



## Newsletter

### Viola da Gamba Society - New England

Summer 2025



#### President's Letter

As we launch into summer from a busy spring, it almost seems seamless. Workshops continue, concerts continue, and our BEMF presence is materializing with a change of venue for the exciting Gamba Gamut Saturday, June 14 as well as the ExtravaGamba concert the same day at 5 pm in Jordan Hall. Society members from our chapter as well as others will perform in both events, and there's community play-in scheduled after the Gamut concert. In this newsletter, you will receive details of many activities near and far. I'm going to print it and keep a copy next to my calendar. Support your friends and colleagues as much as possible: a difficult prospect as we increase in number and so do our activities!

Thank you to all who were able to attend our annual meeting on Zoom. I look forward to seeing you in person at events.

–Alice Robbins, President, VdGS-NE

#### Chapter Business

Board members Alexandra Hawley, James Perretta, and John Thier were re-elected to three-year terms on the Board of Directors. We appreciate their ongoing work to support our chapter. Welcome to our new Treasurer Brian Gray! Brian has dived into the job with gusto and great ideas. Welcome to new and returning members Margaret Hayman and Karen Hansen. If you missed the Annual Meeting in May and want to watch, it's available [here](#).

#### Gamba Gamut

On Saturday morning June 14, the VdGSA will host the Gamba Gamut at the Roxbury BPL. This is a FREE three-part community event, open to all. Please join us!

**\*\*VENUE CHANGE\*\*** *The Gamut will take place at the Roxbury branch of the BPL, not at Old South Church.*

**9:45am: Instrument Petting Zoo** open to all. Suitable for kids, families, all ages! Bring a friend.

**10:30am–12pm: Concert** by professional and pre-professional members of the Viola da Gamba Society in various solos and ensembles.

**12:15pm: Community Play-In** reading simple and traditional English consort music (all are welcome!).

Some instruments will be available to borrow.

Fellowes Hall (community room) at Roxbury Branch of the

Boston Public Library, 149 Dudley St. Boston. MA  
FREE. Questions: 718-310-8294 or  
[Erik.christian.andersen@gmail.com](mailto:Erik.christian.andersen@gmail.com); [www.vdgsa.org](http://www.vdgsa.org)

#### \* Seeking Viol-loving Volunteers at BEMF \*

The Boston Early Music Festival is nearly upon us, and we need you! The Viola da Gamba Society events could not happen without our faithful chapter members' help. There are many chances to volunteer your time that week.

##### **1. Help at the VdGSA Booth** (Wed.-Sat. June 11-14)

The booth at the Exhibition invites people to sit in shifts on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. You'll be helping Erik Andersen, the VdGSA rep who's here for the week. You'll engage the public in conversation about the viola da gamba and the Society, hand out VdGSA and VdGS-NE flyers, and invite and help people to play a bit if there is an instrument at the booth. Any hour you can give is helpful on Wed-Sat, from 10am-5pm. (Saturday is especially important since Erik will be at the Gamut.) Location: The Colonnade Hotel, 120 Huntington Ave.

Boston. After signing up, you will get another e-mail confirming your assigned time and more information about assisting at the booth.

Contact: To sign up for a shift at the VdGSA Booth, email [president@vdgsne.org](mailto:president@vdgsne.org) and indicate when you're free. We won't overbook you. Or if your time is flexible, tell us!

##### **2. Help at the Gamba Gamut** (Sat. June 14)

The Gamba Gamut has expanded! It is now comprised of three events: a Viol Petting Zoo, a concert by VdGSA members, and a Play-In open to all comers. We need 2-3 volunteers to help staff the table and take donations, who enjoy interacting with the public and feel confident answering questions. This is very flexible and can be short shifts, working with Erik to cover the time.

9:45am-10:30am Viol Petting Zoo. Supervise and assist newcomers of all ages in meeting the viola da gamba.

10:30-12pm Concert. Welcome listeners, collect donations, hand out programs, stage management.

12:15-1:30pm Community Play-In. Welcome players and help Erik with music handouts and instrument borrowing.

