

THE SOUNDPOST

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

The President's Message

Bill Warren

What challenging times—the COVID-19 pandemic, the Black Lives Matter protests, and now catastrophic wildfires in California, Oregon, and Washington State! Despite our hope of having an in-person Play Day for our opening Play Day of our 2020-2021 season, we are still in the midst of the pandemic. So, our September 26th Play Day will be held virtually, with Ros Morley as our teacher. Here are Ros' words about what she is planning: "I am preparing a lot of duets, looking at French music in 2 parts from Machaut and/or Dufay through to the 18th century. The music [will] be of varying difficulty, so something for everyone, I hope. I'm thinking of calling the sessions 'Douce Mémoire/Sweet Memories'..."



Ros has agreed to provide the music and a recording of each of the two lines of the duets by September 18 in order for you to have a chance to practice the music ahead of time, as well as to have the music to practice afterwards. Ros will be instructing us on how to play along with her or play music "minus one" with her during the Play Day session. You will be able to choose your favorite instrument to play along—treble, tenor, or bass.

We will be using Microsoft Teams, which is similar to Zoom, for the online session. Michael King, our Microsoft guru, will be providing instructions and technical support for getting online. He will send out a link for access, and we plan to allow everyone to get online at 9:30 a.m., 30 minutes before the start time of 10 a.m., in order to make sure everyone gets connected and also to have some chat time to get reacquainted.

Ros is our Circuit Rider for 2020, and she will be providing online lessons Friday, September 25-through Sunday, September 27, similar to her last session in May. You will be able to sign up for lessons for you and/or your consort with SignUpGenius; Michael will be sending out information for signing-up shortly! Ros is also scheduled for her fourth Circuit Rider virtual lessons November 20th-22nd, giving you the opportunity for continuity of lessons. Since the VdGSA has postponed the official Circuit Rider program for 2021 until further notice, Ros has agreed to be our "unofficial" Circuit Rider for 2021. Her online lessons will alternate months with our 2021 Play

Virtual Play Day Schedule

- 9:30 am – Connect online with Microsoft Teams
- 10:00 am – Welcome / Announcements
- 10:10 am – Grand Consort Presentation
- 1:00 pm – First Consort Session
- 12:00 pm – Wrap-up

\$10 Fee per participant, waived if member

A = 415

Saturday, September 26th: Ros Morley

Play Day Location

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting
URL to be sent via e-mail

Days so that there is a PNViol's gamba activity every month January through June 2021 – with Play Days in January, March, May and online lessons in February, April, and June.

We are offering an opportunity for you to renew your membership online this year. Michael LaGaly has arranged for online payment with PayPal—see his article with instructions later in this newsletter. I just paid my \$20 membership renewal with this system and it worked fine. Of course, you can continue to send a check by mail if you'd prefer!

Our sister chapter, Cascadia Viols, in Portland, is offering a series of 1 ½ hour virtual workshops, commencing with their first with David Morris on Saturday, September 12th, and continuing monthly through May 2021 with final presenter Elisabeth Reed. These provide an additional opportunity to enhance your viol playing skills with excellent teachers. I would encourage you to go to their website <https://www.cascadiaviols.org> to view the schedule and sign up for one or more of these virtual workshops.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you online Saturday, September 26th, for our first virtual Play Day with Ros Morley.

Bill Warren,
President, Pacific Northwest Viols

Online Play Days? Online Dues via PayPal now an option! (or continue to pay via check and snail mail... :^)

Michael LaGaly & Michael King

Since coronavirus protocols are going to prevent us from meeting in-person for at least the next few months, the board has decided to go to a virtual Play Day format. For these online Play Days, we have decided that for paid members, attendance will be free-of-charge. Dues are, as last year, \$20.00. For those not wishing to pay membership dues, you are welcome to attend any of our Play Days for a \$10.00 guest fee.

We will be accepting dues via both PayPal and traditional check/membership form. For PayPal, please send the payment to our treasurer, Michael LaGaly, by doing the following:

- 1) Login to PayPal
- 2) Click on "Send"
- 3) Enter mlagaly@gmail.com
- 4) Enter the amount to be sent, such as \$20.00
- 5) Add a note for tracking purposes, such as "PNV 2020 Dues" or "PNV Play Day"
- 6) Click on Continue
- 7) When asked "What is this payment for", click on "**Sending to a friend**"
- 8) Choose the method you will use to pay – note, there is no fee for using your linked bank account, but there are small fees for using credit cards.

