

For Love of the Viol

Planning
for the future of
Conclave



Our Vision

To make the viol and its music known and appreciated throughout the world today.



Our Mission

To promote the viola da gamba through programs and grants that develop audiences and support players, teachers, builders, restorers, researchers, and others sharing a passion for viols.



The VdGSA Conclave Endowment Campaign

History

Since 1962, the VdGSA has run Conclave, a weeklong summer workshop dedicated to the viol. Conclave is consistently noted as the Society's most important program in membership surveys (even by members who do not regularly attend).

We are the only early music organization that gives a “global” annual workshop/family reunion, bringing together teachers, amateur players, aspiring professionals, vendors, builders, scholars, and friends of the viol for a magical week.



The Challenge

As Conclave is the largest item in the VdGSA's budget, the Board has always sought to make it a break-even event; however, over the past decade sharp rises in travel costs and venue charges have threatened the stability of our fee structure and limited what we can pay faculty and offer in scholarship aid.

Our Solution: A Campaign for Conclave



A Conclave Endowment will:

- Provide a stable source of annual income, to plan Conclave years into the future rather than one year at a time
- Facilitate regular faculty and staff raises
- Allow us to find and keep “ideal” venues by negotiating with institutions several years ahead
- Fund additional scholarship aid to those who need it, including younger players and those of limited means



Why Now?

- Several substantial bequests have recently presented the opportunity to do long-term planning on larger scale than ever before. We can realize several long-term dreams to further the Society's larger mission, but only if we can count on a strong foundation for the perpetuation of Conclave.
- We already have a structured investment plan to preserve and grow our assets under the supervision of our Treasurer and Finance Committee.
- A number of our members have reached a stage in life when they have discretionary funds and the devotion to Conclave to make substantive commitments to the central project of the VdGSA.



Planning for our Future

Where will the money go?

- Donations will go into a restricted fund.
- We will invest the funds prudently, preserving principal.
- A portion of investment income will help defray Conclave costs, each year, with excess income returning to the investment pool.

This will enable the Society to:

- Continue to set tuition, room and board costs at a level that makes Conclave widely accessible
- Have the financial flexibility to plan further in advance for each annual event
- Provide our members with even more of the programs and services that make Conclave so special

Our endowment goal:
\$300,000



What makes Conclave special?

- Many amateur viol players have never had a regular teacher; Conclaves have been instrumental for both teaching us to play and motivating us to play better.
- We have made enduring friendships through Conclaves, with their extraordinary opportunities for playing with each other and with faculty, both in classes and through long, convivial evenings.
- Many have made major purchases of music and instruments; have had instruments repaired and bows rehaired; or have been inspired to order from a master builder.
- We have heard exquisite concerts and mini-concerts by the faculty; and inspirational talks by makers and scholars that remain with us forever.



In short, Conclave is an amazing and unique event.

- And it's just for us—amateurs and both established and aspiring professionals—to play, learn, listen, and just plain have a terrific time.
- People get inspired at Conclaves to learn the instrument, to improve their playing, and to initiate viol activities in their hometowns.
- We make music with lifelong and newfound friends every Conclave.



This is why we need an endowment for Conclave—to keep these great times coming, and to inspire and encourage viol players for years to come.