



NEWSLETTER

Viola da Gamba Society--New England

December 2020

President's Letter

Dear Gamba Community,

Dear Viol Community,

May this find you well!

Here is, a little earlier than usual, the latest news on the VdGS-NE front.

The good news is, that in spite of the pandemic, your society remains active. Instead of in-person workshops, you may expect several on-line workshops in the coming months, for as long as getting together in person is not deemed advisable. The first two of these virtual workshops are behind us, and were very successful. Many thanks to Jane Hershey for a lucid, well organized and perfectly paced workshop on "Josquin's Bow", which took place on November 1. Jane tackled interesting issues of bow direction in cadences, bringing the cadences in focus and allowing for the proper stress on the right notes, even in irregular rhythms.

The afternoon segment of that day's workshop, "Tidying up", led by Sarah Mead, was postponed to November 15. Participants sent Sarah passages in consort pieces that had tripped them up, and Sarah expertly helped dissect the problems and clarified complicated rhythms, showing participants how to approach these kinds of issues. Thank you, Sarah, for brilliant thought and care devoted to each problem, and the super helpful advice.

One of the good things about virtual workshops is, that the presenters can be far away! We welcome Amy Domingues from Washington, DC, who will present her Non-Clave workshop on "English composers abroad" for us on December 13. Look forward to playing along with pre-recorded consorts, and enjoy deepening your knowledge about these composers. More information about this workshop and how to sign up for it is in the workshop flyer.

As you have guessed, the workshop with Will Ayton, which was originally planned for January, will be postponed to a time when we can all safely come together again. Will has been composing 5-part music for intermediate players especially for this workshop. We are all so very much looking forward to being able to play them together. And while a vaccine seems to be in the making, it is still too early to say whether our May workshop with Parthenia will be possible, but we'll certainly keep you informed!

So dear friends, do not despair, and keep playing, even if just by yourself! Your viol is a great friend who gives much meaning to your life. But if you do crave human company while you practice, our virtual practice rooms offer a solution. On Saturdays in November and December they will be hosted each time by a different board member. This is just a wonderful way to stay connected and break through the isolation, besides being a fun way to get motivated to take out your viol or any other

instrument you feel like playing! If Saturday morning is not your thing, every other week the practice rooms will be happening on Saturday afternoon. See more information about the virtual practice rooms elsewhere in this newsletter.

Stay well, and may the end of this trying time be near!

Give your viol a few (bow) strokes for me.

Anne

Louise Bell Nichols Botero

Louise Botero, a firm anchor for the viola da gamba community for many years, passed away on November 11, 2020, surrounded by her family. Louise was a passionate and accomplished viol player, and her long and active musical life encompassed numerous Cambridge chamber music activities. While living in Botogá, her performing ensemble specialized in uncovering gems of Colombian 17th century music.

As a member of Longy School of Music's Continuing Studies consort for many years, she explored the riches of the English consort repertoire with Alexandra Hawley, Margo Stark and Chester Pearlman. In later years, the class moved to Louise's apartment overlooking the Charles River, and Martha Davidson, Yi-Li Chang, Perry Emerson, Ruth Schecter, with Hannah Davidson on keyboard, joined in our lively weekly sessions, always a rewarding coaching experience for me. She was an enthusiastic and creative member of Dulcis Memoriae, a viol quartet with Suzanne Cleverdon, June Matthews and Alexandra Hawley, initially founded in 2010 to accompany the Renaissance choir Convivium Musicum in concerts of German 17th century music.

Louise loved playing her prized Zuchowicz tenor and bass viols. She will be remembered

for her positive and enquiring spirit, her excellent musicianship, her generosity, and her warm support of her fellow consort members. It has been a deep privilege to have worked with her over these many years, and I, along with all of her fellow musical friends, will miss her mightily.

A musical gathering to celebrate Louise's life will be held when it is possible, among her family and many friends. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that her friends perform an act of kindness in her memory.

Jane Hershey

VdGS-NE Online Practice Sessions

Feeling all alone when you practice?
Want to practice but just can't get started?
Would having some company help?

Back by popular demand, the VdGS-NE Saturday Zoom Practice Sessions!

FREE, no-risk, no-commitment!

To accommodate varying schedule preferences we'll be offering some sessions Saturday afternoon from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. EST and other sessions Saturday morning from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. EST. Each session will be followed by a half hour reserved for online conversation and socialization.

The first of these sessions will be hosted by Jane Hershey on November 21, 2020 from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. EST.

Just tune in via Zoom any time between 4 p.m. and 6:00 p.m EST, mute yourself, turn on "gallery view" and see who else is also practicing! Use Zoom chat to communicate with the host or with others who are practicing. Then at 6:00, unmute yourself, have a coffee, tea, or a snack, and join in the weekly socializing half hour!

Feel free to stay for as much or as little practicing as you want. No need to stay the entire session unless you want to. Come just to practice, change your strings, or just to socialise.

Below is the Zoom link info for this Saturday's session.

Any pre-session questions or problems logging in? Just send email to vdgsnehost@gmail.com, and we'll get back to you.

