

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



I am pleased to announce that sign-ups for lessons with Sarah Mead for her second session as our VdGSA Circuit Rider for 2019 has been enthusiastic. We are trying out an online sign up system this time that seems to be working well, thanks to Michael King. There are still a few spots available, so you can either go online to at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A44AEAE29A6FB6-sarah1> to view the schedule and sign up or contact Ellen Seibert at eseibert1@me.com. Remember that Sarah will be here two additional times for lessons not associated with a Play Day, so be sure to take advantage of these opportunities for lessons with her.

A generous gift of \$100 from an anonymous donor was made available in January for two less experienced/new viol players for an hour lesson with Sarah. One of these was taken for a January lesson. A second hour lesson has become available for March due to a schedule conflict for the person who had signed up. Contact me at Play Day or at info@pnviols.org if you think you meet those criteria and are interested. This is a great opportunity to “dive in” and take advantage of a no-risk lesson with Sarah.

Based on feedback from our forum at the January Play Day for getting input from less experienced players about things that would improve their Play Day experience, the PNViols Board has enlisted Caroline Nicolas to provide a coached session for new/less experienced players at the first afternoon session at Play Days. This is a great opportunity to work with a professional gamba player at a level that is comfortable for this group. Be sure to plan to come to the March Play Day to take advantage of this session.

I am pleased to announce that the PNViols Board also approved a scholarship lesson for a less experienced player at each of the times that we have a VdGSA Circuit Rider here for lessons. This is another opportunity for less experienced players to take advantage of a lesson with Sarah Mead for the two additional times she will be here after the March visit. Again, contact me at info@pnviols.org if you are interested.

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 26th: Sarah Mead

Play Day Location

Queen Anne Christian Church

1316 3rd Ave. W
Seattle, WA 98119

As I announced in my January message, PNViols is a co-sponsor of the Port Townsend Early Music Workshop being held July 7-13, 2019, with a faculty including four viola da gamba teachers. See the website link later in the newsletter to get information about available classes and to register for this early music workshop.

I hope that all of you will be able to make it to Play Day on Saturday, March 16, for the second session with our VdGSA circuit rider for 2019, Sarah Mead!

Bill Warren,
President, PNViols

Sarah Mead leads Play Day – Saturday, March 16th

Michael King, Biography from 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.

For this second Play Day of 2019, Sarah will be presenting a session entitled, “Playing Around with Your Bow!” – more on this from Sarah:

In thinking about music for a large group to work on bowing, I found myself choosing a series of canons, so that we can all practice the same gestures together before making them into a piece of music . . . the title of our session [will be] "Playing Around with your Bow" (haha). Looking forward to making music with you all!

-Sarah

Beginner's Sessions with Caroline Nicolas starting at the March 16th Play Day!

Caroline Nicolas

Beginning at the March 16 Play Day, Caroline Nicolas will be offering coached consort sessions for beginners after the morning presentations from 1:00 to 2:15 PM. We will focus on the basics of getting comfortable with ensemble playing. All are welcome!

Help us fill our obligation to QACC – sign up to play for a service!

Toni Seales

[Editor's Note – Toni has reached out to say we REALLY need you and your ensemble to sign up to help! One piece – 3 minutes – and a lovely experience for all!]

Play with friends on occasion? Please consider helping us fulfill our obligation to the church for using their space for our Play Days. You only need to prepare a single piece, about 3 minutes in length, and the congregants are always very appreciative!

We still need a group on Sunday, May 12, 2019. Please contact Toni Seales, antonia509@gmail.com, or let any board member know if you have questions or would like to play!

Review of our January 26th Play Day with Sarah Mead

Ellen Seibert

Sarah Mead was both our presenter on Saturday, January 26th and our new Circuit Rider for the calendar year of 2019, teaching lessons over three days to 15 people who signed up for individual and coached group sessions.

