

The Soundpost

Newsletter of Pacific Northwest Viols—A chapter of the Viola da Gamba Society of America



Cornelis De Heem, *Vanitas Still-Life with Musical Instruments*

2020–2021 PNV PLAY DAYS

September 18, 2021 | Mary Springfels
 December 11, 2021 | David Morris
 January 15, 2022 | Steve Creswell
 March 12, 2022 | Adaiha MacAdam-Somer
May 7, 2022 | John Lenti

\$20 fee per participant

A = 415

Vaccination & masks are mandatory at this time

Maple Leaf Lutheran Church
 10032 31st Ave NE, Seattle 98125

The President's Message

by **Bill Warren**

We really enjoyed having Adaiha MacAdam-Somer as our music coach for the March 12 Play Day. She is based in Portland, OR, where she is very active in the Cascadia Viols program. Many of you are familiar with her from her participation in the Zoom workshops from CascadiaViols over the past two years of the pandemic. She performs and teaches cello, baroque cello, and all instrumentations of viola da gamba. Adaiha had chosen fantasias @4 by John Ward for the general session, and it was really fun and challenging to play this music for viola da gamba with such an excellent coach as Adaiha.

For our May 7 Play Day we are looking forward to having John Lenti for our music coach. He is a virtuoso performer on the lute, theorbo, and baroque guitar. John is well known to many of you from his local performances and also in his role as director of the New Baroque Orchestra. See details of his impressive bio later in the newsletter.

Our venue will be Maple Leaf Lutheran Church at 10005 32nd Ave NE, Seattle 98125. We will be meeting downstairs in the large Community Hall for the morning general session, which allows plenty of space for social distancing. Remember to bring your own lunch for the noon-time break. Please be aware that all participants must be fully

vaccinated and wear a mask to attend the Play Day. We want to ensure that everyone is safe during this ongoing pandemic, which fortunately has been tapering off significantly in the past month or so.

During the noon hour of our May 7 Play Day we will have our Annual Meeting, which will include updates from the board committee chairs and also election of board members for 2022-2025. Plan to attend while eating your sack lunch and cast your vote.

Here is something else to whet your appetite for the desert of viol playing during the summer. Lindsey Strand-Polyak, who is a professional violin and viola performer who also plays the bass viola da gamba, plans to offer a summer play-along session Saturday July 16 from 4-6 p.m. at Maple Leaf Lutheran Church. Details are still being worked out, but it is likely that there will be a social hour with wine to follow! We will keep you posted, so be sure to put it on your calendar now.

I look forward to seeing you all for our in-person Play Day Saturday May 7th with John Lenti at Maple Leaf Lutheran Church.



Bill Warren
President, Pacific Northwest Viol

Music for Maple Leaf Church

by **Abbie Crane**

As a way of showing our gratitude to Maple Leaf Lutheran Church for their hospitality in letting us use their facility for our Play Days, Pacific Northwest Viols has agreed to provide music for their church service five times through the year. This reciprocal arrangement is our way of thanking them and gives our members an opportunity to

have an enjoyable way to share music with others. The piece need not be long or complicated; a 3-to-5-minute simple piece will be fine. It could be a solo piece, a duet, or a consort piece. If you are working with a group on a piece or have a special piece that you'd be willing to share, please email me at bluecrane3@comcast.net.



May 7 Play Day: It's a Springtime Ferrabosc-off!

by [John Lenti](#)

This is what you get for hiring a lute player! Ferrabosco the Elder is one of very few composers to have written both for viols and for solo lute, and as such, he's an easy gateway for me, a mere chord-strummer, into the rarefied world that you lucky consort-playing people inhabit. More than one lutenist has complained that much of Ferrabosco Sr.'s lute music is awkward and difficult, and this has led some to surmise that his most challenging solo lute works may in fact be arrangements of otherwise lost consort music, so if you misbehave, I may make you play some lute music...

