

The Soundpost

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

2024–2025 PNV SEASON

Saturday, September 21 | Play Day #1 with Erik Andersen
Saturday, November 23 | Play Day #2 with David Morris
Saturday, January 11, 2025 | ~~Play Day #3 with Ros Morley~~
Saturday, March 29, 2025 | **Play Day #4 with Mary Springfels**
Saturday, April 26, 2025 | Play Day #3 with Erik Andersen (just added!)
Saturday, May 31, 2025 | Play Day #5 with Julie Jeffrey

Calendar subject to change.

Events for the rest of the 2024–2025 season will take place at Faith Lutheran Church, 8208 18th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98115. Play Days consist of a grand consort session from 10am–12pm and afternoon sessions from 1–4pm. Play Day check-in begins at 9:30am and the fee for participation is \$25 / \$10 students. A=415. Additional donations to help pay for Play Days and support the operations of PNV are always welcome.

MUSIC LIBRARIES *for* PNV MEMBERS

[Physical Sheet Music Library](#) housed at Maple Leaf Lutheran Church | [Online Sheet Music](#)

The President's Message

by **Michael King**

We were so looking forward to the return of Ros Morley to Seattle! However, it turned out that her Play Day was going to conflict with the memorial for one of our former members, Peter Stewart, who we recently lost. As such, it was decided to reschedule and we hope that we'll be welcoming Ros back for our 2025–2026 season. An "In Memoriam" for Peter follows below.

We are looking forward to our next Play Day with Mary Springfels in which we'll be working on Italian madrigals and some other Italian gems. We have the music for this and I'll send a link via e-mail. We were also able to add another Play Day to make up for our lost Play Day with Ros. We'll be welcoming Erik Andersen back on Saturday, April 26th for a Play Day in which

we'll be playing different settings of the Marian hymn, *Ave Maris Stella (Hail, Star of the Sea)* – basically getting a little preview of one of Erik's upcoming Conclave classes.

We understand that the less than ideal time changes at Maple Leaf Lutheran Church were proving challenging for our members, but unfortunately, they were unavoidable due to scheduling conflicts with the concurrently running children's Chinese language school – and we can't blame MLLC one bit for providing scheduling preference to their larger customer! As a result, the board (with the additional help of Kathryn Smith Dirksen) investigated alternate venues with the decision being made to hold the rest of our Play Days at Faith Lutheran Church – which is only 1.5 miles / 6 minutes from Maple Leaf at 8208 18th Ave. NE, Seattle. It has a lovely library space that we'll be able to use and the price for rental is quite reasonable, although a bit more expensive than MLLC, at \$150 vs. \$100. You may recall earlier that I've asked our members to consider making both a larger Play Day contribution as well as charitable contributions to help us offset rising Play Day costs. If you are in a position to do so, thank you so much for extra support of PNV.

It also isn't too early to be thinking about registering for the Port Townsend Early Music Workshop, which will be happening at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma from July 6-12. Both David Morris and Joanna Blendulf will be teaching this year – and that alone should prove reason enough to attend! More info on PTEMW along with info and registration links are below.

So once again, be sure to mark your calendar for Saturday, March 29th and Saturday, April 26th for our upcoming Play Days with Mary Springfels and Erik Andersen – and not too early to be thinking about Julie Jeffrey on Saturday, May 31st! Look for a Sign-up Genius to be sent for lessons with these great teachers as well.

Best regards,

Michael King

President, Pacific Northwest Viols



March 29th Play Day with Mary Springfels: *Italian Madrigals*

by **Michael King**

Mary Springfels will be joining us for our 4th scheduled Play Day of the 2024-2025 season with a Play Day focusing on Italian madrigals with some instrumental music thrown in for good measure! Madrigals will include works by Orlando di Lasso, Giaches de Wert and Luca Marenzio, with Mary promising to add another fun instrumental piece.

Private lessons with Mary will be available on Sunday, March 30th, at the home of Ellen Seibert. Look for an e-mail with instructions on how to schedule to be sent with the SoundPost.



