

VIOLA DA GAMBA SOCIETY PACIFICA

GAMMA NEWS

Volume 25, No. 2 November 2010

Message from the President October Surprise!

On October the 8th our Chapter was notified by the Zion Lutheran Church (where we have been conducting play days for many years) that beginning January 1, 2011 our Chapter will be charged a payment for use of facilities per hour with the following guide lines:

Gym/Garden Room per hour: \$60
 Classroom use per classroom per hour (for groups under 20): \$35
 Sanctuary use per hour for performing groups only: \$125
 Gym users, reoccurring or all day use, deposit of \$200

Your board of directors has been analyzing the impact of this policy change on our Chapter play days at Zion and has come to the conclusion that the financial impact

Play Days 2010 – 2011

Date	Coach
November 13	Roy Wheldon
December 11	Farley Pearce
January 8	Amy Brodo
February 19	Stanford Workshop with John Dornenburg, Marie Dalby, David Morris and Lisa Terry
March 12	Bill Skeen
April 9	Shira Kammen
May 14	Peter Halifax and Julie Jeffrey
June	End of Year Bash
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, 5201 Park Blvd-Oakland Please arrive at 9:00. Play Day starts at 9:15.	

would be severe to continue using Zion facilities at anything like our current usage rate. For example, to continue using Zion for play days as we have in the past, the *facilities only* cost would be \$465 per day or \$4185 per year assuming 9 meeting per year. This is of course in addition to the approximately \$200 per day or \$1800 per year that we are paying for coaching fees.

To cover these *facilities only* costs, we would have to raise our yearly dues rate from the current \$35 per year by \$95 to a total of \$130 per year for all of our “play day” members, assuming that we could maintain our total “play day” membership at 44 persons. Alternatively, to cover these

facility only costs with a facility use play day attendee fee, we would have to charge \$33 per player per play day assuming that we are able to maintain our current average play day attendance of 14 players. Both of these assumptions appear to be highly unlikely.



Based on this assessment, your board is planning to submit a “counter proposal” to the Church for their consideration, specifying a total facilities cost fee per day that we are willing to pay in the near term from January to June of 2011. There is of course no guarantee that this “counter proposal” facility use rate will be acceptable to Zion Church.

We are actively in the process of looking for alternative venues or sites at lower or hopefully no cost where we could conduct play day activities something like the way we have been doing at Zion Church. Our Pacifica Chapter membership can really help out by identifying venues that could be considered. Of special interest are schools or places where you are a member and could use the facilities for free or for a relatively small charge. These include places such as your church or your community center. Are any of our members currently working with or retired from local school districts and might be able to

(Continued on page 5)

For Sale

Ask Miss Fret-Knot: A guide to consort manners, by Prudence Fret-Knot and Lyle York, is available for \$14.95 plus shipping from Lazar's Early Music: www.LazarsEarlyMusic.com, Bill.Lazar@gmail.com, or (650) 938-5367.

Visit Your Local Viol Builder! 7-string bass, Bertrand model, rich sound. 6-string bass, Jaye model, bright and delightful to play. Treble, Hoskins model. Tenors and other bass models also available. Soft and hard cases custom-fitted to your instrument. Repairs. Come by to try an instrument, take a shop tour and learn about building viols, or for idle chit-chat. **Alexandra Saur**, (510) 558-6927, (510) 559-9563, in Albany.

Bow Repair. Alexandra Saur is now offering rehairing for both modern and early bows. Top quality hair and quick turnaround! (510) 559-9563, bowrehair@alexandrasaur.com.

Ruby Instruments. The world's first production model of a 7-string solid body electric viola da gamba! Play traditional and crossover music on one instrument! To hear and play the Ruby, contact **Kirby Leong**, (510) 317-0834 or (510) 332-0834 (24-hour message); gambaguy@msn.com.

Lazar's Early Music

Ukulele, C.F. Martin & Co., Style 3M. Here is a rare 1940's Martin 3M (Mahogany Model) Soprano Ukulele with original case. Classic mahogany face, back and sides with celluloid binding on top and back. Ebony fretboard with circular position markers (one missing) and C.F. Martin & Co decal on headstock; ivory celluloid binding with w-b-w-b-w-b-w ply binding on front and around soundhole, with w-b-w on back; 17 T-fret ebony fretboard. There is also a C.F. Martin & Co stamp on the inside of the soundhole as well but without the "Made in USA" since it's pre-1960; no whale tail below bridge; no diamond style position markers, no pin-striping down fretboard. Total length: 21 inches; Body length: 9 & 7/16 inches; Body width: 6 & 3/8 inches; Scale length: 13 & 5/8 inches. There are lots of superficial signs of wear, including neck, back and top finish wear, as well as a small fingerboard gouge, but there are no cracks, the neck is straight and the instrument is in excellent playing condition. \$2100.