Sarah is professor of music at Brandeis University in Boston, where she teaches early music ensembles, history of music classes and inspirational lessons to her students. She is also an active performer on viols in many ensembles, famous for her own premier group called Nota Bene which performs on Renaissance viols, all made by Ray Nurse and with special bows made for the instruments which make a huge difference in how the instruments are played. She was also the music director of the Viola da Gamba Society of America for a six-year-period after Martha Bishop retired from that position after many years. With her broad knowledge and specialty in Renaissance music we benefited from her wealth of expertise on Saturday!

Sarah's gave us an extremely clear demonstration and practical application of Renaissance music theory. Our tonal harmonic scales of later periods were not known in the 16th century. We sang a hexachord, the foundational series of six ascending notes which provided the structure of music composition in the 16th century and tell us which mode we are in. The solmization of those hexachord notes, ut, re, mi, fa, sol, la, were learned by all students at that time. Stating on our familiar piano keyboard note middle C as "ut", "or "do", we see that the "scale" or "mode" has two whole steps and then a ½ step from E to F and then two more whole steps to get to "la". In former times a teacher taught singing of notes using a hand and fingers

to point to the syllables, dating as far back as Guido d'Arezzo in the 11th century. In the example of E to F half step the syllables would be *mi* and *fa*. Therefore, if another hexachord starts on a different note than our C on the piano the *do, re, mi, fa, sol, la* will place *mi* and *fa*, the half step, on different pitches than E and F. Voila, the mode is a new one, which by the placement of the half step may make the song feel cheerful or sad or full of angst.

Sarah had us all sing a tune and words of Psalm 114 in the Dorian mode beginning on D. The words about Israel coming out of Egypt and Judah becoming God's sanctuary were set in musical lines illustrating the strength of the Dorian hexachord or the sense of wandering through other note sequences. We followed this example with Sweelinck's Pseume 114 in parts. Next a piece by Mattheus Maistre, "Aus tiefer Not" on Psalm 130 in Phrygian, the third mode. This mode was thought to be melancholy and dangerous and could lead a person to become lost (or worse!). We played Lydian, the fifth mode, in a Lassus composition "Beau le cristal," containing the tritone, corrected with a B-flat. We ended the morning session with Gussago's Sonata terzadecima 'La Badina' in Mixolydian mode, a G major. This was a cheerful part piece, expansive and giving of hope.

Sarah's morning presentation gave us all hope for better understanding of 16th century music which includes some of the most wonderful viol music available to us.

In the afternoon the attendance was far less than the 20+ people I counted in the morning, with Sarah coaching one group at each session. This makes for somewhat difficult arrangements of groups (so please plan on staying when you can!).

Review of Festa Barocca! and a heads-up on Joyne Hands!

Caroline Nicolas (with drawings by Ellen Seibert)



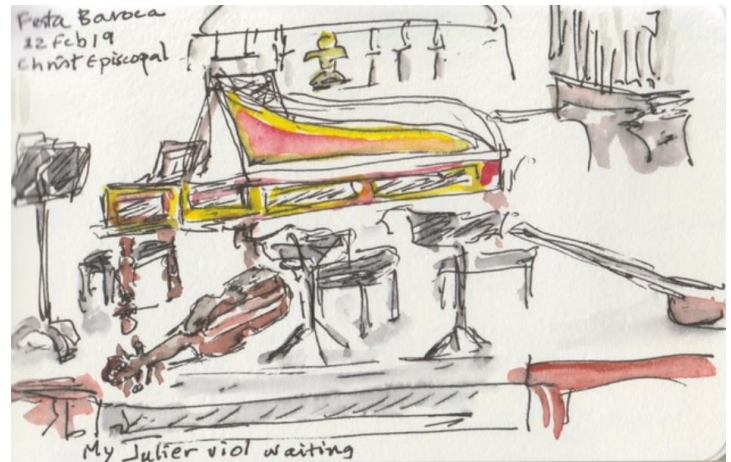
On Friday, February 22, I put on a concert of Baroque favorites with Carrie Krause (violin), Henry Lebedinsky (harpsichord) and Kevin Payne (theorbo) at Christ Episcopal Church. It was a program of chamber music by Alessandro Stradella, Heinrich Ignaz Franz von Biber, Antonio Vivaldi, Elisabeth Jacquet de la Guerre, Jean-Féry Rebel and Marin Marais. Carrie Krause, who is based in Bozeman, Montana, was one of my dear colleagues at The Juilliard School. It was a delight to

