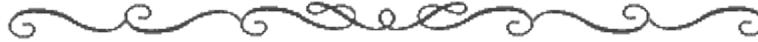




Newsletter

Viola da Gamba Society - New England

Spring 2024



President's Letter

Dear New England viol players,

We sprang into spring and into the future mode on March 23 with a full day workshop led wonderfully by Parthenia Consort! Despite a rainy (and in some spots iced over) day, we met at St. Anne's Episcopal in Lincoln, Mass. The day began with a lecture demo by Parthenia, which your president had the good fortune to take part in, and well organized consorts continued playing until late afternoon. The venue was ideal, and I hope we will be able to return there. I think it's fair to say that many of us left with a feeling of elation. Our organizer extraordinaire, Karen Burciaga, was unfortunately not able to join us (for a good reason: she was performing with Folger Consort in D.C.) but with her assistance from afar we fared well. Annette Somers did a wonderful job of setting out snacks and drinks. John Thier handled registration adeptly, and a number of volunteers helped with setup and cleanup.

There are some changes afoot in our organization. Three board terms are up for renewal or new candidates. An election will be held online before our annual meeting on May 23. We have named John Thier as our treasurer, but as he is willing to take this position for one year, we hope that any qualified members (not necessarily from the board) will put their names forward if they are willing to take on this very important duty.

Speaking of treasurers, our Tracy Hoover, past president of our chapter and now treasurer of the VdGSA, living in Wichita, Kansas, lost her husband Curt quite suddenly in March. Our chapter sent her a card signed by some of us at the workshop. Jane Hershey also had flowers sent from our chapter. Donations to cover that expense are gratefully accepted.

And now inspired by the success of our spring workshop, we continue to plan for more. Another theme deferred due to the pandemic is music of Will Ayton. Any and all ideas, along with people excited to help with planning, will be considered, so please keep in touch about workshop ideas.

VdGSA Conclave will take place in Forest Grove, Oregon this July. I hope to see some of you there.

–Alice Robbins, President, VdGS-NE

Seeking a Treasurer on the Board

We want YOU to be an officer! Our current Treasurer is stepping down next year and we'll need to replace him. Any current member of our VdGS-NE chapter can fill this role. *Basic requirements include:*

–Experience with spreadsheets (e.g. OpenOffice, Excel) and routine personal banking. Double-entry accounting tool experience is not required.

--Attendance at 3-4 online Board of Directors meetings and 1 online Members Meeting per year; emails/calls with the smaller executive committee as needed

Duties include:

–Use PayPal and bank account to pay/reimburse chapter receipts, outlays for membership fees, workshop admission fees/payments and miscellaneous expenses

–Prepare fiscal year-end tax and 401-C (non-profit organization) reports

–Prepare society finance reports to present at Board meetings and annual Members Meeting

If you are interested in volunteering for this valuable duty, please contact Alice Robbins at president@vdgsne.org.

Annual Meeting for All Members

Save the date! Our Annual Meeting for members will be held online on **Thursday, May 23 at 7pm**. We'll review news of the past year and discuss upcoming items, welcome returning Board members, and answer questions from you. The Zoom link will be emailed to members closer to the date.

Reports from our Spring Workshop

On Saturday, March 23, we were thrilled to resume our in-person full-day workshop series with Parthenia Viol Consort from NYC. Beverly Au, Lawrence Lipnik, Rosamund Morley, and Lisa Terry along with additional coaches Alice Robbins and Carol Lewis led consorts at all levels. Thanks to everyone who came! We look forward to announcing a Fall Workshop soon.

“I loved seeing all the gamba players I have not seen in person for such a long time. The concert by Parthenia, with guest Alice Robbins, was beautiful. The coaching was great!” –Laura M.

“It was so lovely to see everyone again! There was a really good feeling in the room, a welcoming back from a long trip away. The opening lecture-demo was an impressive program. It was wonderful to hear music again, and then to make music.” –Carol L.

“It was wonderful! I'm grateful to you and the VdGS-NE chapter for setting it up, I'm grateful to the artists of Parthenia for patiently and expertly teaching me, and I'm grateful to the fellow participants for giving me the experience of playing with others! I rarely get to play with others. Since taking up the gamba in 2018, all my playing (except at some lessons, Conclave and VdGS-NE workshops) has been alone, so these workshops are very valuable to me. Thank you!” --Will W.

Call for Silbiger Grant Applicants

The Gian Lyman Silbiger Grant is awarded annually by our chapter. It supports the performance of music for voices and viols (minimum of three viol players and one vocal soloist) and is open to all! Apply at <https://vdgsne.org/silbiger-grant/> by Wednesday, May 15.