Lyre Mandolin, Calace, 1899. A highly unusual lyre mandolin in good original condition, dated 1899 and bearing the original signed label: Fratres Calace, Via Quercia 506, Neapoli, Italia. Fecerunt 1899, # 20005. Spruce top edged with ebony, and ivory; soundhole edged in rosewood and decorated with mother of pearl ornaments; nicely shaped tortoise shell scratch plate; two well-turned ivory knobs on the lyre tips; two hollow yokes with metal struts; bowl back of 28 rosewood ribs; good straight rosewood neck; rosewood fingerboard with 22 good brass frets; rosewood head; metal machine heads with ivory tuners; ebony and ivory bridge; ivory nut; original leather case in extremely poor condition; several small (appear stable) cracks as shown in pictures; total length 61 cm, scale 33.7 cm, body width 24.6 cm, depth 13 cm, nut 2.7 cm. \$7000. A similar instrument is displayed in the Royal College of London's early musical instrument collection.

Viola da gamba, treble, unknown maker, 37 cm string length, female carved head, antiqued to look like old instrument. Plays nicely, sweet tone. New frets, Gamut strings, soft case. \$1750. Price reduced.

(continued on page 3)

GAMA NEWS

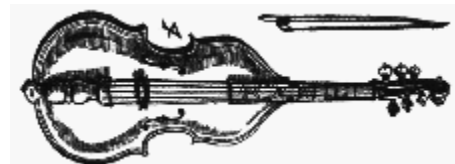
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(For Sale, continued from page 2)

Viol, treble, Michael Plant, Sheffield, 1985. 36 cm free string length, plays quite nicely with sweet tone, very nice condition, Savage & Hoy hard case in very nice condition, \$4500.

Viol bow, John Brasil, treble, 47 gms, \$300.

Viola da gamba, 6-string bass, Zuchowicz, 1983, 68 cm string length, new Gamut strings, like-new condition, hard case. New bridge. Plays very nicely. Excellent example of Zuchowicz small bass. \$6800 (new price is \$9200).

Bow, Bass Viol, William Salchow, 73 gms, 71.7 cm stick, 57.8 cm free hair, snakewood. \$1200.

Bow, Renaissance, vielle, yew, 45 gms, clip-in frog, Linda Shortridge, \$300.

Bow, Renaissance, snakewood, 72 gms, Linda Shortridge, clip-in frog, \$400.

Viola da gamba, treble, Uebel, 1966. 36.7 cm string length. Typical Uebel old German heavy viol; well-made; plays well but somewhat slow response. Carved rose and fingerboard. Some finish wear, but generally in good condition. Homemade hard case, new frets, new Gamut strings. \$1250.

Pictures are available on www.LazarsEarlyMusic.com.

Contact **Bill Lazar**, Bill.Lazar@gmail.com, (650) 938-5367 for more information.

Classified Ads

Short classified advertisements in *Gamba News* are free to VdGS-Pacifica members. For nonmembers, ads are \$5 per issue. Please mail your check made out to VdGS-Pacifica to Peter Brodigan, Editor, 737 Duncan Street, San Francisco, CA 94131.

www.bayareaviols.org

Our VdGS-Pacifica chapter website is in the process of being newly launched by our Webmaster, Julie Morrisett.

Check back soon! The VdGSA (national) website is www.vdgsa.org.

Rent a Viol

Pacifica has trebles, tenors, and basses to rent. Donations of viols and bows to our rental program are extremely welcome—we'll accept them in any condition. Rental fees range from \$15 to \$30 per month. In charge of rentals is John Mark, 10 Holyrood Manor, Oakland, CA 94611, (510) 531-1471; mark_bach8@hotmail.com.

Donating to VdGS-Pacifica

The Pacifica Chapter is an affiliate of the San Francisco Early Music Society (SFEMS), and along with other privileges this affiliation confers, we can receive tax-deductible donations. These include not only cash but viols, bows, musical scores, method books, tuners, stands, and other viol paraphernalia.

Especially since we now have a Youth Project working to teach young people the viol, please remember the chapter when you are cleaning out your music room. Cash donations can be used for new rental instruments and bows, new music for the chapter playing library, the Pacifica Youth Project, or our scholarship fund.