put together a program uniting old and new friends! The audience was warm and attentive. With such an intimate feeling in the hall, we enjoyed speaking and presenting interesting facts about the pieces and composers. Ellen Seibert sketched these beautiful pictures of the concert.

My next concert will be on Saturday, March 30 at 7:30 PM at Christ Episcopal Church! The program, named Joyne Hands, will be a program of Renaissance music.

I will be playing on a new viol built by Scott Smith and will be joined by Shulamit Kleinerman (violin), Miyo Aoki (recorder), Jonathan Oddie (keyboard) and Kevin Payne (Renaissance lute).

We hope to see you all there!



Port Townsend Early Music Workshop, July 7th-13th, 2019

Michael King

Save the Date!!! for the Port Townsend Early Music Workshop which will be held on the campus of the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma. The workshop is especially excited to welcome the composer Sören Sieg from Germany.

More info: <http://www.seattle-recorder.org/Workshop/index.html>

Current list of faculty: Adam Gilbert, Alexa Haynes-Pilon, Charles Coldwell, Cléa Galhano, David Morris, Ellen Seibert, Jonathan Oddie, Mary Springfels, Miyo Aoki, Nina Stern, Peter Maund, Peter Seibert, Sarah Mead, Sören Sieg, and Vicki Boeckman

57th VdGSA Conclave back on the West Coast, July 21st-28th, 2019

Michael King and Tim Scott, President, Cascadia Viols

PNV Members! We are fortunate that the VdGSA will be holding conclave on the lovely campus of Pacific University, in Forest Grove, Oregon, less than an hour from Portland and only 4 hours from Seattle!

First, for more info on Conclave: <https://vdgsa.org/pgs/conclave-2019/2019conclave.html>

Second, a note from Tim Scott, the president of the Cascadia Viols chapter of the VdGSA which is based in Portland:

As you know, we have conclave here this summer. It would be a great help if some of your members could lend instruments, especially basses, of course, for people to use during conclave. If there are especially-good viols, we would let the faculty use them. If



people can lend an instrument, but are not coming to conclave, we can arrange transportation. Or another Seattleite (?) could bring the instrument.

[Editor's Note: Indeed, we will, Tim! How lucky we are to have both the Port Townsend workshop as well as Conclave to attend this summer! Please reach out if you need a ride or carpool or you can help with an instrument – I am sure we have members that will be happy to lend a hand!]

From Our Friends at Cascadia Viols

Michael King

Our sister chapter in Portland, Cascadia Viols, has several great presenters lined up for their season. More info at <http://www.cascadiaviols.org>.

Cascadia Viols, one-day workshops, all at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Portland, OR:

- Saturday, March 30, Tina Chancey
- Saturday, June 1, Lee Inman

You'll notice that none of these dates overlap with ours – not through intentional planning, but a very happy coincidence!

The March 30th Cascadia Viols Workshop with Tina Chancey is entitled, "I love Lucette: Music of Renaissance France." Chansons, secular theater music as well as consort music will be explored, with composers Le Jeune, D'Estrée, Moderne and du Caurroy represented. This will be one of Cascadia's first workshops featuring French music! Registration is required and can be done online here: <https://form.jotform.com/90618331901149>.

Treble Viol for Sale

Helen Mater

Treble Viol for Sale. Asking \$900. Built in 1978 by Larry Higgins of Higgins & Sons, San Francisco. Includes handmade cow hide case.

