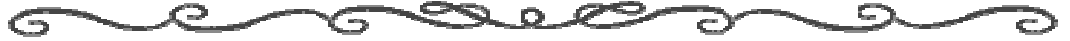




NEWSLETTER
Viola da Gamba Society
New England
September 2018



Burciaga, Hannah Davidson, Zarina Irkaeva,
Carol Lewis and James Williamson.

President's Message

Greetings from your new president, and many thanks to Rosalind Brooks Stowe for her years of extraordinary service, including mounting our new web site and dealing with the IRS.

The dog days of summer are beginning to whimper because the refreshing breezes of fall are just around the corner. With the change of the season, the VdGS-NE looks forward to our 2018-2019 workshops. We finished spring of 2018 at Brandeis, on Sunday, April 29 with members of Long and Away Consort of Viols presenting "Music at the Württemberg Court and beyond." That workshop focused on music by Kapellmeisters at the court, including the little-known Samuel Capricornus, as well as music of other German composers. Anne Legêne started the day with a wonderful lecture about the history behind the music and politics of the period. The remainder of the day was filled with classes taught by Anne, Jane Hershey, Karen Burciaga and James Williamson. There were nine eager beginners who were divided between Hannah Davidson and Janet Haas, so they each received more attention. Hannah was local coordinator, assisted by Alexandra Hawley.

And what happened this summer? The 2017-18 Silbiger grant went to Josh Garvey for a fascinating concert featuring the New England premiere of a composition by John Harbison, "The Cross of Snow." The program, This Cross Upon My Breast, was performed July 10, at First and Second Church in Boston with countertenor Garvey and viol players Karen

Summer gamba activities continued in late-July. Players from all over the world met in Cullowhee, NC on the Western Carolina University campus on Sunday, July 22 for Conclave 56! The theme of Conclave was As You Like It, an open structure that allowed coaches and players to create and choose their favorite topics. While at WCU, a strange, yet familiar looking group of adults met us in the cafeteria. There was a large workshop for dulcimer players (both hammered and mountain) running concurrently. Although we couldn't quite bridge our diverse passions for music making, we made some new friends and shared exciting conversations over meals. Our days were filled with classes and our evenings were crowded with lectures (Tina Chauncey on the Pardessus, and Fernando Marin of Cantare Alla Viola on the Vihuela de Arco), concerts (Gail Ann Schroeder and Asheville Baroque; Quaver--a consort that met at Conclave 10 years ago: Marie Szuts, Loren Ludwig, Tobi Szuts and Brady Lanier; Consort Cooperative; and the Student Concert) and auctions (live auction-hosted by Sarah Mead and Robert Bolyard and the animated yet silent auction). If you had free time, you could gaze at posters of the insides of a seven-string bass viol by Michel Collichon (1683) and watch Marc Soubeyran and Francis Beaulieu, Operation Bass Viol masters, build a recreation of it throughout the week. Conclave concluded with our Banquet, filled with scrumptious food, jaunty entertainment and the announcement of the winner of the Operation Bass Viol.

What is coming up this year for the VdGS-NE? Three fantastic workshops! On Sat. Nov. 3,

Shelia Beardslee is organizing a workshop on Verse Anthems and Consort Songs featuring viols, voices and recorders at Brandeis University. Brandeis will host our winter workshop, on Sat. Feb. 2, 2019. Hannah Davidson will organize the workshop which will feature 5-part motets by Ferrabosco II. Our final workshop (5/4/19) will be at Trinity Church in Concord and will be organized by our treasured and respected friend, Wendy Gillespie (Fretwork and Indiana University).

As always, we give great thanks to Brandeis University for providing a perfect venue for our workshops twice a year, and an equal thank you to Sarah Mead for being our liaison.

The year will conclude with Boston's Early Music Festival, June 9-16, 2019. Look for opportunities to perform, attend concerts, sit in the VdGSA booth and entice people to join the rewarding family of viola da gamba players!

If you haven't looked at our new website, please take time to explore it. Thanks to Ros Brooks Stowe and Owen Stowe for reinventing it. James Williamson and Ros will maintain it. Also, take a moment to go to the VdGSA website. It has valuable information about national events and many music resources including Martha Bishop's edition of Jenkins' 4, 5 and 6 part consort music with scores and parts (both measured and barless) and a vast collection of music edited by Al Folop, all available free of charge.

Janet Haas

Renaissance Music Theory with Thomas Morley and Sarah Mead

This spring Sarah offered her first "Plaine and Easy" class, three sessions of intense learning based on Morley's book of the same name. First the class studied Guido's hand, the set of solmization syllables they will always carry

with them on their fingers. They read pages of Morley, practiced solmization on a number of pieces, learned to recognize the modes, and practiced adding parts to an existing tenor line. It was a stunning class, beautifully organized, and led by a teacher who really knows the material and how to present it. Both professional and amateur musicians took part. Because it was oversubscribed Sarah plans to offer the class again this year. Keep watching for her announcement.

Martha Davidson

2018 Silbiger Grant performance Review

On July 10, Joshua Garvey and gambists Karen Burciaga, Hannah Davidson, James Williamson, Carol Lewis, and Zarina Irkaeva performed "This Cross Upon my Breast," a program featuring the New England premiere of John Harbinson's 2016 "The Cross of Snow" and the music of John Dowland. Each song portrayed a different expression of sadness and grief. Garvey drew inspiration for this theme from a desire to shed light on the burden of sadness that so many people hide due to social stigma, especially marginalized members in our society including the LGBT community. Garvey and members of the Viola da Gamba Society – New England collaborated with several local charities focused on mental health and LGBT support including Tunefoolery, The Home For Little Wanderers, Boston Glass, and the Triangle Program. The arrangement of voice and viol consort worked perfectly for this celebration of community and support with Garvey's mellow, sensitive voice weaving in and out of the texture, at times instrumental and at others soloistic.

