

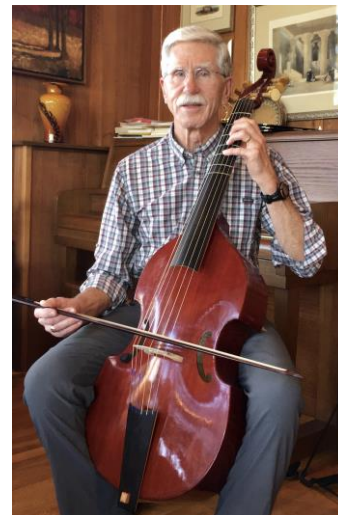
THE SOUNDPOST

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

The President's Message

Bill Warren

So much has changed since our February Circuit Rider visit with Ros Morley and our March Play Day with Eric Andersen! No surprise that the Circuit Rider program has been cancelled by VdGSA, so we have had to cancel our May Play Day and Circuit Rider in-person visit with Ros Morley. VdGSA is encouraging all participants to schedule online lessons with the Circuit Riders in order to ensure some income for all of these wonderful artists who have been so severely impacted by the lockdown and social distancing that has been necessitated by the Covid19 pandemic. So, we are scheduling online lessons with Ros using SignUpGenius for the time period May 7-10 when she would have been here in person. I encourage you to support the Circuit Rider program by using the link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0a44aeae29a6fb6-online> to sign up for an online lesson with Ros. We have all benefited enormously from participation in this program, and we want to ensure its continuity.



At this time Ros is scheduled for September 24-27 for her third Circuit Rider visit in conjunction with our September 26 Play Day and November 19-22 for her fourth Circuit Rider visit. We hope that the pandemic will be sufficiently contained by that time that it will be safe for Ros to be here in person.

As previously announced, we are moving the location of our Play Days to Maple Leaf Lutheran Church (MLLC) for our 2020-2021 season. MLLC is more accessible from I-5 than Queen Anne Christian (QACC), and there is ample parking in the adjacent parking lot. I am looking forward to meeting there, hopefully for our September Play Day. I have notified QACC of our intent to change locations and thanked them for allowing us to use their facility for Play Days for the past several years. They have been very appreciative of the special music presentations by our members at their church services in return for our use of the facility.

I am making arrangements for our music library to be stored at MLLC to be accessible for our Play Days. This library is a really valuable resource for our Play Days for the afternoon ensembles. 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 7: Erik Andersen

Play Day Location
Queen Anne Christian Church
1316 3rd Ave. W
Seattle, WA 98119

also want this library to be available to our members for their own use, so we have initiated a checkout program for that purpose. You will be able to check out music at Play Days which generally would be returned at the next Play Day. A checkout form is available for you to sign out the music. Plan to take advantage of this valuable resource for you and your ensemble.

A reminder that the PNViols Board has approved a scholarship lesson for a less experienced player at each of the times that we have a VdGSA circuit rider here for lessons. Contact me at bhwarrendoc@comcast.net if you are interested in taking advantage of this opportunity for an online lesson with Ros Morley May 7-10.

We have several members who are retiring from the PNViols board as of May 2020. I want to thank Jon Brenner, Janet Slack, Toni Seales, and Vicki Hoffman for their service and contributions. Participation on the board is essential for the ongoing vitality and functioning of this organization. I am pleased to announce that Jenny Wilkson and Chu-Lan Chiong have agreed to join the PNViols board. Ordinarily you would have the opportunity to officially elect them at our May Play Day. Since that is not happening you will receive an opportunity by email to vote for these two new board members. With the retirement of four board members, we will still be short two board members, so let me or a board member know if you are willing to participate in this important activity.

Remember to sign up for an online lesson with our May Circuit Rider Ros Morley. I hope to see all of you in person for our September Play Day at MLLC.

Bill Warren
President, PNViols

Saturday, May 9th Play Day Cancelled due to COVID-19

Michael King

While we were able to slip our March 7th Play Day in just under the radar, our May 9th Play Day with Ros Morley has had to be cancelled due to Stay at Home orders that are impacting us locally and across the country. Fortunately, we can take advantage of technology to conduct online lessons with Ros Morley, and she will be available for lessons from Thursday, May 7th through Sunday, May 10th between the hours of 9AM-12PM and 1PM-4PM Pacific time, with online sign-ups available. It isn't too late to sign-up and you can do so here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A44AEAE29A6FB6-online>.

