



## NEWSLETTER

### Viola da Gamba Society

### New England

December 2016



### President's Letter

Greetings Everyone! Winter is almost upon us, and 2016 will soon be coming to a close. Let's hope the snow is manageable this year, so we can all attend plenty of concerts and the Winter Workshop!

Speaking of which, our upcoming workshop will take place on Saturday, January 21 at Brandeis. Loren Ludwig will be the organizer with Janet Haas by his side as the local coordinator and co-organizer. The topic is "The Rat Pack" – consort music from the 1620's and 30's by Cranford, Gibbons, Ives, and Peerson. As some of you have heard, for this workshop there is a new option; you may apply as part of a pre-formed consort and play music that your consort has prepared ahead of time. We should thank Jane Hershey for introducing this idea and helping to move it forward. A plea goes out to all of you to apply early. It makes for a better, more organized workshop. If you want to have time to practice your music ahead of time, it is essential for the organizers to have the applications in hand by the deadline. I hope you all can come.

Thinking ahead to the warmer months - on Saturday, April 22, at Trinity Episcopal Church in Concord, Sarah Mead will lead our spring workshop. The topic is "Getting out of Hand: Expressive Chromaticism on the Viol." It should be great fun!

While on the topic of Sarah, once again we should give her a big thank you for her role as our Brandeis liaison, and of course, great appreciation goes to Brandeis for making their ideal workshop space available to us twice a year.

As I mentioned in the Fall Newsletter, the Boston Early Music Festival is coming up in June, and VdGS-NE will be involved in the usual ways. Once again, Anne LeGène will be organizing volunteers for the VdGSA booth in the exhibition hall, Karen Burciaga and Alastair Thompson will serve as the local organizers for the Gamba Gamut, and Hannah

Davidson and Jane Hershey will be working on the Gamba Garden – with a little help from me. Volunteers will be needed in many areas, so you'll be hearing more as spring approaches!

The latest exciting news is that we have found someone to update our website! He happens to be my son, Owen Stowe, who is a web developer and designer - so we are in good hands. The project will take several months, as Owen is doing this in his spare time, but the end product will surely be worth the wait. Look out for more details on this subject in the spring Newsletter.

Many heartfelt thanks go to Ed Fleming for designing and maintaining our current website, which has served us well since 2004.

Wishing a peaceful, joyful, and musical holiday season to all!

--Rosalind Stowe

### Jeanne Ammon

*A notice for the VdGSA by Alice Robbins*

Jeanne Ammon, longtime member, past board member and active supporter of our [VdGSA] society, passed away November 3 in Easthampton, MA following decline after a broken hip. Jeanne was our auction organizer for a number of years, and many players will remember her help in that area as well as her love of playing tenor in consorts. She had worked as a physical therapist for 45 years, and in her younger years she was an avid skier, tennis player, bicyclist and racquetball player.

Besides viol, Jeanne played recorder, had studied piano and violin and sang with various choral groups. She also had extensive flower gardens populated with birds drawn by her feeders. Jeanne took lessons or played in consorts which I organized at the Five College Early Music Program in Western Massachusetts for more than 20 years. Always

helpful in her own neighborhood as well as nationally, she volunteered for our ensemble Arcadia Players doing office work, ticket sales and “crowd control” until about a year ago, when progressive rheumatological disease made mobility more difficult.

Jeanne was always generous, whether in her practice of physical therapy, volunteering and supporting the early music organizations she loved, and leaving her tenor viol for the benefit of deserving local players. At her request, donations may be made to Arcadia Players. (www.arcadiaplayers.org) I will greatly miss her loyal support.

## Concert announcements for Winter 2016-17

“The Pardessus de Viole”

**Carol Lewis** will demonstrate several instruments, including a 5-string original pardessus made by Benoit Fleury (1752) and the very first copy of that instrument made by Francis Beaulieu (2015), as well as some other originals by Guersan and Gilbert. Also performing will be **Olav Chris Henriksen**, baroque guitar.

**Wednesday, December 7, 2016 at 6:00 pm** in the Musical Instrument Gallery at the Museum of Fine Arts Boston. For information, go to [www.mfa.org](http://www.mfa.org)

**Sunday, December 11, 2016, 11:00 a.m.** service at Harvard’s Knafel Center (in Radcliffe Yard, opposite First Church Congregational on Mason Street, between Agassiz Theatre and Fay House) includes music by Orlando Gibbons, John Bull and William Byrd., played by students in the class “Performance and Culture: Renaissance Music,” joined by Laura Jeppesen, Jane Hershey, and James Williamson, and supported by funds from VdGS-NE’s Silbiger Grant.

**Sunday, December 11, 2016 at 3 :00 PM**, in Pickman Hall at Longy School of Music  
“Music by Josquin des Prez: Missa L’Homme Arme Sexti Toni, motets, and secular works ” presented by Longy students, including voices, viols, recorders, flutes and keyboard. Coached by Jane Hershey and Pamela Dellal.

**December 23 at 8:00 pm**

“King of All Birds: Music for the Winter Solstice,” presented by **Seven Times Salt** at Church of the Good Shepherd, 9 Russell Avenue, Watertown MA. \$15 suggested donation.

This beloved annual tradition features seasonal music of 16th-17th century England; folk tunes from across the British Isles; a small Chanukah celebration; plus a surprise or two. The program features our new bandora, a wire-strung instrument popular during Queen Elizabeth I’s reign. Jollity guaranteed, audience participation likely, dancing quite possible, and a festive holiday reception to follow.

Seven Times Salt: Karen Burciaga, baroque violin, treble viol; Daniel Meyers, recorders, flute, percussion; Josh Schreiber Shalem, bass viol; Matthew Wright, lute; with special guests Emily Noël, soprano, Michael Barrett, tenor, recorder, lute; Nathaniel Cox, bandora

“La Folia”

**Ensemble Très Maresienne** (Lisa Brooke, violin; Olav Chris Henriksen, vihuela & Baroque guitar; Carol Lewis, viola da gamba) perform renaissance & Baroque music by Ortiz, Cabezon, Milan, Selma, Scarlatti, Sanz & de Murcia.

Two performances:

**Saturday, January 7, 2017 at 8:00 pm** in Lindsay Chapel, First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, 11 Garden St. (entrance on Mason St.), Cambridge, MA. For information, call (617)776-0692 or go to [www.duomaresienne.com](http://www.duomaresienne.com)

**Sunday, January 8, 2017 at 3:00 pm** at the Somerville Museum, Central St. at Westwood Road (entrance on Westwood Road), Somerville, MA. For information, call (617)666-9810 or go to [www.somervillemuseum.org](http://www.somervillemuseum.org)

“In the Service of Her Majesty”

Music by Holborne, Byrd, Morley & others performed by **El Dorado Ensemble** (Carol Lewis, Janet Haas, Paul Johnson, Mai-Lan Broekman & Alice Mroszczyk, viols; Olav Chris Henriksen, lute, bandora & cittern)

Two performances:

**Friday, February 10, 2017 at 8:00 pm** in Lindsay Chapel, First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, 11 Garden St. (entrance on Mason St.), Cambridge, MA. For information, call (617)776-0692 or go to [www.duomaresienne.com](http://www.duomaresienne.com)

**Sunday, February 12, 2017 at 3:00 pm** at the Somerville Museum, Central St. at Westwood Road (entrance on Westwood Road), Somerville, MA. For information, call (617)666-9810 or go to [www.somervillemuseum.org](http://www.somervillemuseum.org)