

THE SOUNDPOST

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

The President's Message

Bill Warren



Welcome to 2019! I am sure that we all included a New Year's resolution to spend more time practicing and playing the viol, hopefully in ensemble with other players. There is nothing as motivating as having a set day and time to get together to play.

The new year also provides us the opportunity to take advantage of the VdGSA full circuit rider program with Sarah Mead as our circuit rider. Two of those visits will be for our January and March Play Days, and two will be times not associated with Play Days. Our responsibility to fulfill our part of the agreement with VdGSA is that we guarantee her 10 hours of lessons/classes at \$50/hour, not including her Play

Day presentations and coaching. Because she will be here 4 times during 2019, this is an excellent opportunity for all of us to plan private and/or ensemble lessons with her and establish some continuity for lessons and practice for 2019. Sarah is an outstanding teacher for students of all levels, so everyone is encouraged to sign up for lessons.

A generous gift of \$100 from an anonymous donor has been made available for two less-experienced or new viol players for a 1-hour lesson with Sarah. This is a great opportunity to "dive in" and take advantage of a no-risk lesson with Sarah. Contact me at Play Day or at bhwarrendoc@comcast.net if you think you meet those criteria and are interested.

I am pleased to announce that Caroline Nicolas has agreed to join PNViols board. Caroline will also be our Play Day presenter in May. You may recall, she was featured in the September SoundPost newsletter, and we are glad to welcome her to the PNViols board. She is a professional baroque cellist and gambist new to the Seattle area, and we welcome her input and ideas in the coming year.

I am pleased to announce that PNViols will be a co-sponsor of the Port Townsend Early Music Workshop this summer, following board approval of a \$1000 contribution to the workshop. An outstanding faculty has been lined up, including four excellent viola da gamba teachers. See more details in the announcement of the workshop later in this newsletter.

Play Day Schedule

- 9:30 am - Check in, sign up for consorts, tune
- 10:00 am - Grand Consort Presentation
- 12:00 pm - Lunch Break
- 1:00 pm - First Consort Session
- 2:30 pm - Second Consort Session
- 4:00 pm - Clean up

\$20 Fee per participant
A = 415

Saturday, January 26th: Sarah Mead

Play Day Location
Queen Anne Christian Church
1316 3rd Ave. W
Seattle, WA 98119

Be sure to put these dates on your calendar and plan to attend!

Save the Dates!

Port Townsend Early Music Workshop

July 7-13, 2019

I hope that all of you will be able to make it to Play Day, Saturday, January 26 as we welcome our VdGSA circuit rider for 2019, Sarah Mead.

Bill Warren,
President, PNVols

Sarah Mead leads Play Day – Saturday, January 26th

Michael King, Biography from http://www.vdgsa.org/img/conclave-2015/2015_Faculty_Bios.pdf

Sarah Mead teaches, performs, and proselytizes polyphony in the Boston area. The 2007 recipient of the Thomas Binkley Award from Early Music America, she is a professor at Brandeis University, where she directs vocal and historical instrument ensembles and teaches music history; she has also taught sixteenth-century theory and performance practice at the Longy School of Music. Her handbook on Renaissance theory is used in historical music programs around the country. Overseas she has performed and given master-classes, lectures, and workshops in Japan, Australia, New Zealand and the UK. She is former Music Director for Early Music Week at Pinewoods Camp and serves on the Boards of the VdGSA and EMA. She is a founding member and music director of Nota Bene Viol Consort.



For this first Play Day of 2019, Sarah will be presenting a session entitled, “À la mode” – more on this from Sarah:

Most of us have run into the word "mode" in our explorations of early music, but might be hard put to define it. Is it a scale? A way of harmonizing a melody? An archaic sort of key?

We're all familiar with the major and minor modes of tonal music, and we recognize that they are loosely associated with happiness and sadness. But Western music used to make use of many more modes, each one carrying its own emotional and situational meanings - meanings that are largely lost to us in our modern context.

Spend a morning learning to recognize the distinctive flavors of the four principal modes of the 16th century and playing delicious examples of each one. Our musical banquet will whet your appetite for an afternoon of informal playing and coached consorts.