Mary Springfels is a veteran of the American Early Music Movement. She is a native of Los Angeles and moved to New York at the age of 21 to join New York Pro Musica as their viola da gambist. From that time on, Mary has been an active participant in prominent early music ensembles, including Folger Consort, the Waverly Consort, Concert Royal, the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, Ars Lyrica Houston, and the Texas Early Music Project (Austin). Mary directed the Newberry Consort in Chicago for 20 years, during which time the group made a number of critically-acclaimed recordings. She has also been a continuo player for the Chicago Opera Theater, Central City Opera, and the New York City Opera. Currently, she is a co-director of Severall Friends, an early music ensemble based in Santa Fe. Mary teaches all over the country.

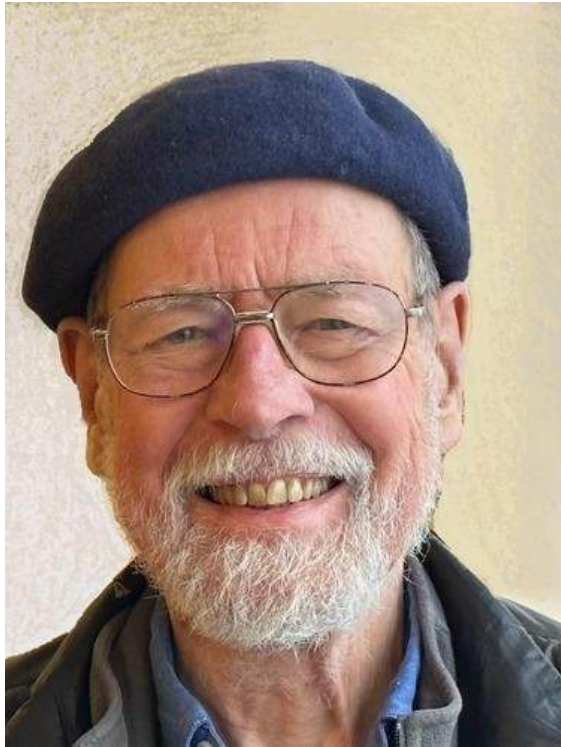
Schedule for Saturday, March 29th at Faith Lutheran Church

- 9:30am—Sign in and pay \$25 fee
- 10:00am-12:00pm—Grand Consort
- 1:00pm-4:00pm—Afternoon session, break, and clean-up

Faith Lutheran Church is located at 8208 18th Ave. NE, Seattle. Parking is available adjacent to the Church. Everyone is welcome—you don't need to be a gamba player to join us—just be sure that you are able to tune your instrument to A=415.

In Memoriam: Peter Stewart, 1938-2024

Courtesy of Peter Stewart's Family



Peter Ross Stewart died on November 27 at his home in Seattle of natural causes. Born September 8, 1938 in Salt Lake City to Martha R. and Justin C. Stewart, he spent his early years with his parents in Washington D.C. and New Jersey. The family returned to Salt Lake after World War II where Peter attended Stewart Primary and Junior High Schools and East High School. He enlisted in the U.S. Army after high school and later attended the University of Utah, earning a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering.

In 1961 he married Jean Douglas in Salt Lake City. They moved to Seattle where Peter began a career with Boeing and earned his M.S. at the University of Washington. During the economic downturn at Boeing in the 1970s, Peter had the opportunity to establish Pine Street Box Works, hand-crafting beautiful carrying cases for recorders, music stands, and jewelry boxes. He returned to work at Boeing in 1978 and retired from the company in 1995.

Over his lifetime, Peter manifested his joy in music by teaching clarinet and recorder, singing Renaissance rounds with friends, and collecting and playing an array of Baroque instruments – the shawm, sackbut and rebec – and a range of recorders and viols. In the 1970s, he played with the *Goode Companye Consort*, an early music group, and in the late 1990s, when his attention turned toward viols, Peter became an active member of Pacific Northwest Viols, a chapter of the Viola da Gamba Society of America, during which time he authored an advice column for the chapter's newsletter related to etiquette for viol players under the pen name, *Miss Fret-Knot*. He served a term on the board of directors of the Viola da Gamba Society of America in the early 2000s.

Peter is survived by his daughters, Rachel (Brad) and Leslie (Noah); grandchildren, Heather (Tom), Holly (Michael), Josephine, and Nico; and great grandchildren, Ruth and Douglas Peter. He is also survived by his sister and brother-in-law, Heather and Mike Dorrell, and many cousins in the Stewart and Ross families. Peter donated his brain and body to the University of Washington ACT Study and Willd Body Program.

