A Commemorative booklet celebrating the Tenth Traynor Competition for New Music for Viol Consort

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When the Traynor Competition for New Music for Viol Consort was established by the VdGSA in the United States in 1989 (after two previous competitions in Japan), there was probably little consensus among viol players as to its value. In fact, because the contest-competition was held irregularly at Conclaves, many members did not experience the event at all. The competition commences with a published call for submissions, and culminates with a concert of music by the finalists at the Conclave concert. The finalists are selected by a preliminary committee made up of two professional viol players and a composer who was not entering the contest that year. The judging committee for the contest is made up of composers, teacher-performers with wide experience in new music, and other members of the viol community. An important aspect of the competition is the designation of the audience as a part of the awards-determining body. Originally, three prizes were given: first, second, and audience. Historically, The New York Consort of Viols performed the final concert, but in order to bring more accessible new music to our members, the contest was restructured in 2009 to encourage composers to write for intermediate players. Students played the four equal winning pieces at the Conclave concert, at which the audience prize is still determined by vote.

Leo Traynor, an amateur recorder, harpsichord, and viol player, and an employee the Army Documents Center in Japan, was credited with initiating interest in early music in Japan. Whether initiating or stimulating interest already there, he certainly was instrumental in establishing the first VdGS in Japan. He played consorts regularly there, and upon his return to United States, continued to make friends through viol playing. When he died in 1986, his large collection of music, as well as seven viols (5 made in Japan), was bequeathed to the VdGSA. The music and books were sold at silent auction, bringing in $3,300, some of which was used to start up an international competition for new music for viola da gamba.

Creating a niche for new music is a long-term goal for the VdGSA. The Conclave offers our chance, indeed one of the few opportunities, to make a space for that which is not commonplace, that which challenges our members’ attention. The viol is more than an historical instrument expressing itself only in historical dress. We are only seeing the beginning of what the viol as a living instrument can be.

Lucy Bardo
1989 Burlington, Vermont

Suite I “La Facile” Carlo Denti Italy
In Nomine Frank Russo New York, NY
Trio Peter Ballinger Albany, CA
Ayre Mary Jeanne Appledorn Lubbock, TX
In Nomine Eckhardt Richter Atlanta, GA
Song William Presser Mississippi
In Nomine Martha Bishop Atlanta, GA
Spielregeln Herbert Hechtel Germany
Fantasia Will Ayton Providence, RI
Alternativements David Loeb New York, NY

First prize Frank Russo
Second prize Will Ayton
Audience prize Martha Bishop

Preliminary judges: Judith Davidoff, Brent Wissick, Chester Buscardi
Final judges: Bruce Bellingham, Judith Davidoff, Murray Lefkowitz, William Penn, Richard Bodig

Performers: NYCV (Susan Iadone, Rosamund Morley, Judith Davidoff, Lucy Bardo), Lisa Terry, Margaret Panofsky
Boulder, Colorado 1991

Pavan and Fantasia on a phrase of Richard Mico
Three Pieces for Five Viols
Browning
Three Fantasias for Viol Quartet
Five Variants on “Wondrous Love”
Kanonspiel
Three Hymns
Three Pieces for Four Viols
Soldier’s Cry
Six by Three

Will Ayton  Providence, RI
Gerald Mueller  San Francisco, CA
Richard Teichmann  Oxford, UK
Charles Turner  Danvers, MA
Eric Haas  Boston, MA
David Loeb  New York, NY
David Goldstein  New York, NY
Alan Heard  Ontario, Canada
Sarah Sumner  Ann Arbor, MI
Peter Ballinger  Albany, CA

First prize  Eric Haas
Second prize  Peter Ballinger
Audience prize  Eric Haas

Preliminary judges: Richard Bodig, Judith Davidoff, Bruce Saylor
Final judges: Richard Bodig, Judith Davidoff, Robert Fink, Williams Kearns, Glen Ruby

Performers: NYCV (Susan Iadone, Rosamund Morley, Judith Davidoff, Lucy Bardo)
Lawrence Lipnik, John Dornenburg.
1994

