



## NEWSLETTER

### Viola da Gamba Society--New England

December 2018



#### President's Letter

Since our last newsletter, so much has happened! The three months of Fall have broken the weather records-for being the wettest times in the state in over 50 years. No longer are we battling drought conditions! If you enjoy long, sunny days, the new time zone gives us only short days, but sometimes sunny.

All these changes in the Fall gave us more reasons to attend our first workshop, [This Is the Record of Orlando: Verse Anthems and Consort Songs](#). Singers, recorder players and gambists all came to the workshop on Sat. Nov. 3 at Brandeis University. Special thanks to Shelia Beardslee who created the structure of the workshop, organized the classes with warm ups and repertoire exploration and hired the wonderful teachers (Carol Lewis, Jay Lane and Alice Robbins). The innovative Sybil Kevy did all the other needed jobs to make a workshop run smoothly. Great gratitude to Sybil for collecting the payments, helping to construct the classes, delivering all the set-up material and posting the classes with their locations. Hannah Davidson communicated with area teachers to encourage people to come to the workshop as beginners. While five to seven attendees were experienced beginners, there were three players who were very NEW to gamba playing. One player was a very agile recorder player who had never played the viol. By the end of the beginner class, it was clear that the novice would quickly become proficient on the gamba! Martha Davidson brought us the energy goodies

of coffee and munchkins. Everyone had their mini-breakfast before the lecture and felt well fortified to go to their first classes. The workshop ended with a full performance of the singers and instrumentalists under the direction of Jay Lane. It was a wonderful conclusion to a stimulating and enjoyable day!

If you have heard of Ferrabosco II, you know that his compositions are spectacular and intriguing. But have you played the Ferrabosco 5-part motets? Perhaps not, because they aren't easily found in modern editions. Until now!!!! Hannah Davidson has transcribed many of the works for viol ensembles and is featuring them at the next workshop on Saturday, February 2, 2019 at Brandeis University. We are so grateful to Sarah Mead and Cheryl Nalbach, who diligently reserve spaces that we need at Brandeis and let us use it without charge!

Who should be coming to workshops? Everyone! If you are a new player, you will be inspired. If you are an experienced veteran, you will give encouragement and joy to all who attend. Come to workshops and share with everyone and the local chapter. If you are not a regular workshop attendee, make plans to come on Sat., Feb. 2 and play this beautiful repertoire.

Our last workshop of the year will be led by treasured and respected friend, Wendy Gillespie (from Fretwork and Indiana University) at Trinity Church in Concord on Sat. 5/4. Write it on your 2019 calendar and reserve the day.

BEMF (Boston Early Music Festival) will be June 9-16, 2019. The Exhibition will be from Wed., June 12 to Sat. June 15 at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel. Volunteers are needed to assist the VdGSA table. What could you do? offer advice if people who want to “pet” a viol or even try to play it, excite the young and motivate the new to the world of Early Music! If you want to become involved, let us know and we will pass the information to the national board.

While you might be looking forward to snow, remember that summer is full of great workshops and camps for gamba players. Here are two suggestions. Mountain Collegium will be at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC from 6/30-7/6. The 57<sup>th</sup> VdGSA Conclave will be at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon from 7/21-/28. If you know of more programs in the summer for viol players, send the information to us at: [admin@vdgsne.org](mailto:admin@vdgsne.org). We will add it to our Spring newsletter.

Janet Haas

### **Ballad of the Gamba Garden At BEMF**

When first we held a Petting Zoo  
we had a room for four long days  
with concerts brief and lectures too.  
On Saturday we welcomed all  
who yearned to play on a viol;  
our volunteers were more than twenty  
and instruments were there in plenty.  
So began our handsome tradition  
to open our doors to young and old  
and help new recruits to hold the bow.

The generous rooms of Park Plaza times  
were next replaced with those of the Radisson,  
no longer so spacious; our concerts declined.  
Yet with the Petting Zoo we persisted,  
our room overflowing; among those listed,

some students of music from schools of Boston  
who tried all the viols, with appreciation;  
we then sent them around to the Exhibition,  
adding new purpose to our tradition.

The hotel revoked its offer of suites  
and so our poor zoo was out on the streets.  
Time to let the animals go;  
we kept with a garden to continue the show.  
At first we were offered some room at the inn,  
and scrambled to set up our Gamba Garden  
in rooms not our own, though agreeably  
spacious;  
this kindness, not perfect, was still very  
gracious.