Conclave Voucher

The 2024 VdGSA Conclave registration will be opening soon! The national VdGSA offers each chapter a \$300 fee voucher to help people come to Conclave regardless of economic situation. Our chapter can award the voucher to one member or split it between two members based on need. The recipient(s) must be a member of VdGSA as well as of VdGS-NE. To apply, please email Alice Robbins at arobbins@smith.edu by May 16 with a brief statement about yourself and how this voucher would help you attend Conclave. (2-3 sentences is fine!) Recipients will be notified by May 23.

Gamba Gatherings

You're invited to our monthly online meetings to connect and socialize with other players even if only from a distance. This is a chance to explore our musical activities, advances, or set-backs in practicing our viols, and maybe even play a tune for one another. We won't be practicing together, but we can answer each others' burning questions or just have a cup of tea/coffee/whatever and enjoy keeping in touch. Everyone is welcome—beginners through teachers! We meet for an hour the first Saturday of the month. The next one is Saturday, May 4 from 11am-12pm EST and will be hosted by Anne Stevens. Feel free to stay for as much or as little as you want. The Zoom link for our sessions is <https://tinyurl.com/j7r5mude>. If you would like to receive regular reminders about the Gathering, email vdgsnehost@gmail.com to join the email list.

The Simon's Rock Collegium

Bard College at Simon's Rock in Great Barrington, MA is an early college, accepting students into its AA program after the tenth grade. Several years ago the Bard Academy at Simon's Rock was added, which provides 9th

and 10th grade education taught by college professors, and feeds right into the Associate's Degree program. A good number of students stay at Simon's Rock for four years to earn their Bachelor's degree; others transfer into different colleges after their sophomore year.

Lucy Bardo started the Collegium and taught the class for many years, accepting singers, recorder players and beginning viol players. One of her students, who did her senior thesis in viol performance with Lucy, donated three Chinese-made viols to the college upon graduation. When Lucy retired, these came to live at my house. After several year's hiatus, I have now revived the Simon's Rock Collegium strictly as a viol class. 6 students are enrolled and have been learning to play their viols since the end of January. Several of these are seasoned string players who have taken to the viol like fish to water. One retired professor who always participated when Lucy taught the class is also back. The students range in age from 15 to 19. They are doing amazing work. The four string players and the former professor are now already playing Holborne à 5. The full class is playing four part simple music. Three of the students participated in the recent VdGS-NE workshop; you may have played with them if you were there! It is really fun to experience the excitement of the students for the viol and for playing music from such a long time ago! I am having such a good time. These students are amazing!

Many thanks go to Alice Robbins and Jane Hershey for the generous loan of a tenor and a treble viol, and to the VdGS-NE for providing one of the students with a free three month rental bass from the Powers Music school. The seeds of viol love are sown!
—Anne Legêne

Viols at Powers

With the move to 160 Lexington Street in Belmont in December of 2023, Powers Music School has been expanding quickly to fill the new teaching studios. Job Salazar Fonseca has been offering an exciting new ensemble for middle and high school students this year. A violinist and viol player and recent Longy graduate, Job is leading these talented students as a Baroque ensemble and a beginning viol consort. The Powers Viol Collection, which serves all of New England, has had almost all of its 24 rental viols in use this year, including by these young students. In addition, Jane Hershey is leading a six part viol consort, playing the music of Lupo and Ferrabosco II, a Baroque ensemble of pardessus, Baroque flute, voice, gamba and harpsichord, and teaching privately. James Perretta also has a dedicated group of private viol students.

We look forward to an end-of-semester concert on June 2 at 1pm in the newly renovated concert hall at Powers with performances by our ensembles and guest Ken Pierce, historical dance. The hall has just been redesigned as a concert hall with a generous gift by Tracy Powers, Ellen's daughter. Please consider a gift to Powers to support our program and the maintenance of our large viol collection by going to powersmusic.org.
—Jane Hershey

👉 Upcoming Events 👈

See www.neemcalendar.org for more early music events.

Classical Music in the Morning

The Musical Club of Hartford's program will feature member musicians performing chamber music works including a suite for Baroque flute and basso continuo by Hotteterre, songs by a variety of 19th-20th century composers for bass and piano, a suite for piano duo by Barber and a cello sonata by Beethoven. Audience members are invited to an informal reception in the Fellowship Hall following the program to meet the artists and enjoy a cup of coffee and conversation.

