

# 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



There is nothing quite as fun and exhilarating as being in the depths of our winter season with crisp cold weather and tons of snow in the mountains. Of course, I love all of the great snow for my weekly Wednesday ski bus trip to Crystal Mountain, but here in the Pacific Northwest we need the big snow pack to ensure adequate water from the spring runoff to fill the reservoirs for the summer.

These winter days are also a great time for being indoors to practice your viola da gamba and schedule a lesson for yourself and/or your group with Sarah Mead on Friday March 2. Sarah will be our Play Day presenter Saturday, March 3. She is an outstanding teacher, so

be sure to take advantage of this opportunity to schedule a lesson with her by contacting Vicki Hoffman at [mikeandvicki@q.com](mailto:mikeandvicki@q.com). You should have also received an email with all of the music that she plans to use for our Play Day. This provides you with the opportunity to become familiar with your part ahead of time.

I want to extend a special thanks to all of the groups that have provided special music at the Sunday worship services at Queen Anne Christian Church where we are privileged to have our Play Days. Two groups have volunteered to perform for the services we've agreed to in return for our March and May Play Days. For next year, I hope that others of you will volunteer to perform and help us give thanks for our use of the QACC facility.

At the risk of redundancy, I am going to make another pitch to recruit volunteers to serve on the PNV Board. In order to make these Play Days possible, it is essential to have a full and active board that shares all of the responsibilities necessary to make it happen. We need three people to fill positions for those whose terms end in May 2018. So, I am asking each of you to consider joining the PNV Board for a three-year term to ensure that our organization remains viable and that we

### 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, March 3rd: Sarah Mead**

**Play Day Location**  
**Queen Anne Christian Church**  
 1316 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. W  
 Seattle, WA 98119



can continue to have outstanding presenters/teachers come to give us lessons and lead our Play Day activities. Please contact any Board member if you have an interest in joining the Board, and also be prepared to say “YES” if you are contacted about serving on the Board!

Thanks for your consideration! I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our Play Day on Saturday, March 3.

--Bill

## **Sarah Mead leads Play Day – Saturday, March 3rd**

*Michael King, Biography from [http://www.vdgsa.org/img/conclave-2015/2015\\_Faculty\\_Bios.pdf](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.



Sarah is calling this Play Day “Singing with your Bow”, and we are going to be exploring vocal pieces in four languages (English, French, German, and Italian) to see how the text can help us shape our phrases. The pieces she has chosen are an arrangement of “Blessed is he that fears the Lord” from Psalm 112 by William Byrd, an arrangement of Psalm 119 “Beati immaculate” by Paschal d’Estocart, “Maria wallt zum Heilgtum” (When Mary to the temple went) by Johann Eccard, and “Quando quell’empio”, one of fourteen spiritual soneti by Pietro Vinci that tells the story of Jesus’ sacrifice for man.

## **A report from our January 13<sup>th</sup> Play Day with Mary Springfels**

*Olga Hauptman*

Members who attended the Play Day presented by Mary Springfels had a great time working first through Josquin’s famous *Ave Maria* and then Ludwig Senfl’s elaborate tribute to the work. The comparison of these two beautiful works made us appreciate each of them more, and in a special way. Senfl draws out the text with repetition (of the words), which makes his work more than twice as long as Josquin’s, though his meter changes are in the same part of the text as the earlier work. Mary talked a bit about how the demands of counterpoint didn’t always allow the stressed syllables of the text to fall on strong beats. (She mentioned Adrian Willaert, a

Netherlandish composer of the Renaissance, as a leader in consistently aligning musical and verbal stresses.) She also talked a bit about musica ficta and noted that Senfl, being a more tonal composer than Josquin, raised fewer questions about leading tones. However, even in Josquin's music she feels that we need concern ourselves only at cadences, and that fussing with notes within phrases is unnecessary.

The morning session flew by so quickly that we all agreed to take up after lunch just where we'd left off before the break!

As our VdGSA Circuit Rider instructor, Mary also taught lessons and coached consorts the day before Play Day. I think we all felt that she was very interesting and very helpful, and that by the end of our sessions we were playing better, with better ensemble and with even more enthusiasm. Her discourse on the structure of the music made us want to have more variety in our sound, and we were ready and grateful for her specific suggestions on how to use the bow to that end. Mary was very encouraging and engaged, and I hope more members will take advantage of her gifts when she returns!

