



NEWSLETTER

Viola da Gamba Society--New England

Spring 2020

President's Letter

Greetings, Dear Gamba Community,

How much we are looking forward to Parthenia's visit to Boston to inspire us at their workshop on Saturday, May 2! Many of us will remember the last time they were here, eight years ago. But for some it will be a first, not to be missed opportunity to encounter this dynamic consort from New York. It will be a joy to work on music from Venice, "La Serenissima," with expert coaches Rosamund Morley, Lawrence Lipnik, Beverly Au, and Lisa Terry, who is also the president of the VdGSA. More on this upcoming workshop in Concord can be found in the workshop flyer and on line at our website vdgsne.org. Please make sure you register before the deadline, April 4, as we are expecting a very large turnout.

Looking back at the January workshop, we thank director James Williamson warmly for traveling south from Montreal to bring us a splendidly organized workshop, a lucid and interesting lecture on English composers abroad, with wonderful examples played by coaches Karen Burciaga, Sarah Mead, David Miller and Hannah Davidson. We were so pleased to welcome David Miller, who has recently relocated to Boston, as a new coach. David, who recently defended his dissertation in Musicology at Cornell University, is a performer on baroque and modern double bass, viola da gamba and violone. A warm thank you to Hannah Davidson, who again coordinated our Beginners and Ensemble Skills classes, and to Laurie

Rabut for traveling from Amherst to teach these classes, which participants gave rave reviews. We also thank Glen Legere for coordinating the logistics, and all the other busy board members who worked on and behind the scenes to make this successful workshop happen.

In news from the board, I am very excited to report to you something which is especially dear to my heart: the VdGS-NE is going green! How we are going to do this is described in the little article elsewhere in this newsletter. Spoiler alert: among other things, it will involve bringing your own plate, cup, utensils and napkin to workshops... We are counting on your goodwill in giving up wasteful conveniences in order to tread lightly on our precious earth and reduce our carbon footprint.

We are also very happy to have renewed our tax-exempt status with the IRS, and especially thank former president and now vice president Rosalind Brooks Stowe for her tireless efforts to get this done. Many thanks also to financial committee members Glen Legere and treasurer Sybil Kevy for their work in this.

Lastly, I would like to encourage you to view our website vdgsne.org to see all that our society does. You can find out about the Martha Davidson scholarship fund and the Silbiger grant, browse and list classifieds, read about upcoming and past workshops, find a list of resources and more.

Give your viol a few (bow)strokes for me,
Happy Spring to all! Anne Legêne

The VdGS-NE is reducing its carbon footprint

In this time when our oceans are getting clogged with plastic and we are facing a climate emergency, we would like to do what we can to reduce our carbon footprint.

The board looked at different ways this could be done, and with input from members decided that reducing the amount of trash our workshops generate should be possible and fairly painless with a little help from the participants

While we all love and want to keep the shared lunch, we do not need to use single use paper and plastic to serve it. Beginning with the upcoming fall workshop, participants and local teachers will be asked to bring their own reusable plate, cup, napkin and silverware. We will invest in a small supply of secondhand washable plastic plates and cups for those who forget. People who use these are asked to wash them after use, so as not to overburden our keeper of the supplies. We will phase out our supplies of single use paper and plastics while participants get used to the new habits.

When shopping for foods to bring to the workshop, participants are asked to try to avoid foods and drinks heavily packaged in plastic trays, boxes and bottles.

We will make a greater effort to separate our trash, including using a compost bucket for food scraps.

We will put out a donation box to help offset the carbon generated by our combined travels to the workshop, and whatever trash is still generated. Money donated will go directly to a trusted organization to plant trees.

We will also keep an eye on the amount of paper used, to see if it can be reduced. The board has already undertaken steps toward reducing paper use in board meetings.

While our personal actions may seem insignificant in the face of overwhelming industrial pollution, as the Dutch say: “All little bits help.” We want to face the reality and contribute what we can toward societal change in consciousness and lifestyle.

World Fellowship Announces New Program

Announcing Early Music Week 2020 at the World Fellowship Center, now under new leadership! The new program will include the same wonderful opportunities for playing chamber music in the White Mountains of NH, but is expanding to include pre-professionals and talented teens, in addition to adult amateurs. Viol classes and workshops will be taught by Benjamin Swartz, a versatile multi-instrumentalist (cello, Baroque cello, viola da gamba) who specializes in both historically informed and contemporary performance practice. Ben is currently on the cello and chamber music faculties at Bridgewater State University, Endicott College, and South Shore Conservatory. For more information, please visit: www.earlymusicweek.org

Concert Announcements

Silbiger Grant Concerts

The Viola da Gamba Society-New England is happy to announce that the 2020 Silbiger Grant concerts will take place March 13 and 14 in Boston and Providence. The Schola Cantorum of Boston under the direction of Frederick Jodry will be joined by a group of Renaissance viols led by Sarah Mead.

The viol consort made up of Sarah Mead, Hannah Davidson, James Perretta, and Emily Walhout will support the twelve professional singers of the Schola Cantorum in verse anthems by Orlando Gibbons and motets by

Robert White. The viols alone will play consort music by Ferrabosco I, Gibbons, and Byrd on a matched set of Renaissance instruments by Ray Nurse, based on models from the period.