Leonor Snow, baroque flute, Laura Mazza-Dixon, viola da gamba, Anne Mayo, harpsichord, and others

Thursday, April 25 at 10am

Westminster Presbyterian Church in West Hartford

\$5 admission (free to Club members and students)

<http://musicalclubhartford.org/>

The Confluence of Musical Traditions in Medieval Spain and Beyond

Tufts Early Music Ensemble (Jane Hershey, director) & Arab Music Ensemble (Naseem Alatrash, director) with guest performer Dan Meyers

Tuesday, April 30 at 8pm

Tufts University, Granoff Music Center

20 Talbot Avenue, Medford, MA

Free and open to the public; also livestreamed.

<https://as.tufts.edu/music/news-events/events/calendar>

Leçons de Ténèbres: Music of the French Baroque

A house concert open to the public in Newton Mass, through Groupmuse, featuring Leçons de Ténèbres by Couperin and Charpentier, pieces for viol by Marais, 17th century airs de cour and more.

Il Contrapposto: Laura Thomas, Alexandra Henderson, sopranos, Judah Coffman, viola da gamba, Charles Iner, theorbo, lute

Saturday, May 4 at 1pm

Private home, 44 Bowdoin St. Newton, MA

\$5 reservation, \$25 at event. Register at <http://grpm.us/-ognmg> Questions: charlesinermusic@gmail.com

Ornamentation on the Viola da Gamba

Guinevere Conner, student of Jane Hershey, performs a graduate recital of works by Marais, Schenck, and others. The program includes pieces with harpsichord, viol consort, bass voice, gamba duet with original divisions/ornaments, and an unaccompanied Sephardic piece.

Guinevere Conner, treble and bass viol, Daniel Fridley, bass voice, Kevin Lubin, harpsichord, alto viol, Thomas Conrad, tenor viol, Julian Bernal, bass viol, Itzel Orellana Sierra, bass viol

Saturday, May 11 at 11am

Pickman Hall at Longy School of Music, 27 Garden St. Cambridge, MA

<https://longy.edu/events>

Diferencias: Renaissance Instrumentals from Italy and Spain

Did you know that there's a whole repertoire of Spanish and Italian music that can be played on viol and lute together? Chris Henriksen and Carol Lewis have had a lot of fun exploring the possibilities, and they've come up with a concert that they think you'll like. Carol says:

"We're playing lute duos by Dalza and Francesco da Milano—actually on tenor viol and vihuela (the Spanish version of the lute, tuned exactly the same way). There will also be some music by a composer who's much more familiar to us viol players: Diego Ortiz, and we'll play a selection of his ricercadas, including one for bass viol solo, one written-down improvisation over the bass "La Spagna", and two of Ortiz' popular sets of variations over repeated grounds. Chris will play some lute solos by Giacomo Gorzanis, and then we'll play one of the Fantasias of Bartolomeo de Selma y Salaverde, the Augustinian friar and bassoon virtuoso who excelled in writing music for bass instrument. There will be several pieces by Kapsberger, the Austrian-Italian nobleman who was a virtuoso on the theorbo and other instruments belonging to the lute family, and with these we'll take turns playing the melody and the chords on bass viol and theorbo—all of these pieces are captivating, both rhythmically and melodically. Finally, we'll play a very exciting set of variations by Henry Butler, an English viol virtuoso who moved to Spain, where he called himself "Enrique Botelero" and worked in the chapel of King Philip IV."

Duo Maresienne: Carol Lewis, violas da gamba; Olav Chris Henriksen, lute & theorbo

Saturday, May 11 at 8pm

First Church Congregational, Lindsey Chapel

11 Garden St. Cambridge MA

Sunday, May 12 at 3pm

Somerville Museum, One Westwood Rd. Somerville MA

\$20- \$30 general

<https://www.duomaresienne.com/music-for-violis-and-friends-2023-24>

Early Music at Eagle Hill

Intimate and dramatic works from the 17th and 18th centuries by Rameau, Schenck, Kremburg, et al.

Jane Hershey, viola da gamba, Catherine Liddell, lute, Pamela Dellal, mezzo soprano

Saturday, May 18 at 5pm - Eagle Hill Institute

59 Eagle Hill Dr. Stueben ME

\$25.00, \$20.00 for members and students

<https://www.eaglehill.us/programs/music/concerts-calendar.shtml>

Small Paths to the Greenwood

Seven Times Salt heralds Spring with a brand new program of 16th- and 17th-c. music from across Europe including works by Lassus, Encina, Manerio, Campion, Senfl and many more. Songs of true love and heartache, rough winds and sweet birdsong, small rain and small beer mark this joyous celebration of life and renewal.

