



NEWSLETTER

Viola da Gamba Society--New England

December 2017

President's Letter

Here we are again – fall is on the wane, winter is on the rise. I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying the various activities of life, musical and otherwise!

This fall was a productive one. On September 16 Martha Davidson was honored at a wonderful “Gamba Gathering” at the home of Mai-Lan Broekman. The members of the VdGS-NE Board all felt it was high time that Martha be recognized for all that she has done, and continues to do to support and promote viol playing in New England and beyond. She has attended board meetings since the first meeting in 1976 and has played many significant roles on the local board as well as the national board (member, 1989-1990). On the day of the event we held our usual VdGS-NE board meeting, and then enjoyed a potluck lunch together, followed by tributes to Martha, an announcement of the Martha Davidson scholarship Fund (for supporting viol players’ workshop attendance and viol rental), and viol consort playing. Our fall workshop was interesting and enjoyable, with Roland Hutchinson and Hannah Davidson leading the participants to “Make a Joyful Noise” and explore new territory that included psalmody and hymnody from the Elizabethan age through the 18th century, into the Victorian age, and more!

Looking ahead to the winter and spring – our winter workshop will be held at Brandeis on Saturday, January 27 and is being directed by

Pat Neely. This workshop, entitled “William White and Shades of White”, will explore the “shades” of White’s 5 and 6 part fantasias as well as compositions by some of his contemporaries, who worked together as “Coprario’s Musick” and under the Royal Patronage of King Charles.

Our spring workshop will also be at Brandeis (thanks to Sarah Mead, our Brandeis Liaison!!) and will be directed by members of the Long and Away Consort of Viols. Anne Legêne and Karen Burciaga are the principle organizers, and the faculty will include James Williamson and Jane Hershey. The workshop will take place at Brandeis on Sunday, April 29, and the theme of the day will be “Music at the Württemberg Court and beyond - German music of the 16th and 17th centuries for voices and viols.”

As for our new website, many thanks go to Owen Stowe for taking time to construct it and train his mom to migrate content from the old site to the new one. It has been a work in progress for many months, but is mostly done. James Williamson will be taking over as website administrator soon, but for now please send suggestions to president@vdgsne.org. If you would like to write an article for posting on the site, please feel free to email it, along with accompanying photos.

Enjoy the rest of fall, the holiday season, and onward!

- Rosalind Stowe, President

The Gamba Garden travels to the Community Music Center of Boston

This year, the Community Music Center of Boston students were unable to attend the Gamba Garden at BEMF; an unavoidable conflict emerged in their end-of-year performances scheduled for the same day, June 17. As the tradition has continued for so long, it was sad to think that there might be no chance for the students to have the opportunity for a hands-on experience with the viols. So, we explored the possibility of bringing some viols to the students this fall.

On October 21, 2017, from 12:30-1:45, Hannah Davidson, Yi-Li Chang, Janet Haas and James Williamson presented an ad hoc "Gamba Garden" at the CMCB. After performing *Belle qui tiens ma vie*, the pavan found in Thoinot Arbeau's 1589 dance treatise *Orchesographie*, we had a brief discussion of the specific attributes of the viol. These included number of strings, frets, lack of endpin, difference of soundholes – c versus f, and bowgrip. Then the students came forward to try the instruments: three trebles, three tenors and two basses from Powers Music School in Belmont, arranged through Jane Hershey, who has made Powers instruments available for the Gamba Garden in recent years.

We had at least thirty students of different ages, all players of modern string instruments, who were engaged in trying the different sizes of viol. The first group had been in orchestra while we tuned up in the Green Room; these were the younger students. With eight instruments, we were able to allow about ten minutes per student. They plucked and bowed with interest, eventually exploring the frets as well. A second group, somewhat older, arrived at 1:00; many of these students had the opportunity to sit with an instrument for quite some time, and to experience the viol in a self-directed way. A further spontaneous outreach moment included

a cello teacher trying the treble viol with much appreciation, and in the final moments of our day managing to play the first phrase of *Belle qui tiens* with Hannah Davidson and James Williamson. All in all, it was a successful day and will serve as a bridge to the Gamba Garden's events at the next BEMF. Many thanks to our willing teachers!