The concerts take place at the following times and places:

Friday March 13th at 8 pm
First Lutheran Church
299 Berkeley St, Boston MA [MBTA to Arlington or Charles]

Saturday March 14th at 8 pm
St. Martin's Church,
50 Orchard Ave, Providence RI [Wayland Square]

For more information, go to ScholaCantorumBoston.com

Seven Times Salt

The Adventures of Esplandián

Seven Times Salt follows the exploits of knight-errant Esplandián with a new program of 16th-century Spanish music. Our story is loosely based on *Las Sergas de Esplandián*, published in 1510, a century before Cervantes' *Don Quixote*. Considered an important predecessor to the later, more famous novel, it's even listed in the fictional Don Quixote's library! The intrepid Esplandián rides off in search of chivalric adventure. Arriving in Turkey, he defends Constantinople and meets the pagan warrior Calafia, Queen of California, along with her army of Amazons and gryphons. We'll tell his tale through the music of Flecha, Ortiz, Cabezón, Encina, Morales, and Mudarra, and villancicos from the Cancionero del Palacio.

Camila Parias, soprano, Michael Barrett, tenor, recorder, lute, Karen Burciaga, violin, guitar, voice, Dan Meyers, recorder, flute, percussion, voice, Catherine Stein, dulcian, shawm, recorder, voice, David H. Miller, bass viol, voice, Matthew Wright, lute, vihuela, voice.

Saturday, May 16 at 8:00pm - St. Anne's Episcopal Church, 147 Concord Rd. Lincoln, MA

Monday, May 18 at 7:30pm - Church of the Good Shepherd, 9 Russell Ave. Watertown, MA
\$20 suggested donation
www.seventimesalt.com

Long and Away

Long & Away, a Consort of Viols, will be featured in the 4 Nations Concert Series at the New England Historic Genealogical Society, celebrating the 400th year of the landing of the Mayflower. **The Beggars' Songbook: Revolt in the Spanish Netherlands**, a Historical and Musical Illustration of the Pilgrims' 10-Year sojourn in the Netherlands, will take elements of L&A's previous program combined with Pilgrim specific information and musical materials to paint a vivid picture of the Pilgrims' life in the city of Leiden before they embarked on the Mayflower for New England. May 14, 6:00 – 7:30 pm. American Ancestors Research Center, 99-101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA; Cost: \$20

<https://mayflower.americanancestors.org/2020-four-nation-concert-series>

Music for Viols and Friends

“Grand Ballet de Cour”

French renaissance music from the court of Louis XIII, including dances, variations, court airs & fantasies by Moulinié, Boesset, Mesangeau, Guédrón & du Caurroy, performed by **El Dorado Ensemble: Carol Lewis, Karen Burciaga, Hannah Davidson, Mai-Lan Broekman & Alice Mroszczyk**, viols; **Olav Chris Henriksen**, lutes, with **Carrie Cheron**, mezzo-soprano.

Two performances:

Friday, March 6, 2020 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 8, 2020 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

“A Masque of Characters: an Early 17th-century English Entertainment”

Mezzo-soprano **Pamela Dellal** joins **Duo Maresienne** (**Carol Lewis**, viola da gamba ; **Olav Chris Henriksen**, lute) for a concert of songs and instrumental fantasias by Dowland, Coperario, Lanier, Hume, Bartlet, and Robert Johnson.

Two performances:

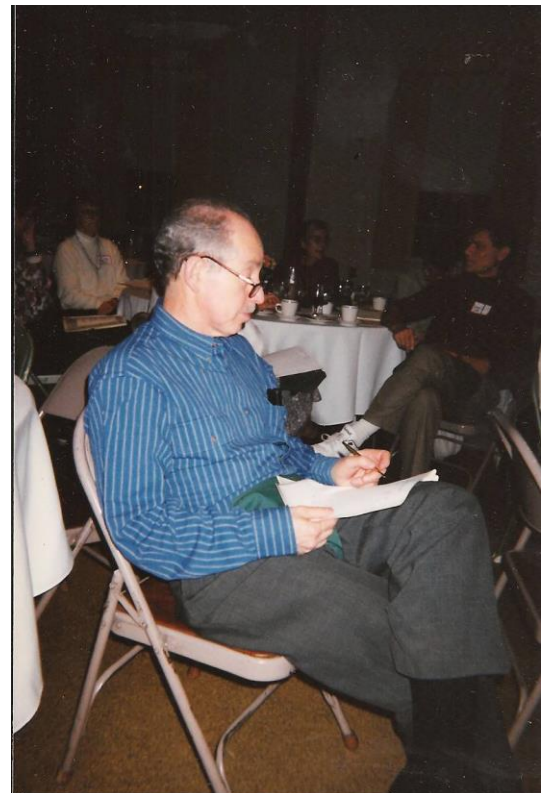
Friday, May 15, 2020 at 8:00 pm in Lindsay Chapel, First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, 11 Garden St. (entrance on Mason St.), Cambridge, MA. For information, call (617)776-0692 or go to www.duomaresienne.com

Sunday, May 17, 2020 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

VdGS-NE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Anne Legêne, President
- Rosalind Brooks Stowe, Vice President
- Sybil Lea Kevy, Treasurer
- Martha Davidson, Corresponding Secretary
- Hannah Davidson, Newsletter Editor and Recording Secretary
- Sarah Mead, Brandeis Liaison
- James Williamson, Webmaster
- Mai-Lan Broekman
- Karen Burciaga
- Alexandra Hawley
- Jane Hershey
- Glen Legere
- June Matthews
- Annette Somers

From the Archives



Chester Pearlman