



VdGS-NE Spring Workshop

Tristitiae Remedium

*Jacobean music to pass the time
and cure sadness*

Saturday, April 18, 2026
9:30am-4:00pm

St. Anne's Episcopal Church
147 Concord Rd. Lincoln, MA

James Williamson, director

Registration deadline: April 4

Join us for a full-day, in-person workshop directed by James Williamson along with coaches Jane Hershey and Emily Walhout, viols, and Elise Groves, voice,. Alice Robbins will teach Intro to Viol.

What did our forebears in the Jacobean era play when they sat down to play consorts? In a world where printed music was a luxury good, working musicians would borrow copies of the newest pieces and copy them out into manuscript part books that contained a huge variety of different kinds of music. One such set, now in the Drexel collection at the New York Public Library, preserves a wide range of pieces from most of the polyphonic genres of the era: sacred music (both liturgical and not) in English and Latin, madrigals by English and Italian composers, and a number of fantasias by Lupo and Byrd. Some of the pieces are quite old fashioned (there is lots of Tallis) and some is quite up to date, such as madrigals by Weelkes and Wilbye.

We will play and sing pieces from this collection, getting a taste for many of different genres represented and gaining an appreciation for how interconnected vocal and instrumental styles were in the Jacobean era. Singers are welcomed, including viol players who like to sing!

Register by April 4 to reserve a spot! Late registrants will be accepted only if space is available. Register and pay online at <https://vdgsne.org/workshops/> (preferred!) or by mail and check with the form below.

Schedule

9:30-10:00am	Registration & coffee
10:00-10:45am	Lecture/Demonstration
11:00am-12:15pm	Class 1
12:15-1:15pm	Lunch
1:15-2:30pm	Class 2
2:45-4:00pm	Class 3

- **PLEASE NOTE:** workshop pitch is **A=415**
- **Bring your own lunch!** Coffee will be provided. You are welcome to bring cookies or other food to share, but let us know *in advance* if your item requires any serving or individual portion size utensils, plates, or bowls.
- Bring a music stand.
- Beginning players are welcome. We will offer Intro to the Viol and/or Ensemble Skills classes if there is enough interest.
- Music PDFs will be available for you to print at home or download to your tablet ahead of time.
- Masks encouraged. Please do not attend if you don't feel well; your registration fee will be refunded or applied to a future event, or you may make it a donation to VdGS-NE.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____

☐ *This is a new or changed address.* Phone: _____

Please circle your level for the instrument(s) you wish to play and the clefs that you are cheerfully willing to read for each instrument. *A self-rating guide is available on the national website, vdgsa.org.*

Treble: B LI MI HI A Clefs: Treble Treble8 Alto

Tenor: B LI MI HI A Clefs: Treble Treble8 Alto Tenor Bass

Bass: B LI MI HI A Clefs: Treble Treble8 Alto Tenor Bass

Voice: Soprano Alto Tenor Bass What is your experience singing? Beginner Intermediate Advanced

I am currently studying viol: Y / N Teacher: _____

☐ I would like to take Introduction to the Viol (one session only; no viol experience expected. You can stay and audit other sessions as you wish.)

☐ I would like to play in the Ensemble Skills Track (two sessions; for those new to ensemble playing, with some viol experience expected)

☐ I enjoy someone doubling my part. ☐ I enjoy being challenged.

☐ (Viols) I would like to sing in one class period ☐ Soprano ☐ Alto ☐ Tenor ☐ Bass

☐ I will help with morning set-up. ☐ I will help clean up at the end of the day.

☐ We would like to play as a pre-formed consort for **one** period. Players in your consort:

CLASSES

Lecture-Demo James Williamson will give a brief overview of the historical context of the repertoire, and together the coaches will perform selections that demonstrate some of the varied and beautiful music preserved in Drexel 4180.

Classes 1, 2, and 3

You'll be grouped into consorts based on your self-selected level, with some variety between periods. Everyone will get to work on several of the genres of music represented in this eclectic collection, with different coaches throughout the day. Pick the options listed below that particularly interest you and we will make an effort to take your preferences into account while assigning groups. Singers have the option to take Intro to the Viol for one class session and sing in the other two sessions.

The following four topics will be offered at multiple levels. Choose one or more that interest you:

☐ Vernacular sacred music: Rhymed psalms, contrafacta, etc.

☐ Latin sacred music: Tallis, Sheppard, et al

☐ Musica Transalpina: Marenzio, Vecchi, Croce et al. in English translation

☐ English Madrigals: Weelkes, Wilbye, Tomkins

If there is sufficient interest, we will offer the following for upper intermediate and advanced students:

- ☐ Pure instrumental music: Fantasias and In Nomines from Parsons to Jenkins
- ☐ Consort songs and verse anthems: Vocal solos accompanied by a consort of viols

Singers:

- ☐ I am enrolling as a singer and I would like to take beginning viol for one period (an instrument will be provided for you).

FEES

- ☐ Member **(\$80)** ☐ Non-member **(\$100, includes dues)**
- ☐ Enrolled student participating in early music ensemble or taking private viol or voice lessons **(FREE)**
School _____ Teacher's name _____
- ☐ Reduced fee for those in need: contact treasurer@vdgsne.org to inquire.
- ☐ Introduction to the Viol (1 session \$25) Beginners: pay only this fee. Viols may be available; please let us know if you need an instrument, and what size would be best.
- ☐ Ensemble Skills Track (2 sessions \$50) for those new to ensemble playing
 - ☐ Join regular group for a 3rd class: full fee (\$80 members / \$100 nonmembers, includes dues)
- ☐ I want to support the VdGS-NE with a contribution:
 - ☐ \$25 Friend ☐ \$50 Sponsor ☐ \$100 Patron ☐ \$250 Donor

\$_____ TOTAL ENCLOSED. Please make your check payable to VdGS-NE and send with this form to P.O. Box 192, Belmont, MA 02478. Mail early to ensure receipt!

 **Registration deadline: April 4, 2026** 