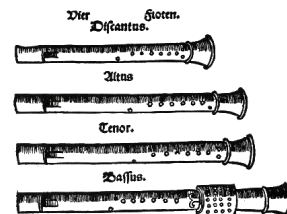


Somerset Hills Recorder Society

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



On April 16, Join *Keith Bernstein*

For a Program of Sixteenth- and Seventeenth Century Italian Music

Chapter News

March 12 marked the return of the popular duo of John Burkhalter and Eugene Roan to conduct our group. John and Gene presented a program of late sixteenth-century English music from the "Age of William and Mary." John's enthusiastic and skillful conducting was complemented by Gene's stylish harpsichord playing and everyone who attended had a fine time.

Conductors for the rest of the season:

May 14 Sue Parisi

Please note that Phoebe Larkey, the scheduled conductor for the April meeting, is unable to be with us because of ill health. We all hope for her to soon make a full recovery.

Announcements from Our Members

The art work of Pam Gosner is being exhibited at the Madison Public Library throughout the month of April. She can be reached at 973 635-0818 for details. Having seen one of her paintings, I'm sure that everyone will enjoy her work.

Melanie Axel-Lute sends the following: "If you enjoyed playing the music John Burkhalter brought in March, I'm sure you'd enjoy learning how to dance to it. Join the North Jersey English Country Dancers twice a month, Sundays from 2 to 5, at the Unitarian Society in Ridgewood. We do dances of the 17th and 18th centuries, to music by Purcell and his contemporaries, and more recent dances in that style. We have a wonderful live band, the Flying Romanos, who play piano, fiddle, flute, and, yes, recorders. All dances are taught, and if you call ahead, we'll even give you a free introductory lesson! April dances are on the 11th and 25th. Call Melanie Axel-Lute for more information, 973-762-4947, or check our website, www.maxellute.net/njecd.html"

Conductor's Notes

In January, I presented a program of late sixteenth-century Italian music. This time, I have again selected music from a similar repertory. First will be a group of pieces by Lodovico Agostini (1534–1590) who was born and worked in Ferrara. These pieces come from his *Canzoni Alla Napolitana a cinque voci* published in 1574. They are based on songs, mostly three-part villanelle, by earlier composers. The villanella was simpler than the more intricate polyphonic French chanson, generally homophonic (like the *Balletti* we played in January), and Agostini's *canzoni* mostly retain this simplicity. As is usual with this music, the lyrics deal with various aspects of love.

To fill out the program, we will also play several Galliards by Giovanni Maria Trabaci (c.1575–1647) who spent his working life in Naples. These pieces are from a collection published in 1615 and were intended for either keyboard or ensemble performance. Despite the date of publication, they are definitely in the *stile antico* and do not resemble the new music of the early Baroque. Although they are named for a dance, they are not dance music and make use of some imitation. These pieces should provide us with some performance challenges!

All of the music to be presented is from the SHRS collection and was donated by Virginia Kenny, a founding member of our group.

Conductors For Next Season

It is time for us to think about programs and conductors for the 2004–2005 season. Please send me any suggestions you might have.

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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.