A celebration of life was held in Seattle on January 18th, 2025.

Just Added! Saturday, April 26th Play Day #3 with Erik Andersen: *Ave Maris Stella*

by **Michael King**

We are excited to announce that we've added a replacement Play Day #3 to make up for the one with Ros Morley that we needed to reschedule back in January. While we're hoping to see Ros during our 2025-2026 season, we are extremely happy to welcome back Erik Andersen for a Play Day on Saturday, April 26th. Erik will be on the faculty of this year's VdGSA Conclave at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. That is a bit far for many of us to schlep our viols – so come to Play Day and get a preview of one of Erik's classes which will focus on various arrangements of the text of the medieval Marian hymn, *Ave Maris Stella* (*Hail, Star of the Sea*).

Erik is rushing up after a Friday evening performance, but may be available for private lessons before a Sunday departure. If this is the case, we'll send an e-mail with information and a sign-up link.

Note, this Play Day will also be held at Faith Lutheran Church, and not at our historical Maple Leaf Lutheran Church location.



Erik Andersen performs on all sizes of viola da gamba, including the pardessus de viole, as well as on baroque and modern cello. He also enjoys playing and teaching modern violin and viola. His wide range of experience informs and adds complexity to his musical approach, helping to uncover articulations and colors not so readily found on the single-instrument path. Erik strives to find the voice of each instrument, each composer, and each musical work, sharing the discoveries of those interactions with his audiences. He teaches at the San Francisco Community Music Center and at workshops and events around the country.

Upcoming Gamba Concerts (at Faith Lutheran, as luck would have it!)

by **Michael King**

Two upcoming concerts of note!

The first is with Seattle Historical Arts for Kids alumnus, Nick Chrisman, who'll be giving a recital on the gamba and baroque cello on Saturday, March 29, 7:30PM at Faith Lutheran Church. PNV will just have completed our Play Day there at 4PM, so there'd be time to go get dinner and to come back for a great program.



Explore gems of the Baroque with SHAK alumnus Nick Chrisman (Baroque cello and viola da gamba) and guest artist Henry Lebedinsky (harpsichord), from the searching early solo ventures of Domenico Gabrielli and Giuseppe Colombi to the striking chromaticisms of Johannes Schenck and the late-Baroque flashiness of Jean-Baptiste Barrière. The program also includes Caroline Shaw's "in manus tuas," written in 2009 to "capture the sensation of a single moment" of hearing the Thomas Tallis motet of the same name. Nick is excited to share this portion of his undergraduate senior recital program outside the walls of the conservatory.

Admission is free, and Nick is gratefully accepting donations at the event to support the purchase of a Baroque cello as he prepares to apply for performance master's-degree programs in the field.

The second concert is part of the [Salish Sea Early Music Festival](#) and will feature Caroline Nicolas on the gamba. The concert will be held on Thursday, May 8 at 7:30PM, also at Faith Lutheran Church and is entitled *The MUSIQUE DE LA CHAMBRE of LOUIS XIV.* Caroline will be joined by William Simms on theorbo & baroque guitar and Jeffrey Cohan, on baroque and renaissance flutes. The Sun King's court musical establishment is to be represented by Jean-Baptiste Lully, Élisabeth Jacquet de La Guerre, Marin Marais, Jacques Hotteterre, etc., including music designated for the king's bedtime, evening concerts and banquets.



Upcoming Medieval Women's Choir Workshop: *Musica Practica: A medieval band!*

by Michael King

The first session of the Medieval Women's Choir instrumental music workshop was held on Wednesdays from January 22nd through February 19th and proved to be both a great learning experience and a lot of fun for those of us that attended – PNV members accounted for over 50% of the participants! The second session, Spring 2025, will be held on Wednesdays from April 23rd through May 14th and I'd encourage any of you interested in learning more about medieval instrumental music to register. No need to have a period instrument – anything you have that can tune to A=440 will work just fine! We had viols, violin, recorders, and harp.

Per the original MWC announcement, *Musica Practica: A medieval band!* is a class for intermediate and advanced instrumentalists that will introduce you to the knowledge, techniques and skills used in combining mixed instruments to create an ensemble for medieval music. Enrollment is flexible; you can enroll for individual dates, a single 4-week block, or the entire 8-week series. Lessons will progress throughout the course, so attending the entire series will be to your advantage. The workshop is broken into two 4-week sessions:

Spring 2025: April 23, April 30, May 7, May 14

Classes are held Wednesdays, 7–9pm at the Woodlawn Center (Greenlake neighborhood), and will be led by Sally Mitchell and Bill McJohn.

