

Tutors

Jenny Eriksson, Music Director - completed her initial musical studies at the NSW State Conservatorium of Music on cello. In 1985 she left Australia to study the viola da gamba with Jaap ter Linden at the Rotterdam Conservatorium where she completed postgraduate studies in baroque music. Whilst in Europe she performed regularly in Holland and Germany including a guest appearance at the Utrecht Festival. In Australia, Jennifer has performed with the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra, the Australian Chamber Orchestra, Opera Australia, Salut. Song Company and Sydney Philharmonia Choir. She has also performed in regular broadcasts for the ABC's "Sunday live" series. For the last 18 years Jennifer has toured for Musica Viva in the ensemble, Sounds Baroque giving over 1,500 concerts in schools around NSW. As director of The Marais Project she has joined forces with Cathy Tabrett and guest artists to present a highly successful series of concerts celebrating the music of Marin Marais. The project has just issued its first CD the "Viol Dreaming". Jennifer is well known to Society members as the tutor for many Sydney consort days and was a tutor at the last Sydney EVS in 2005.

Louis Bégin is Canadian and studied Viola da Gamba for 6 years at the Brussels Royal Conservatory of Music in the class of Wieland Kuijken. He was awarded First Prizes in both the interpretation of the Viola da Gamba and Baroque Chamber Music. He took advantage of those years to meet with many well known musicians and develop his concept of the baroque bow. He has been making bows since 1987, with customers in many countries of the Americas and Europe, as well as in Asia. After many years of performing in concerts both as a soloist and in baroque chamber music, and teaching in Canadian colleges and universities, he turned to baroque and modern bow making. He studied with many American masters and French bow makers. With the help of a Canada Council grant. His professional viol playing ability allows him to fine tune his bows for optimal performance. His bows are highly sort after.

Caroline Downer completed a B.A. (Hons Fine Arts) and B. Mus (Hons) at The University of Melbourne majoring in Viola da Gamba performance under Ruth Wilkinson. She was a founding member of the mediaeval group, Cantigas which released 3 CDs and toured extensively throughout Australia and New Zealand, giving concerts, school workshops, demonstrations and Festival appearances. She is a freelance performer on viola da gamba and has recently released a CD of French Baroque Music "Lyrical Passions" with recorder player Zana Clarke. She has taught recorder at Grand Musical Gatherings in Armidale, Melbourne and Morpeth and was recently musical director and tutor at the Hastings Viol Consortium organised by the Australian Viola da Gamba Society.

Shaun Ng is a violinist, violist, theorbist, conductor and teacher based in Perth. After gaining a scholarship in 1998, Shaun moved to Europe to study instrumental performance (violin and viola da gamba) with many of the best practitioners of early music. He studied the violin with Margaret Faultless and Oliver Webber (Royal Welsh College of Music); and the viol with José Vázquez (Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst, Vienna), Richard Boothby, Lucy Robinson (Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama), Mienke van der Velden (Conservatorium van Amsterdam) and Philippe Pierlot (Koninklijk Conservatorium). He also participated in the master courses of José Vázquez and Catharina Meints. In 2000, Shaun founded Musica Obscura (Singapore), an early music group, which he directed until the group disbanded in 2004 when he moved to Perth, Western Australia. At the University of Western Australia, he studied musicology with David Tunley and Suzanne Wijsman, as well as orchestral conducting with Peter Moore OAM. During this time, he also taught himself to play the theorbo. Shaun's recent artistic activities include performances with members of the Perth-based early music group Ensemble Battistin (which culminated in a series of recordings on the ABC classics label), as well as solo recitals accompanied by harpsichordist Stewart Smith. In 2007, he accepted a position with the Australian Youth Choir in Perth as their choral conductor.

The Australian Viola da Gamba Society presents the 29th Annual Easter Viol Workshop



Easter Friday 21st of March to Monday the 24th of March, 2008

"The Centenary Music Centre"

MLC School

**Corner Rowley and Grantham Streets
Burwood**

Welcome to the 29th annual Easter Viol Workshop!

This year's viol workshop is to be held at MLC School Burwood in a diverse multi cultural area 20 minutes from the heart of Sydney. The school is easily accessed by bus or train and parking is not a problem. The workshop is organised by The Australian Viola da Gamba Society Inc. The Society was founded in 2000 with the aim of promoting all aspects on the viola da gamba in Australia. The Society's flagship event is the 4-day annual Easter Viol School held in a different city each year.

