

# 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*



By the time we get together for our next Play Day on January 13th we will be past the holiday season and into the new year of 2018. I hope that you all have had a great holiday with friends and family. It is a special time of year, and we also get to look forward to our days slowly getting longer after the winter solstice!

Our January Play Day will be led by Mary Springfels, a wonderful teacher and role model. This will mark the inauguration of our Circuit Rider Program in conjunction with VdGSA, who is sponsoring Mary

for both our January and May Play Days. Be sure to read more details about this program in the article by Vicki Hoffman, our program chair. A really exciting thing about this arrangement is that Mary will be available on the Friday before each of these Play Days for individual and group lessons. Plan now to take advantage of these opportunities to improve your playing. Vicki will be providing information about lesson prices and logistics for arranging a lesson in her article and in a subsequent email.

I am sure that you all appreciate the work of the PNV Board in making our Play Days possible with really outstanding presenters. I would like to specifically acknowledge Olga Hoffman and Lee Inman, whose terms will end in May 2018, and Chris Briden, who has elected to resign as of this month before his term ends in May 2018 due to other commitments.

Why am I bringing this issue up now? Well, in order to make these Play Days possible, it is essential to have a full and active board that shares all of the various responsibilities necessary to make it happen. All three of these individuals have dedicated themselves to the Board for several terms and will not be continuing on the Board. So, I am asking each of you to consider joining the PNV Board for a three-year term to insure that our organization remains viable and that we can

**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 13th: Mary Springfels**

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



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 January 13 and at subsequent Play Days of the season.

--Bill Warren, President, Pacific Northwest Viols

## **Mary Springfels leads Play Day – Saturday, January 13th**

*Michael King, Biography from <https://www.folger.edu/cast/mary-springfels>*

Mary Springfels is the founder and former director of the Newberry Consort. A veteran of the early music movement in America, she has performed and recorded extensively with such ensembles as the New York Pro Musica, the Waverly Consort, Concert Royal, Sequentia, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, the Seattle Baroque Orchestra, Music of the Baroque, Musica Sacra, the Marlborough Festival, the New York City Opera, and Chicago Opera Theater, where she served as an artistic advisor. She is much in demand as a teacher and player in summer festivals throughout the US, among them the San Francisco and Amherst early music festivals, the Conclave of the Viola da Gamba Society of America, the Pinewoods Early Music Week, and the Texas Toot. She has recently performed with the Sonoma Bach Festival, the Arizona Bach Festival, the Dallas Bach Festival, and Ars Lyrica of Houston.



Mary has chosen two Ave Marias from the renaissance for us to work on for Play Day – one by Ludwig Senfl and another by Josquin des Prés. We’ll make sure to send out parts to members prior to the Play Day so you can familiarize yourself with them.

## **PNV Circuit Rider Grant and Lessons with Mary Springfels**

*Vicki Hoffman / Olga Hauptman*

The board is happy to announce that PNV has been awarded a Circuit Rider Program grant from the Viola da Gamba Society of America. VdGSA’s Circuit Rider Program will provide opportunities for our members to have ongoing individual and consort lessons with a VdGSA-affiliated teacher to give direction and continuity to practice time and musical goals. For our first Circuit Rider Program, we have chosen to do a Half Circuit which will provide for 2 visits with our selected teacher within the first 6 months of 2018.

We have engaged Mary Springfels as our first Circuit Rider and have coordinated her 2 Circuit Rider visits for our January 13 and May 5, 2018 Play Days. Mary will be offering individual lessons and

consort coaching during the Friday preceding each of these play days at the rate of \$50.00 per hour. Through the Circuit Rider Program grant, VdGSA will pay for Mary's round trip airfare for her January and May visits to PNW. As an added bonus, Mary will be in Seattle to perform a Gallery Concerts program on April 14 and 15, 2018 and will be available to teach individual and group lessons during her April visit.

