

Niccolo Seligmann

PERFORMER | COMPOSER | EDUCATOR

nseligmann@gmail.com | niccoloseligmann.com

EDUCATION

2015 **Bachelor of Music**, Viola da gamba, Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University
Intensive study of renaissance and baroque music on all sizes of viola da gamba,
baroque cello and bass, basso continuo realization, medieval fiddle

PROJECTS

2014-present **Wherligig**, Westminster, MD
Traditional celtic and nordic acoustic music ensemble
Viola da gamba, viola a chiavi, bodhrán

2013-present **Istanpitta**, Houston, TX
Medieval music ensemble
Medieval fiddles, medieval drag queen

2013-present **Alkemie**, Brooklyn, NY, Founding member
Medieval music ensemble, informed historically and by experimental music traditions
Medieval fiddles, viola a chiavi, percussion

2011-present **The Broken Consort**, Portland, OR
Early music ensemble, informed historically and by experimental music traditions
Viola da gamba, medieval fiddles, percussion, ngoni, voice

2016-2019 **duoSeraphim**, New York, NY, Founding member
Baroque music duet with soprano
Viola da gamba

2011-2015 **Divisio**, Baltimore, MD, Founding member
Medieval and world music ensemble
Viola da gamba, medieval fiddles, kemençe

SELECT RECENT & UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

Feb 26, 2020 **Strathmore Artist in Residence Concerts: Improvisation**
with Loren Ludwig and Lucas Ashby, presented by Strathmore
Strathmore Mansion, Bethesda, MD
Concert program interfacing gut strings and percussion with electronic sounds. Interactive software
instruments and improvisation environments combine with early instruments to sound a more
connected future.

Feb 12, 2020 **Strathmore Artist in Residence Concerts: Early Music**
with Tina Chancey, Loren Ludwig, Cameron Welke, and Lucas Ashby, presented by Strathmore
Strathmore Mansion, Bethesda, MD
Concert program exploring the breadth of “early music” repertoires, from twisty medieval songs and
dances to effervescent French baroque viola da gamba virtuosity. Includes medieval ensemble, viol
consort, theorbos and lutes, and percussion.

Oct 24-28, 2019 **“Cyprus, 1400”**
with Alkemie, presented by Cambridge Society for Early Music
venues in Carlisle, Weston, Salem, Ipswich, and Cambridge, MA
Concert program featuring music from the French-Cypriot manuscript Torino J.ii.9, which contains
some of the most harmonically and rhythmically intricate music of its time. This quirky manuscript is
contextualized with traditional dance tunes that Niccolo Seligmann learned by ear from the Famagusta
Municipality Magem Folk Dance Group.

July 16, 2019 “Diana’s Hunt”

with Alkemie, presented by Amherst Early Music Festival
Evans Auditorium, Connecticut College, New London, CT
Concert program using Boccaccio’s allegorical hunting poem “Caccia di Diana” to link together medieval pieces about animals featuring panthers, roosters, and others; pieces in collaboration with composer Elliot Cole; and readings from medieval bestiaries about these animals’ hidden allegories.

January 5, 2019 “bbbaby”

with Hutchins & Seligmann
The Crown, Baltimore, MD
Collaboration with saxophonist Kyle Hutchins. A devised piece using prepared saxophone, prepared viola da gamba, EWI (electronic wind instrument), and live manipulation of field recordings to examine the complex relationships between adults, babies, animals, and the sounds they share.

SELECTED RECENT COMPOSITIONS

- 2019** “**Minerva, or Times Change,**” opera with Jefferson Baroque and Capitol Opera Project
This pastiche opera combines newly-composed recitatives with arias from operas and oratorios by G. F. Handel into a new narrative with a feminist, queer, and anti-racist focus.
- 2019** “**just one will have to be enough,**” for solo viola da gamba and live electronics
This piece has become a way for me to grieve and come to terms with the suicide of a friend less than one week after we met. I fell instantly in love when we met and was excited to build a friendship with this person, only to have that possibility too quickly ripped away. Some of their friends had experienced thousands of beautiful moments with them; for me, just one will have to be enough.
- 2018** “**Sleepless Bay,**” “**Complementary Beverage,**” and “**The Faithful Steward,**” for Wherligig
Traditional Irish tunes written for fiddles are often difficult to play on viola da gamba due to drastic tuning differences. In response, I am building a collection of original tunes in Irish styles, written specifically for the viola da gamba.
- 2018** “**Staying Alive,**” for consort of five violas da gamba
Composed as part of the Viola da Gamba Society of America’s Consort Cooperative program, this piece is designed to make amateur players feel more comfortable improvising. It crafts a musical illustration of the physiological, psychological, and social processes of a heart attack, drawing on the knowledge of a participant, a retired EMT, who was initially uncomfortable with non-notated music.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