- Hannah Davidson

"Practical Musick" - an intensive mini-course on 16th-c. music theory as it was practiced at the time

3 Saturdays in March and April to be scheduled at the convenience of the participants. 10-12; 1:30- 3:30.

Home of Sarah Mead: 14 2nd St., Natick
Total cost for each participant: \$240 (plus \$10 for handouts)

Minimum 4 students; maximum 7

Open to all experienced early-instrument players and voices (participants will sing in class)

If you are interested in participating, please email mead@brandeis.edu, with the Subject Line "Practical Music Course"

Powers Music School Establishes a Viol Maintenance Fund

Through the encouragement of Jane Hershey, Powers has started a maintenance fund for its many rental viols. They are well-used and constantly in need of new strings, post and bridge adjustments and rehairing for their bows. Jane has often taken on this responsibility herself; now people who might contribute something to Powers anyway can also designate their donation for this specific cause.

- Martha Davidson

Concert Announcements

“Balli e Lamenti”

Italian dances, florid music & laments for voice, viols & percussion.

Performed by **Burcu Gulec**, mezzo-soprano & **George Lernis**, percussion, plus **El Dorado Ensemble** (Carol Lewis, Janet Haas, Paul Johnson, Mai-Lan Broekman & Alice Mroszczyk, viols; Olav Chris Henriksen, lute & theorbo), with music by Striggio, Kapsperger & Piccinini, and a special performance of Monteverdi’s “Lamento d’Arianna”.

Two performances:

Friday, January 26, 2018 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

Sunday, January 28, 2018 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

Also

“A Consort to Delight”

English renaissance music for broken consort, with ballad tunes, pavans, galliards & almains by Allison, Morley, Dowland, Reade & John Johnson.

Performed by **Na’ama Lion**, flute; **James Williamson & Carol Lewis**, viols; **Matthew Wright**, bandora; **Peter Lehman**, cittern; **Olav Chris Henriksen**, lute.

Two performances:

Saturday, March 10, 2018 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

Sunday, March 11, 2018 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

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From the Archives: VdGS-NE Workshops 1976-2016

10-23-76	First Gathering
4-30-77	Second Gathering
11-9-77	Third Gathering
4-6-78	Concert (14th Century) and Workshop (Elizabethan Enterprise)
11-4-78	Apt for Voices and Viols
3-24-79	Music of England and Scotland (New York Consort of Viols)
11-3-79	16th & 17th Century Music from Italy
3-29-80	Jenkins Concert and Workshop
11-15-80	Old English Favorites
3-22-81	Kuijken Masterclass
11-7-81	Byrd Consort Songs and Viol Consorts
4-24-82	Many Voices of the Viol Concert and Workshop (New York Consort)
10-9-82	Lawes Concert and Workshop
4-9-83	Concert and Workshop (Les Filles de Ste Colombe)
10-1-93	East Workshop (Mead)
11-83	Savall Masterclass
2-18-84	Concert and Workshop (Boston Viol Consort)
4-1-84	Concert and Workshop (Swanne Alley)
11-3-84	Franco-Flemish Tradition Concert and Workshop (with ARS)
2-2-85	Bach and his Predecessors (Jeppesen)
4-20-85	Unsung Songs, Undanced Dances (Feldman)
11-1-85	Art of the Chromatic Scale, or the Expressive Half Step (Feldman)
2-28-86 & 3-1-86	16th Century Music for Viols, Concert and Workshop (Boston Viol Consort)
5-17-86	Mr. John Coperario alias Cooper (Stowe)
11-14-86 & 11-15-86	The Baroque Viol Consort: Music from England and Italy (Fayrfax Consort of Viols)
3-14-87	The Rhetorical Tradition in Italian Music and its Appearance in English Fantasias (Les Filles de Ste Colombe)
5-9-87	The In Nomine Fantasia from Taverner to Purcell
11-14-87	The Viol Consort Music of Orlando Gibbons

