



### President's Letter

Dear friends of the viol,  
Now is the month of Maying, gardening, and, hopefully, making music! It's been wonderful seeing many of you on the screen at our monthly special topic classes and Saturday practices. This summer, many workshops and festivals are once again offering in-person or hybrid events. Concert presenters are also hard at work, so there's a feast of music for us all to look forward to. As of now, VdGS-NE plans to offer an in-person Fall Workshop (details TBA) as well as continue our online classes intermittently. We'll take a summer break from our practice Saturdays,

As I complete one year in my role as President, I want to thank everyone who's provided me with help and advice. I am especially indebted to our corresponding secretary Hannah Davidson, who does an extraordinary amount of work for the organization, and our treasurer Glen Legere, who is always the voice of reason and keeps all of us on the right track. (There are many others, but I hope Hannah and Glen won't mind me dragging them into the spotlight for a moment.)

Next month, I'll be happily taking part in the 2021 Silbiger grant performances on June 10 and 11 in Shirley and Boston, MA (see

Concerts below) in a program celebrating Spring with delightful works for viols and voices by Lassus, Marenzio, Senfl and others. This program was yet another one postponed from 2020, and it's very satisfying to see it come to fruition. I hope you'll enjoy the many gamba-related events happening in the coming months, and tell us about yours, too! In the meantime, the Board will be working on plans for VdGS-NE's 2022-23 activities, and we welcome your input. Please get in touch with any suggestions or questions you may have.

Happy Summer and happy playing,  
Karen Burciaga

### DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Our recently-formed Diversity Committee has done tremendous work looking at the chapter's stance on equitable access, inclusivity and diversity in VdGS-NE's programming as well as membership. Our chapter plans to reach out to young people of different socio-economic backgrounds who might not otherwise have opportunities to learn about the viol. This summer, we will host an online session open to all members to discuss the committee's findings and to look at ways we (all) can shape the future of our chapter. Details coming soon!

## New Player's Perspective

Having been playing the Viola da Gamba with Tufts Early Music Ensemble under Prof. Jane Hershey's direction for about a year, I can say that one of my happiest moments in college so far was playing viol with the group every Tuesday evening. In retrospect I realize it does seem daunting to start learning a new instrument in college as a non-Music major, not to mention performing with it every season, but my experience with the viol have only been pleasant and therapeutic. My family is composed of semi-professional musicians – my grandmother used to teach music in high school and my cousin studies the piano in Russia. Growing up I was somewhat immersed in both classical and Chinese traditional musical training. I began to receive private piano lessons in kindergarten (it was a kindergarten owned by a Chinese pianist) and learned a bit of Erhu and Guzheng, both instruments my grandma still keeps in her house. Even though I had not learned about Early Music until high school, I found all my music training to have drawn me to it. By the age of 13 I had completed everything I needed to learn for an amateur pianist, and yet I don't think I was ever interested in the music I was playing. I was lucky enough to meet my then music teacher in middle school who told me I could study the violin with him for free if I were to give a performance to the entire school every semester. At that point I realized I preferred playing with people to being a solo pianist, and enjoyed playing Irish jigs on the recorder and violin than to learning Chopin. This led to me joining my high school string orchestra as a violinist, even though I was seated at the very end, and eventually to finding out about Sophie Watillon's version of Les Folies d'Espagne through my orchestra director. I told Prof. Hershey that I wrote my Tufts essay about Early Music; in

fact it was the essay I submitted to every school because I really found the music to be inspiring. I wrote how, while playing Vivaldi's version of La Folia, the members of the Apollo's Fire group interacted with each other through gestures and eye contacts, which is something I find to lack in presence while playing solo or with a large orchestra. I wrote mainly about how I was fascinated by the number of possible variations and interpretations there can be for just one single piece of melody in early music, from Corelli's Folia to Vivaldi, and to Jordi Savall's. While playing with Tufts Early Music Ensemble, I like the way we constantly experiment with different arrangements in instrumentation, and I get to try out both bass and tenor viol. It allows for more freedom and personalization, which I like. It makes sense now that when I was younger I always liked listening to the soundtrack for the game Medieval Sims and enjoyed watching *Tous les matins du monde*. I can see myself playing the viol throughout college.

Chelsie Wei

*[Thanks, Chelsie, for your descriptions and opinions!]*

## Concerts and Classes

### *Viol Events Spring/Summer 2022*

#### **May 13 at 8pm**

**SevenTimes Salt** St. Anne's in the Fields, 147 Concord Rd. Lincoln, MA

**SevenTimes Salt May 14 at 8pm** Church of the Good Shepherd, 9 Russell Ave. Watertown, MA

**Seven Times Salt** "The Adventures of Esplandián" \$20 suggested donation. Virtual

premiere in late May.

<http://seventimessalt.com>

**May 14 at 3pm**

**VdGS-NE Special Topic “L’Amorosa Ero” class with Lisa Terry; online (link sent to registrants) \$20 members/\$15 non-members** <http://vdsgne.org>

**May 15 at 1pm**

**Amherst Early Music “When in Rome” class with Sarah Mead; online (link sent to registrants) \$25**

<https://www.amherstearlymusic.org/online-classes>

**May 27-30**

**Amherst Early Music Memorial Day Workshop with Lawrence Lipnik and others; Wisdom House, Litchfield, CT. \$360 tuition**

<http://amherstearlymusic.org>

And a special treat:

The Somerville High School Viola da Gamba Ensemble performs music by Gervaise as part of the Somerville High School Spring Chamber Music Concert

**Tuesday, May 31, 2022 at 6:30 pm**

Somerville High School Auditorium

81 Highland Ave.

Somerville, MA 02143

For information, email Carol Lewis at [catlines@aol.com](mailto:catlines@aol.com)

Come to the beginning of the concert, or you’ll miss them!