Looking forward to making music with you all!

--Sarah

New(er) Players – we need and value your feedback! Please join us for a brief meeting after the morning session!

PNV Board

President Bill Warren and members of the PNV Board are seeking feedback from our new and less-experienced players, to see how you can benefit more from Play Days, specifically the afternoon sessions in which you might not yet be ready to read a part on your own. While the board has some ideas about this, we are interested in first hearing yours!

Please join us for a brief meeting following our morning session with Sarah on the 26th, or feel free to send a mail to Bill @ info@pnviols.org.

Help us fill our obligation to QACC – sign up to play for a service!

Toni Seales

[Editor's Note – Toni has reached out to say we REALLY need you and your ensemble to sign up to help! One piece – 3 minutes – and a lovely experience for all!]

Play with friends on occasion? Please consider helping us fulfill our obligation to the church for using their space for our Play Days. You only need to prepare a single piece, about 3 minutes in length, and the congregants are always very appreciative!

We need people to play on the following dates: Sunday, January 27, 2019, Sunday, March 17, 2019, and Sunday, May 12, 2019. As an incentive, you get coaching on your piece during the Play Day the day before! Contact Toni Seales, antonia509@gmail.com, or let any board member know if you have questions or would like to play!

Review of our Play Day with Jonathan Oddie

Caroline Nicolas

On November 10th, harpsichordist and musicologist Jonathan Oddie gave a wonderful Play Day presentation on English music. As a viol player, I am always keen to dive more deeply into this core repertoire!

"The Art and Invention" of the Fantasia began with Jonathan presenting part of Thomas Morley's "Plaine and Easie Introduction to Practical Musicke". This composition guide provided the foundational points on composition that Jonathan was presenting. Morley described the fantasia as a piece where the composer takes a theme and "wrests and turns it as he list, making either much or little of it according as shall seem best his own conceit". We then began to closely look at compositions where the composers "wrested", "turned" and "carried on". We looked in depth at fantasias of John Coprario (aka John Cooper!) and Gibbons. Jonathan had us each play segments of phrases in turn, so that we could see how the composers passed material from one voice to another. After looking at the cells of the fantasias, we would play the whole thing from beginning to end once again. By the time we were finished with the morning, we all felt like we had a much clearer understanding of how these compositions were conceived. Thank you to Jonathan for giving such a wonderful presentation!

Port Townsend Early Music Workshop, July 7th-13th, 2019

Michael King

Save the Date!!! for the Port Townsend Early Music Workshop which will be held on the campus of the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma. The workshop is especially excited to welcome the composer Sören Sieg from Germany.

More info: <http://www.seattle-recorder.org/Workshop/index.html>

Current list of faculty: Adam Gilbert, Alexa Haynes-Pilon, Charles Coldwell, Cléa Galhano, David Morris, Ellen Seibert, Jonathan Oddie, Mary Springfels, Miyo Aoki, Nina Stern, Peter Maund, Peter Seibert, Sarah Mead, Sören Sieg, and Vicki Boeckman

57th VdGSA Conclave back on the West Coast, July 21st-28th, 2019

Michael King and Tim Scott, President, Cascadia Viols

PNV Members! We are fortunate that the VdGSA will be holding conclave on the lovely campus of Pacific University, in Forest Grove, Oregon, less than an hour from Portland and only 4 hours from Seattle!

First, for more info on Conclave: <https://vdgsa.org/pgs/conclave-2019/2019conclave.html>

Second, a note from Tim Scott, the president of the Cascadia Viols chapter of the VdGSA which is based in Portland:

As you know, we have conclave here this summer. It would be a great help if some of your members could lend instruments, especially basses, of course, for people to use during conclave. If there are especially-good viols, we would let the faculty use them. If people can lend an instrument, but are not coming to conclave, we can arrange transportation. Or another Seattleite (?) could bring the instrument.

Let's stay in touch about this.tim

[Editor's Note: Indeed, we will, Tim! How lucky we are to have both the Port Townsend workshop as well as Conclave to attend this summer!]



