

Cascadia Viols



Please join us on Saturday March 7, 2020 as Sarah Cunningham presents
***Making the Fantasy Real:
Technical and musical
elements of shaping the line.***

Not only was the viol thought to be the instrument closest to the human voice; it is also true that the favorite form for viol consort music, the Fantasia, was originally drawn directly from vocal music, and continued to be inspired by the Italian and then the English madrigal. In the vocal form, of course, the words are everything, and the music flows from the rhythm and shape of the words, their consonants and vowels, as well as from the feelings and images they express.

In this workshop we will use the words from some very familiar vocal/viol music (*Apt for voices and viols...*) as a magic key to unlock the expressive capacities of our bows on the strings of our viols. Together we will take Dowland's *Lachrimae Antiquae*, and Gibbons' *The Silver Swan*, as examples of how close attention to the words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs can bring this gorgeous music even more fully to life.

Further repertoire will range from madrigals (Monteverdi and others) to instrumental Fantasies (by Lupo, Mico, Ward, Wilbye) inspired by the madrigal form. We will delve into the many layers of possible expression, from shaping individual notes, to shaping an entire phrase, to the weaving together of independent parts that shape the entire piece.

The intimate experience of bow on string, exploring all possible combinations of friction and resonance as we become aware of beginnings, middles, and ends of notes, and their place in the overall discourse. For the adventurous we can even experiment with added ornaments to further enhance the shape and expression of the written notes.

The workshop will be held on Saturday March 7, 2020 from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm at St Michael & All Angels Church, 1704 NE 43rd Avenue, Portland Oregon.

We hope to see you thjere!