

THE SOUNDPOST

Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Viols – A chapter of the Viola da Gamba Society of America
On the web: WWW.PNVIOLS.ORG

President's Message

Lee Inman

Pacific Northwest Viols has just benefitted from the largesse of a long-time member, and our good friend, Bob Loy. Perhaps prompted by my rave review in the last *Soundpost* of the latest Peter Holman book, Bob has provided three fine books on the viol on long-term loan to the PNV library. One is Julie Anne Sadie's "The Bass Viol in French Baroque Chamber Music", which I've already eagerly dipped into. Then there's Andrew Ashbee's "The Harmonious Musick of John Jenkins – The Fantasias for Viols". And the third volume is, "Four and Twenty Fiddlers – the Violin at the English Court 1540-1690", also by Peter Holman.

I'd like to extend my personal sincere thanks to Bob and Jan for their generosity. These books are available for any member of PNV to check out. At the moment, I have all of them in personal custody, pending turning them over to the PNV library proper. Let me know if any of them piques your curiosity, and I'm sure we can arrange to get them to you.

Our annual member meeting will be the schedule centerpiece of our May 12 Play Day. As usual, the agenda includes nominating, electing, and re-electing, PNV board members. But, equally importantly, this meeting also provides opportunities for direct feedback between PNV membership and the organization's board. Please come prepared with any questions or comments you have about PNV programs and policies. I think I can speak for the board when I say that members' input is always valuable, and extremely useful, as a guide to the board's decision-making.

One particular topic will likely be the subject of some discussion at the meeting: the obligation for all PNV members to offer performances at venues sponsored by Saint James, in return for PNV's cost-free use of the cathedral's facilities for Play Days and workshops. This arrangement means that the PNV budget need not accommodate what could be very high rent charged for the use of similar facilities. Were this mutually-beneficial agreement not in place, Play Day and membership fees would have to go up significantly just to cover the costs of an alternate suitable venue.

Unfortunately, finding volunteers from the membership to help meet this performance obligation has become more difficult in recent years, so performers have been fairly consistently drawn from the same relatively small pool. Of course, playing for the residents of Horizon House and Chancery Place is a delightful and rewarding experience. I think it could be even more so with a greater diversity of performers. The board has discussed a new procedure to present at the members meeting that we hope will encourage more involvement, and make it more convenient for volunteers to prepare and present a program. We'll be interested in your thoughts, as well.

Our presenter at the next Play Day is Elisabeth Reed, whom we were once fortunate to embrace as a 'local' artist. Since her move to the Bay Area some years ago, we've not had as many opportunities to benefit from her expertise and insight. So, don't miss this rare opportunity to hear from Elisabeth again.

See you on May 12.

May 12 Play Day Schedule

- ❖ 9:00 AM: Check in, sign up for consorts, and tuning...
- ❖ 10:00 AM: Grand Consort, Presentation
- ❖ 11:30 AM: **Annual Meeting**
- ❖ 12:00 Noon: Lunch
- ❖ 1:00 PM: First consort session
- ❖ 2:30 PM: Second consort session
- ❖ 4:00 PM: Cleanup

\$20 Fee per participant
A = 415

St. James Cathedral Place
Intersection of Terry and Columbia

May 12th Presenter Elisabeth Reed

Liisa Peterson (Bio and picture taken from American Bach Soloists website.)



ELISABETH REED (viola da gamba & violoncello) was born and raised in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and now lives in Oakland, California. She teaches viola da gamba, baroque cello, and ensembles at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and at the University of California at Berkeley. She performs with many local and national early music ensembles including the Seattle Baroque Orchestra, the Portland Baroque Orchestra, American Bach Soloists, the Novello String Quartet, Wildcat Viols, and the improvisational group, MOTOR. Recent highlights include solo and concerto appearances this past summer at the Magnolia Baroque Festival and the Indianapolis Early Music Festival. A graduate of the North Carolina School of the Arts, the Oberlin Conservatory, the Eastman School of Music, and Indiana University's Early Music Institute, she can be heard on the Virgin Classics, Focus, and Magnatune recording labels. She is a Guild certified practitioner of the Feldenkrais Method of Awareness Through Movement and Functional Integration with a particular interest in the issues facing musicians and performers.