If you'd prefer to send your dues in via check and the mail, please use the attached membership form and submit to our membership custodian, Amy Warren, at the address on the form. Looking forward to seeing you online at our first Play Day of the season!

A review of the 58th ~~VdGSA Conclave: Family Affairs~~ 1st VdGSA Nonclave

Janet Slack

I will at last get my report to you on my experience with Nonclave. Each weekday there was a class from 11 to 12:30 Pacific Time. These were done over Zoom, and there were usually 80 to 120 students in a class. Most of the time, during the class, students were muted, with the line being unmuted at the end for asking questions. There was also an ongoing instant messaging chat during the class where people could ask questions as the class proceeded. There was an assistant/tech manager for each class, along with the instructor -- this person was usually one of the faculty who were more tech-savvy. They would save up the questions that came in on the chat, and those questions would be asked at the end of the section.

The class where I was able to do the most playing was my first one, with Larry Lipnik. As had been the case with the Cascadia Viols-sponsored workshop with Ros Morley a few weeks earlier, Larry played first the tenor part, then the bass part to a number of duets by Coprario, Morley, Gastoldi, and Lassus. His sound would come over the speakers and I would play the other part. With all participants muted, this worked well both with for both the session with Ros and with Larry.

The next day, we explored settings of "Coment Peult" from the 15th and 15th century to the present with Martha Bishop. We had scores of the music and could play along, but somehow that day I mostly just listened. Wednesday, I took Joanna Blendulf's class which was a technique class. She had a handout with a lot of two-bar repeated exercises based on figures found in the consorts of Matthew Locke. This was another day that I played a lot.

Pat Neely gave a class about the relationship of the Arnold Dolmetsch revival of the viol to the Arts and Crafts Movement – Dolmetsch's friendship with William Morris and poet Ezra Pound. She did a lot of multi-media stuff – it was the most ambitious presentation I saw all week in that respect, and it didn't all come off as planned. Playing MP3 files over Zoom didn't seem to work very well, and again that day, there wasn't much playing, even though the presentation was fascinating. It was a refreshingly different class and I learned a lot!

My last class was with Catherina Meints on diatonic fingerings on treble, and she started with a bunch of finger exercises (which are posted on the VDGSA website in the teaching videos) and they were wonderful. My hands felt as if they were glowing after I went through those exercises. Then we did exercises on the fingerboard. She had given us the diatonic fingerings for several well-known passages in consort music, but we didn't have much time to play in class. Still a very interesting and valuable class.

For additional playing, there were extra 'music minus one' MP3 files made available to attendees. We were able to download them too, so I can try some in the coming weeks. They are of varying quality. There was a lot of interest during the week in what microphones faculty were using, and I will be asking to see in coming newsletters some articles about using the computer to do one's own duets, or even one's own music minus one stuff.

The opening 'ice cream social' and closing 'banquet' were done over Zoom as well, and for the banquet we were put into breakout rooms with smaller numbers of people to help us converse.

You were broken out with randomly chosen people, so that was only a pale substitute for sitting at a table with friends. The last part of the banquet and all the evening programs were presented over VdGSA's YouTube channel. There was a free evening and an auction night – I bought a mask made by Martha Bishop with viol-patterned fabric!

The first evening featured a talk by Loren Ludwig. He spoke about the viol as social media and in particular as a way for Catholic people to commune with each other in England during the time when being Catholic could land you in real trouble. I didn't retain a lot else from that lecture, but that's because it was early in the week. There was a concert by Lyracle, a voice and viol duo. Friday the lecture was on "The Family of Man", by Pat Neely. There were many slides on various black musicians who were in various courts and fine families during Medieval and Renaissance times. She also talked a lot about the difference between 'inclusion' and 'assimilation'. Somehow I found myself thinking a lot about the difference between thinking in stereotypes "a woman will have these interests and look as much as possible like this" and considering every person as an individual with their own interests, background, and appearance.

In addition, there were several offerings available over YouTube that attendees could watch during the week. I think these are going to be permanently put on the VdGSA website after Conclave and they are all worthwhile. *[Editor's Note: At least a few are here:* <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCb8jxl7F0GnXeeSqOaNhjYg/videos>]

Catherina Meints recorded a program of duets and trios (pre-COVID) using historic viols of English, German, Italian, and French origin from the Caldwell Collection, playing music from the country from which they hail. She made the video for the Oberlin BPI, and it is very well produced. It contains lovely close-up shots of the decoration on the various instruments and the sound is quite good.