Location: Fellowes Hall (community room) at Roxbury BPL, 149 Dudley St. Boston, MA

Contact: To sign up to help, email [president@vdgsne.org](mailto:president@vdgsne.org).

## Young Players at BEMF

Potentiae Collegium, the Powers Music School early music ensemble directed by Job Salazar Fonseca, will perform at BEMF's Youth Concert on Sunday, June 15. These extraordinary teens all play viola da gamba as well as violin, viola, or cello with baroque style bows. For this performance, they will collaborate with the BEMF Youth Ensemble directed by Julia McKenzie at All Newton Music School, whose string students also enjoy the rare opportunity to play using baroque bows. Together, this group of dedicated music students has been hard at work and will perform a varied program spanning Renaissance, Baroque, and Celtic music. Other ensembles are BEMF Beyond Borders (Nina Stern and Cléa Galhano, directors) and A String Fort Smith (Lori Fay, director) travelling all the way from Arkansas. Please come and support these young players—you'll be very glad you went! Sunday, June 15 at 10am. Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough Street, Boston, MA. FREE admission.  
<https://bemf.org/2025-festival/schedule-of-events/>

## VdGS-NE's 50th Anniversary

The Anniversary Committee met in April to gather ideas for the chapter's 50th anniversary in the 2026-2027 season. Ideas include but are not limited to:

- offer an event each month such as workshops, large group play-ins, and concerts, possibly spanning the weekend. We are strongly interested in including all 6 New England states in our celebrations. If you'd like to co-host (with help!) a viol-centered event for your local community, please email [secretary@vdgsne.org](mailto:secretary@vdgsne.org).
- professionally film concerts in order to share online and raise interest and awareness
- a reunion event; invite those who were part of the 25th anniversary recording to meet and mingle with more recent members and share stories
- a memorial concert to honor longtime board members and chapter members we've lost in recent years.

To all of you—we want to hear your ideas! Get in touch and help us brainstorm a grand 50th season.

## Notes from the Spring Workshop

On April 26 our workshop "Dowland: A World of Music for Viol Consorts" was wonderfully led by Carol Lewis and Chris Henriksen. Most of the viol players got the experience in class of exploring this masterful music along with a lutenist, which provided so much depth and interest to our usual viol consort playing. The morning lecture-demo also gave us the somewhat rare chance to hear the orpharion, bandora and cittern, wire-strung plucked instruments popular in Dowland's time. Here are some reflections on the day:

*"The performances of the instructors was awesome as was their coaching during the day."* –David Z.

*"Most fun for me was seeing everyone interact with the vielle and rebec that I brought! What curious instrument (even more obscure than a viola da gamba) will someone bring to the next workshop?!"* –Elizabeth N.

*"One of my favorite moments at the workshop was when we'd been playing "Come Again", and one of us sang the tune and it became a consort song - lovely! I'm so glad that just about everybody got to play together with a lute. I feel very privileged in being able to play with lutes all the time. We wanted to give everyone that opportunity, and Dowland's music was a perfect way to do that. Plus, there's lots of music by Dowland that most of us viol players don't know, though most lutenists do, whether it's through lute solos or broken consort parts or lute songs, and Chris Henriksen arranged quite a bit of it so that we could hear and play it in 4-part settings."*

–Carol Lewis, co-director

*"I really enjoyed working with the viol consorts. I have been thinking of how to prepare local amateur lute students to be able to participate effectively in workshops, together with organizations like the VdGS-NE and Boston Recorder Society. I am sure it can be done."*

–Chris Henriksen, co-director

What workshop topics would YOU like to see offered next year? Email [president@vdgsne.org](mailto:president@vdgsne.org) with suggestions.

## Conclave

Our chapter is pleased to award VdGSA's Conclave voucher to member Eleanor Lincoln, who will attend Conclave July 13-20 at Miami University in Oxford, OH. Thank you to the Society for supporting participants from across the nation and around the world!

