

President's Message

Charlie Nagel

Our year certainly started with a bang! I'm pleased to be able to report the enthusiastic reception which greeted our first experiment with an afternoon technique session. The informal structure allowed those who preferred to play consorts with others do just that, and the attendees who wanted a bit more focused sort of experience could also have that. It was a successful experiment, and we'll certainly continue to include it in our afternoon Play Day schedule.

2008-2009 Season

Play Day Dates and Presenters

- ✓ **October 4** - Shanon Zusman
- ✓ **November 22**– Rachel Mathews
- ✓ **January 17** – 1-Day Workshop, "Songs Without Words", with Margriet Tindemans and faculty
- ✓ **March 14** – Margriet Tindemans
- ✓ **May 16** – TBA

Play Day Schedule –

- ✓ 9:30 AM: Check in, signup for consorts, and tuning
- ✓ 10:00 AM: Grand Consort, Presentation
- ✓ 11:30 AM: **Lunch break**
- ✓ 1:00 PM: First session: Informal Consorts and technique class
- ✓ 2:30 PM: Second session: Informal consorts and a coached consort
- ✓ 4:00 PM: Cleanup

*\$15 Fee per participant
A = 415*

Play Day Location –

**Cathedral Place at St. James
(PNV customary Venue)**
803 Terry Avenue
Seattle, Washington

Parking available in O'Dea High School lot
(free)

And in the Parkade at Boren and Marion
Streets (\$)

The "doubling consort" format in the second afternoon consort session was intended to pair more experienced players with those who might feel less secure, too exposed, playing in a "one on a part" setting. What happened in the first Play Day was something your board hadn't predicted: people of all levels signed up to enjoy sharing an extended hour of sight-reading pieces in a group that included Shanon.

There was plenty of opportunity for small consorts to be formed during the same period, so we speculated that being in a larger group had some appeal for some participants. We'll be talking to people at the next Play Day to get more feedback, and do our best to construct sign-up sheets that reflect various interests.

Of course, the usual ad hoc small consorts will continue to be part of the fun. I myself would really miss the opportunity to make music with members of the organization with whom I don't often get the chance to play.

One feature many people enjoyed during last year's Play Days was the occasional "mini concert" in which various members and groups played for the rest of us

a sample of their efforts. The little five-minute presentations after lunch, before the first afternoon period, are something we'd very much like to continue.

If you or your group have something you'd like to share with us, let us know and we'll be delighted to include you in the schedule. It might be a good idea to let me or one of the other board members know in advance, to avoid conflicts.

Get Acquainted with Rachel Matthews

Pianist Rachel Matthews was in former years a tenor and bass viol player with the Washington (DC) *Camerata*, and with early music ensembles at Oberlin, Peabody, and Princeton.

Although it has been a decade or so since she touched a gamba, she hopes you will bear with her nonetheless as she offers a lively presentation around building general musicianship through *rhythm*. Ground yourself in this most elemental building block of *all* music! Through musical examples as well as exercises and improvisation, this exploration will sharpen basic skills, while also illuminating more subtle nuances of interpretation and enhancing rehearsal techniques

PNV has Complementary Relationship with St James

Liisa Peterson

“Service is the rent we pay to be living.”

Marian Wright Edelman

Something that players never take for granted is their meeting venue. Just like Baby Bear, we want things to be just right – temperature, seating, lighting...

We of the Pacific Northwest Viols group appreciate our Play Day space at St. James Cathedral in Seattle. The Cathedral provides us access to a suite of rooms that generously furnish our Play Day needs and wants. Recently I became aware of the way that our group “pays rent” and got curious about other groups around the country. I’ll share our story here and hope to hear stories from other VdGSA chapters that I can share in a future article.

This is the sixteenth year of the Pacific Northwest Viols (PNV) group. From the beginning the group has been graciously hosted by St. James thanks to Dr. James Savage, Cathedral Music Director. The Cathedral provides lovely Play Day facilities in exchange for music! Can you imagine a more perfect partnership?