To ensure that your donation will be tax-deductible, please make out the check to SFEMS with a note on the lower left corner: "for VdGS-Pacifica." Then send your donation check to Alice Benedict, Treasurer, VdGS-Pacifica, P.O. Box 9813, Berkeley, CA 94709. She will forward your check to SFEMS. SFEMS will accept and record the donation, then transfer the funds to us. You will receive an acknowledgment letter from SFEMS for your tax records. When you donate a viol or other materials, you will receive a letter citing the estimated value of the instrument or materials for your tax records.



Membership

Time to Renew Your Membership

Please take a moment to fill out the form at the end of the newsletter, and send it with your check to Alice Benedict.

Renewals

Renewals have been received from Mary Elliott, Anne Rumsey, Brian Nelson, Nicole Montalbano, Kirby Leong, Alexandra Saur, Nelda Smith, Carolyn Butler, George Houle, Glenna Houle, Stuart Elliott, Joan Lounsbery, Peter Ballinger, Leslie Gold, John Dornenburg, Dalton Cantey, Ellen Fisher, Heather Irons, David Morris, Gwyneth Davis, Kristin Righetti, Shirley Hunt, Albert Bellefeuille, Alice Benedict, Ferne Allan, Marilyn Becker, Peter Brodigan, Robin Easterbrook, Ellen Farwell, Billie Hamilton, Ricardo Hofer, Julie Jeffrey, Bill Lazar, Virginia Lee, John Mark, Julie

Morisett, Mary Prout, Nancy Rifkin, PJ Savage, Betsy St. Aubin, and Helen Tyrrell.

Donations to the Chapter

Donations totaling \$290 have been received from George and Glenna Houle, Stuart Elliott, John Dornenburg, Dalton Cantey, David Morris, Alice Benedict, Ferne Allan, Ricardo Hofer, PJ Savage, Betsy St. Aubin, and an anonymous donor. Many thanks for the extra support!

Checks and Payments Please send any checks and payments, including rental checks, to the Treasurer, Alice Benedict.

Alice Benedict, Treasurer VdGS – Pacifica
PO Box 9813
Berkeley, CA 94709

Websites for Viol Players

Peter Brodigan

In some past newsletters, I posted a “calling all favorite websites” notice, suggesting people forward on the sites they have discovered. Well, I guess we are a shy group, more at home sharing viol parts than websites, but as a sometime optimist I’m 90% sure the first response will come in before the year is over. In the interim, here are a few sites I’ve stumbled on and bookmarked.

Charlie Ogle has an interesting page on violadagamba.com with pictures on how a viol is constructed. Do you know about the bouts in your viol?

<http://www.violadagamba.com/co/workshop/index.htm>



Jonathan Dunford has a site dedicated to the viol that feels pretty personal, results of his research and bits and pieces that interest him. There’s a page dedicated to Ste. Colombe, with an interesting analysis of the small amount of known information.

<http://jonathan.dunford.free.fr/html/sainte-c.htm>

Here’s a site dedicated to **William Lawes**. Some biographical material, pictures, and reviews of Lawes CD’s.

<http://www.canterburygreenman.fsnet.co.uk/WilliamLawes.htm>

The Cipher is a pretty individual site, a nexus of guitar/lute/viol, and it has a nice gallery of viol pictures. If you have the reprint edition of Woodfield’s *The Early History of the Viol*, in which a number of the illustrations are muddy, you might appreciate the illustrations on this site, some of which are in the Woodfield.

http://www.thecipher.com/viola_da_gamba_cipher.html

Free music downloads

The **Dolmetsch** site has a lot of free music including Anthony Holborne, Senfl, Bach, and John Ward. It’s arranged for recorder, however, and the tenor parts are in G clef:

<http://www.dolmetsch.com/sheetmusic.htm>

Johan Tufvesson has an excellent collection of very playable downloads. This is a great source for finding music for various instruments.

<http://www.lysator.liu.se/~tuben/scores/>

The **Werner Icking** site, like the Dolmetsch site, has excellent collection of music, with most tenor parts in G clef. The John Dowland and William Brade, however, have tenor parts in alto clef as well.

<http://icking-music-archive.org/index.php>

If the original tablature of **Tobias Hume** seems daunting, here’s a site with “modern” tablature (thanks to Brian Nelson for discovering this one).

<http://tony.c.pagesperso-orange.fr/fretful/ViolPage.htm#table>

Sarge Gerbode has an extraordinary collection of lute music posted on his site. Lute intabulations of songs can

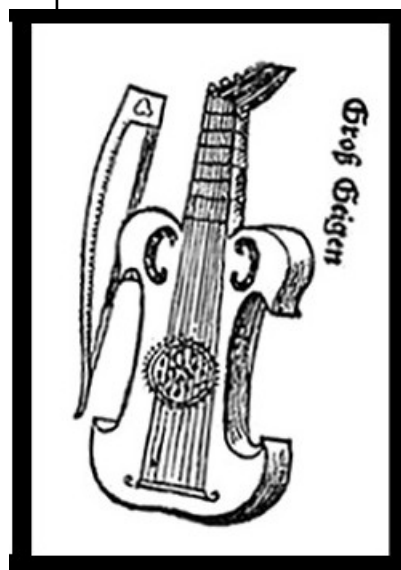
be helpful when trying to determine *ficta* or whether final chords should have a major third. The renaissance lute was tuned similar to the tenor viol, and intabulations give specific pitches.

