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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLOTTE, NC--March 2017 will mark the twenty-fifth annual international celebration of Play-the-Recorder Month. As part of the month's activities, American Recorder Society (ARS) members all over the North American continent will perform in public places -- libraries, bookstores, museums and shopping malls -- and will offer workshops to improve the playing skills of participants, demonstrating in school settings the sounds produced by an instrument of both the past and the present. Many activities will be held on Saturday, March 18, 2017, which has been designated Recorder Day.

An endblown woodwind instrument with no reed, the recorder dates to the Middle Ages. Recorder consorts featuring the entire family (sopranino to contrabass) of "fipple flutes," or flutes with a beak, were common in Renaissance musical life. Some Baroque music, now commonly played on the modern silver flute, was actually written for recorders by notable composers such as Bach, Vivaldi, and Telemann. The recorder was less popular in 19th century concert halls, where its soft-spoken sound was no match for louder instruments then being developed. However, its popularity was revived in the 20th century as a relatively inexpensive, portable instrument that fits easily in brief case or backpack. Many adults pursue musical interests by playing in recorder groups, and millions of school children worldwide use it as a tool to learn music. Founded in 1939, the ARS celebrated 75 years of service in 2014 to its members and constituents -- all recorder players, including amateurs to leading professionals, students to teachers. It has approximately 140 chapters and consorts in the U.S. and Canada, where its membership base is over 2,000, plus members in 17 other countries. Play-the-Recorder Month grew out of an event staged as part of an "ARS 50" anniversary celebration, during which members all over the world played a recorder piece simultaneously on April 1, 1989. Play-the-Recorder Day was first officially held in 1992, and then expanded to Play-the-Recorder Month the following year.

The ARS office in Charlotte, NC, may be contacted at 704-509-1422 or director@AmericanRecorder.org, or through the ARS web site, www.AmericanRecorder.org.