With BEMF itself yet again on the move,  
the Marriott now no room would have  
for our flourishing Garden. So we rented  
some excellent spaces; money well spent.  
However, alas, the central Exhibits  
are a mile away, which prohibits  
the easy offering that once we could make  
to those who stroll from booth to booth,  
piping recorders or strumming lutes:  
another instrument’s soft sweet sound  
with not too many people around --  
a quieter corner for trying a viol  
and experienced players to help with the trial.

And so, with regrets, and with hope of return,  
our Gamba Garden lies fallow a while.

Hannah Davidson

### **NEW! Five-part motets of Alfonso Ferrabosco the Younger**

Can’t get enough Ferrabosco? His 5-part Motets  
are perfect for viols, and Hannah Davidson has  
thoughtfully made a new edition just for us! The  
four volumes include 13 motets and a  
Lamentations transcribed from the Sambrooke  
Manuscript, plus one 4-part motet from the  
Tregian Manuscript. The texts are included just  
in case there are singers around on the day you

plan to play them. Most motets fit comfortably on tr-tr-t-t-b; some of the second lines are playable on tenor. The Lamentations are for tr-t-t-b-b.

Available to order on [vdgsa.org](http://vdgsa.org) from December.

## News from Maine

Once again, the Bow and String Orchestra included violas da gamba in its Baroque Masters Concert, a benefit for the Jubilee Center for the Homeless. The performance took place on October 27, 2018 in Trinity Episcopal Church, Lewiston, Maine. Mark Nordberg arranged a Concerto à 7 for 2 violins, 2 violas, 2 violas da gamba and cello from the following works of J.S. Bach: Sinfonia from Cantata Number 42, "On the Evening of the Same Sabbath," Sonata from Cantata Number 182, "King of Heaven Be Thou Welcome," and Chorus from Cantata Number 45, "He Hath Showed Thee O Man What is Good." I played one gamba part on tenor, but it would also have worked on bass. Mark played the other gamba part on 7 string bass. The concerto was very pleasing to musicians and audience, several of whom commented that they had always wanted another work to follow the Brandenburg Concerto Number 6.

After Ricercar à 3 from *A Musical Offering*, Mark delighted audience and orchestra with the Suite in D Major for viola da gamba and strings by G. P. Telemann. Following an enthusiastic standing ovation, the audience surrounded Mark for a closer look at his beautiful 7 string bass and to ask many questions. For most, it was the first time that they had heard a viola da gamba in such a performance and, especially, the first time that they had seen one.

Barbara Oliver

## Concert Announcements

### "A New Year's Gift"

The Arcadia Viols will play a concert of Renaissance and baroque Yuletide music in Historic Stockbridge, MA on Saturday January 5, 2019.

Joining the consort will be Catherine Hancock, soprano and Hideki Yamaya, renaissance lute. On the program are seasonal consort songs, lute songs and consort music by Byrd, Holborne, Campion, Schein, Scheidt and others.

Arcadia Viols: Jane Hershey, Alice Robbins, Anne Legêne, Robert Eisenstein and Douglas Kelley.

The concert will take place at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 27 Main Street, Stockbridge, MA. "Across from the Inne at the Red Lion" Come enjoy the Berkshires in the New Year! Rooms in the famous Red Lion Inn start at \$230/night. Numerous wonderful B and B's abound as well.

For more information call Anne Legêne: 413-528-5311.

### "The Return of the King"

Music of the English Restoration, performed by **Très Maresienne**: Lisa Brooke, violin; **Carol Lewis**, viola da gamba; **Olav Chris Henriksen**, theorbo & baroque lute; with sonatas, fantasias & grounds by Purcell, Finger, Locke, Mace, Simpson, Young & others.

Two performances:

**Friday, January 11, 2019 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 13, 2019 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)

“Fortunate Isles”

English renaissance consort music, including pavans, galiards, fantasies & divisions by Allison, Dowland, Morley, Holborne, Cutting & 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, March 1, 2019 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, March 3, 2019 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)

## **Viols at Powers**

Spring semester classes

There is still room for one player in each of the following consort classes:

Tues. 10:15-11:15 - Renaissance music (advanced) Starts Jan. 8, 3x a month .

Tues. 11:30-1:00 - Full this year

Tues. 1:30-3 - Viol quartets - madrigals, canzonas, fantasias. Starts Mar. 26, weekly

Weds. 11:30-1 - Ensemble Skills for viol consort players. Starts Jan. 16, monthly  
Jane Hershey, instructor.

For more information, go to [powersmusic.org](http://powersmusic.org) or contact Powers Music School Registrar Killian Kerrigan at 617-484-5750

Powers is at 380 Concord Ave. in Belmont.  
Viols for rent, for 3,6, or 12-month terms

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