Here is a communication to us from Elisabeth that came by email:

... I will do "Effective Use of the Entire Bow" for my morning presentation; lots of fun and interesting bow exercises. We'll play a piece before the exercises to have a starting point for how we feel using our bows and then play it again at the end to see what's changed.

I'm happy to coach consorts in the afternoon...

Occupy Play Day!

Liisa Peterson

We will celebrate free speech and exercise our voting rights at the Pacific Northwest Viols annual meeting on May 12, just after the morning session of the Play Day. Those present will vote for board members and discuss future direction for the organization. This confabulation provides essential guidance for the board. If you are unable to attend, send your concerns, hopes, criticisms... along with a pal who is attending or to a board member.

And speaking of the board: Three members' terms end this season. All three are stepping up for another term, if so desired by the membership. There are empty seats on the board. Chris Briden has offered to put himself on the slate for one of these positions. Nominations from the floor are welcome.

Present PNV Board Members and Their Terms		
2009-2012	2010-2013	2011-2014
Olga Hauptman	Jon Brenner	Vicki Hoffman
Lee Inman	Noreen Jacky	Michael La Galy
Liisa Peterson	Bill Warren	Lee Talner

Report on PNV Concert at Chancery Place

Olga Hauptman

On March 30, Lee Inman and Olga Hauptman discharged a commitment to St. James Cathedral and performed on behalf of PNV at Chancery Place. The concert featured solos, sonatas, and two duets. There were about 20 people in the audience, and they seemed to enjoy sharing the music and conversation with the musicians. It seems that the schedule is faithfully kept, as we were stopped with our bows mid-air, ready for the second movement of our last piece, when Agnes, our hostess, stood up and thanked us heartily for our concert! She had a laid out quite a spread of lovely sandwiches and salads (“for 40 people”!), and she insisted that the audience allow the performers to serve themselves before lining up. However, we both were so immediately involved in conversation, that we pled on the audience’s behalf and Agnes gave the go-ahead to dig in. Of course, there was still plenty for the performers!

This event happens once a year, though I’m sure more concerts would be appreciated at Chancery Place Apartments.

Through the Grapevine: Roosevelt High School Outreach Program

Liisa Peterson snooped in Lee Talner’s email to Elisabeth Reed

“... Ellen Seibert, [Chris Briden] and I have been working with 11 modern string players who chose viols as an elective in their chamber ensemble class. We teach 2 in-school sessions each week for about 10 weeks, ending around the beginning of June. I announced the Play Day last week, but getting high school students to commit to a weekend activity is like pulling teeth. I know you started a youth viol program in Seattle years ago... This is our 5th year. It’s an elective for the chamber class. One of our students plays modern and baroque cello and gamba, and attended BPI last June. The others are doing it for the experience... The instruments are loaned from several Seattle viol players, including Ellen and me, and are temporarily kept at the school under lock and key for the duration of the class.”

Our Local Chapter and PNV Member Receive National Support

Liisa Peterson

We offer sincere thanks to the Viola da Gamba Society of America. The society has granted our local organization scholarship money for the summer workshop at Bastyr. AND one of our members, Chris Briden, has received a grant to attend the workshop as a teacher-in-training. (Whoop!) These are lovely examples of the many ways that the VdGSA supports chapters and individuals.

Future Notes

♪ Pacific Northwest Viol volunteers are assembling to play at **Horizon House May 24 at 3:00**.

♪ Pacific Northwest Viols Summer Workshop will be at Bastyr University near Seattle, July 8 – 14, 2012. Margriet Tindemans, Director. The faculty will include Joanna Blendulf, Larry Lipnik, Ros Morley, Margriet Tindemans, and others. Inquiries are welcome anytime at pnyiols2012@gmail.com.