Raleigh, North Carolina

Prelude and Fugue for Three Viols
Will Ayton
Providence, RI

Four Flowers
Charles Nagel
Seattle, WA

Three Passacaglias
Robert W. Butts
New Jersey

Country Vistas Suite
Martha Bishop
Atlanta, GA

Ad Te Suspiramus,
Variations on “Salve Regina”
Thomas Clark
Denton, TX

Les Sonneries des Bruges,
for Two Viol Consorts
David Loeb
New York, NY

Jack and the Beanstalk, a Suite
Carol Herman
Los Angeles, CA

Three Movements for Viol Consort
Sheila Forrester
Tallahassee, FL

Imaginary Dances for Six Viols
Gerald Mueller
San Francisco, CA

Quodlibet
Walter Ross
Charlottesville, VA

First prize
Gerald Mueller

Second prize
Sheila Forrester

Final judges:
Lucy Bardo, Richard Bodig, Steve Jaffe, Robert Ward, Ian Woodfield.

Performers:
NYCV (Lucy Bardo, Judith Davidoff, Lawrence Lipnik, Rosamund Morley), Lisa Terry, Brent Wissick
### Raleigh, North Carolina 1997

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**First prize**  
**John McDonald**

**Second prize**  
**David Loeb**

**Audience prize**  
**Robert Butts**

**Final judges:**  
Allen Anderson, Judith Davidoff, Kathleen Schenley, David Schulenberg, Brent Wissick.

**Performers:**  
NYCV (Lucy Bardo, Judith Davidoff, Lawrence Lipnik, Rosamund Morley)
2000 Portland, Oregon

Quartet for Viols       Peter Seibert       Seattle, WA
Elegy and Quint for Viol Quintet   Carlton Macy       St. Paul, MN
Lamentation           Armand Quailliotine     Arlington, MA
Suite for Viol Consort  Scott Robbins     Spartanburg, SC
Two Artifacts          Christopher S. McGlumphy   New York, NY
Baroque Relays         Etienne Rolin       France
Windgereste Fantasy    Dana DiAnda Hawkes   McKinleyville, CA
Canzona               Wolfgang Bottenberg  Montreal, QC
Ricercar              Jean Henderson       Lincoln, NE
Fantasia: The Triumph of Death  Michael Hamill   Danvers, MA

First prize            Wolfgang Bottenberg
Second prize           Dana DiAnda Hawkes
Audience prize         Michael Hamill

Preliminary judges: Allen Anderson, Lawrence Lipnik, Brent Wissick
Final judges: David Schiff, Tomas Svoboda, Margriet Tindemans, Lawrence Lipnik, Ruth Harvey, Yukimi Kambe
Performers: NYCV (Lucy Bardo, Judith Davidoff, Lawrence Lipnik, Rosamund Morley), Lisa Terry
The Traynor event was in the form of master-classes with David Loeb, assisted by Will Ayton and Martha Bishop.
2009

The four equal winners were:

Serenade
In Nomine “Five”
O magnum mysterium
As She Sings

Jean Henderson  Lincoln, NE
Patrice Connelly  Australia
Donald Reid Womack  Honolulu, HI
John Anthony Lennon  Atlanta, GA

Audience prize  Donald Reid Womack

Final judges:  Brent Wissick, Wendy Gillespie, Rosamund Morley.

Performers:  Members of Brent Wissick’s and Wendy Gillespie’s classes, and members of the Consort Cooperative

Serenade:  Jenni Burke, Mike Twyford, Ari Mason, Kathleen Merfeld, Linda Payzant
In Nomine “Five”:  Sara Blake, Sarah Tippett Poon, Linda Deshman, Susan Marchant, William Jackson
O Magnum Mysterium:  Rachel Cama-Lekx, Victoria Watts, Tobi Szuts, Zoe Weiss
As She Sings:  Liam Byrne, Loren Ludwig, Laura Vaughan, Josh Lee