Seven Times Salt: Julia Soojin Cavallaro, mezzo-soprano, Karen Burciaga, violin, tenor viol, alto, Dan Meyers, recorders, flute, percussion, baritone, Josh Schreiber, bass viol, bass, Matthew Wright, lute, bandora, tenor

Sunday, May 19 at 4pm

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 135 Lafayette St.
Marblehead, MA

Tuesday, May 21 at 7:30pm

Church of the Good Shepherd, 9 Russell Ave.
Watertown, MA

Entry by donation (\$10-25)

Powers End-of-semester Concert

Early music ensembles at the Powers Music School will perform in the newly renovated concert hall along with guest Ken Pierce, historical dance.

Sunday, June 2 at 1pm

Powers Music School, 160 Lexington Street
Belmont, MA

<https://powersmusic.org/>

House Concert by Lake Champlain

Enjoy music at a gorgeous historic home on the shores of Lake Champlain. Hear a hearty helping of Renaissance drinking songs, elegant consort lessons, joyous dance tunes, and broadside ballads; audience participation encouraged! Program details TBA.

Seven Times Salt: Karen Burciaga, violin, guitar, voice; Dan Meyers, recorder, flute, bagpipes, percussion, voice; David H. Miller, viola da gamba, voice; Matthew Wright, lute, voice

Thursday, June 6 at 5pm - Private home in Essex, NY
\$20 suggested donation

RSVP at inquiries@seventimessalt.com

Connecticut Early Music Festival

Six concerts June 1-16 in various locations. \$40/\$20/free.
Of particular note to gamba enthusiasts:

Kleine Kammermusik - June 2 at 5pm

Works of Telemann, Fasch, Handel, Couperin
Harkness Chapel, Connecticut College, New London CT

Seven Times Salt - June 9 at 5pm

"A Brave Barrel of Oysters: Music of Samuel Pepys' London" La Grua Center, Stonington, CT

Lute Song Trio of Baltimore Consort - June 15 at 5pm

Ayres, ballads, Shakespeare songs, fancies and dances
Chester Meeting House, Chester, CT

SoHIP Summer Concert Series

SoHIP presents its 37th season of early music concerts in Lincoln, Andover, and Boston from June 11-August 8.

The free virtual series is on YouTube at 7:30pm on Fridays June 28-August 23. www.sohipboston.org

Of particular note to gamba enthusiasts:

So Far From Home - June 11-13 at 7:30pm

Voices and viols unite in 16th-c. polyphony from Spain, France, Holland, Italy, England and Germany on themes

of exile and migration. Music of Dowland, Rossi, Camphuysen and Cavendish connects us across time with those who sought hope through music just as we do today. As a group of friends and colleagues who hail from around the country, Nota Bene are particularly happy to be able to spend the previous week at Avaloch Farm Institute, where they have undertaken a number of special projects since 2017.

Nota Bene Viol Consort: Joanna Blendulf, Wendy Gillespie, Sarah Mead, Emily Walhout, viols; Anney Barrett and Michael Barrett, voices

Fantasticus! - July 9-11 at 7:30pm

Virtuoso Italian musicians traversed the Alps to Germany and Austria, bringing with them the *stylus fantasticus*—an improvisatory style of early Baroque instrumental music.

Guts Baroque performs varied, fantastical works of Bertali, Frescobaldi, Schmelzer, and Biber.

Guts Baroque: Sylvia Schwartz, violin; Rebecca Shaw, viola da gamba; Andrus Madsen, harpsichord

Amherst Early Music Festival Concert Series

AEMF offers a variety of early music concerts July 4-13 at Union College in Schenectady, NY. Free and open to the public. Of particular note to gamba enthusiasts:

Festival Faculty Concerts - July 4, 6, 13 at 7:30pm

A sampler of Medieval to Baroque music

Parthenia Viol Consort - July 11 at 7:30pm

"Italia Mia: Music of Renaissance Venice"

Instruments for Sale

Did you know the VdGSNE website has a Classifieds section? Check out <https://vdgsne.org/classifieds/> and let us know if you want to post an instrument for sale.

Contributions to the Newsletter

Have an announcement? Want to review a concert, recording, music edition? Is your playing group looking for new members or planning a viol event? Consider writing a brief article for the newsletter, where we are always looking for content. Email submissions to tarboltonlass@hotmail.com.

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