Learn more, see tuition and register at <https://medievalwomenschoir.org/events/musica-practica/>

Port Townsend Early Music Workshop, July 6-12, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma

by Michael King

The [Port Townsend Early Music Workshop \(PTEMW\)](#) serves players of recorders, viols, and percussion, as well as singers. PTEMW offers a week-long opportunity for music lovers to immerse themselves in the musical wonders of the Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque periods, and more.

Most classes are geared towards players with reliable technique and reading skills, but there's always a place for those who feel they are rusty or less experienced, or who are coming back to

music after a long break. Many PTEMW participants agree that the workshop is one of the most friendly and inclusive of any they have attended.

Great news for members of PNV is that David Morris and Joanna Blendulf are the viol faculty for the workshop! Here is a summary of the classes that should prove most interesting to viol players, with a link the full curriculum guide following below:

9:00-10:15 am - *Viol Consort and Technique*. Students will be divided into small groups based on skill level and will work on faculty-provided content. All levels.

11:00 am-12:15 pm – *Viols and Voices: Recusants and Exiles: Sacred music of William Byrd, Richard Dering and Peter Phillip*, led by Jonathan Oddie. All levels.

1:45-3:00 pm – *Lovely Lupo - 3-part Consort Works* for Viols with David Morris. Intermediate and above.

1:45-3:00 pm – *Viol Consorts by Gibbons and Ward*. 5-6 part fantasias and madrigals. Taught by Joanna Blendulf. Upper Intermediate to Advanced.

3:30-4:45 pm – *Petrucchi's Playlist - 3-5 part pieces by Compere, Agricola, Josquin, Obrecht and others*. Taught by Joanna Blendulf. Intermediate and above.

3:30-4:45 pm – *Coprario's 5-part Madrigal Fantasias*. Taught by David Morris.

3:30-4:45 pm – *Tomkins, Jenkins and Locke: The Last of the English Consort Composers*. Fantasias and Pavans for Consort. Taught by Jonathan Oddie.

Workshop Curriculum Guide:

<https://www.seattle-recorder.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/PTEMW-Curriculum-Guide-2025.pdf>

Workshop Registration Form:

<https://forms.gle/U37tPTVumfuFGBWJ7>

Info on payment for the workshop is here. Note, you can pay by check, Zelle, PayPal or Venmo.

<https://www.seattle-recorder.org/pt-workshop-2025-registration/>

Vicki Boeckman, Music Director of both the Seattle Recorder Society and the Puget Sound Early Music Workshop noted the following in her March society newsletter:

Those who have nostalgic memories of the years when the workshop was held at the Fort Worden Conference Center in Port Townsend will be interested to know that we researched the notion of going back for this year's workshop. I was shocked by the high fees, but kept turning stones and going over the budget to make it work. In the end we surrendered, not being able to justify the cost.

As it turned out, Fort Worden's hospitality services reported in January that they are financially insolvent. They abruptly cancelled all reservations without the opportunity for refunds! So, whew! We dodged a real financial bullet. While we don't have the nostalgia of Fort Worden, the UPS campus is truly lovely, and the food is quite good.

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.

Seeking Viols for PNV's Rental Program

Options include making your instrument available for a period of time for rental (loaning to PNV), permanently donating it to PNV, or making it available 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!

Seeking Play Day Presenter Hosts

If you are in a position to be able to assist presenters with rides, lesson space, and or a place to sleep, please reach out to Michael King at info@pnviols.org to discuss.



For Sale: Lu-Mi Tenor Viol

Made by Wang Zhi Ming in 2006, 22-inch scale, scroll pegbox, molded FRP hard case. Asking \$2250. Please contact Doug Knutson, douknu@msn.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:

☐ \$25 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 \$.

Mail checks (Payable to "PNV") to: Chu-Lan Chiong, 7714 16th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98115. Alternatively, you can send funds to mlagaly@gmail.com via PayPal.

Pacific Northwest Viols 2024–2025 Board

Michael King, President
Joan Roberts, Secretary
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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.

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