Wendy Gillespie gave a lecture/concert on the music of Alexander Agricola, and that was extremely enjoyable as well. David Ellis created a timeline of English composers who wrote for the viol alongside the concurrent political and cultural events. As I mentioned, all of these things will be available on the VdGSA website soon. *[Editor's Note: There is a Nonclave Info and Nonclave Materials section on the VdGSA Members' Area section of <http://vdgsa.org>.]*

So how did I feel on Sunday after it was over? I had a real letdown feeling, because, I finally realized, I hadn't actually had a conversation with anyone all week. So, I called a few people, and made a resolution, if I attend Conclave online again, to phone one other participant each day, just to have a conversation! The Nonclave was great and a tremendous bargain at \$105. But it couldn't approach what you get at an actual workshop. Still, it was great to see people's pictures who were participating. Others from here whom I noticed in attendance were Nancy Wright, Bill Warren, and Ellen Seibert. Janet Loy was there, as well as several people I knew from back East!

Sometimes, at the end of a Zoom event, people would stay on for a while and talk to each other. That was fun even if you were listening in. Lots of people's hair was longer. One did get a sense that 'we're all going through this together.' I'll be surprised if they don't end up including some classes of this sort in Conclaves to come. This would certainly be nice for

people who find it difficult to travel cross-country. The VdGSA is hoping to hold next year's Conclave at Miami University, where it was to have been this year, in Ohio. So that will mean one year longer until it is back on the West Coast. Expenses are going up for the facilities, and probably even more in the future as colleges are hurt financially by COVID. So, I am glad to see there are online possibilities, and I'm sure they will get more and more adept at using the platforms in years to come.

Do you have a viol collecting dust? Consider helping the PNV Rental Program!

Michael King

PNV currently has nearly our entire inventory of instruments out for rent! While this is outstanding, it means we do not have instruments for any additional renters. If you have a spare viol or two that are collecting some dust, perhaps you could see them becoming a part of our rental instrument fleet – either on an individual case or a sustained basis? Options would include making your instrument available for a period of time for rental (loaning to PNV), permanently (donating instrument to PNV), or on an individual basis (we've identified a particularly need and you have an instrument that might be the right fit – say for an advanced student or someone needing to work on entrance to a conservatory program). Please reach out to Olga at rentals@pnviols.org and let her know if you can help with the program!

Looking for Play Day Presenter Hosts!

Michael King

Even though the first few Play Days of our 2020-2021 season are likely to be virtual, we are still hopeful that we may be able to conduct in-person Play Days in the not-too-distant future. We are still in need of volunteers to help host our Play Day presenters who visit us from out of town! This can be the full-service package including transportation to and from airport, meals, and even providing a space for lessons, or a lighter version such as just providing a place to sleep and a ride to and from Play Day. Fairly typical is an arrival on a Thursday or Friday, with a Play Day on Saturday and a departure on Sunday or Monday. If you are in a position to be able to assist, please reach out to me at soundpost@pnviols.org, and we can get you added to our list of hosts!

PNV Classifieds

Michael King

Please let me know if you would like to place a classified ad for our membership – viols and related instruments, bows, cases, etc. are always welcome. Feel free to contact me at soundpost@pnviols.org, and include picture(s), description, price, and contact information for the ad, or a description of what you are looking to buy if you are in the market.

Pacific Northwest Viols

Membership Form

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

As a member you will 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:

Amy Warren
1851 S. Brandon Place
Seattle, WA 98108-2376

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Pacific Northwest Viols – 2020-2021 Season

PNV Play Day Dates (Saturdays):

*\$20 Fee per participant
A = 415*

- ❖ **September 26, 2020: Ros Morley (Virtual/Online)**
- ❖ November 7, 2020: Caroline Nicolas
- ❖ January 16, 2021: TBD
- ❖ March 6, 2021: TBD
- ❖ May 1, 2021: TBD

New Play Day Location for 2020!

Maple Leaf Lutheran Church
(Same location as Seattle Recorder Society)
10005 32nd Ave. NE
Seattle, WA 98125

Pacific Northwest Viols, Board Members (2020-2021)

- | | |
|---|---|
| ❖ Bill Warren, President | ❖ Michael King, Communications / Newsletter |
| ❖ Chu-Lan Chiong, Secretary | ❖ Jenny Wilkson, Communications Co-Chair |
| ❖ Michael LaGaly, Treasurer | ❖ TBD, Programs |
| ❖ Amy Warren, Membership Custodian / Librarian | ❖ TBD, MLCC Coordinator |
| ❖ Caroline Nicolas, Beginner Coach and Play Day Presenter Coordinator | |

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

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

Email: soundpost@pnviols.org