Who is eligible to enroll?

Any one who plays the viol or is interested in learning. You may also play another instrument such as recorder, flute, harpsichord, lute, violin, cello or sing and wish to combine learning something about the viol and playing your given instrument with viols. There is also the opportunity for people to attend as observers. The workshop will cater for players of all levels and provide a wide range of activities. It is hoped that there will be an opportunity for mixed consorts with singers and other instrumentalist in the afternoons. **Pitch 415 for all instruments.**

Beginner classes: will be held in the morning only and you must be able to read music fluently. Participants can register part-time (mornings only) or enroll full-time and participate in the afternoons if they play another suitable instrument, sing or wish simply to observe.

Loan instruments: may be available for beginners and interstate players though the number of such instruments will be limited. First in, best dressed. Any broken strings or damage to a loan instrument must be made good before returning the instrument to the owner.

Bow Exhibition: Louis' bows will be on display 18th - 20th March in Sydney (Ph Jenny 02 0809 5185) and during the workshop to try, buy or order.

NB The AVDGS cannot responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged instruments. All players are encouraged to have **instrument insurance.**

Performers' workshop: is aimed at advanced players and will be held during the morning sessions with participants then joining the activities programmed for the afternoon. Participants must contact the Musical Director, Jenny Eriksson, with details of their standard and experience. This is a great opportunity for participants to perform solo pieces in a relaxed friendly environment, to receive expert feedback on technique and style and to acquire a wider repertoire. It is required that you prepare 2 contrasting works (for example; a movement from a Bach Sonata or 2 movements from a Marais Suite). NB All sized viols are welcome.

Special Events

Bows Friday 3.30: Louis will give a lecture on the art on bow making and how his professional life as a gamba player has influenced his approach to this art.

AGM Friday 4.30: AVDGS annual general meeting.

Dance Saturday 3.45: Fiona Garlick, Director of the Early Dance Consort and Australia's leading authority on historical dance, will give a lecture demonstration on the dance music that all early musicians play. This will be very hands on, so bring your dancing shoes.

Tutors' Concert, "Voice and Viols", Sunday 3.30: The tutors' concert will be held in the Chapel at MLC Burwood and will include guest counter tenor Timothy Chung and Chris Berensen, harpsichord. Chris has also been commissioned to write a piece for 4 bass viols and harpsichord and this will be premiered on the day. Other works include music by Machy, Boismortier, Marais and consort songs by Dowland. Refreshments will follow the concert. **Cost \$25/ \$20** (NB Full time participants free entry).

Participants' Concert Monday 3.00 This is an opportunity for participants to perform something they have been working on during the workshop. Free entry

Program

There will be 4 sessions per day from 9am – 5pm. The workshop will finish at 4pm on Monday. There will be technique and consort classes in the morning and a **"choices"** opportunity on two of the afternoons. Participants will be able to make choices from the following topics.

1. Meet Marin Marais and Friends: Jenny, a long term advocate of French Baroque music will give a step by step guide to performing this music. This session is appropriate for beginners to advanced players.

2. Footloose and Fancy Free: Unraveling the Fantasia: Caroline will give insight to the world of the fantasias.

3. Mixed Ensembles: is an opportunity for voices and instruments to join together in music making. This sessions will be directed by Shaun who has had extensive experience in leading instrumental and vocal ensembles.

Eating: Morning tea, afternoon tea, and refreshments after the Tutors' Concert will be provided. We have been advised by the locals that the cheapest and best option for lunch is to visit the local Burwood shops where there is a wide range of reasonably priced cafes and eateries - Lebanese, Vietnamese, Japanese, Thai, Italian and sandwich bars. The Westfield Court will be open on Sat and Mon. while many other eateries are open every day (a list will be provided). The centre is about 7 minutes walk across the park from MLC School and cars will be available for those who need/want a lift. You are also welcome to bring your own lunch. The break will be 12.30 - 2.00 so there will be plenty of time to enjoy the local ambience.

Sleeping: Accommodation is the responsibility of the individual participant. There maybe limited billet accommodation (first in first served).

What to bring? Instrument pitch 415, spare strings, named music stand and coffee cup, music.

Registration: Friday 21 March at 8.45

Further Information please contact:

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