

THE SOUNDPOST

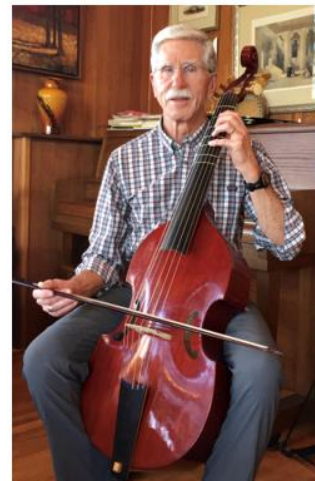
Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Viols – A chapter of the Viola da Gamba Society of America
On the web: WWW.PNVIOLS.ORG and info@pnviols.org

The President's Message

Bill Warren

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact our ability to meet in-person. Therefore, our November 7th Play Day will be held virtually, with our own Caroline Nicolas as our presenter. Caroline's session, entitled, "Strengthening your musical skills with creative practice", will have us working through William Byrd's *Ave Maris Stella*, addressing common issues like rhythmic stability, string crossings, sound quality and musical phrasing.

We have forwarded the music for Play Day to members via e-mail, and will shortly be providing recordings as well, both to practice ahead of time as well as afterwards. Caroline will be instructing us on how to play along with her or play "music-minus-one" with her during the play session. You will be able to choose your favorite instrument to play along—treble, tenor, or bass. I would recommend that you print out the score in addition to the part that you wish to play, as Caroline has added some phrase markings on the scores. We are fortunate to have such a wonderful teacher available locally, and a reminder that Caroline can be reached at carolinenicolas35@gmail.com to schedule private lessons.



We will be using Zoom for our virtual Play Day, just as we did for our September Play Day. Michael King will be providing instructions and technical support for getting everyone online. Be on the lookout for an e-mail and calendar invitation shortly. We are encouraging everyone to get online at 9:30AM, 30 minutes prior to our scheduled start time of 10:00, to make sure everyone gets connected and to also have some chat time with other members.

A reminder that Ros Morley is scheduled for her fourth Circuit Rider session, holding virtual lessons on November 20th, 21st and 22nd. You will be able to sign up for lessons for you and/or your consort via Sign-Up Genius, with an e-mail with instructions on how to do so to be sent shortly. As of the writing of this message, VdGSA has not announced plans for a 2021 Circuit Rider Program, however, Ros has agreed to be our unofficial Circuit Rider for 2021, and will offer online lessons on alternate months from our 2021 Play Days, so that there will be a PNViols gamba activity every month January-June 2021. I hope that you will take

Virtual Play Day Schedule

- 9:30 am – Connect online via Zoom
- 10:00 am – Welcome / Announcements
- 10:10 am – Grand Consort Presentation
- 12:00 pm – First Consort Session

\$10 Fee per participant, waived if member

A = 415

Saturday, November 7th
Presenter: Caroline Nicolas

Play Day Location
Online Meeting via Zoom
Link to be sent via e-mail

advantage of the opportunity for continuity of lessons with Ros. I have found that online lessons with her have worked really well.

We are offering an opportunity for you to renew your membership online this year. Michael LaGaly has arranged for online payment with PayPal—see his article with instructions later in this newsletter. You can also send in your membership renewal by mail using the form attached to this newsletter. Your membership fee of \$20 provides access to all of the virtual Play Day sessions for 2020-2021 as a benefit of membership during this COVID pandemic.

Cascadia Viols in Portland is offering a series of 1 ½ hour virtual workshops. These provide an additional opportunity to enhance your viol playing skills with excellent teachers. I would encourage you to go to their website <https://www.cascadiaviols.org> to view the schedule and sign up for one or more of these virtual workshops. These are a good complement to our Play Day sessions.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you online Saturday November 7 for our next virtual Play Day with Caroline Nicolas.

Bill Warren,
President, Pacific Northwest Viols

Review of Play Day #1 with Ros Morley

Janet Slack

On Saturday, September 26th, the first PNV Play Day of the season took place. Our presenter was Ros Morley, who is also currently our Circuit Rider and the title of her presentation was “Douce Memoire – Sweet Memories, 500 years of French Duets.” Members who signed up were able to download PDF files of the sheet music for Play Day and print out whichever part they wanted to play. Ros also provided MP4 files of herself playing each of the duet parts, so we would be able not only to better prepare for her sessions, but to continue playing along with them after Play Day was over.



There were 18 people in attendance, including several members from some distance away: Lee Talner from La Jolla, CA and Martin Bonham from Victoria, Canada. In turns out there are some advantages to the way we are having to meet now, and, of course, Ros did not have to leave her Brooklyn home in order to be with us!

Representing France through five centuries were six duets. Ros introduced each piece, pointed out some details about its origin and possible technical difficulties of which we should be aware. She would then play one line and participants had the choice to play along on the same line or

to play the other line to hear the duet. Each participant could hear only Ros and themselves, as participants were asked to remain muted until after playing through the piece at which point should we take questions. This format would seem to make teaching unusually difficult, but Ros rose to the challenge.

Plus Dure by Guillaume Machaut is in Virelai form, AbbaA, where A represents the refrain, each 'b' represents a different verse, and the 'a' represents the tune of the refrain but with different words. The virelai closes with A, the refrain with its original words. There were snippets of whole tone scales in this work, and Ros spoke of the need to think carefully through some of the fingerings. This Machaut duet was from the 14th century. Representing the 15th century was a Guillermus Du Fay duet, *Ce moys de may*, a rondeau with form ABaAabAB. It seems a complex road map through the piece, but Ros gave us all the music in AB, since we were playing, not singing. *Ce moys de may* is in 6:4, with both duple- and triple-meter patterns occurring in the parts. Sometimes one part is playing what would seem to be best phrased as a triple, against the other part's duple. It was a good way to keep one's mind alert during the pandemic!

