiasts.

Our schedule of meetings,
workshops and community outreach
activities give us many opportunities to
make music. HMRS has a website,
Facebook page and links to many
recorder resources. See this information
to your right.

However, the best way to enjoy
music camaraderie and fellowship and,
in addition, learn the recorder is by
playing with other recorder players.
Please join us for one of our twice
monthly meetings. Contact me at
kathykuhrt@gmail.com if you have any
questions.

Kathy Kuhrt

HMRS Website and Facebook Page:

www.hudsonmohawkrecorder.com

www.facebook.com/groups/127666594023613/

Recorder Resources:

- The Recorder Shop www.therecordershop.com
- Courtly Music
www.courtlymusicunlimited.com
- Von Huene Workshop www.vonhuene.com
- American Recorder Society
www.americanrecorder.org

Music Library:

- Only Chapter members may check out music.
- Info and Questions: Mike Kuhrt at
birdman329@gmail.com

Newsletter:

- Published 3 times per year and posted at
www.hudsonmohawkrecorder.com
- Newsletter items to: Linda Botimer at
chall7@nycap.rr.com

The Recorder: A Ghost of the Hudson Valley

by Joseph A. Loux, Jr.

From its early colonization by the Dutch, it can be hypothesized that *blokfluyten* (recorders) from Holland were brought to the Colony of Nieuwe Amsterdam along with family possessions. Portable, easy to play and remarkably inexpensive for the time, it was a natural choice for export and music making. The early records of the Consistories of the Dutch Reformed Church do have a few references to the *flute* (again, a designation for the recorder) associated with religious services. As the dower Calvinists of Boston used the 'cello and viol with their darker sound, the opportunistic Dutch used the *flute* to line out the Psalms in lieu of the *voorzanger*. During the 17th century admittedly there are very few references to the recorder.

By the 1750's ads for the *common* or *English flute* [recorder] began to appear more frequently. New York City had a bustling musical life with *Musick Masters*, instrument makers and vendors of instruments, printed music, self-tutors and ruled paper. A thorough study still remains to be done of the 18th century blossoming of music in New York City and the Hudson Valley under the English.

As the century progressed, advertisements for musical products increased. The popular New York City rags: *The New York Journal*, *Mercury* and *Gazette* as well as diaries of the period, assist us in framing the nature of contemporaneous musical life. In 1753, music teachers such as Charles Love advertised that he *teaches Gentlemen the Violin, Hautboy, German and common Flutes* [recorders], *bassoon, French horn, tenor and bass Viol.*¹ By 1773, all sorts of musical instruments along with self-tutors could be purchased at Rivington's, located at the foot of Wall Street: *French horns, hautboys, English or common flutes* [recorders], *fifes, tabors and pipes*. The proprietor James Rivington a recent immigrant from London, carried on in New York his father's trade of book publishing. His name is significant in the history of the publishing of the *Gazette*, Anglican service books and as an outlet for musical instruments. Horns were being made locally by John Dash as early as 1765. David Woolhaupter advertised that he makes and *sells drums of Mahogany, cured Maple and Beechwood in the best and neatest manner and has a quantity ready made for sale...he also makes Clarinets, Hautboys, German and Common Flutes...* By 1766 the Ranelagh Gardens opened, patterned after the pleasure gardens of London². Musical performances were held there as well as in auditoriums throughout town.

The question remains that in spite of such a bustling musical life and increasing affluence of the Hudson Valley before the Revolution, why are there so few if any recorders that survived? Part of the answer lies with their modest cost. Unused and old recorders were relegated to youthful hands, the nursery or open hearths. Despite the lack of physical evidence, it can be hypothesized from the meager evidence that we do have, that the recorder has had a continued, if ghostly, Hudson Valley presence from earliest colonial times.

Dr. Joseph A. Loux, Jr. is a musicologist and Senior Editor of Dovehouse Editions Canada and the Loux Music Company, both are based in Hannacroix, New York. He is also the Artistic Director of the Adirondack Baroque Consort.