The historic St. James Cathedral with its large urban parish has many, varied opportunities to share music. Over the years PNV members have played for religious services, worked with the youth choir, given instrument demonstrations and performed for local retirement communities.

This musical relationship of service has benefited many over the years. Our opportunities for this year are being formulated. Want to play or share your expertise? Buttonhole a board member at the next Play Day or email one of us.

Editor's note:

The regular PNV January Play Day will be supplanted in 2009 by Margriet's terrific one-day workshop. So, there will be no regular edition of the Soundpost prior to that event, as Margriet will communicate necessary details for separately to all who have registered for the workshop.

See you in April!

PNV Grieves the Loss of a Cherished Friend

Bob Monroe served as President of PNV, and was an enthusiastic participant in Play Day activities for many years. He will be greatly missed. His obituary from the Seattle Post-Intelligencer of October 26 is reprinted here.

Bob Monroe was born in Aberdeen, South Dakota, the third of seven children born to two teachers, who instilled in him a lifelong love of learning. From a very early age he greatly admired his maternal grandfather, who was a family doctor, and was determined to become a doctor himself. In 1949 he was awarded a music scholarship to Midwestern University in Wichita Falls, Texas, and played drums in the marching and concert band while doing his pre-med studies

In his senior year a freshman drummer, Peggy, caught his eye. They became engaged and were married after he completed two years of basic science in South Dakota's School of Medicine. They then moved to Chicago, where he completed his M. D. degree at Northwestern University School of Medicine. After a year of internship in Philadelphia and two years working for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in New Mexico as a doctor for the Navajo and Ute tribes, he came to Seattle.

Except for two years in Ecuador working as a Peace Corps physician, he remained with Group Health Cooperative from 1960 to 1996, when he retired. During his time with Group Health he worked in many different medical fields-family doctor, geriatrician, nursing home physician -- with his biggest single accomplishment being the transformation of the Family Practice Residency program during his tenure as director.

His tremendous energy carried over to the tennis court, his family, travel, cooking,

gardening, reading, enjoying his vacation property on Hood Canal and active membership in the Quaker meeting. Music was always a major part of his life. He played drums in community orchestras in Chicago and Philadelphia, and was a member of the percussion section of the Bellevue Philharmonic and the Seattle Philharmonic for years. Bob also enjoyed playing the recorder and, after his retirement, spent many happy hours playing the viola da gamba with other early music enthusiasts.

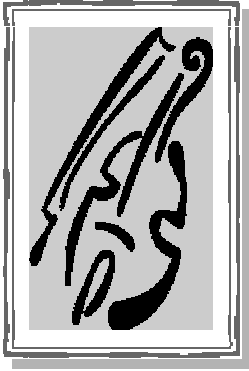
Around 2000 he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, and from November of 2005 lived in Gaffney House, a supported living facility. In his time there he was expertly and lovingly cared for, and his final days were eased by the compassionate skills of Group Health Hospice. The Quaker community and his many friends and family members kept up his spirits and made music for him, helping to light his path through the long darkness of Alzheimer's.

He is survived by his loving wife Peggy; sons Brian (Sandy), Bruce (Moir) and Chris; his beloved grandchildren, Tyler and Ellie, two brothers and two sisters. We will always remember his perpetual enthusiasm and curiosity, his ready laugh, his homemade pesto, his wise counsel, and the good Midwestern common sense that served him and us so well. Special thanks to Mt. St. Vincent's wonderful Day Health Program.

The family suggests that in lieu of flowers donations can be made to University Friends Meeting, the Group Health Foundation or Elder Health Northwest (Gaffney House). A memorial service will be held on Nov. 9 at 4:30 p.m. at University Friends Meeting, 4001 Ninth Ave. NE

Pacific Northwest Viols
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Pacific Northwest Viols, Board Members 2008 – 2009

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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:** mafac@msn.com.