## Gamba Easter

On Easter morning, First Lutheran Church of Boston offered two services that were replete with viols! Six of us enjoyed working with organist Jonathan Wessler, vocalists, and violinists to perform music of Byrd, Schütz, and Buxtehude as well as assorted hymns. It was a very early morning and extra coffee was required, but the results were glorious. –Karen Burciaga



L-R James Perretta, Carol Lewis, Rebecca Shaw, Joy Grimes, Karen Burciaga, Guinevere Fridley

## 👉 Upcoming Events 👈

See [www.neemcalendar.org](http://www.neemcalendar.org) for more early music events.

### **From Plimoth to Yorktown**

This year marks the 250th anniversary of the “shot heard round the world.” The historic events at Lexington and Concord on the morning of April 19, 1775 sparked the beginning of the Revolutionary War and the eventual creation of the United States. Our musical tour of early America traces a lineage from the first settlers at Plimoth to their descendants on the eve of the Revolution and eventual victory at Yorktown. You’ll hear English catches, early shape note hymns, songs of liberty and taxation, wartime laments, and even some of George Washington’s favorite dance tunes! The program includes works by Ravenscroft, Arne, and Billings, selections from the Bay Psalm Book, and dance tunes from 18th-c. manuscripts. Seven Times Salt: Karen Burciaga, violin, guitar, alto; Daniel Meyers, recorders, flute, percussion, baritone; Josh Schreiber, viola da gamba, cello, bass; Matthew Wright, lute, guitar, tenor

**June 1 at 4pm** - Church of St. Andrew,  
135 Lafayette St. Marblehead, MA  
\$10 suggested donation at the door  
<https://www.seventimesalt.com/concerts>

### **Boston Early Music Festival**

#### **On the Fringe: On the Outside Looking In**

Why do composers write music that is on the fringe of contemporary practice? Perhaps it is to demonstrate their love for music through their own inimitable voice. Entwyned Early Music will present examples of slightly unorthodox music from the 1400s to today including pieces by Thomas Roseingrave, James Oswald, ancient Celtic composers, and others demonstrating idiosyncratic music that surprises and delights. We will feature Entwyned, entwined, a piece written for us by The University of Hartford’s Hartt School professor, Ken Steen. This 21st-c. composition features 18th-c. musical structure with music for live performance paired with pre-recorded parts and instrumental sounds that overlay the live parts. Our performance explores the power of unique musical expressions across time and lands.

Entwyned Early Music: Dee Hansen, traverso & lever harp; Eric Hansen, lute & archlute; Neal Humphreys, viola da gamba.

#### **June 9 at 1pm**

First Church Boston, 66 Marlborough St.  
\$20 suggested donation. 785-760-0627;  
[libraryluteplayer@gmail.com](mailto:libraryluteplayer@gmail.com);  
[www.entwynedearlymusic.org](http://www.entwynedearlymusic.org)

#### **Amor Temporalia: Music of Bertali, Schmelzer, Valentini, and others**

Returning for their fourth consecutive Festival, the always-engaging instrumentalists of ACRONYM open our week of Festival Concerts with music that testifies to

a rare taste for extravagance and novelty. The Holy Roman Empire, until its dramatic defeat by Napoleon, represented one of the greatest consolidations of power and wealth in the history of Europe. For nearly a millennium, the Empire’s purse funded some of the most lavish (and strangest!) art, architecture, and music available across Europe, expressions both of its love of—and its grip on—temporal power. This selection of works commissioned by (or dedicated to) the Empire’s nobility offers a soundscape to the machinations of Empire and a 17th-century expression of amor temporalia.

ACRONYM Chloe Fedor, Edwin Huizinga, Johanna Novom, Adriane Post, Beth Wenstrom, violin; Cynthia Black, viola; Kivie Cahn-Lipman, viola da gamba, lirone; Loren Ludwig, viola da gamba, colascione; Paul Dwyer, violoncello; Doug Balliett, violone; Elliot Figg, harpsichord, organ, Dan Swenberg, theorbo  
**June 9 at 5pm.** Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St.