Write-up of our March 7th Play Day with Erik Andersen

Erik Andersen

What a joy it was to meet friends new and old at the PNViols play day on March 7th!

My visit came at a very strange time, as the COVID-19 had just struck King County. Seattle became the first city in the US to take proactive measures to stop the spread and flatten the

curve. While the empty roads made travel to Queen Anne's Church a breeze, the drive over with Mike King was mostly preoccupied with concerns as to whether there would be anyone playing at the Play Day at all. Fortunately, we ended up with more than a few of you braving both the virus and the new coach!

Our morning began with three madrigals in the Czech language (with some Moravian mixed in too) composed in the 1930s and 40s by Bohuslav Martinů. Czech, like many of its Slavic cousins, is notorious for its many toothful consonants, each beautiful cluster of which deserves some loving attention. For the sake of time, however, we covered the basics of Czech diction and put our bows to the string to practice some biting, finger-powered articulations.

The first madrigal, *Čí to husičky*, (Whose geese are these?) tells a light-hearted story about some noisy geese and the young man who disobeys his mother's request to shoot them. Instead he spends three groše for a bag of grain to feed the noisy flock! The chromatic lines at the end of the work paint a musical image of the geese floating about on the water.

Bolavá hlavěnka (The aching head) set a more plaintive mood and gave us plenty of opportunity to find the groove of the Czech language with stressed first syllables slurred into long vowels. The grievances of a young woman whose sweetheart is seeing another girl take a humorous turn when, after much complaining, she declares that she won't forgive this young man even if he gets down on his knees and begs forgiveness. She won't forgive him, she then says rather quaintly, until he also takes off his hat!

Yet another fraught relationship was detailed in the third and longest madrigal of the morning session, *Chceme my se chceme* (We want each other). In this work, the initial excitement of clandestine love is turned into a fluttering of eighth notes, while lyrical passages color the plaintive *but don't you love me's*, and a euphemistic Moravian idiom regarding a 'nut found among the grape vines' is set in playful canon across the ensemble. Here, too, the heroine has the last word, confessing her frustration and turning to God, "Lord in Heaven, whose wife will I be?"

For the first afternoon session we took a more technical turn and played all 12 Major scales in two octaves without the use of open strings. This chore, er, I mean--thrilling task--of using just two 'universal' fingerings to play in every key meant that we were finding our notes in all sorts of odd places across the frets. While I don't recommend playing all scales like this in one sitting every day, I was glad to see that each of you were having "aha moments" even in higher positions, not to mention above the frets. Good company made all the difference!

To conclude the day, we turned to Psalm 121, as set by Loys Bourgeois (presumably) in the Genevan Psalter of 1551, and later arranged for four voices by the Dutch composer, organist and pedagogue, Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck. Looking at a page from the Psalter which included solmization syllables and scale degrees, we first sang the chant tune, Ut Re Ut Fa Mi Re Ut etc., and then observed how Sweelinck used that material as the starting point for a beautiful piece of polyphony with imitation and word-painting.

With uplifted spirits, we then made haste to disinfect the chairs and tables with sanitary wipes and made do with smiles, waving hands, and kind words to say farewell (no hugs or handshakes in times like these).

[Editor's Note: It was terrific to welcome Erik Andersen to one of our Play Days for his inaugural PNV visit and hope this will start a tradition for the future!]

Pacific Northwest Viols Board Update

Michael King

The end of our 2019-2020 Season in May will see the retirement from the board of four long-time members – Jon Brenner (Member at Large) Janet Slack (Secretary), Vicki Hoffman (Program Coordinator) and Toni Seales (Queen Anne Christian Church / Maple Leaf Lutheran Church Coordinator). We want to thank them for their tremendous service, and to also invite you to come and serve on the board!

We want to welcome two new members to the board, Jenny Wilkson and Chu-Lan Chiong. Jenny will be helping me with Communications duties and Chu-Lan has agreed to be our secretary. We'll be sending a separate e-mail to you for an online sustaining vote for their addition to the board.