- 2-20-88 Concert and Workshop (New York Consort and Boston Viol Consort)
- 5-7-88 Music at the Court of Charles I, William Lawes and his Contemporaries
- 10-29-88 & 10-30-88 The Unbroken Consort: the Search for an Ensemble Sound (Mead)
- 3-5-89 Focus on Jenkins (1592-1678): (Feldman)
- 5-6-89 Music from the Glogauer Liederbuch (J. & E. Haas) 11-11-89 Have it your way (Mead)
- 2-24-90 Consort Music of John Dowland and Anthony Holborne (Crum)
- 5-5-90 Consort Songs (Hershey)
- 10-20-90 Apt for Viols (or Voyces) (Morley & Mead)
- 2-9-91 Duet Literature for Viols (Panofsky & Hutchinson)
- 4-13-91 17th Century Italian Music for Viols (Lewis & Henriksen)
- 10-5-91 & 10-6-91 "Illicita Cosa" Concert and Workshop (New York Consort of Viols)
- 2-8-92 Have it Your Way (Mead)
- 4-11-92 Lessons of the Dance Master (Douglass & Castellano)
- 11-22-92 Elements of Style for Viol Players (Chancey & Hershey)
- 2-20-93 Newly Reconstructed Verse Anthems and Viol Consort Music of Orlando Gibbons (Panofsky and Boorman)
- 4-17-93 Ferrabosco Workshop (Bellingham)
- 10-17-93 Consort Songs (Hargis)
- 2-12-94 Music from the Tregian Manuscript (Crum)
- 5-7-94 Have it Your Way (Mead)
- 10-16-94 Exploring the Antipodes (Chancey & Hershey)
- 2-11-95 Seventeenth Century German Choral Music with Viol Accompaniment and Instrumental Consorts (Panofsky and Boorman)
- 4-29-95 Jenkins Fest (Bardo)
- 10-28-95 Renaissance Dance Classes for Viol Players and Consorts with Dance-Related Topics (Panofsky and Olsson)
- 1-21-96 Adventurous Music Old and New for Viol Consort (Davidoff and Hershey)
- 4-21-96 Spring for-Ward, an In-Depth Look at the New Editions of John Ward's 5 & 6 part Consort Music (Hunter)
- 11-9-96 Have it Your Way (Tetenbaum)
- 1-26-97 If Music and Sweet Poetry Agree (Panofsky and Ballard)
- 4-13-97 Music of 16th and 17th Century France (Hershey)
- 11-16-97 Viol Styles in English Consort Music (Bellingham)
- 1-16-98 275 Years of German Music with Viols (Bardo)
- 4-5-98 Rex Splendens: Viols at the Court of Christian IV (Lewis and Henriksen)
- 11-7-98 The Classical Viol (Hutchinson)
- 2-7-99 The In Nomine from Taverner to Purcell and Beyond (Crum)
- 4-10-99 A Menagerie of English Composers (Panofsky and Ballard)
- 10-9-99 Spain and the New World (Chancey)
- 1-15-00 Celestial Witchcraft : the Private Music of Henry and Charles, Princes of Wales (Gillespie)
- 5-6-00 The Inner Voice (Lipnik & Twombly)
- 10-21-00 Bigger is better (Eric Haas)
- 2-03-01 Jenkins and more Jenkins (Bardo)
- 5-0 6-01 Coprario to Purcell (Mead)
- 10-28-01 Apt for Voyces and Vials (Bryan and Crum)
- 1-19-02 Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Play-in
- 5-11-02 Burn or Freeze! Italians and Pseudo-Italians (Gutiérrez)
- 10-26-02 The Humour of Musick (Hershey)
- 2-09-03 High Tea with the English T's (Stowe)
- 4-19-03 Lust hab ich ghabt zuer Musica (Pappano)
- 10-25-03 Orlando was his Name: Consorts, Madrigals and Anthems of Orlando Gibbons (Jodry and Gutiérrez)