#### **Murder, Mayhem, Melancholy, and Madness: Music of Dowland, William Lawes, Purcell, and others**

GRAMMY winner Stephen Stubbs brings Pacific MusicWorks to Boston for their BEMF début in a musical journey into the atmosphere and aftermath of the English Civil War. The years leading up to the start of the war in 1642 were full of riotous discord, reflected in the popular “Broadside Ballads.” At the same moment, William Lawes, the greatest English musical genius between Dowland and Purcell, was producing vocal and instrumental music of unparalleled beauty. Lawes would lose his life in battle, but his musical legacy achieved the perfect balance of emotion, words, and music.

Pacific MusicWorks: Danielle Reutter-Harrah, soprano, Tekla Cunningham, violin; David Morris, viola da gamba; Maxine Eilander, Baroque harp; Stephen Stubbs, lute, Baroque guitar

**June 10 at 10:30pm.** Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St.

#### **Love in Madrid. Songs and dances from the 17th-century Spanish court in Madrid**

Works by Juan Hidalgo and Sebastian Durón.

SaSa (Salomé Sandoval, voice & Baroque guitar; Christa Patton, Baroque harp, Matthew Wright, archlute, Josh Schreiber, viola da gamba, Karen Burciaga, violin).

**June 11 at 12:30pm.**

Library, Church of the Advent, 30 Brimmer St.

\$20. 919-943-5804; [salome\\_sandoval2003@yahoo.com](mailto:salome_sandoval2003@yahoo.com);  
[www.sasasounds.com](http://www.sasasounds.com)

**Improv Jam** The first of two opportunities to focus on Early Music Improv: our resident improvisers will demonstrate, and then encourage you to improvise over ostinato basses, favorite chansons, Corelli adagios, Medieval estampies, and more!

HESPERUS (Tina Chancey, viol, early & traditional fiddles; John Tyson and Emily O’Brien, recorders; Doug Freundlich, lute; and guests).

**June 11 at 1pm–3:30pm** Beacon Hill Friends House, 6 Chestnut St.. \$10 suggested donation. 703-407-0642; [tinachancey@cs.com](mailto:tinachancey@cs.com); [www.hesperusplayszorro.org](http://www.hesperusplayszorro.org)

### **Latin-Baroque Fusion**

Early Spanish and Portuguese music connects with contemporary Latin American popular and folk music, exploring the region's astonishing synthesis of African, Arabic, and European traditions in a unique fusion. Rumbarroco, an ensemble of acclaimed artists from different latitudes led by Laury Gutiérrez, will combine Renaissance, Baroque, and Latin American works in a vibrant Latin-Baroque musical fusion. Music from the Trujillo Codex, Coimbra manuscript 50, Saldivar Codex, and others.

RUMBARROCO (Lina Sarmiento, Daniela Tomic, Fausto Miro, voice; Danilo Bonina, violin; Eduardo Betancourt, Venezuelan harp, percussion; Miguel Morales Lavado, percussion; Katherine Shao, keyboard; Kirsten Lamb, bass; Laury Gutierrez, viola da gamba, cuatro).

**June 12 at 2pm.** Church of the Covenant, 67 Newbury St. FREE. 617-461-6973; [LaDonna@ladm.org](mailto:LaDonna@ladm.org); [www.ladm.org](http://www.ladm.org)

### **The Stevenson Baroque and Viol Consort**

This program highlights works by the Baroque Ensemble featuring works by Vivaldi, Bach, and Corelli, along with some favorite tunes for Viol Consort by Gervaise, Holborne, White, and more! Stevenson High School is one of very few high school programs in the US featuring a period performance group with period instruments. Stevenson Baroque Ensemble and Viol Consort, directed by Enrique Vilaseco; Katherine Shuldiner and Braedon Hofmann, assistant directors.

**June 13 at 9am.** Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 138 Tremont St.. FREE. 847-415-4771; [evilaseco@d125.org](mailto:evilaseco@d125.org)

### **Bach & Khayyam**

Over 600 years separate the lives of German composer Johann Sebastian Bach and Persian mathematician and poet Omar Khayyam (1048–1131), but these two geniuses were made to meet each other. Both were masters in their respective worlds with commitments to both technical mastery and profound spirituality. Kiya Tabassian leads the Canadian-based ensemble Constantinople as they bring these men into a dialogue where the sacred and the sublime transcend borders. They join forces with the beguiling soprano Hana Blažíková for a program of religious music by Bach contrasted with poems by Khayyam sung in Persian.

