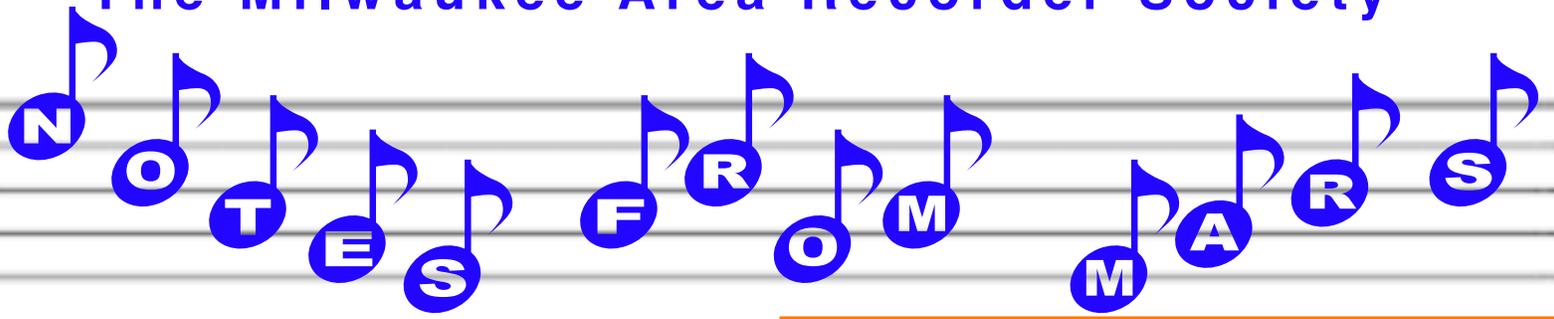


The Milwaukee Area Recorder Society



“Notes From Gary”

2026 is off to a great start for the Milwaukee Area Recorder Society (MARS), with 21 MARS members gathering for the January 11th playing session at Trinity Episcopal in Wauwatosa.

Our illustrious Music Director, James Chaudoir, is enjoying some well earned time away in Florida, so I filled in at the podium and enjoyed the opportunity to work with a great bunch of musicians! James will be back with us for the March playing session on March 8th.

The afternoon kicked off with some warm-up playing, including a G major scale and the exercise "Tuning with Suspensions". I then challenged the group with a sight-reading (for some) of Maurice Whitney's Gamut, a piece well-known to veteran MARS members, as this was a favorite of our former Music Director, Louise Austin.

We then turned to Renaissance composer Michael Praetorius, playing four dances from *Terpsichore*, a collection that has become part of the "MARS Core" repertoire, carrying over from year to year. Staying in the Renaissance period, we turned to French composer Etienne du Tertre, playing James' arrangement of *Voicy le Printemps* ("Here Comes Spring").

Moving to the Baroque period, we played the anonymous-composed *Ballo (Bassa Danza)*, a dance in 6/4 time, with some players playing "bass up" on the tenor

Meeting Feb 8

1:15 – 1:30

Building open: come in, set-up, meet & greet, etc.

1:30 – 4:30

IN-PERSON SESSION

line, providing a bit more "oomph" to the lower-pitched range of the part.

Returning to France, we read Baroque composer Andre Campra's well-known "Rigaudon", from his opera *Idomenee*.

Before breaking for some awesome treats, we played a piece suggested by MARS member Sarah Noe, *Canon for Four Bass Recorders* by David Ruhl, an ARS Member's Library selection from 2003. It was delightful to hear a room full of bass recorders making music!

Following a delicious offering of treats at the break, we sight-read a piece by Nicholas Wynne, entitled *Beep Beep*. Next up were two Klezmer pieces arranged by Hope Ehn, *Ellis Island* and *Lebn zol Kolumbus* ("Long Live Columbus").

We then pulled another piece from the "MARS Core" repertoire, and played the lovely *Nostalgium* by Jean Harrod. This is a piece well-loved by long-term MARS members, and we still hope we might record this for the ARS website someday.

Another trip to France had us play Cecile Chaminade's "Prelude" from *Album des enfants*, arranged by Eric Haas.

Alan Bullard's whimsical *Four Lodgers for Four* (or more) *Recorders* was next up. For fun, we sight read the trio version of Lonely Spider to compare it with the quartet version.

As the afternoon of playing began to wind down, we played James' beautiful arrangement of Moon River from the movie, "Breakfast at Tiffany's", a personal favorite of mine. The afternoon passed too quickly (for me, anyway), and before heading our separate ways, we bid each other adieu by playing Richie Geisler's arrangement of "Ashokan Farewell" by composer Jay Unger.

We meet again on the 8th of February. Hope to see you then!

Gary Dennison

Hello MARS Members!

Thank you for welcoming me to the podium last month during James' time away in Florida. It's always a delight to work with MARS and I appreciate the opportunity! James will be back with us in March, and I know he is missed by all of us.

Below is the list of pieces I look forward to playing with you on February 8th, plus a few "surprise" pieces to be handed out on Sunday:

"Warm-Up Exercise" (for recorder quartet SATB) by James Chaudoir

"Carmen in Fa" by Heinrich Isaac

"Dances" from *Orchesographie* by Thoinot Arbeau (from the MARS Core repertoire)

"Pavana" from the *Fitzwilliam Partbooks* by William Byrd

Lachrimae Pavin by John Dowland

Prelude and Fugue in D minor by J. C. F. Fischer

Rigaudon by Andre Campra

Nostalgium by Jean Harrod (from the MARS Core repertoire)

Prelude by Rosemary Robinson

Shenandoah American Folk Song; arranged by James Chaudoir

I'll Be Seeing You by Sammy Fain, and

Ashokan Farewell by Jay Unger; arranged by Ritchie Geisler

The President's Perspective

Happy February, fellow MARS members and friends! I would like to give a big thanks to Gary for stepping up and so skillfully leading us in our January practice. He will be returning in that capacity in February for which we are all grateful!

We had another excellent turnout at our January practice, and I would like to welcome our latest guest, Ken Hill. We certainly hope to see you in February.

If you are wondering why we suddenly have such an active Facebook presence, you may also thank Gary. The updates and pictures are wonderful.

We are planning to launch our website in February. It can be altered, so feedback will be welcome!

Be well and stay warm!

Deborah



Thanks to Sharon Martens and Anna Martens for signing up to bring treats for break time on February.