

FACULTY PROFILE



Phillip Serna

Adjunct Instructor

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Biography

Dr. Phillip W. Serna is instructor of double bass at Valparaiso University, director of the Music Institute of Chicago Early Music Departments viola da gamba education and outreach program 'Viols in Our Schools,' and maintains an active teaching studio in the greater Chicago area. He is an in-demand adjudicator and clinician in the Midwest on double bass and viola da gamba and has appeared as double bass faculty at the Whitewater Winter Bassfest, as viola da gamba faculty at the Music on the Mountain Winter Workshop, Whitewater Early Music Festival and as Ad Hoc Consort Coordinator at the Viola da Gamba Society's Summer Conclave.

Dr. Serna is an active and enthusiastic performer of early music, as well as the contemporary, solo, orchestral, and chamber repertoires. He earned his Bachelor of Music studying with San Francisco Symphony member Stephen Tramontozzi at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music in 1998. He later completed his Master of Music & Doctor of Music degrees at Northwestern University School of Music in 2001 and 2007, respectively. At Northwestern University, he studied double bass with Chicago Symphony Orchestra member Michael Hovnanian and international soloist DaXun Zhang. Additionally, he studied viola da gamba with Newberry Consort founder Mary Springfels. His doctoral project, 'Original Crossover?'

Popular Ballad-Tunes as Art-Music for Viols in Seventeenth-Century England' focused on solo and ensemble settings of ballad-tunes for viola da gamba as well as lyra viol transcriptions for double bass.

On double bass, Dr. Serna has performed under the baton of conductors such as Daniel Barenboim, Pierre Boulez, Christoph Eschenbach, Neeme Järvi and David Robertson as a member of Chicago Symphony Orchestra's Civic Orchestra of Chicago. He has performed with other orchestras including the Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra, Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra, Northbrook Symphony Orchestra, Illinois Symphony Orchestra, New Philharmonic Orchestra, Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, Memphis Symphony Orchestra, and many others. In his role as an Early Music specialist, Dr. Serna regularly performs on violas da gamba (treble viol, tenor viol and bass viol), period double bass/violone and vielle with period instrument ensembles as the Chicago Early Music Consort, the Newberry Consort, the Spirit of Gambo - a Chicago Consort of Viols, Ars Antigua, the Oriana Singers, the Second City Musick, the Third Coast Viols and many others. Dr. Serna was a recipient of a Viola da Gamba Society of America Grant-in-Aid to Young Artists, and was a featured soloist at the Gamba Gamut, a concert hosted by the Viola da Gamba Society of America at the 2007 Boston Early Music Festival.

In 2007, Dr. Serna's article '*Early Strings in the Classroom/ Introducing Students to Renaissance and Baroque String Repertoire on Period Instruments*' on classroom outreach advocacy was published in the American

Department of Music - Valparaiso University
String Teachers Association String
Teacher's Cookbook - Creative
Recipes for a Successful Program.
He has contributed articles to the
Bass World - the Official Magazine of
the International Society of Bassists,
the American String Teacher, Illinois
ASTA's the Scroll, and is an active
contributor to the Arts Addict Blog,
the Contrabass Conversations
podcast and the online bass resource
www.DoubleBassblog.org. In Early
Music publications, Dr. Serna is
outreach editor for the Viola da Gamba
News, where he has edited and
written numerous articles, and has
contributed to Early Music America
magazine. An active podcaster in his
own right, he produces the 'Viols in
Our Schools' video podcast brings
high-quality performances of music for
viols to the larger internet community at
www.ViolsinOurSchools.org.

Dr. Serna is a member of the
International Society of Bassists
(*ISB*), the American String Teachers
Association (*ASTA*), Early Music
America (*EMA*), the Society for
Seventeenth-Century Music (*SSCM*)
and is president of the Viola da
Gamba Society Third Coast, the
Chicago chapter of the Viola da Gamba
Society of America (*VdGSA*). He
lives in Plainfield, IL with his best
friend and wife, Magdalena along
with their daughter Natalia. For more
information on Dr. Serna, please visit
www.PhillipWSerna.com.

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