Constantinople: Didem Basar, kanun; Neva Özgen, kemenche; Tineke Steenbrink, organ; Johanna Rose, viola da gamba; Tanya LaPerrière, Baroque violin, viola d'amore; Michel Angers, theorbo; Patrick Graham, percussion

**June 13 at 5pm** Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St.

### **Arnalta's Café: An Operatic Nanny Romp through 17th-Century Italy**

Director Alessandro Quarta and Concerto Romano bring their uniquely Roman perspective to music of the Italian Baroque. They present an uproarious showcase of the many nurses and nannies featured in 17th-century operas—all very intent on having their say. Arnalta from Monteverdi's *Poppea* is the master of ceremonies for a

parade of irresistible comic characters (performed *en travesti*, as is traditional, by tenor Luca Cervoni). Beloved composers Monteverdi and Cavalli are juxtaposed with lesser-known masters for operatic scenes bursting with irreverent wit, fiendish mockery, surprising tenderness, and some sage advice as only the nurse can offer!

Concerto Romano: Gabriele Pro, Ana Liz Ojeda, violin; André Lislevand, viola da gamba; Giovanni Bellini, theorbo, Baroque guitar; Mario Filippini, double bass; Alessandro Quarta, harpsichord

**June 13 at 10:30pm.** Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St.

### **Gamba Gamut**

**June 14 from 9:45am-1:15pm** see description on page 1.

**HESPERUS** (Tina Chancey, viol, early & traditional fiddles; John Tyson and Emily O'Brien, recorders; Doug Freundlich, lute; and guests). Improv Jam. The second of two opportunities to focus on Early Music Improv: our resident improvisers will demonstrate, and then encourage you to improvise over ostinato basses, favorite chansons, Corelli adagios, Medieval estampies, and more!

**June 14 from 1pm–3:30pm**

Beacon Hill Friends House, 6 Chestnut St..

\$10 suggested donation. 703-407-0642;

[tinachancey@cs.com](mailto:tinachancey@cs.com); [www.hesperusplayszorro.org](http://www.hesperusplayszorro.org)

### **Extravagamba! From Byrd to Purcell and Beyond**

With musicians drawn from the BEMF Orchestra and past Festival artists, the BEMF Viol Collective led by Christel Thielmann presents a richly varied program of musical gems for 2 to 16 viols guaranteed to touch the heart. Luxuriate in the lush timbres of the viol in beloved selections from the English viol consort repertoire: from noble pavans and lively dances to tuneful ballads with fanciful variations, soulful In nomine to whimsical fantasias, and playful dialogues to haunting harmonies—plus some festive polychoral pieces from across the Alps to top off this sonorous feast!

**June 14 at 5pm.** Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough Street

### **Youth Concert**

BEMF Youth Ensemble, Julia McKenzie, director, and Potentiae Collegium, Job Salazar Fonseca, director, with BEMF Beyond Borders, Nina Stern and Cléa Galhano, directors, and A String Fort Smith, Lori Fay, director.

**June 15 at 10am.** Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St.

FREE admission

### **Connecticut Early Music Festival**

#### **Rêves Musicaux**

A celebration of the French baroque featuring virtuosic repertoire for viol and theorbo, including compositions by Marais, Forqueray, Le Sieur de Machy, Sainte Colombe, de Visée and le Moine.

