

THE SOUNDPOST

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

President's Message

Lee Inman

This morning, while contemplating what I might have to donate to the upcoming Conclave's silent auction, I (re)-discovered on my messy bookshelf my copy of Gerald Hayes' "The Viols and Other Bowed Instruments", which I think I purchased in London in the early 1970's. The first edition of this scholarly work was printed a year earlier, in 1969, a year which some viol players may regard as being in the remotest past, but with which I have some intimate familiarity. "The Viols..." was at the time regarded as **THE** authoritative source for detailed information about the instrument, and contains several lengthy chapters about its construction, tuning, playing technique, and repertory. What is curiously missing, however, is an equally detailed discussion of the instruments origins and early history. One finds, of course, many vague and discreet allusions and considerable speculation on that point, but astonishingly few specifics. The reader's eye rolls off the pages as it searches in vain for dates or locations.

In the intervening forty-plus years, much diligent research – and doubtless several DMA and PhD dissertations – managed to fill in most of those blanks. The book's value now is mostly as a historical artifact, so it's definitely going to the VdGSA auction stack. You're all welcome to bid on it; it has a lovely moss-green cover, and it's printed on excellent paper!

It goes almost without saying that a profound commitment to our beloved viol over the course of many years was necessary to research and document the more complete information we now have about the instrument. And that effort would very likely not have been invested had the viol not garnered such affection among its hundreds, perhaps thousands, of devotees world-wide. I hope you're all planning to attend this year's Conclave in Forest Grove, Oregon, to celebrate and share that affection with your fellow devotees.

May 11th is our final Play Day of the season, and we are extremely pleased to have Josh Lee, a fine player and teacher from San Francisco, as our presenter. As with Joanna Blendulf earlier this season, Josh comes to us as a result of the board's decision last year to ensure that some presenters and teachers from a broader geographical area would be included in the Play Day season. I'm sure Josh's presentation, and coaching in the afternoon, will be both energetic and inspirational.

We'll hold our annual members' meeting that same day, at the modest cost of a slightly shorter lunch period. As always, the board eagerly awaits your questions and comments. We also have for your consideration two candidates for election to the board: Bill Warren, and Michael King. Noreen Jacky has opted to take a sabbatical from her board duties, though she's eager to support the program committee's activities as a non-board-member. Please take a moment to offer Noreen your thanks for her many years of dedicated service to Pacific Northwest Viols.

See you on the 11th!

Play Day Schedule

- 9:00 am - Check in, sign up for consorts, tune
- 10:00 am - Grand Consort Presentation
- 11:30 am - Annual Meeting
- 12:00 noon - Lunch
- 1:00 pm - First Consort Session
- 2:30 pm - Second Consort Session
- 4:00 pm - Clean up

\$20 Fee per participant
A = 415

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

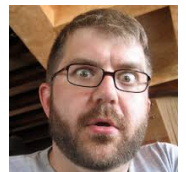
Parking available in O'Dea High School lot (free)
and in the Parkade at Boren and Marion Streets (\$)

Josh Lee Leads May 11 Play Day

Josh Lee



Cited for his "stylish and soulful playing," **Josh Lee** performs on viols and double bass with some of the world's leaders in early music. Josh is an alumn of the Peabody Conservatory and the Longy School of Music where he studied double bass with Harold Hall Robinson and viol with Ann Marie Morgan and Jane Hershey. Founder of the ensemble Ostraka, he is a member of Musica Pacifica and has performed with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Carmel Bach Festival, Boston Early Music Festival Orchestra, American Bach Soloists, Les Délices, and Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra. Josh's performances have been heard on National Public Radio's *Performance Today* and *Harmonia*, and he has recorded for Dorian, Koch International and Reference Recordings. Recently praised as "a master of the score's wandering and acrobatic itinerary" by the Cleveland Plain Dealer, Josh is director of the Viola da Gamba Society of America Young Players' Weekend.



And here is what I plan on working on with the large grand consort:

We will start the day with a group warm up, where I'll review some left hand and bowing exercises to bring a sense of body awareness to your practice. Having struggled to recover from a serious left hand injury over the past year, I think we often don't listen to our bodies as we pursue the music we love. Please come to the play day with questions in mind particular to yourself and your experience with the viol - and I'll do the best to help you make playing less painful.

