

# Somerset Hills Recorder Society

A Chapter of the American Recorder Society • Newsletter for March, 2004



## On February 12, *John Burkhalter and Eugene Roan* Will Present a Program of Music From the *Age of William and Mary*

### Chapter News

Eight players joined Sheila Fernekes on February 13 for a delightful program of rounds, canons, and fugues. It was a polyphonic workout! Sheila joined in, often playing her beautiful Prescott renaissance bass recorder. It was a most enjoyable evening with a very friendly atmosphere inside our playing space. Fortunately the atmosphere outside was also friendly with very cooperative weather aiding the turnout.

Conductors for the rest of the season:

April 16 ..... Phoebe Larkey  
May 14 ..... Sue Parisi

**Please note that the date of the April meeting has been rescheduled to April 16, one week later than usual.** As previously noted, the second Friday in April is Good Friday.

### Notes for the March Meeting

John H. Burkhalter III studied the performance of early music at the New England Conservatory of Music and Baroque performance practice with Frans Brüggen at Harvard University. He has prepared music for films produced by Encyclopedia Britannica, NJN, Public Broadcasting System, and the University of Pennsylvania Museum, among others. He also has served as a musical consultant for the National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C.

Eugene Roan is Professor of Organ, Emeritus, and former Chair of the Piano and Organ Department at Westminster Choir College of Rider University. He has lectured to chapters of the American Guild of Organists and taught at the Royal School of Church Music.

From the conductor: *For the Mar. 12th meeting we will survey the musical riches of England during the "Age of William & Mary". During this period the theatres & playhouses flourished. Many of the greatest playwrights of the epoch such as Dryden; Behn; Wycherly & Congreve found ways to incorporate musick into their theatrical proceedings. Amongst the most noteworthy composers who supplied music for the theatre are Henry Purcell the "Orpheus Britannicus"; Jeremiah Clarke; John Eccles and Henry Purcell's younger brother Daniel.*

### Historical Note

*The inability of James II to work with Parliament, combined with his Catholic appointments, brought both the political and religious spheres of the monarchy under fire, reaching its climax in 1688. James established an alliance with Catholic France; arrested Archbishop Sancroft and six other bishops for failing to proclaim the Catholic faith; tampered with private property and historic rights; and produced a male heir after abandoning Anglicanism for Catholicism, which destroyed Parliament's hopes that the crown would pass to the Protestant children of James' first marriage. Parliament appealed to William of Orange, husband of Mary, daughter of James II, urging him to save England from a Catholic takeover. William gathered his forces and landed in England in November of 1688. William's professional troops and the welcome they received from the English landholders intimidated James. James was captured while fleeing from London, but William ensured him safe passage to France. James, feeling alone and realizing his lack of popular support, abdicated and accepted his exile in France.* Taken from:

<http://www.britannia.com/history/monarchs/mon51.html>

### Concert Announcement From Our Conductor

*On Sunday afternoon [ 4 pm ] March 14th, 'Gene & I will be presenting a program of Dutch & Flemish Baroque Music for Organ; harpsichord & recorders at the Unitarian Church in Summit. Works by Sweelinck; van Eyck; Cornet; Kerll and other esteemed 17th century masters will be heard. The organ at the Unitarian Church was made many years ago by the Dutch firm of Flentrop and is considered one of the finest mechanical-action instruments in America.*

*For further information about the concert, call the church at 908-273-3245. The Unitarian Church is located at the corner of Summit and Waldron Avenue in Summit, NJ., Tickets: Seniors \$15; Adults \$20; students free admittance.*

**Please note that John requests that our gamba players make a special effort to attend the March meeting!**

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Meetings are held on the second Friday of the month from 7:30 to 9:30 PM in September through May at the Somerset Hills Lutheran Church, 350 Lake Road, Basking Ridge.