From Our Friends at Cascadia Viols

Michael King, from Cascadia Viols January Newsletter

Our sister chapter in Portland, Cascadia Viols, has several great presenters lined up for their season. More info at <http://www.cascadiaviols.org>.

Cascadia Viols, one-day workshops, all at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Portland, OR:

- Saturday, February 9, 2019, Larry Lipnik (see more below)
- Saturday, March 30, Tina Chancey
- Saturday, June 1, Lee Inman

You'll notice that none of these dates overlap with ours – not through intentional planning, but a very happy coincidence!

Cascadia Viols Workshop with Larry Lipnik:

“All ye that joy in wailing: Michael East, Thomas Morley and the anglicization of the Italian madrigal”

Larry's workshop will explore vocal and instrumental works along with their Italian models for contrast and comparison. Works by Morley, East, Mico, Monteverdi, Nanino, Giovannelli, Marenzio and others will be featured. We are fortunate to have successfully lured Larry Lipnik out to the west coast for our February 2019 workshop. Among many other accomplishments, Larry is an acclaimed teacher and is a founding member of the viol consort Parthenia and vocal ensemble Lionheart; he performs with many renowned early music ensembles.

More info on VdGSA's Circuit Rider Program

Michael King

Members, we are participating in the Viola da Gamba Society of America's "Circuit Rider" program for the calendar year of 2019. Our Circuit Rider (instructor), Sarah Mead, will be with us on 4 different dates – she will be a Play Day presenter on January 26th and March 16th, and she will be with us for two additional dates later in 2019. This enables us to have an outstanding teacher consistently available either as a Play Day presenter and teacher or simply as a teacher during the calendar year.

With a Circuit Rider, the VdGSA pays for air travel for Sarah. PNV picks up home hosting and incidental expenses – plus we also guarantee that we will take enough lessons from Sarah to earn at least \$500 in compensation while she is visiting with us (in addition to her Play Day compensation). Sarah's lessons are \$50 per hour, regardless if there is one individual or a group (which makes group lessons a GREAT value when you split her hourly charge between the participants!).

Sarah will be our Play Day presenter on Saturday, January 26th, and arrives in Seattle on Thursday morning, January 24th. She will be ready to give lessons that afternoon, will give

lessons all day Friday, January 25th, and is even available on Saturday evening, January 26th after our Play Day. She leaves for home on Sunday morning, the 27th – so no lessons on Sunday.

Players at all levels should consider signing up! Sarah is equally good with beginners and advanced players and this is a great chance to take a leap ahead with such an experienced and friendly teacher. She will also coach mixed instrument combinations like recorder and viol. **DON'T PASS UP THIS OPPORTUNITY!**

Please contact Ellen Siebert for more info and scheduling:

Ellen Seibert
Email: eseibert1@me.com
Telephone: 206-329-2774
Cell: 206-380-5865

[Editor's Note: I am going to press a bit late with this issue of the SoundPost, and haven't checked with Ellen to see if there are any free slots – but my guess is that we can find a way to squeeze you in if you haven't signed up in response to the e-mail I sent to our members on January 4th! Reach out to Ellen!]

Treble Viol for Sale

Helen Mater

Treble Viol for Sale. Asking \$900. Built in 1978 by Larry Higgins of Higgins & Sons, San Francisco. Includes handmade cow hide case.

Contact:
Helen Van Mater
206 979-1225
vanmaterh@icloud.com.



(More) Viols for Sale!

Toni Seales

Student model, John Pringle treble with bow and Pegheds, \$1000.
Chinese-made, bass viol from Bill Lazar. \$1800. Bass viol bow, \$1200.

Contact Toni Seales
360-633-9929, antonia509@gmail.com

Treble Viol for Sale

Michael King

Ronald Prentice, 1972, London.
Includes original Robinwood hard
case. No bow.

\$5000 OBO

For more info:
Michael King, 425-269-8219,
miking@microsoft.com



Have you been meaning to pay your 2018-2019 PNV Dues?

Janet Slack

We are all busy enough that it can be tricky to remember whether we have paid PNV dues. Our membership year runs from July 1st to June 30th, but most members pay dues when our Play Day season begins each fall. Dues are \$20 per year, and \$5 for the newsletter only.