We heartily encourage you to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to sign up for lessons with Mary during her January, April, and May visits to our area. To schedule lessons with Mary for her first teaching visit on Friday, January 12, please contact:

Vicki Hoffman at 206-842-2559, [mikeandvicki@q.com](mailto:mikeandvicki@q.com)  
Olga Hauptman, 206-533-0347, [olgaA415@comcast.net](mailto:olgaA415@comcast.net)

We need to hear from you no later than Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>.

We hope to have a good response to Mary's first Circuit Rider visit. Happy New Year to all!

## **PNW Board Member Chris Briden resigns to pursue an “amazing” teaching opportunity**

*Chris Briden*

Hello to all my viol loving friends in the Pacific Northwest. I want to thank you for welcoming me into your community and allowing me countless opportunities to expand the reach of the viol. It has been a humbling honor to serve as a board member for Pacific Northwest Viols for several years. However, I must resign my duties as a board member. I have been given an amazing opportunity to learn and teach in the Tacoma area which I simply could not pass up.



You see, I am Puyallup and I spent my childhood on the Puyallup reservation where I heard my grandpa, Reuben Wright, speaking a funny sounding language. He told me that he was one of the last people to speak this strange language and that when he dies it will be no more. Other than listen and try to repeat a few words here and there, I had no idea how to learn or save it. Over the years, I acquired books, tapes and videos about my language, or related dialects and studied on my own. In October of 2016, I discovered that someone was offering an experimental online course in this language and I pounced on this opportunity. One of the first things that I learned is that the language was called *txʷəłšucid*, “Language of the Salt Water”. It turns out there was a whole department at the Puyallup Tribe who were dedicated not just to preserving, but growing the language among the *puyələpabš*, the Puyallup People. A few months after the course was over, while I was at Conclave, I got a call asking if I would like to join the *txʷəłšucid* Language Department -- and I could not pass this opportunity up.

---

My first day was August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and I am so humbled and grateful to be a part of something so important. My job in the department is to spend half the day studying the language with a "language guru" and the second half teaching. I co-teach at Chief Leschi School, one middle school class and two high school classes, a total of 16 students. I really wish my *scapa?*, grandpa, could hear these kids speaking the language that he thought would die with him. At the moment, I also teach one online class for adults, though I will be teaching a second one in January. In addition, I will be co-teaching after-school classes for the teachers at Chief Leschi so that they can use the language with their students. This busy department also spends hours producing hilarious and informative videos, in one of which I will premier this month.

In closing, it is because of my calling to this important endeavor that I have decided that I must resign from the Pacific Northwest Viols board. Not only have I been too occupied to attend the meetings, as a good boardie should, but I am also occupied with my learning and teaching duties. I hardly have any time to practice! I do plan to still be a part of the Early Music and Viol community, so I will not disappear completely. I do hope to see you all soon.

-Chris

## Members' Corner: Leo Velázquez

*Olga Hauptman*

Leonardo Velázquez has been a member since June 2016 when he rented our Dolmetsch bass.

Leo moved from his home in Puerto Rico to New York City in 2004 to study design and technology at the Parsons School of Design. He played a little guitar and piano at that time, but became enamored of the bass viol when he saw the movie *Tous les Matins du Monde*, which led him to attend a solo recital given by Jordi Savall at the Morgan Library. Leo decided to incorporate the sound of the viol in a recording project he is doing in his home studio here in Seattle. He is just about finished with three songs which are part of a series called *La Aventura de Elegir* ("The Adventure of Choosing"). Using many recording tracks, Leo sings and plays, in addition to the gamba: guitar, synthesizer, drums, and various ethnic plucked string instruments, all from his own collection. You can hear Leo's music on Spotify (free app) under the artist name El Medio. You can read a review of the recording by Puerto Rican indie press at: <http://puertoricoindie.com/2017/12/13/el-medio-comienza-proyecto-colaborativo-episodico-laventura-delegir-i/>