My approach as a coach and teacher is generally naïve and sentimental—I have only a vague notion of how bows work or what rosin is for, but I believe that the bone-simple strong-weak mechanics of Renaissance music belie the all-encompassing poetics that perfect counterpoint can entail. Maybe that's a little abstruse, but the point is that we'll have plenty to talk about and I can't wait to hear you all.

Schedule for the May 7th Play Day

Please be fully vaccinated and wear a mask

- 9:30—Sign in and pay fee—Maple Leaf Lutheran Church Community Hall
- 10–12—General session with John
- 12–1—Lunch & annual meeting—*bring your own sack lunch*
- 1–2:15—First coaching session with John for half of the group and at-large session for the other half of the group
- 2:30–3:45—Second coaching session with John for the other half of the group; at-large session for first group
- 3:45–4:00—Clean up

JOHN LENTI specializes in music of the seventeenth century and has made basso continuo improvisation on lute, theorbo, and baroque guitar the cornerstone of a career that encompasses work with baroque and modern orchestras, chamber music, recitals, and opera. Recent highlights have included performances with the Metropolitan Opera, Baroque Music Montana, Acronym, Tesseræ, and the Seattle and Oregon Symphonies. He has played at early and modern music festivals in Boston, Berkeley, Indianapolis, Bloomington,

Costa Rica, Vancouver, Carmel, Utrecht, the Proms, Aldeburgh, Valletta (Malta), and the San Juan Islands. He has made some well-regarded recordings with groups like Acronym, Wayward Sisters, Musica Pacifica, and Ostraka and he has played with most early music groups of note in North America. John was born in Greenwood, South Carolina. His parents were a touring piano duo and he traveled with them as a kid as they performed around the Deep South, thereby gaining an appreciation of the role of classical musicians as bearers of comfort and truth. He went to North Carolina School of the Arts and Indiana University and studied lute with Nigel North, Jacob Heringman, and Elizabeth Kenny. Based in Seattle, John is director of the New Baroque Orchestra, a wonderful community baroque orchestra*, and he frequently coaches and accompanies Shula Kleinerman's outrageously gifted bands of kids.

* We'll be announcing New Baroque Orchestra fall dates and signing people up soon! Please get in touch via [Early Music Seattle](#).

Rental Program Receives New Treble Viol

by [Olga Hauptman, PNV Rental Program Administrator](#)

The Pacific NW Viol Society has run a thriving rental program thanks to the loans and donations of instruments from its members and friends. The most recent donation is a lovely treble from Linda Carlson.

Linda moved to the area in 1989 from southern California. She had worked in the grocery industry for many years before getting a master's degree in the field of mental health. With a change of career and a wish to be

closer to her brother she shipped her sailboat up to the Everett Marina and moved into it.

One day, Linda happened to purchase a gift for her niece: a little “dime store” recorder attached to a lesson book. Linda says she had no prior music-playing experience, but before the time came to actually give her niece this gift, Linda had opened it and was drawn in! After a period of time teaching herself from the little book, she went to the Music Center of the Northwest and joined a beginners' class taught by Kim Pineda.

The following summer she attended the Seattle Recorder Society workshop at Pt. Townsend and later on at an RSR meeting was tempted by PNV member, Peter Stewart, to try the viola da gamba. She rented a treble and worked alone for six months before deciding to get her own instrument and take lessons. Her first teachers were Ron Fullerton and Elisabeth Reed. After switching from treble to bass she switched back to treble and purchased the Chinese instrument from the Boulder Early Music Shop.

When the logistics of commuting to Seattle proved daunting, and, not finding other gambists in Everett, Linda began to drift away from the consort life. She started a senior recorder group called “The Everett Recorder Players +” (The plus sign indicated the

possibility of other instruments joining in, including herself on the treble viol.) The group met twice a month for 11½ years, and for many of those years performed at Christmas time in the UW Bookstore at Mill Creek.

With her treble spending too much time in the case in recent years, Linda decided that rather than sell the instrument, she would donate to our worthy cause! It is a large model with an unusually warm tone. Another asset of this instrument is that it has been set up by Scott Smith with geared pegs.

Thank you so much, Linda Carlson! To learn more about taking advantage of our rental program, please visit the [rentals page](#) of the PNV website.