VdGS-NE is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: VdGS-NE Saturday mPractice

Time: Nov 21, 2020 04:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84426933407?pwd=cM8wTWYvOG1sT0xIRVlOUFIzRkFkUT09>

Meeting ID: 844 2693 3407

Passcode: 628609

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,84426933407#,,,,,0#,,628609#

US (Chicago)

+19292056099,,84426933407#,,,,,0#,,628609#

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+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

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+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 844 2693 3407

Passcode: 628609

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84426933407?pwd=cM8wTWYvOG1sT0xIRVlOUFIzRkFkUT09>

Announcement of the 2020-2021 Gian Lyman Silbiger Grant

The Viola da Gamba Society-New England has awarded the 2020-2021 Gian Lyman Silbiger

Grant to Mary Jodice and Carol Lewis for a concert to be held at St. Andrew's Church in Marblehead, MA. at 7:00pm on May 23, 2021. Mary and Carol plan a program of early 17th century English music by Ramsey, Gibbons, Byrd and others, performed by the eight-voice vocal ensemble, 'Jubilate' and the 'El Dorado Viol Consort': Carol Lewis, Karen Burciaga, Hannah Davidson, Mai Lan Broekman and Alice Mroszczyk.

More information will be forthcoming as the date nears, or contact Mary at maryjodice1@gmail.com. St. Andrew's Church is at 135 Lafayette St. in Marblehead.

The 2019-2020 Silbiger Grant program under the direction of Frederick Jodry and Sarah Mead has been postponed from March of this year due to the Covid crisis, and has yet to be rescheduled. As soon as information is known about this, it will be posted on our website, with an additional message to our members. For more information about applying for the Silbiger Grant in the future, go to vdgsne.org and look under "Grants."

The Silbiger Grant Committee, for the Viola da Gamba Society-New England

Jane Hershey
Mai Lan Broekman
Suzanne Cleverdon
Alexandra Hawley

Powers in the Pandemic

Though much of the instruction and performance activity has moved on line, Powers continues to offer its Belmont campus for chamber music activities, and for lessons for those who prefer in-person instruction. In-person viol consorts and instruction resumed in November with Jane Hershey but with short-term planning, as concern for health and safety

is paramount at this time. For safety, in addition to vastly reducing activity in the building, Powers has increased ventilation in the Cabot Room, along with an air purifier, and distanced playing space for a masked viol quintet plus harpsichord. For safe on-site learning, two studios were created this past summer with large windows in the wall between student and teacher for added protection against Covid-19, for those preferring to continue their lessons at the Powers 380 Concord Avenue building.

Remote sessions for building viol consort playing skills will be offered by Jane starting in January, with four-to-six week series (75 min. sessions), each focussing on a specific topic: rhythm, understanding form in viol fantasias, and digging into the chronological development of the English consort repertoire. All levels are welcome, with lots of opportunity for individual playing, as all will be muted except the occasional sharing. Contact Jane at janelhershey@gmail.com to find out more about this series of classes. Time TBD.

Remote private instruction continues to be offered by Jane and James Perretta. In addition, the Powers Viol Collection is available to prospective renters from throughout New England. Pick up of rentals of all three sizes of viols can be arranged by calling the main office at 617-484-4696 and speaking to Tristan. For more information about Powers and lessons, please visit powersmusic.org, or call the registrar at 617-484-5750.

Jane Hershey

Concert Announcements

December 12 at 7pm

Black Villancicos and Other Joyous Songs

Rumbarroco: Lary Gutierrez, viola da gamba & Venezuelan cuatro; Daniela Tosic, voice; Lisa Brooke, violin; Fabiola Mendez, Puerto Rican cuatro & voice; William Hernandez, Venezuelan

cuatro; Juan Luis Oropeza, percussion; Karolina Meireles, percussion; Moah Kim, keyboards
Rumbarroco presents a lecture/concert that delves into Africa's lasting musical legacy in Ibero-American music. "Black Villancicos" focuses on this emotionally charged and rhythmically powerful repertoire. We'll explore the intersection of early European music with the unspoken African traditions, and current Latin American sounds as well as the fusion of "learned" music with folk and popular forms. Music by Gaspar Fernandes, villancicos from the Liturgy of Santa Cruz De Coimbra (17th century), Aguinaldo Margariteño from Venezuela, and Afro-Baroque instrumental music by Santiago de Murcia, and more.

Streamed: www.youtube.com/Rumbarroco or www.facebook.com/Rumbarroco

Free, but donations gratefully accepted
www.rumbarroco.org

Monday, December 21 at 8 PM

Banish Misfortune: A Solstice Celebration

Seven Times Salt: Karen Burciaga, violin, harp, percussion; Dan Meyers, recorders, flutes, uilleann pipes, percussion; Josh Schreiber Shalem, bass viol; Matthew Wright, lute, bandora; with Matthew Leese, baritone

Seven Times Salt marks the solstice and the return of the unconquered sun in our 18th annual winter concert! Join us online for a musical tour of the British Isles including wintry English dances, rousing wassails, familiar carols, and tunes for Scottish lute, Irish pipes, and Shetland fiddle. Filmed at beautiful Aldworth Manor in Harrisville, NH, our program blends music with seasonal readings in a stunning historic home. Raise a glass and banish misfortune!

8pm - Streamed on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com) and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com). The video will remain available for later viewing.

\$20 suggested donation. Donate securely

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www.seventimesalt.com