Leo wrote to me a while ago about this project:

*I'm very excited about the recordings I'm doing...it's very emotional music and the gamba has become the unifying force of this work. I'm recording at home, layering several parts using the wide range of the bass viol to recreate a chamber orchestra sound. The music and songs are informed and inspired by epic poetry. Here's a picture of one of the sessions a friend took of me playing at home and testing a stereo sound.*



*Leo performing in his home studio (Photo: Leo Velazquez)*

## **Members' Corner: Report on Violsphere 2 (October 2017)**

*Toni Seales*

Biosphere 2 is about a half-hour north of Tucson. We had a great time doing classes in the "casita" housing available to the public. They had nice big front rooms which were conveniently spacious for classes and informal ensembles.

Alison Crum did an interesting and fun presentation on Mille Regrets, laying out the recurring motifs for us to find as the faculty played. While there, we saw about 50 different species of birds, mammals, and other critters. The optional Biosphere 2 tour was quite interesting! (<http://biosphere2.org/>)

Every class was different and included some composers we'd never heard of. It was great to see Lee Talner there, along with the delightful Tucson people I already know, and some new friends. It was lovely to be almost too hot and sun-drenched, of course! The mornings and evenings were pleasantly cool.

All in all, not a bad way to begin fall. Oh, don't forget to hydrate on the flight! I did get a cold!

## **More Musica Triumphans!: A weekend workshop for skilled viol players and singers in Historic Santa Fe**

*Michael King*

*[Editor's Note: David Morris asked us to share this upcoming workshop in which he will be teaching along with Mary Springfels and Larry Lipnik.]*

*More Musica Triumphans!* presents another sampling of the finest poetical offerings for 4-to-6 voices from England, Northern Italy, and beyond. This second annual *Musica Triumphans!* will have a significantly changed format from last year: We are thrilled to add Gary Thor Wedow to

our faculty; Maestro Wedow is a distinguished choral conductor with a deep love of early repertoires, particularly Monteverdi and his contemporaries.

We encourage the participation of professional and experienced amateur singers, and will limit the enrollment of upper intermediate and advanced viol players to eighteen. The weekend classes will be divided between coached consorts, music for solo voices and viols, and conducted large-scale pieces for all participants.

Our esteemed viol faculty comprises— as it did last year— Larry Lipnik, David Morris, and Mary Springfels. With one more coach than last year, one more fantastic meal, limited enrollment, and price increases at the venue, it is a bit more expensive than last year, but we are working hard to create another unforgettable experience.



The workshop's faculty—Lawrence Lipnik, David Morris, Mary Springfels, and Gary Wedow — are among the top coaches in the field. Each tutor has chosen a repertoire, with the idea of working towards a performance on the final morning of the workshop. There will be nine formal sessions, plus the final reading. Additionally, there will be ample opportunities for informal singing and playing in the evenings. While the instrumental and vocal ensembles will be fixed for the weekend, every player will work with every instructor.

With only a short time to delve into fairly complex music, the workshop is aimed at registrants who can rate themselves as upper intermediate or higher. The VdGSA's self-rating guide is appended to the registration form (though it's tailored for viol players, singers should be able to adapt the guide to the voice). If you feel that the rating system is not applicable or doesn't do you justice, or are simply up for a challenge, please contact Mary Springfels to discuss your situation.

More information can be found in the *Musica Triumphans!* Brochure:

<https://www.severalfriends.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/More-Musica-Triumphans-Brochure.pdf>

## 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.

## David Morris Play Day Report?

*Michael King*

Hello Members! We would love to hear about the November 4<sup>th</sup> Play Day with David Morris – after all, how often do we get a chance to play Carl Nielsen on the viol? Please reach out to me to let me know if you had the assignment to do a write-up, or if you would be willing to do so based on your own notes from the Play Day – it is never too late!



**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):**

*\$20 Fee per participant  
A = 415*

- ❖ 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

***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)*