

EDMONTON RECORDER SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Frans Brueggen

Since the last newsletter, the recorder world has had to absorb the sad news of the death of Frans Brueggen on August 13th at the age of 79. Maybe we'd all be playing recorders without his example. But maybe not. He burst like an exploding star on the Early Music scene (before there was one) and made it all happen. That incredible sound on those amazing recordings; the great stories ('Mr Brueggen, what do you do when you run out of breath?' 'I keep on playing'.) the accounts of the whacky goings-on on stage with *Sour Cream*; the poster that his recording company issued and which apparently adorned many a bedroom wall. But it was, of course, the musicianship that was the essential aspect of his fame. Named professor at the Amsterdam Conservatory at twenty-one – TWENTY-ONE!! – he made the world sit up and realise that the recorder is a serious instrument, and made Holland the compulsory destination for anyone who wanted to master it – just ask our own Teri Hron. The Loeki Stardust Quartet (one of the members is his nephew, Daniel Brueggen), the Amsterdam Quartet, Kees Boeke, Paul Leenhouts all come out of that wellspring of recorder music he created. It was his inspiration that produced a whole range of modern recorder music. He came to Edmonton to give a recital at the Edmonton Chamber Music Society; I don't think he was at his best, as he was literally between flights from Hawaii to Europe, so he was, to put it mildly, a bit on the languid side – though there was nothing languid about his playing. We managed to get ourselves invited, along with our Australian guest, Barry Povey, to the reception for him, so at least I got to breathe the rarified air around him. Then I once went to a concert in Europe given by the Orchestra of the Eighteenth Century, his own creation, and watched him coax lovely, non-eccentric sound out of his very accomplished players. Music was his very life and he kept making it right to the very end, conducting his last few concerts from a wheelchair. I feel an enormous debt of gratitude to him and will listen to his recordings with increased affection and awe.

Nearer home

I mentioned in the last newsletter how very lucky we are to have such accomplished musicians who are part of the Recorder Society in Edmonton. One of them is **Lori Klingbeil** who, since retirement from the job that kept her in bread and butter, has returned, full-time, it would seem, to her first love. Lori has organised groups to play mainly baroque music and has handed out music to various people in several of these groups. The schedule of meetings (every other Monday afternoon, every other Tuesday evening, the first Saturday of the month) is enough to make one's head spin, but it all seems to be working smoothly. Lori is still on the lookout for an oboist and another violin player for the Saturday mixed group. The launch of this ambitious undertaking took place just at the moment when Lori lost her father. We extend our sympathies to Lori, and hope that music will help the healing.

Nordegg

Our warm thanks to treasurer, **Mick Safruiik**, secretary **Janet Couch**, and Board member **Linda Jacklin** for their sterling work on another very successful Nordegg retreat. People came from Calgary, Jasper and Red Deer and contributed to a varied and instructive (and, of course, nutritious – thank you, **Sheri**) weekend. Some impressions:

Another fun-filled, glorious weekend of music at Nordegg again this year. It really was a special weekend for us all and delightful to see new faces, bringing their multitude of talents as well
DMM

Where can a beginner Alto recorder player learn to play alto up in a safe, supportive environment? At Nordegg... of course.

Where can a beginner Alto recorder player double with a skilled recorder player to gain practice in sight reading and rhythm? At Nordegg...of course.

Where can a beginner Alto recorder player learn to appreciate the sounds of a recorder ensemble playing alongside cellos, guitars, harpsichords? At Nordegg...of course.

The diversity of music, camaraderie, conversation, mountafins, fresh air, hiking and delicious meals all combine to make precious memories.

*I want to go back and I will (Robert Service Spell of the Yukon). **MS***

Busy, busy

Our luck with local musicians means that we are able to offer two workshops this season: the first with **Kathleen Schoen** who will teach us the intricacies of baroque ornamentation on November 29th, and the second, in the spring, with **Racheal Cogan**, who lives in the Calgary area, but is a frequent visitor to Edmonton. We are all busy practising (I hope) for the Christmas celebration at the Alberta Legislature on December 10th. Let's hope the weather isn't as savage as it was last year. As I write this, **Judy Johnson** is at a recorder workshop in Hidden Valley in Carmel, California, and will make us green with envy as she give her account of it. In the meantime, the recorder experience keeps us in touch with other instruments. **David Brown** is giving a guitar recital in the series of lunchtime concerts at McDougall Church at noon on November 19th. Some of us went to an intriguing harp concert given by **Ceri Jones**, formerly of the Edmonton Welsh Society. In the audience was Calgary member **Alan Jessop** who had brought along one of the harps that he has made (why, oh why did I find out he was a harp-maker only when he's stopping making them?) On Friday Nov 22nd, the Edmonton Chamber Music Society is presenting a concert by the Montreal early music group Constantinople – though without recorders, as far as I can tell. And your taste for Renaissance dancing, could be

indulged with the Early Music Society all day on November 16th. One of the musicians playing for the dancing was be our own secretary, **Janet Couch**.

Generosity

More luck in the generosity of our members – or, in this case, ex-member. **Bill Barr** is giving his recorders (SATB) and music on permanent loan to the ERS. This is very good news, in that they can surely be put to good use by new members. The bad news, of course, is that Bill himself isn't playing any longer. We recognise that people's priorities change at different times in their lives, and hope Bill comes back to reclaim