

# Welcome to the Winnipeg Early Music Society!

Q. Who/what is WEMS?

A. The Winnipeg Early Music Society is an informal group of people from the Winnipeg area who have come together to explore, discover, play, sing, and perform early music. WEMS also seeks to promote early music happenings in our city.

Q. What time period constitutes "early music"?

A. The phrase "early music" sometimes causes confusion. The context is European classical music, which had its best-known pieces written in the 1700s & 1800s, and so the "early" in early music means earlier than that. In this way, early music usually designates the Medieval (c.1100-1400), Renaissance (c.1400-1600) and Baroque (1600-1750) periods of Western music. "Early Music" is normally a standard, all-encompassing phrase which covers all three periods.

Q. When was WEMS formed? How many members does it have?

A. WEMS was formed in late 1976 by Susan Hammer, Muriel Milgrom and Traudel Labies. As of this writing (November 2013), there are approximately 35 members.

Q. What do WEMS members do?

A. The Winnipeg Early Music Society welcomes people of all ages who are interested in great music of the past. WEMS offers choral, instrumental, and historical dance workshops and coaching sessions for individual members and ensembles. Members can explore new repertoire at informal reading sessions, perform in our annual recital, and showcase early music in other venues. WEMS keeps members informed about early music events in Winnipeg through its newsletter and website, with concert listings, reviews and member updates. WEMS has a small library of items which members are free to peruse.

Q. How much does it cost to join?

A. Standard membership for one year is \$15.00, with student memberships for \$7.50 and family memberships for \$40.00.

Q. How do I contact WEMS?

A. Email us at [wpgearlymusic@gmail.com](mailto:wpgearlymusic@gmail.com), visit our website at <http://www.winnipegearlymusic.com>, or look for our page on Facebook.