- 2020** “**Kinship,**” Niccolo Seligmann
Solo acoustic viola da gamba improvisations expressing the global need for multispecies kinship and Indigenous sovereignty. Release Date: February 26, 2020, at Strathmore Mansion (see above)
- 2016-present** “**Civilization VI Official Soundtrack,**” Geoff Knorr
Music from the PC game’s “Medieval” section, orchestrated for triple-overdubbed viola da gamba and overdubbed medieval fiddle, engaging with traditional styles from Hindustani to Cree. New recordings for additional expansion packs released several times a year.
- 2019** “**Opus One and Two,**” Emily Lau & The Broken Consort
The Broken Consort presents Emily Lau’s *Radical Softness* and *The Glorious Cuntata*, two pieces on the strength and power of femme presentation, identity, and physicality. Includes composed and improvised music.
- 2018** “**The Three Marys,**” Eya
Medieval ensemble Eya presents a 14th-century liturgical play about the emotional journey of Mary Magdalene after Christ’s death. Recorded in the Washington National Cathedral, this album exemplifies the multifaceted and key role a fiddler plays in a medieval ensemble without notated music as a guide.

TEACHING

- 2020** **Strathmore Mansion**, Bethesda, MD
Workshop Leader, Artist in Residence
Led two-hour workshop for high school choir, band, and orchestra students on early music, electronic music, and the vast breadth of what can make up a music career.
- 2019** **Thomas Dale High School**, Chester, VA
Workshop Leader
Led two-hour workshop for high school choir, band, and orchestra students on early music, electronic music, and the vast breadth of what can make up a music career.
- 2019** **Fordham University**, New York, NY
Workshop Leader, member of Ensemble-in-Residence
With Alkemie, co-taught workshops in medieval performance practice for undergraduates and NYC early music community members
- 2018** **Grinnell College**, Grinnell, IA
Workshop Leader
Led week-long workshops in medieval improvisation and performance practice for undergraduates and community members, culminating in a performance with workshop participants
- 2017** **Capitol Early Music**, Washington, DC
Workshop Leader
With Alkemie, co-taught workshops in medieval performance practice for DC early music community
- 2017-2018** **St. Anne School**, Santa Monica, CA
Instructor, Music Appreciation
Created and taught 5th-8th grade curriculum focusing on musical connections with race, colonialism, and structural inequalities; featured critical listening and discussion on music from many cultures
- 2016-2018** **UCLA**, Los Angeles, CA
Instructor, UCLA Early Music Ensemble
Co-coached semiweekly rehearsals, led quarterly viola da gamba masterclasses and consort parties
- 2016-2017** **Fairmont State University**, Fairmont, WV
Workshop Leader, member of Ensemble-in-Residence
With Alkemie, co-taught workshops in medieval performance practice for undergraduate music majors
- 2015-2018** **Big Mouth Society/Curiosity Crossing**, Portland, OR
Workshop Leader
With The Broken Consort, co-taught workshops in medieval performance practice for Portland early music community

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2019-present** **Koons Instruments**, Finksburg, MD
Luthiery apprentice
Building wooden instruments based on medieval and early renaissance art using hand tools

RESIDENCIES AND GRANTS

- 2019-2020** **Niccolo Seligmann**, Strathmore Artist in Residence
- 2019-present** **Alkemie**, Fordham University Ensemble-in-Residence
- 2017** **duoSeraphim**, Avaloch Farm Music Institute Residency
- 2016-17** **Alkemie**, Fairmont State University Ensemble-in-Residence
- 2016-17** **Alkemie**, Avaloch Farm Music Institute Residency
- 2014** **Niccolo Seligmann**, Johns Hopkins University Provost Undergraduate Research Award
- 2013** **Niccolo Seligmann**, Viola da Gamba Society of America Grant-in-Aid

REFERENCES

[CONTACT ME](#) for a list of references