Caroline Nicolas, viol, Kevin Payne, lute, theorbo

**June 21 at 5pm** - La Grua Center 32 Water Street,

Stonington, CT. \$20-40, students free

<https://www.ctearlymusic.org/tickets>

## SoHIP Summer Concert Series

All concerts are at 7:30pm.  
Tuesdays at St. Anne's Episcopal Church,  
147 Concord Rd. Lincoln, MA  
Wednesdays at The Chapel at West Parish,  
210 Lowell St. Andover, MA  
Thursdays at Lindsey Chapel at Emmanuel Church,  
15 Newbury St. Boston, MA  
\$15-35 general, \$5 Card to Culture. [www.sohipboston.org](http://www.sohipboston.org)

### **From Plimoth to Yorktown - June 24-26**

This year marks the 250th anniversary of the "shot heard round the world." The historic events at Lexington and Concord on the morning of April 19, 1775 sparked the beginning of the Revolutionary War and the eventual creation of the United States. This tour of early New England traces a musical lineage from the first settlers at Plimoth to their descendants on the eve of the Revolution and eventual victory at Yorktown. English catches and early shape note hymns lead to songs of liberty, rants against taxation and tyranny, wartime laments, and even some of George Washington's favorite dances. Enjoy works of Arne and Billings, selections from the Ainsworth Psalter and Bay Psalm Book, and tunes from 18th-c. American manuscripts.  
Seven Times Salt: Julia Soojin Cavallaro, mezzo-soprano, Karen Burciaga, violin, guitar, alto, Dan Meyers, recorders, flute, percussion, baritone, Josh Schreiber, viol, cello, bass, Matthew Wright, lute, guitar, tenor

### **Songs of Time: Music for the Muses - July 1-3**

Long & Away presents an eclectic program that travels with the Muses from the 1400s to the present day. Inspired by the time hopping "Song of Time" from *The Legend of Zelda*, the journey begins with a trove of early Renaissance music by Dufay, Binchois, and their contemporaries performed on the vielle, ancestor of the viol. We then highlight the great English viol consort composers Gibbons, Jenkins, and Purcell. Moving ever forward in time, we sample dance tunes of 18th-c. Scotland and choral writing of 20th-c. France, then arrive at the modern era with pieces by living composers Will Ayton and Larry Wallach. The consort bids farewell to the Muses and closes the Door of Time with James Perretta's *Consort Fantasy on The Song of Time*.  
Long & Away: Karen Burciaga, viol, vielle; Anne Legêne, viols; James Perretta, viol, vielle

### **La Magnifique: Music at Versailles - July 29-31**

"La Magnifique" invites us into the realm of elegant and refined court music at the Palace of Versailles. Throughout the 17th and 18th centuries, France was governed by music-loving rulers who assigned great importance to the role of arts in society. They promoted not only grand genres such as the ballet de cour or tragedie lyrique but also intimate, sophisticated forms of instrumental chamber music written by the leading composer-performers of the day. In particular, the transverse flute repertoire reached great heights; solos,

duets and trio sonatas were extremely popular at that time. Breathing new life into these petite masterpieces of the French Baroque, Ad Libitum Ensemble performs works by such masters as Couperin, Hotteterre, Marais, Clerambault, Rameau, and Dieupart, all featuring the luminescent colors of Baroque winds and strings.  
Ad Libitum Ensemble: Na'ama Lion, Jesse Lepkoff, flutes; Carol Lewis, viol; Marina Minkin, harpsichord

### **Reimaginings - August 5-7**

Throughout history, musicians have engaged with familiar and beloved music by reimagining it in new ways. They use melodies as the cantus firmus for new compositions, reharmonize works, transform one style into another, ornament and embellish pieces, or arrange them for novel instrumentation, like modern cover songs. This new program explores diverse ways that earlier composers reimagined well known material of their times, with their own creative twist. Some reimaginings involve minor adaptations to the instrumentation, while others reshape the original material into something completely new. A unique trio of recorder, viola da gamba, and the rarely heard harp guitar performs music by Sermisy, Ortiz, Bach, Gounod, and multiple O'Briens that is sure to delight the ears and spark the imagination.  
The Aulos and the Kithara: Emily O'Brien, recorders, Michael O'Brien, guitar, harp guitar, Nathan Varga, double bass, viola da gamba

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### **Contributions to the Newsletter**

Have an announcement? Want to review a music edition, concert, or recording? Is your playing group looking for new members or planning a viol event? Consider writing a brief article for the newsletter; we are always looking for content. Email [secretary@vdgsne.org](mailto:secretary@vdgsne.org).

### **Instruments for Sale**

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

### **• VdGS-NE Board of Directors •**

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