



President's Letter

Hello, everyone, and happy September! It seems that summer has flown by, and I hope you've all gotten to enjoy time outdoors as well as to play music with friends. It's been so heartening to see the gradual return to live music making over the past few months, and though we still have to be cautious for the time being, I'm happy to share news of upcoming concerts that you might enjoy. Remember to check out the New England Early Music Calendar, too, at www.neemcalendar.org and on Facebook, which lists both live and virtual events.

Many of us assumed we'd be back to "normal" by now, so it may feel frustrating not to have in-person workshops in the calendar. However, to keep us all learning and interested, the VdGS-NE is planning a variety of online Special Topics classes for the fall as we speak, so keep an eye out, and please join us! We sincerely hope to return to live workshops as soon as we can do so safely. In the meantime, we can enjoy exploring subjects from Playford dances to Lupo trios, learning divisions to loving figured bass, dive into French Baroque music, and more. Details coming soon.

And don't forget about our weekly Saturday Practice Sessions on Zoom! (Schedule below) This informal, drop-in session is open to all, for as little or long as you like, and is an excellent time to practice, change your strings, or simply say hello to friends old and new during the social half-

hour following. You can even invite a viol-playing friend from afar--this is open to everyone including non-VdGSNE members.

Happy playing, and I hope to see you in person or online very soon.

--Karen

Practice Saturdays:

Sept 11 3-5 PM
 Sept 18 10AM-12PM
 Sept 25 3-5 PM
 Oct 2 10AM-12PM
 Oct 9 3-5 PM
 Oct 16 10AM-12PM
 Oct 23 3-5 PM
 Oct 30 10AM-12PM
 Nov 6 3-5 PM
 Nov 13 10AM-12PM
 Nov 20 3-5 PM
 (Nov 27 no session)

Upcoming Special Topics:

Sun. Oct 17, 3-4:30pm. Tina Chancey: "Playford Tunes as Tech Hacks"

Sat. Nov. 13 Fall Workshop, times TBA. James Perretta: "Intro to Realizing Figured Bass on the Viol"

Arnie Tanimoto: "Twilight Music: Abel's Pembroke Sonatas"

Sun. Dec. 12, 3-4:30pm.

Carol Lewis: "French Music for Everyone"

Watch for updates on our Special Topics!

Silbiger Grant Performance Reviews

The 2020-21 Gian Lyman Silbiger Grant concert performance took place at 7:00 pm on June 20, 2021 at Church of St. Andrew in Marblehead, MA. El Dorado viol consort (Carol Lewis, Karen Burciaga, Hannah Davidson, Mai-Lan Broekman and Alice Mroszczyk, viols) performed together with Jubilate, chamber choir in residence at Church of St. Andrew, under the direction of Mary Jodice. For all of us, it was a very moving experience, as this was the first concert that several of us had performed in front of a live audience since the beginning of the pandemic, more than a year ago. There were a good number of people in the church audience, and the performance was also live streamed on Facebook Live. We performed Gibbons' "Cries of London Part I", as well as pieces by Morley, Peerson, Byrd and Henry VIII with the choir, and we also played fantasias by Ravenscroft, Coperario, Ward and Woodcock, and a pavan by Tomkins. The choir sang Purcell and Marenzio, and even two pieces by a contemporary composer, Ronald Arnatt. The music sounded lovely in the church, and the audience was very appreciative. It was a privilege to have been part of this event, and we are all grateful to the Silbiger committee and the VdGS-NE for sponsoring our performance.

--Carol Lewis

Cries of London concert with the El Dorado Viol Consort

A few years ago I applied for the Silbiger Grant. I met Carol Lewis, and we talked about music. She showed me several "Cries of London" folios by different composers. The Orlando Gibbons composition grabbed my imagination.

The first year I applied I was not accepted. The second year as well, but I tried again and was successful....then the pandemic hit.

At the time I didn't have a vocal group to work with, but I had blind faith that I would eventually. Last September I started "Jubilate Chamber Choir," a group of eight voices, mostly friends from the area. We were all needing something to do, to take our minds off the fact that the arts and music opportunities had completely dried up in a very short time!

We rehearsed every Monday night from September through June. Each month we performed to the TV cameras and to the Facebook Streaming on the church web site. No one was in the church, we were all masked and sometimes we had to be 10 or more feet apart to sing! Needless to say it was all very challenging. We sang Evensong, Messiah, A Good Friday concert, A Bach Cantata Concert and finally the Cries of London Concert.

It was only the last concert where we really had a live audience and then only we could finally perform without masks. It was a challenge getting this concert together, because we had just performed at the end of May, a big Bach Concert. Jubilate came together, we had extra rehearsals and peaked at the right time. We only had two rehearsals with the El Dorado Consort. The first one was kind of rough! Neither group was used to being with each other musically. The viols were not used to a conductor, and the conductor was not used to handling so many people at once! However, we all worked hard and our second rehearsal was much more smooth, and the sound was amazing!

It was a privilege to work with Jubilate over the past year, and to have the El Dorado Consort through the Silbiger Grant was really the icing on the cake. I think both groups enjoyed each other, and the concert was fun for all!

--Mary Jodice

Applying for the Silbiger Grant, 2021-2022

Due to the pandemic, the upcoming Silbiger Grant is being offered with a deadline of Sept. 30, 2021.

Notice of acceptance will be received by Oct. 20, 2021, and the performance or video recording must occur by August 31, 2022.

For more information about the Grant, or to apply, please go to vdgsne.org and click on "Grants." Or email Silbiger@vdgsne.org.

--Jane Hershey, Chair, Silbiger Grant Committee

See below for information on the postponed 2020 Sibiger concert with Sarah Mead and Fred Jodry, this coming November.

