

Next Level Recorder Retreat Feb 2 - 7, 2025

Climb to the Next Level



Next Level Recorder Retreat

a Tibia Adventures in Music Workshop

February 2 - 7, 2025

A retreat for intermediate to advanced recorder players
interested in working intensively on technique and musical skills

Instructors: Letitia Berlin and Frances Blaker

Location: The Bishop's Ranch, a retreat and conference center in
Healdsburg, California

<https://www.bishopsranch.org>

The Jeanne Lynch Scholarship pays full tuition for one participant or half-tuition for two participants.

Please inquire for more information by emailing tishberlin@sbcglobal.net

The American Recorder Society offers scholarships for workshops:

visit https://americanrecorder.org/scholarships_and_grants.php

Classes include articulation, finger facility, and tone; special topics may include but are not limited to: Impossible Rhythms, Medieval to Contemporary Repertoire, Pulse & Rhythm, Ensemble Leading, Ornamentation, Playing Off the Page, and consort sessions. Evening activities include ad hoc playing sessions, faculty concert, coached large-group sessions, and open mic.

See below for faculty bios and COVID protocol

Next Level Recorder Retreat Feb 2 - 7, 2025

Faculty: Tibia Duo ~ Letitia Berlin and Frances Blaker

Letitia Berlin performs with Calextone, the Bertamo Trio, and the Farallon Recorder Quartet. She has also performed as a soloist with the Atlanta Baroque Orchestra, the San Francisco Symphony, and the North Carolina Baroque Orchestra. Tish received her Bachelor of Music in piano performance from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and her Master of Arts in Early Music Performance Practices from Case Western Reserve University. She teaches at early music workshops around the country including the Amherst Early Music Festival and the Hidden Valley Road Scholar Early Music workshop in Carmel Valley CA. Tish and Frances were honored to receive the ARS Distinguished Achievement Award in 2022. They have recently been named the Co-Executive Directors of Amherst Early Music Festival, Inc.

Frances Blaker earned pedagogy and performance degrees in recorder from the Royal Danish Conservatory of Music in Copenhagen. She performs as a soloist and in ensembles including Vermillian, Calextone, and Farallon. She is the author of *The Recorder Player's Companion*, a book of technique exercises, and *Opening Measures*, a compilation of her columns in the American Recorder Society's magazine. Frances can be heard on the Disc Continuo series of play-along recordings, as well as recordings with Farallon and Ensemble Vermillian. She is the Director of the Amherst Early Music Summer Festival. Frances and Tish are four-time recipients of the Recorder Residency at the Sitka Center for Art and Ecology.

COVID-19 and other Respiratory Illness Protocol

We no longer require proof of vaccination but highly recommend that you are fully vaccinated against COVID and the flu, including RSV. In the week before the workshop it is your responsibility to avoid contact with people known to you to have COVID or other infectious diseases, and to mask when being indoors around other people unknown to you. All participants, companions, and faculty must take a rapid at-home COVID test the day of departure for the workshop, the day of arrival, and on Wednesday before breakfast. If you test positive you will have to leave the workshop. If we have a positive case we will also ask that we all stay masked when indoors and not eating or playing. If you develop cold symptoms but continue to test negative for COVID you may audit classes while masked.

Please check here to indicate that you have read and accept this protocol: _____

What Is the Next Level Recorder Retreat?

Next Level Recorder Retreat is a workshop aimed toward recorder players at intermediate level and above who want to immerse themselves in technique, special topic classes, and consort sessions that will help them improve their playing skills and musicianship. Our aim is to provide the tools you need to play music expressively, with facility and passion.