As Bill mentioned in his President's Letter, we are still in need of a couple of additional board members to be at full capacity. As an FYI, the board meets about 5 times a year before each Play Day, and is responsible for planning and organizing our Play Days, communicating with our Play Day presenters, working on our participation in workshops like Port Townsend Early Music Workshop, producing the SoundPost newsletter, working on community outreach, and much more! It is a great way to make new friends and to serve our viol-loving community here in the Northwest! Please let a board member know if you are interested or send an e-mail to info@pnviols.org.

Do you have a viol collecting dust? Consider helping the PNV Rental Program!

Michael King

PNV currently has nearly our entire inventory of instruments out for rent! While this is outstanding, it means we don't have instruments for any additional renters. If you have a spare viol or two that are collecting some dust, perhaps you could see them becoming a part of our rental instrument fleet – either on an individual case or a sustained basis? Options would include making your instrument available for a period of time for rental (loaning to PNV), permanently (donating instrument to PNV), or on an individual basis (we've identified a particularly need and you have an instrument that might be the right fit – say for an advanced student or someone needing to work on entrance to a conservatory program). Please reach out to Olga at rentals@pnviols.org and let her know if you can help with the program!

Looking for Play Day Presenter Hosts!

Michael King

We need volunteers to help host our Play Day presenters who visit us from out of town! This can be the full-service package including transportation to and from airport, meals, and even

providing a space for lessons, or a lighter version such as just providing a place to sleep and a ride to and from Play Day. Fairly typical is an arrival on a Thursday or Friday, with a Play Day

on Saturday and a departure on Sunday or Monday. If you are in a position to be able to assist, please reach out to me at soundpost@pnaviols.org, and we can get you added to our list of hosts for the 2020-2021 season!

Bass Viol for Sale

Roupen Shakarian

Bass Viol by James Cox, Baltimore, 1980. Comes with two bows, one made in England. The viol has new strings and is in very good condition. The bows have been rehaired. The back needs some cosmetic work done. The appraisal was set \$4,800, but I'm more than happy to set the price at \$4,000.

Contact:

Roupen Shakarian, 206.240.9106

Roupen.jsb@gmail.com



Bass Viol for Sale

Toni Seales

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.
Will include Chinese snakewood bow or
brazilwood bow, whichever you prefer.

\$3500 firm.

Contact:

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



Treble Viol for Sale

Helen Mater

Treble Viol for Sale. Asking \$450.
Built in 1978 by Larry Higgins of
Higgins & Sons, San Francisco.
Includes handmade cow hide case.

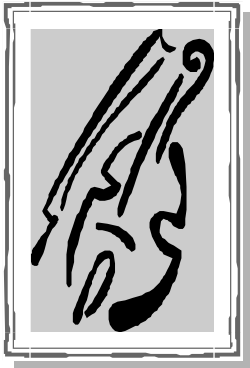
Contact:

Helen Van Mater, 206 979-1225
vanmaterh@icloud.com



Pacific Northwest Viols
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Pacific Northwest Viols – 2019-2020 Season

PNV Play Day Dates (Saturdays):

- ❖ September 28, 2019: Jonathan Oddie
- ❖ November 9, 2019: Caroline Nicolas
- ❖ January 25, 2020: Mary Springfels
- ❖ March 7, 2020: Erik Andersen
- ❖ **May 9, 2020: Ros Morley (cancelled)**

*\$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 (2019-2020)

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|--|---|
| ❖ Bill Warren, President | ❖ Michael King, Communications / Newsletter |
| ❖ Chu-Lan Chiong, Secretary | ❖ Jenny Wilkson, Communications Co-Chair |
| ❖ Michael LaGaly, Treasurer | ❖ TBD, Programs |
| ❖ Amy Warren, Membership Custodian / Librarian | ❖ TBD, MLCC Coordinator |
| ❖ Caroline Nicolas, Beginner Coach and Coordinator | |

Find Pacific Northwest Viols on the web at: <http://www.pnviols.org> and on Facebook and info@pnviols.org.

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: soundpost@pnviols.org