

**SFEMS RECORDER WORKSHOP**

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Dear SFEMS Recorder Workshop Participant:

I'm happy to welcome you to the 2008 SFEMS Recorder Workshop and glad you have chosen to join us for what promises to be an exciting and pleasurable experience. You can anticipate a week full of recorder playing, and the opportunity to improve your skills, hear wonderful concerts, and have a good time in the process. The Preliminary Daily Schedule will answer many of your questions - it is an invaluable reference. There will be an updated Daily Schedule for you at the workshop.

Registration and class selection forms are available online at www.sfems.org, via snail mail, or as a pdf attachment via email by contacting me at the addresses above. Please fill them out and return them to me as soon as possible. Returning your curriculum form early will increase our ability to give you your first choices.

Please be as explicit as possible in answering the questions on the personal registration form about your musical experience, as this helps us to place you in the technique class and ensembles appropriate for you and to match levels of experience within each group.

Look online for:

Transportation information with directions to St Albert's Priory for those of you traveling from the Oakland or San Francisco airports by public transportation, car rental, or airport van. You may view your transportation choices in all their detail, online at the St Albert's Priory website: <http://sap.opwest.org/alt/location.html>.

Facilities information: Please see the second page of this letter for general information. I am happy to provide further details on housing, food, parking, and other questions about the facilities at St. Albert's Priory if you need them. If you would like to view photos of the Priory, go to its main web page: <http://sap.opwest.org/alt/default.htm>.

Wednesday has a different schedule. Wednesday morning classes meet as usual, with the option of time off in the afternoon for practicing, playing, sightseeing, or attending a mini-workshop taught by recorder virtuosa Judy Linsenberg (see Daily Schedule). Wednesday dinner in the dining room is followed by an Open Mike and Silent Auction to benefit the workshop. **If you have quality items to contribute to the Silent Auction (music, instruments, fine wines, services, etc.), please bring them with you.**

Bring a music stand and (if staying on campus) a reading lamp for your desk. Backup recorders are useful. We will provide a notebook to organize your music for classes. We suggest bringing dividers to separate your music by class and a highlighter (to highlight an individual line in a score for ease of reading); we provide tape and a three-hole punch. Without organization it is easy to misplace your music or waste valuable class time looking for music. If you require specific personal items for your comfort, such as a special pillow, please bring them. The Priory provides pillow, bed linens and towels. The rooms do not have telephone lines or internet hookups, so please bring cell phones if you have them. There is a pay telephone at the front inside entrance. You will be able to access the internet via WiFi through the Priory; a password will be provided on your arrival. Oakland summer days are usually warm, with evenings a bit chillier, so be sure to bring comfortable clothing you can wear in layers.

The first meal to be served in the Priory dining room is dinner on Sunday. If you are coming from the Bay Area, please bring a bag lunch for that day; out-of-towners will be provided a light refreshment when they arrive.

A word about our new site, St Albert's Priory:

- This Dominican men's college is a beautiful, quiet and collegial ivy-covered brick oasis one block off of College Avenue in the Rockridge section of Oakland, CA. It is two blocks and a five-minute walk from the Rockridge BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) station, so is easily accessible (by BART) from any part of the Bay Area via public transportation. Ample parking is available for commuters who drive, though carpooling is encouraged. College Avenue is an attractive upscale shopping area with lots of boutiques, cafes, and excellent restaurants.
- **All rooms on campus are singles** containing a bed, desk, armchair, closet and sink; toilets and showers are dorm style (down the hall, with individual cubicles). The rooms are extremely nice and overlook the serene inner courtyard garden of the priory.
- Meals are available in the priory dining room (the refectory, that is!), and the menu is simple but good; vegetarians may be satisfied by a salad bar that includes tofu offerings even if the main course is not vegetarian. You may purchase a complete or partial meal plan ahead of time even if you don't stay on campus (see registration form). We need to hear from you **two weeks before the workshop if you are commuting and wish to reserve meals in the refectory.**
- The classrooms available to us are roomy and nice. For recorder orchestra, we have the use of the incredibly beautiful main chapel, with gorgeous woodwork and stained glass -- wait 'til you see it!

We look forward to seeing old friends, meeting new ones and making music together. Please feel free to call, email or write me at the numbers above if you have any questions at all.

Sincerely, Frances Feldon & Katherine Heater, Co-Directors