The Next Level Recorder Retreat 2025 will take place at The Bishop's Ranch just outside of Healdsburg California in the beautiful rolling hills of Sonoma County, part of California's wine country. Our workshop will be housed in The Cottages, a set of five dwellings with two double-occupancy bedrooms, with a shared bathroom and sitting room in each cottage. We do our utmost to make good and compatible housing arrangements. Most of our classes will be held in the St. John's Meeting House next to The Cottages, and in the Casita up the hill. No single rooms are available at this time. The nearest airport to Healdsburg is Santa Rosa (STS) Airport which is 7.8 miles away. Other nearby airports include Sacramento (SMF) (69.9 miles), Oakland (OAK) (72 miles), San Francisco (SFO) (74 miles) and San Jose (SJC) (100.5 miles). **Arrive in time for dinner on Sunday and leave at 11 am on Friday before lunch.**

Application and Payment Information

Step 1. Rate your playing and musicianship using the Berlin/Blaker Self-Rating Chart (http://tibiaduo.com/wp-content/pdf/self_rating.pdf) *If you need help with this, send us an e-mail at tibiarecorderduo@gmail.com*

Step 2. Fill out the application on page two of this document, including your current rating scores. *(Please note that these scores are not a judgment, but a measuring tool to help you work on your music in a focused and rewarding manner.)*

Step 3. Send the application with your deposit* check for \$200 made out to Letitia Berlin, 806 Washington Ave., Albany CA 94706. Canadian checks MUST have the name of a US bank printed on the front. The remainder of tuition and room and board payment is due upon acceptance. If you are not accepted, we will return your deposit. You may pay with Venmo using @Letitia-Berlin-1, or Zelle using tibiarecorderduo@gmail.com if you prefer, as the account name. Please do not use other account names you have used to pay either Tish or Frances.

Method of Acceptance: We will choose the best-matched applicants who have compatible areas of interest. Enrollment is limited to 18 participants.

*Once accepted to the workshop your deposit is non-refundable. Once the balance is paid, that amount is non-refundable unless we can find a suitable replacement for you.

APPLICATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____

Cell phone #: _____ Landline # if no cell phone: _____

Tuition: \$470.00 Deposit check enclosed: \$200 _____

Room and board: (includes dinner Sunday – Thursday, lunch Mon - Thur, breakfast Mon - Fri). All housing is double occupancy. We will be in The Cottages which consists of five cottages each with two double occupancy bedrooms, shared bathroom, and sitting room. Enrollment is limited to 18 people.

Housing and meals: all double-occupancy, Sunday dinner through Friday breakfast: \$700

A deposit of \$200 is due with your application. The remainder of tuition and room and board payment is due upon acceptance. You may pay with Venmo using @Letitia-Berlin-1 or Zelle, using tibiarecorderduo@gmail.com as the account name if you prefer. Please do NOT use tishberlin@sbcglobal.net for electronic payments.

If you know someone who would like to come to the workshop but whose finances prevent them from attending, please let them know about the Jeanne Lynch Next Level Scholarship Fund and the ARS workshop scholarships. For the Jeanne Lynch Scholarship we look for recorder players striving to improve their playing and who want to help others do the same. Full- and half-tuition scholarships are available.

Would you like to donate to the Jeanne Lynch Next Level Scholarship Fund? If yes, please indicate the amount of your donation here _____. If you would like to receive a tax deduction for your donation, you must make your donation through our parent organization, InterMusicSF, at <https://sffcm.giv.sh/5b2d>.

Your scores from the Berlin/Blaker Self-Rating Chart

If you have trouble rating yourself, send us an e-mail requesting help.

Please rate yourself even if we know you. Your ratings may have changed!

Tone _____ Fingers _____ Tongue _____ Breathing _____ Intonation/Listening _____ Recorder Sizes _____

Sight reading _____ By Ear _____ Clefs _____ Rhythm _____ Phrasing _____ Keeping place _____ Repertoire _____

Expression _____ Styles/Ornamentation _____ switching from F to C recorders _____ Total Score _____

Recorder sizes you play and will bring (If you play and own a bass, please bring it). Workshop pitch is A=440.

Sopranino _____ Soprano _____ Alto _____ Tenor _____ Bass _____ Great Bass in C _____ Contrabass in F _____

Other _____ Do you play Alto up an octave? _____

Renaissance recorders: Size and maker _____