Do you have a viol collecting dust?

by **Michael King**

PNV currently has nearly our entire inventory of instruments out for rent! While this is outstanding, it means we may not have instruments for new renters. If you have a spare viol or two collecting some dust, perhaps you could see them becoming a part of our rental instrument fleet. Options include making your instrument available for a period of time for rental (loaning to PNV), permanently donating it to PNV, or on a special basis (say for an advanced student or someone needing to work on entrance to a conservatory program). Please reach out to our rental coordinator, Olga Hauptman at rentals@pnviols.org if you can help!



Update on our 2022 Circuit Rider, Mary Springfels

by **Bill Warren**



We had our first Circuit Rider visit of 2022 with Mary Springfels April 8-10. In addition to individual and ensemble lessons, Mary offered a bass class entitled “I get around the bass” and a trio class of music by Dufay. One ensemble decided on a “play along with Mary for fun” session, which was inspirational and motivating. All lessons

and classes were offered both in person and via Zoom.

Mary’s next Circuit Rider visit will be June 10-12. In addition to the usual individual and ensemble lessons, she plans to lead at least two “reading for fun with Mary” informal sessions. She will also offer an “unusual repertoire” class and another “repertoire by request” class. She may offer another technique class if there is sufficient interest; contact bhwarrendoc@comcast.net.

Individual and consort lessons continue to be at a bargain rate of \$50/hour per VdGSA guidelines, so this is a great opportunity to plan a series of lessons for you and your consort during 2022. Mary is also willing to do virtual lessons for anyone who is not available for an in-person lesson.

Mary’s third and fourth Circuit Rider visits are **September 16-18**, which will be in combination with our September Play Day, and **November 11-13**.

Always Looking for Play Day Presenter Hosts

by **Michael King**

We are in need of volunteers to help host our Play Day presenters who visit us from out of town. This can include transportation to and from the airport, meals, and even providing a space for lessons, or simply 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 Michael King at soundpost@pnviols.org to discuss.



Carl Friedrich Abel, *Sonatas for viola da gamba and bass*, British Library

PNV Music Libraries—Both Online and Physical

by **Michael King**

Just a reminder that we have a number of pieces online in our [sheet music library](#).

In addition, our physical library, from which you can check-out music during Play Days, consists of nine boxes of everything from solos to 6+ part consorts. A complete record

of the physical [PNV library contents](#) is now accessible on [pnviols.org](#).

Thanks to our librarian, Amy Warren, for her hard work in documenting and maintaining our physical library!

PNV Classifieds and Other Musings

by **Michael King**

Please let us know if you would like to place a classified ad for our membership. For sale and wanted ads for viols and related instruments, bows, cases, etc. are always welcome. Email soundpost@pnviols.org with picture(s), description, price, and contact information, or a description of what you are looking to buy.

Amy Warren has John Dornenburg's Telemann CDs available for purchase for \$15 each. She will have them at Play Days, but is also happy to mail or hand deliver them to those who are unable to attend. Please email Amy directly for more information at nurturedmother@yahoo.com.

Pacific Northwest Viols Membership Form

Membership period is for one year, from July 1—June 30.

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.

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:

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 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 501c3 organization. I would like to make a tax-deductible donation in the amount of \$.

Please mail all checks (Payable to "PNV") to:
Amy Warren, 1851 S. Brandon Place, Seattle,
WA 98108-2376. Thank you!

Pacific Northwest Viols 2021–2022 Board

Bill Warren, President
Chu-Lan Chiong, Secretary
Michael LaGaly, Treasurer
Amy Warren, Membership Coordinator & Librarian
Michael King & Jenny Wilkson, Communications
Abbie Crane, Church Program Coordinator
Mary Anne Pultz & Lindsey Strand-Polyak, at large
TBD: Programs & Play Day Location Coordinator

The Soundpost welcomes reader contributions of any kind: articles, commentary, personal stories, event reportage. Email is preferred, but postal mail or napkin scribbles are all gladly received, as well.

soundpost@pnviols.org