Pierre de la Rue's *Pleni sunt* dates from around 1500 and is from a mass based on the popular tune *L'homme arme*. Ros also gave us music for *L'homme arme* in duet form. There were some tricky rhythms in *Pleni sunt* as well.

Many of us are familiar with *Douce Memoire*, a chanson written by Pierre Sandrin, which forms the base for many of the recercadas written by Diego Ortiz. Antoine Gardane arranged this piece as a duet, and the 16th century was also represented by another Gardane work, *Fini le bien*. The *Douce Memoire* duet has many places where the two parts are in imitation, both playing phrases from the chanson. *Fini le bien* is a response to *Douce Memoire*, so the two duets are meant to be played in sequence. The rhythms in *Fini* are a bit trickier than in *Douce Memoire*.

From the 17th century, we played the *Première Fantaisie* from Nicolas Metru's "Fantaisies à deux parties pour les violes". A folk song appears in this piece, and sometimes a phrase ends and overlaps with the start of a new phrase in the same part. At those times, one must be careful to bring out the beginning of the new phrase. This work has a strong duple rhythm and seemed less like a fantasy to me despite its name. Ros told us it will work well as a duet even if the lower voice is played at high pitch, above the upper voice.

We finally moved into the 18th century with a Gavotte from *Concerts Royaux* by Francois Couperin. This beautiful duet contains some chords, and many of the ornaments used in French solo viol music. It was a challenge, but one well worth working on!

Playing this interesting sampling of French music as it changed over the centuries was a lovely way to spend the morning. If anything, COVID will make 2020 a great year for duet research. There is much that is missing from our traditional Play Day experience, but, though different, this Play Day was still fun. Before and after the playing, we were all able to see and talk with one another. Playing with others, even in this socially-distanced way, is motivation to keep practicing, and Ros made it possible for us to work further to improve our playing of these duets with the music and recordings she gave us.

If you have been hesitating due to the virtual format, don't be intimidated, and please consider joining us for our next Play Day with Caroline Nicolas on Saturday, November 7th.

Online Play Days? Online Dues via PayPal now an option! (or continue to pay via check and snail mail... :^)

Michael LaGaly & Michael King

Since coronavirus protocols are going to prevent us from meeting in-person for at least the next few months, the board has decided to go to a virtual Play Day format. For these online Play Days, we have decided that for paid members, attendance will be free-of-charge. Dues are, as last year, \$20.00. For those not wishing to pay membership dues, you are welcome to attend any of our Play Days for a \$10.00 guest fee.

We will be accepting dues via both PayPal and traditional check/membership form. For PayPal, please send the payment to our treasurer, Michael LaGaly, by doing the following:

- 1) Login to PayPal
- 2) Click on "Send"
- 3) Enter mlagaly@gmail.com
- 4) Enter the amount to be sent, such as \$20.00
- 5) Add a note for tracking purposes, such as "PNV 2020 Dues" or "PNV Play Day"
- 6) Click on Continue
- 7) When asked "What is this payment for", click on "**Sending to a friend**"
- 8) Choose the method you will use to pay – note, there is no fee for using your linked bank account, but there are small fees for using credit cards.

If you would prefer to send your dues in via check and the mail, please use the attached membership form and submit to our membership custodian, Amy Warren, at the address on the form. Looking forward to seeing you online at our first Play Day of the season!

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 do not 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

Even though the first few Play Days of our 2020-2021 season are likely to be virtual, we are still hopeful that we may be able to conduct in-person Play Days in the not-too-distant future. We are still in need of 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!

PNV Classifieds

Michael King

Please let me know if you would like to place a classified ad for our membership – viols and related instruments, bows, cases, etc. are always welcome. Feel free to contact me at soundpost@pnaviols.org, and include picture(s), description, price, and contact information for the ad, or a description of what you are looking to buy if you are in the market.

Bass Viol for Sale

Michael King

Bass Viol for Sale by Larry Higgins of Higgins & Sons, San Francisco, 1975. Includes cloth gig bag.

Asking \$850.

Please contact Doug Knutson:

206 527-1428 or douknu@msn.com



Pacific Northwest Viols

Membership Form

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

As a member you will 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 \$_____.

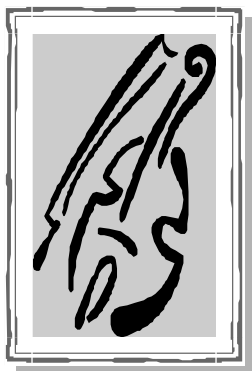
Thank you!

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

Amy Warren
1851 S. Brandon Place
Seattle, WA 98108-2376

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Pacific Northwest Viols – 2020-2021 Season

PNV Play Day Dates (Saturdays):

*\$20 Fee per participant
A = 415*

- ❖ September 26, 2020: Ros Morley
- ❖ **November 7, 2020: Caroline Nicolas (Virtual/Online)**
- ❖ January 16, 2021: Arnie Tanimoto
- ❖ March 6, 2021: TBD
- ❖ May 1, 2021: TBD

***Play Days will be held virtually
for 2020-2021 Season via Zoom***

Pacific Northwest Viols, Board Members (2020-2021)

- | | |
|---|---|
| ❖ 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 Play Day Presenter 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