Contact:

Helen Van Mater

206 979-1225

vanmaterh@icloud.com.



(More) Viols for Sale!

Toni Seales

Student model, John Pringle treble with bow and Pegheds, \$1000.
Chinese-made, bass viol from Bill Lazar. \$1800. Bass viol bow, \$1200.

Contact Toni Seales

360-633-9929, antonia509@gmail.com

Treble Viol for Sale

Michael King

Ronald Prentice, 1972, London.
Includes original Robinwood hard case. No bow.

\$5000 OBO

For more info:

Michael King, 425-269-8219,
miking@microsoft.com



Have you been meaning to pay your 2018-2019 PNV Dues?

Janet Slack

We are all busy enough that it can be tricky to remember whether we have paid PNV dues. Our membership year runs from July 1st to June 30th, but most members pay dues when our Play Day season begins each fall. Dues are \$20 per year, and \$5 for the newsletter only.

Reminders have not typically been sent out, but only 25 people have paid dues this year. So, a friendly reminder will be sent out in early February if you haven't yet renewed!

Membership secretary, Janet Slack, keeps these records, and will bring them along to the January 26th Play Day. If you are not sure whether you have paid, you can check with her before the morning session or during a break. We're also enclosing a membership form in the newsletter for your convenience!



**TRUNK SHOW OF
FINE VIOLIN FAMILY
INSTRUMENTS**

(sorry, no viols)

BY ANDREW CARRUTHERS

<https://www.andrewcarruthers.com/>

Mr. Carruthers will be present, along with several of his violins, a viola, and a cello, for musicians to try out.

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 10AM-2:30PM
at Phinney Ridge Lutheran, Seattle

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2PM-4:30 PM
at Meeting Room,
Woods Coffee, Flatiron Building
across from Sparks Museum, Bellingham :



*Joyne
Hands*

A MUSICAL CELEBRATION OF
RENAISSANCE MASTERPIECES.

*Featuring works by Allison, Byrd,
Dowland and Morley*

Musicians

MIYO AOKI recorder

SHULAMIT KLEINERMAN violin

CAROLINE NICOLAS viola da gamba

KEVIN PAYNE renaissance lute

JONATHAN ODDIE harpsichord

SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2019 AT 7:30 PM
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
4548 BROOKLYN AVE NE
SEATTLE, WA 98105

SUGGESTED DONATION \$20



Pacific Northwest Viols

Membership Form

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

As a member you'll 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 \$_____.

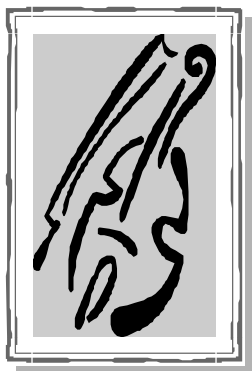
Thank you!

Please mail all checks (Payable to "PNV") to:

Janet Slack
6823 185th St. SW
Lynnwood, WA 98037

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Pacific Northwest Viols – 2018-2019 Season

PNV Play Day Dates (Saturdays):

- ❖ September 29, 2018: Lee Inman
- ❖ November 10, 2018: Jonathan Oddie
- ❖ January 26, 2018: Sarah Mead
- ❖ **March 16, 2018: Sarah Mead**
- ❖ May 11, 2018: Caroline Nicolas

*\$20 Fee per participant
A = 415*

Play Day location:

**Queen Anne Christian
Church**
1316 3rd Ave. W
Seattle, WA 98119

Pacific Northwest Viols, Board Members (2018-2019)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| ❖ Bill Warren, President | ❖ Michael King, Communications / Librarian |
| ❖ Amy Warren, Secretary | ❖ Vicki Hoffman, Programs |
| ❖ Michael LaGaly, Treasurer | ❖ Jon Brenner, Programs |
| ❖ Janet Slack, Membership Custodian | ❖ Caroline Nicolas, Librarian and At-Large |
| | ❖ Toni Seals, QACC Coordinator |

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