Play, Schmooze and Vote

Liisa Peterson

At May Play Day we will take time to look back on the year as an organization. There will be time to compliment, complain and comment as we consider this-and-that and vote for board members.

<i>PNV Board Members Terms</i>		
<i>2010-2013</i>	<i>2011-2014</i>	<i>2012-2015</i>
<i>Noreen Jacky</i>	<i>Vicki Hoffman</i>	<i>Olga Hauptman</i>
<i>Bill Warren</i>	<i>Michael LaGaly</i>	<i>Lee Inman</i>
	<i>Lee Talner</i>	<i>Liisa Peterson</i>
	<i>Jon Brenner</i>	<i>Chris Briden</i>

Noreen Jacky will be stepping down from the board. She plans to stay involved in programming. We owe Noreen many thanks for her years of enthusiastic service especially in organizing Play Day leaders and outreach programs.

Bill Warren will stand for reelection to the board. Michael King has offered to be a candidate. Additional candidates' names can be taken from the floor at the time of the vote.

Thanks to St. James Cathedral

PNV Board

St. James Cathedral has honored Pacific Northwest Viols by including us on a list of Resident Ensembles. Go to <http://www.stjames-cathedral.org/music/aboutus.aspx#residents> to see the roster. This relationship with the Cathedral provides us with opportunities to go out into the community and play. Pacific Northwest Viols membership gives the gift of music to people of all ages. This year we performed and taught in churches, retirement communities, schools and a busy bookstore.

We are grateful to St. James for providing us with a lovely base for Play Days. The staff at the Cathedral is always helpful and cheerful. The facilities are super. AND recently St. James Cathedral allowed us to store our music library on site which (ask Miles) saves wear and tear on knees, tempers and... (just ask Miles).



PNV Outreach to Roosevelt High School is Underway

Liisa Peterson; Photo Lee Talner



Chris Briden plays for the gamba student group at Roosevelt High School.

The beauty of the viola da gamba is dazzling music students at Roosevelt High School again this spring. Thanks to Lee Talner, Ellen Seibert and Chris Briden for giving their time and talent to these young people. Stay tuned for an email with date and time to hear the students play.

Remember!

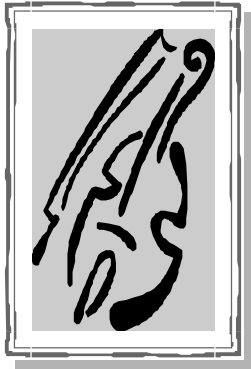
Liisa Peterson

May Concert: Please join the community on May 7th at 7:30 pm for Chris Briden's program **Nearly Perfect** at Trinity Parish Church, 609 8th Ave, Seattle, WA 98104.

National VdGSA 2013 Conclave is in Forest Grove, OR this summer. Check it out online: <http://vdgsa.org/pgs/conclave-2013/2013conclave.shtml>

Pacific Northwest Viols
10056 NE Knight Rd
Bainbridge Island WA 98110

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Pacific Northwest Viols 2012-2013 Season

PNV Play Day Dates

- ❖ September 8, 2012—Pastoral Outreach Center led by Ronnee Fullerton
- ❖ November 10, 2012—Cathedral Place led by Lee Inman
- ❖ January 19, 2013--Cathedral Place; Led by Joanna Blendulf
- ❖ March 9, 2013--Cathedral Place led by Margriet Tindemans
- ❖ **May 11, 2013—Cathedral Place led by Josh Lee**

*\$20 Fee per participant
A = 415*

Play Day Location for May 11
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 (\$)

Pacific Northwest Viols, Board Members 2012 – 2013

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|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ❖ Lee Inman, President | ❖ Chris Briden, Member at Large |
| ❖ Jon Brenner, Secretary, Programs | ❖ Noreen Jacky, Programs |
| ❖ Bill Warren, St. James Coordinator | ❖ Vicki Hoffman, Programs |
| ❖ Michael LaGaly, Treasurer | ❖ Olga Hauptman, Instrument Rental |
| ❖ Lee Talner, Outreach | ❖ Liisa Peterson, Communications |

Find Pacific Northwest Viols on the web: 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: liisapeterson@gmail.com.*