FYI: Mary recommended two online resources for early music and string players. Honeysuckle Music (<http://honeysucklemusic.com>) is an online music store where Mary says you can find anything! The other site Gabriela's Baroque (<http://www.gabrielasbaroque.com>), the online site of luthier Gabriela Guadalajara, which she recommends for ordering strings. I followed Mary's advice and contacted Gabriela's Baroque with the string length of my treble and received recommendations for which strings and gauges might sound better on my instrument. (We'll see how that goes!)

*[Editor's Note: PNV doesn't specifically endorse or recommend the above resources, but is sharing them in the interest of our members and readers as Mary speaks highly of them both.]*

## **Board Member, Compose and Musician: Jon Brenner**

Jon Brenner, photo from <http://www.lacomposerscollective.org/jon-brenner.html>

Jon Brenner, has been a composer and musician for the past two decades. Recently he finished his most recent work: "Deploration Upon the Death of Lloyd Rodgers (Contrapunctus Ouroboros Mobius)". The piece is a three-and-a-half hour counterpoint cycle based on a cantus firmus. The piece took over a year to write and is in honor of Jon's late composition teacher.

Other recent pieces include his score for "Forest Song", a Ukrainian play which was produced last December on Bainbridge Island. His score features music for clavichord, recorder, and viola da gamba. It also contains four arias for cast members to sing. Based on the success of the run last December, "Forest Song" will hit the road for a performance in Portland in May, and another two-week run



in Seattle in July. Additionally, Jon can regularly be heard playing in pit orchestras for various musical theatre groups in the area, including the Lesser Known Players where he was recently appointed Resident Music Director. Needless to say, Jon has been up to his eyeballs in activities over the past year!

## Sheet Music to Spare?

*Lee Inman*

Do you have a loose Tenor part that has lost its corresponding treble and bass parts? Perhaps a score for which most, or all, of the parts have disappeared? Maybe a viol sonata that somehow didn't live up to its reputation, but which is still taking up valuable space in your library?

If you're willing – or even eager – to let them go, I'm happy to give them a new home! The dull wood doors of my music room would be much improved by a decoupled arrangement of viol music. I plan to attend the Play Day on May 5, and can pick up any contributions then.

Thank you in advance for anything you'd care to donate to the cause. (No photocopies, please – wallpaper paste makes the ink smear...)

--Lee

## Looking for a 6- or 7-string Bass Viol

*Jeff Evans*

Jeff is in the market for a nice 6- or 6-string bass. If you have one to sell, please get in touch with him at [jevans@ars-nova.com](mailto:jevans@ars-nova.com).

## 6-string Bass Viol for Sale

*Zoe Tokar*

For Sale; better than new! 6 string Chinese bass viol, from Charlie Ogle, after Meares. 69cm string length. Many improvements made:

- Pegheads installed
- Soundpost adjusted
- Silver-gimped C string

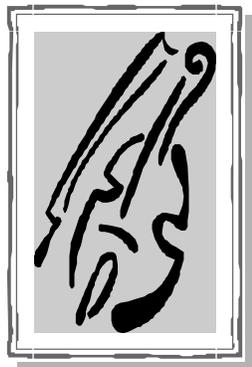
Resonant and responsive, very easy to play. The best of any Chinese viol! Comes with soft case, no bow. \$2800.

Please contact Zoe Tokar, 971-235-1060.



**Pacific Northwest Viols**  
2328 233<sup>rd</sup> Ave. NE  
Sammamish, WA 98074

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



### **Pacific Northwest Viols – 2017-2018 Season**

**PNV Play Day Dates (Saturdays):**

- ❖ September 23, 2017: Lee Inman
- ❖ November 4, 2017: David Morris
- ❖ January 13, 2018: Mary Springfels
- ❖ **March 3, 2018: Sarah Mead**
- ❖ May 5, 2018: Mary Springfels

*\$20 Fee per participant  
A = 415*

***Play Day location:***

***Queen Anne Christian  
Church***

*1316 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. W  
Seattle, WA 98119*

### **Pacific Northwest Viols, Board Members (2017-2018)**

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| ❖ Bill Warren, President            | ❖ Chris Briden, Outreach                   |
| ❖ Jon Brenner, Secretary, Programs  | ❖ Michael King, Communications / Librarian |
| ❖ Lee Inman, At-Large               | ❖ Vicki Hoffman, Programs                  |
| ❖ Michael LaGaly, Treasurer         | ❖ Olga Hauptman, Instrument Rental         |
| ❖ Janet Slack, Membership Custodian |  |

**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 scribbles are all gladly received, as well.*

**Email:** *[miking@microsoft.com](mailto:miking@microsoft.com)*