Five College Early Music – New director named

The Five College Early Music committee has announced that Michael Barrett will be interim director for two years, replacing Robert Eisenstein after his planned retirement from directing the Five College Early Music Program since 1985. This is good news, signifying continued use of the viols belonging to the colleges, as well as continued prospects for workshops in Western Mass. Anyone can help the program to continue post-Covid by suggesting to a student you might know at the Five Colleges to sign up for classes or ensembles at this link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeXA3MhSEK1HgGE9GwjGbi5QtOx7sThRkEnboKj4DGMA6ugiQ/viewform>

--Alice Robbins

Concert Announcements

Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 12:15 pm

King's Chapel

58 Tremont St., Boston, MA.

For information, email music.director@kings-chapel.org

The Glorious Ones: Musical treasures of the high baroque from France and Germany.

Ensemble Chaconne (Peter Bloom, traverso; Carol Lewis, viola da gamba; Olav Chris Henriksen, baroque lute) perform a Concert Royal by Couperin, a Prelude and Gigue by Weiss, flute sonatas by Handel and Bach, and a solo viol fantasy by Telemann.

from Sunday, September 26, 3 pm

Streamed Concert: "InVIOLata" (as part of the Capitol Early Music series)

Nota Bene Viol Consort w/ lutenist Mark Rimple

Music of Josquin and his contemporaries, featuring a matched set of Renaissance viols

Streaming \$20 (live tickets also available for people in Washington, DC)

<https://capitolearlymusic.org/nota-bena-september-26-2021/>

Wednesday, September 27, 2 pm

Zoom Workshop: "Repeat after Me" (as part of the Linarol Consort's "Josquin500" Festival) with Sarah Mead

Tickets 6 pounds via Paypal

<http://josquin500.com/repeat-after-me>

from Friday, October 1, 3 pm

Streamed Concert: "Like a Virgin" (as part of the Linarol Consort's "Josquin500" Festival)

Nota Bene Viol Consort w/ guest Julie Jeffrey (recorded at Avaloch Music Farm Music Institute)

Music of Josquin from a feminine angle featuring a matched set of Renaissance viols

Tickets 9 pounds via Paypal

<http://josquin500.com/concert-4-nota-bene-viol-consort>

Friday, October 1

8pm - St. Anne's in the Fields, 147 Concord Rd. Lincoln, MA 01773 \$28

<https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/5200811>

Concerto Italiano

Amanda Forsythe, soprano; Cristiano Contadin, viola da gamba; Susanna Ogata, violin; Christina Day Martinson, violin; Michael Sponseller, harpsichord
Soprano Amanda Forsythe and Venetian viola da gamba player Cristiano Contadin will join with Purcell Society musicians in a showcase of Buxtehude's virtuosic sacred arias for soprano, to be performed by Ms. Forsythe, alongside trios by Bach and Telemann written for viola da gamba and two violins. Buxtehude's expressive and fervent airs could well benefit from an "unbuttoned" treatment of melody such as we often hear in Henry Purcell's songs. Ms. Forsythe will treat the audience to an expressive performance of the cantatas, with instrumental selections that highlight Italian influences on composers such as Bach, Telemann and Purcell. Purcell's stated aim with the trio sonatas was to introduce Italian elements into his compositions.

Sunday, October 24 at 3pm

A Health to the Company

Seven Times Salt: Elise Groves, soprano; Matthew Leese, baritone; Karen Burciaga, violin, guitar, alto; Dan Meyers, recorders, flutes, bagpipes, percussion, baritone; David H. Miller, bass viol, baritone; Matthew Wright, lute, cittern, tenor
17th-century London roars to life in this convivial program of jovial drinking songs, love ballads both naughty and nice, and rustic catches for carousing with friends. We share tales of pickpockets and punks, wise maids and goodfellows, the wonders of tobacco, the pitfalls of gambling, and the delights of good ale. Between toasts, we contemplate the meaning of life and reflect on unrequited love. Rounding out the evening's merriment are works by Wilbye, Ravenscroft, and Sumarte, along with our original settings of lively country dances. Raise your glass and voice and sing along!

Outdoor concert at private residence in Medford, MA (directions sent in mid-October)
\$20 suggested donation. RSVP to reserve your spot. BYOB, snacks, and lawn chair!
www.seventimesalt.com

Friday, November 12 at 8 pm

First Lutheran Church
299 Berkeley St, Boston MA [MBTA to Arlington or Charles]

Sunday, November 14th at 4 pm

St. Joseph Church in Providence
92 Hope St, Providence, RI 02906
For more information, go

to ScholaCantorumBoston.com

Silbiger Grant Performance, 2020

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 (Sarah Mead, Hannah Davidson, James Peretta, Emily Walhout) will support Schola Cantorum's twelve professional singers in verse anthems by Orlando Gibbons and motets by Robert White. The viols will play consort music by Ferrabosco, Gibbons, and Byrd on a matched set of Renaissance instruments created by Ray Nurse, based on Brescian models.

Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 12:15 pm

at King's Chapel, 58 Tremont St., Boston, MA.
For information, email music.director@kings-chapel.org

Closer to Home: European music in 18th-century America, with works by Simpson, J.C. Bach, Vidal, La Barre, and others, performed by **Duo Maresienne** (Carol Lewis, pardessus & bass viol; Olav Chris Henriksen, baroque guitar & English guitar).

Tuesday, Nov. 16, 8pm

Distler Hall, Granoff Music Center
27 Talbot Ave. Medford

Alegría! Music from 16th and early 17th century Spain, and its colony, Naples. For mixed ensemble of voices, viols, violin, lute, harpsichord, recorders, celebrating Tufts' new Renaissance harps.

With Job Salazar-Fonseca, Baroque violin and gamba; Jane Hershey, Director