- 1-25-04 The Hexachord: A Musical Building Block (Mead)
- 5-01-04 Burgundy and Beyond: Music of the 15th and Early 16th Centuries (Davidoff)
- 10-18-04 Masterclass with Fretwork (Boothby, Campbell, Hunt)
- 1-22-05 Viol Maintenance Workshop (Tourin)
- 2-12-05 Lecture/Demonstration with Les Voix Humaines (Napper, Little)
- 5-07-05 Basic English (Gutierrez)
- 10-15-05 Dancing on the Viol (Bardo)
- 01-28-06 Finding Your Voice on the Viol (Hershey)
- 05-13-06 Divide and Conquer (Twombly and Tourin)
- 11-04-06 A Society of Musick (Davidsons)
- 01-20-07 Joining Forces (Mead, Greg and Kris Ingles)
- 05-12-07 Once More, with Lyrics (Hutchinson))
- 11-10-07 Ole! Spanish Music of the Old and New World (Gutiérrez)
- 01-12-08 Jenkins Jam (Hershey)
- 05-03-08 Surprising Contemporaries (Bardo)
- 10-19-08 Teacher's Choice (Mead & Stowe)
- 02-15-09 Intro to Impro (Chancey & Ludwig)
- 05-02-09 Byrd in his Time (Gillespie)
- 09-19-09 Bridging the Centuries (Jeppesen and Gillespie)
- 02-20-10 Music of Alfonso Ferrabosco the Elder (Alison Crum and the Rose Consort)
- 05-08-10 Siehe dein Vater : Music for Voices and Viols by 17th Century German Composers (Hannah Davidson and Martins Aldins)
- 11-14-10 Robert Parsons and the Elizabethan Era (Fretwork, Sarah Mead, Laura Jeppesen)
- 2-6-11 Fed only on Aire (Quaver Consort, Lauren Ludwig)
- 4-17-11 The Early English Viol Enters the Court of Henry VIII (Carthage Consort, Laura Jeppesen)
- 10-16-11 Mirror of the World: Consort Music in Germany 1575-1650 (Carol Lewis, Chris Henriksen)
- 1-28-12 New Old Music (Wendy Gillespie)
- 4-21-12 Les Amours de Mai (Parthenia)
- 10-6-12 Six Part Consorts: Music of Lupo and Ferrabosco (Lucy Bardo, Jane Hershey, Laura Jeppesen, Carol Lewis, Sarah Mead, Anne Legène)
- 2-16-13 The Publishers (Roland Hutchinson, Carol Lewis, Chris Henriksen, Anne Legène, Zoe Weiss)
- 5-4-13 Crossing over Ibero-America (Laury Gutierrez, Camila Parias, Sarah Mead, Janet Haas)
- 11-16-13 Articulation: Speaking Your Music (Tina Chancey, Sarah Cunningham, Laurie Monahan, John Mark Rozendaal)
- 1-12-14 Motets (and Masses) on viols (Loren Ludwig, with Wendy Gillespie, Larry Lipnik, Zoe Weiss)
- 11-8-14 The Dow Part Books (Jane Hershey, Hannah Davidson, Laura Jeppesen, Alice Robbins, Emily Walhout, with Michael Barrett)
- 1-11-15 The English Invasion (Pat Neely, Christien Beeuwkes, Hannah Davidson, Carol Lewis, Alice Robbins)
- 5-9-15 Byrd on the Brain (Zoe Weiss, Ian Howell, Karen Burciaga)
- 11-70-15 Gedenck-clank : the Netherlands and Spain 1568-1648 (Anne Legène, Karen Burciaga, Jane Hershey, Michael Barrett, Daniel Meyers, Hannah Davidson)
- 1-23-16 Ballet des Dieux : Royal Consorts from Renaissance France (Carol Lewis, Chris Henriksen, Janet Haas, Sarah Mead)
- 4-23-16 English Reactions to the Italian Madrigal (James Williamson, Pamela Dellal, Laura Jeppesen, Emily Walhout)
- 9-20-16 On the Hexachord (Wendy Gillespie, Hannah Davidson, Loren Ludwig, Sarah Mead, Jane Hershey)