**VdGS-NE Silbiger Grant Concert “So Trinken Wir Alle” by Long & Away**

**June 10 at 7:30pm Shirley Meeting House, 41 Brown St. Shirley, MA**

**June 11 at 7:30pm Moseley Hall at Church of the Advent, 30 Brimmer St. Boston, MA**

**\$20 suggested donation.**

<http://longandaway.com>

**June 23-July 23**

**Aston Magna Music Festival with Laura Jeppesen and others; Waltham and Great Barrington, MA & Hudson, NY. \$40-50.**

<http://astonmagna.org>

**Of particular note:**

**July 7-9 at 7pm**

**“Chamber Music of Bach”**

**July 21-23 at 7pm**

**“Double Apotheosis”**

**June 28-August 26**

**SoHIP (Society for Historically Informed Performance) all concerts in-person and online** <http://sohipboston.org>

**Of particular note:**

**June 28-30 at 8pm In Dirges Sad**

**Delight by Memento Mori**

**July 5-7 at 8pm Restless Hexachords by Arcadia Viols**

**July 12-14 at 8pm Music of Resilience and Rebirth in the Judeo-Baroque with MIRYAM**

**July 6-10**

**Early Music Week at World Fellowship with Benjamin Swartz and others; Conway, NH**

<https://www.victoriasuchodolski.com/world-fellowship-center-early-music>

**August 1**  
**Arcadia Viols in Plainfield, MA**  
<http://plainfieldconcertsat7.com>

**Arcadia Viols**, with guest lutenist, Hideki Yamaya, will perform the following program for SoHIP at 8 pm on July 5, 6, and 7, [2022 Season — Society for Historically Informed Performance](#), as well as for Concerts at 7 in Plainfield, MA on August 1, [Concerts at 7 homepage](#) or [Current Season](#)

### **RESTLESS HEXACHORDS**

Arcadia Viols presents a thought-provoking tour of English, German and contemporary American music for viol consort and lute. The program opens with selections from John Dowland's *Lachrimae, or Seaven Teares*, followed by the solo lute version of the first piece of the collection, the famous *Flow my teares*. The ensemble offers a wonderful fantasy on the *Lachrimae* composed for Arcadia Viols by Will Ayton. English pieces based on the hexachord lead to the world premiere of Larry Wallach's *Restless Hexachords* for five viols. German music concludes the tour with a suite of dances, Froberger's fantasia on the hexachord, and the appealing *Canzona Bergamasca* by Samuel Scheidt. [Learn More](#)**Arcadia Viols**

Robert Eisenstein, *bass viol*; Jane Hershey, *tenor & treble viols*; Douglas Kelley, *bass viol*; Anne Legêne, *tenor viol*; Alice Robbins, *alto & treble viols*; Hideki Yamaya, *lute & theorbo*

**August 7-21**  
**Amherst Early Music Festival and Concert Series**

**Northampton Community College,**  
**Bethlehem, PA**  
<http://amherstearlymusic.org>

**Of particular note:**  
**August 11 at 7:30pm Amherst Baroque Soloists**  
**August 13 at 7:30pm "Portrait of a Lady"**

Concert announcements for Spring-Summer 2022:

"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 Musette by Weiss, flute sonatas by Handel and Bach, and a solo viol fantasy by Telemann.

Two performances:

**Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 7:00 pm**  
Somerville Library, East Branch  
115 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02145  
Limited seating. Click here for reservations:  
<https://somervillepubliclibrary.assabetinteractive.com/calendar/somerville-salon-the-glorious-ones-treasures-by-the-late-baroque-masters-with-ensemble-chaconne/>

**Sunday, May 22, 2022 at 3:00 pm**  
Presented by the Greater Middletown Concert Association  
Beman Middle School Auditorium  
One Wilderman Way, Middletown, CT 06457  
Reservations and information: (860)347-7555 or (860) 346-3369

Also:

"The Splendid Century: Gems from the French Court"  
**Ensemble Chaconne** (Peter Bloom, traverso; Carol Lewis, viola da gamba; Olav

Chris Henriksen, theorbo and baroque guitar) perform music by François Couperin, Marin Marais, Jean-Marie Leclair, Elisabeth-Claude Jacquet de la Guerre and others.

**Thursday, June 9, 2022, at 7:00 pm**

Auditorium, Somerville Public Library:  
Central

79 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143  
Limited seating; Click here for reservations:  
<https://somervillepubliclibrary.assabetinteractive.com/calendar/somerville-salon-the-splendid-century-gems-from-the-french-court-1650-1750-with-ensemble-chaconne/>

Also:

“Measure for Measure: the Music of Shakespeare’s Plays”

**Ensemble Chaconne** (Peter Bloom, renaissance flutes; Carol Lewis, viola da gamba; Olav Chris Henriksen, lute; Burcu Gulec, mezzo-soprano) perform songs and instrumental music from Shakespeare’s own time, including music by Dowland, Morley, Johnson and Corkine.

**Tuesday, June 14, 2022 at 7:00 pm**

Medford Public Library  
111 High Street

Medford, MA 02155

For information, call (781) 395-7950 or  
email [mdunn@minlib.net](mailto:mdunn@minlib.net)