Reminders have not typically been sent out, but only 25 people have paid dues this year. So, a friendly reminder will be sent out in early February if you haven't yet renewed!

Membership secretary, Janet Slack, keeps these records, and will bring them along to the January 26th Play Day. If you are not sure whether you have paid, you can check with her before the morning session or during a break. We're also enclosing a membership form in the newsletter for your convenience!

Pacific Northwest Viols

Membership Form

Yes! I want to be a member of Pacific Northwest Viols!

As a member you'll receive the newsletter by e-mail, have library privileges, have a vote at business meetings, be eligible to join the PNV Board, and have the satisfaction of supporting viol playing in the Pacific Northwest.

Membership period is for one year, from July 1 – June 30.

I am (check one):

- Renewing my membership
- Joining as a new member
- Not interested in membership at this time but would like to subscribe to the *Soundpost* newsletter.

Please enter your contact information below

Renewing members: If your address, phone and email information are unchanged, please enter only your name.

Name: _____ (as you would like to include it in the member list)

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

How did you learn about PNV? _____

PNV sends an electronic copy of the current membership to all members via e-mail.

Check this box if you do **NOT** wish PNV to share your information with other PNV members.

PNV occasionally shares information from our mailing list with various concert and workshop sponsoring organizations.

Check this box if you do **NOT** wish PNV to share your information outside the PNV membership.

I volunteer to help discharge PNV's residency obligation by participating in outreach performances scheduled by the chapter.

I would be interested in hosting a visiting (out-of-town) presenter.

Payments may be submitted either by check (**payable to "PNV"**) to the address listed below, or by cash or check to the PNV Treasurer at the Play Day registration desk. Please indicate your desired payment category below:

- \$20 for full annual membership (includes *Sound Post* subscription, which is delivered by e-mail)
- \$10 for full *student* annual membership (includes *Sound Post* subscription, which is delivered by e-mail)
- \$5 for *Sound Post* subscription only (*Canadians may remit in either US or Canadian funds.*)

I want to further support PNV, a non-profit [501(c)(3)] organization. I would like to make a tax-deductible donation in the amount of \$_____.

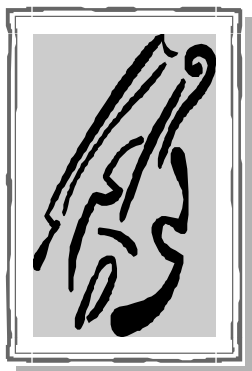
Thank you!

Please mail all checks (Payable to "PNV") to:

Janet Slack
6823 185th St. SW
Lynnwood, WA 98037

Pacific Northwest Viols
2328 233rd Ave. NE
Sammamish, WA 98074

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Pacific Northwest Viols – 2018-2019 Season

PNV Play Day Dates (Saturdays):

- ❖ September 29, 2018: Lee Inman
- ❖ November 10, 2018: Jonathan Oddie
- ❖ **January 26, 2018: Sarah Mead**
- ❖ March 16, 2018: Sarah Mead
- ❖ May 11, 2018: Caroline Nicolas

*\$20 Fee per participant
A = 415*

Play Day location:

**Queen Anne Christian
Church**
1316 3rd Ave. W
Seattle, WA 98119

Pacific Northwest Viols, Board Members (2018-2019)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| ❖ Bill Warren, President | ❖ Michael King, Communications / Librarian |
| ❖ Amy Warren, Secretary | ❖ Vicki Hoffman, Programs |
| ❖ Michael LaGaly, Treasurer | ❖ Jon Brenner, Programs |
| ❖ Janet Slack, Membership Custodian | ❖ Caroline Nicolas, Librarian and At-Large |
| | ❖ Toni Seals, QACC Coordinator |

Find Pacific Northwest Viols on the web at: <http://www.pnviols.org> and on Facebook

The **Soundpost** welcomes reader contributions of any kind: articles, commentary, personal stories, event reportage. E-Mail is preferred, but postal mail or napkin scribbblings are all gladly received, as well.

Email: miking@microsoft.com