The title "This Cross Upon my Breast," a reference to the Harbison cycle, became a reference to what happens when we as a society speak out about our inner suffering and support

each other - the trauma that weighs us down transforms from a burden into an expression of the divine.

Carolyn Balkovetz

Carolyn Balkovetz, mezzo soprano is a graduate of the Longy School of Music's Historical Performance program. She specializes in art music as a form of storytelling. This May, she premiered her work "The Death of Venus", an early music cabaret mixed with live storytelling. She is currently performing with the group Canto Armonico and in Promenade Opera Project's production of "Cendrillon."

Silbiger 2018-2019 Grant Announcement

The VdGS-NE Silbiger Committee is proud to announce that the 2018-2019 Silbiger Grant has been awarded to Emmanuel Church of Boston, for an April. 14, 2019 Palm Sunday 11:00am service. The Emmanuel Church's professional choir is directed by Ryan Turner, and the viol player/organizer for the service is Laura Jeppesen. The music will be Buxtehude's *Vulnerasti cor meum* and *Ad cor*. The consort will be Laura Jeppesen, Emily Walhout, Andrew Arceci, Shirley Hunt and Jane Hershey.

Emmanuel Music has a long and rich tradition of programming music with viols. In the most recent Good Friday service, parishioners and visitors were treated to a moving performance of Schütz's *Seven Last Words* In Emmanuel's Lindsay Chapel, a work for viol quintet, organ and theorbo continuo and vocal soloists.

For more information about Emmanuel's upcoming musical events, in weekly services and in special concerts and other events, visit emmanuelmusic.org.

The VdGS-NE has generously offered the Silbiger Grant for the past twenty-two years to encourage the exploration of repertoire for viols and voices in churches, synagogues and concert

halls around New England. The Grant is supported solely by the generosity of VdGS-NE members in memory of Gian Lyman Silbiger, Boston's influential and much admired viol player and teacher. To find out more about the Grant, or to contribute, please visit our website at www.vdgsne.org and click on Grants, or write to silbiger@vdgsne.org.

Jane Hershey
Silbiger Grant Committee

Powers Offers Viol Classes, Lessons, and More

Powers Music School at 380 Concord Ave. in Belmont is a valuable resource for viol players, with a variety of classes offered next year. Most classes have one opening, and all are taught by Jane Hershey.

Tues. 10:15-11:15am--16th century music for viols (Advanced, meets 8x per semester, starts in Nov.)

Tues. 11:30-1:00am--Consort music - fantasias, madrigals and dance music for 5 and 6 viols (meets 12x per semester, starting 9/18)

Tues. 1:30-3:00--Consort music - (meets 8x per sem. weekly starting 9/18, then resuming in the spring)

Weds. 11:30-1--Ensemble skills for new viol players - (meets monthly starting 9/26)

Private lessons are offered by arrangement. 30, 45 and 60 min.

For full information, to go www.powersmusic.org, click on Instruction, then Adult Program, then Viol Consorts, or call the School at 617-484-5750 and ask for the Registrar.

The Powers Viol Collection is a valuable resource for rental viols of all sizes, available to anyone in the area for \$450/year, \$200/semester,

and \$100 for one-time introductory 3-month rental.

To rent a viol, contact Tristan at tbouchard@powersmusic.org, or call the School at 617-484-4696.

For more information about which consort class might be right for you, or about openings for lessons, please contact Jane Hershey at janelhershey@gmail.com

Concert Announcements

October 6 at 7 pm. Town Meeting House, Springfield NH. An evening with Ensemble Soleil: Crosscurrents between Spain and Italy at the Dawn of the Renaissance. **Peter Tourin** and **Jean Twombly**, viols and co-directors, with Ensemble Soleil members **Hannah Davidson**, viols, and **Margaret Angelini**, keyboard, joined by guests **Douglas Freundlich**, vihuela, and **Thomas Jocks**, viols. Music of Ortiz, Cabezon, Valderrabano, Cima, Castello, Vecchi, and others. Benefit to improve handicapped access to Springfield Town Hall: tickets \$15.00 available at www.eventbrite.com.

Oct. 21 at 3 pm, Distler Hall, Granoff Music Center, Tufts University. "Per due Viole di Gamba:" music for two viols by Schenk, Lawes and Marais, with solos for harpsichord by Buxtehude and Jacquet de la Guerre. **Jane Hershey** and **Doug Kelley**, violas da gamba, **Frances Conover Fitch**, harpsichord and organ. Tufts Community Concert Series: Granoff Music Center, 20 Talbot Ave. Medford. Admission free, parking adjacent to Granoff. For more info. visit <https://as.tufts.edu/music/> or call 617-627-3679.

“Pièces en Trio”

French Baroque music for two flutes, pardessus and bass viola da gamba, theorbo & baroque guitar, performed by **Na’ama Lion & Peter H. Bloom**, flutes; **Carol Lewis**, pardessus & bass viola da gamba; **Olav Chris Henriksen**,

baroque guitar & theorbo; with works by Dollé, Senaillé, Boismortier, Jacquet de la Guerre, Forqueray & Couperin.

Two performances:

Friday, October 12, 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, October 14, 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

“Fabula de Orfeo”

An entertainment in early renaissance Italian poetry and song, with poetry by Poliziano and music by Cara, Pesenti and others, performed by **Burcu Gulec**, mezzo-soprano; **Michael Collver**, countertenor & cornetto; **George Lennis**, percussion; **Steven Lundahl**, sackbut & recorder; **Carol Lewis & James Williamson**, viols; **Olav Chris Henriksen**, lute.

Two performances:

Saturday, December 8, 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, December 9, 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