<http://www.gerbode.net/>

Pacific Northwest Viols

Chapter site has a number of music downloads available.

<http://www.pnviols.org/SheetMusic.html>



(President's Message, continued from page 1)

help get us into adult education facilities? If any of our members have any ideas or leads to possible alternate sites in the Bay Area, please let Dalton Cantey know by email at dcantey@att.net or any other of our board members whose email addresses are listed in our Newsletter.

On a happier note, our second play day of the season went well on Saturday 10-9-10 at Zion Lutheran Church. David Morris did a great job of directing a Voice and Viols session all morning consisting of 15 viol players and about 15 voices, mostly from outside of our membership, who attended our morning event. We performed a great mix of voice/viol music types including a wonderful, technically challenging and harmonically astonishing 5 part Madrigal by Gesualdo. Extra special thanks are due to Peter Ballinger for providing viol playing parts and special vocal scores for the singers! In the afternoon session, about 8 viol players got to play through almost all of the great 6

part Fantasias by Lupo, including one of the two that have wonderful, written out ornamented bass parts.

Our next play day is Saturday November 13th at Zion Church with Roy Whelden who plans to do multi-choir Gabrieli pieces for viols in the morning, should be great! In the afternoon we will have our second Pacifica Board meeting of the year at Zion Church, starting at 1:30 pm. We have decided that the importance of the facilities rental issue discussed above merits starting the meeting earlier to allow adequate time for discussion of this critical topic. Planning for the Viols West Workshop in the summer of 2011 is proceeding. Melita Denny, our workshop coordinator, reports that Ros Morley has confirmed six faculty members so far and is preparing contracts. She will be in touch with Stuart Elliott about estimating costs so we can decide on faculty compensation.

- Dalton Cantey

(Websites, continued from page 4)

Finally, the **Viola da Gamba Society of America** has nearly all the Jenkins 4, 5, and 6 part fantasias, pieces by Bach, and the Manchester Lyra Viol book available for members and non-members. For members, there is also a selection of pieces they call *Easy Music to Teach Your Neighbor*, with pieces by Agricola, Lawes, de Lassus,

Senfl, de Sermisy, and others. Might be a good source of pieces to start out a playing session.

<http://vdgsa.org/>

I hope you find these interesting! If you have other sites to share, please send them on to me at Brodigian@sbcglobal.net, and I'll include them in a future newsletter.

Schafe Konnen Sicher Weiden, aus *Was Mir Behagt*,
Ist Nur Die Muntre Jagd, BWV 208
Sheep May Safely Graze

J. S. Bach
Arr. YKVC

Treble 1
Treble 2
Tenor
Bass 1
Bass 2

Excerpt of download from vdgsa.org

November 13 Play Day with Roy Whelden

Roy will coach the November Play day, with a program of multi-choir Gabrieli pieces for viols. “I have long held an interest in the music of the late European Renaissance,” Roy says, “particularly the Venetian school, even though the vast majority of performances I’ve heard, including most of my own, have disappointed me. The energy of these performances seems somehow misplaced. Occasionally, I’ve detected glimmers of what seems to be the true nature of this music. These glimpses were exciting, on a deep and subtle level—yet the secrets of this music, I’ve thought, are still largely hidden. Some years ago, I read this acutely perceptive comment made by Stravinsky during the 1950s after hearing a concert in Venice of the music of the Gabrieli, Cipriano de Rore, and Willaert: ‘When will musicians learn that the point of Gabrieli’s music is rhythmic, not harmonic? When will they stop trying to make mass choral effects out of simple harmonic changes and bring out, articulate, those marvelous rhythmic inventions? Garbieli is rhythmic counterpoint.’ This from a modern master who worked all his life in similar directions! The Pacifica Gamba Society can explore some of this rhythmically complex, poly-choral, spatial music during the November session at Zion Lutheran Church.”

Roy grew up in Pennsylvania and his native New Hampshire playing trumpet and cello. After trumpet and music theory studies at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY, he went on to Indiana University in Bloomington where he got his advanced degrees and became interested in the viola da gamba. He studied medieval music (concentrating on the vielle and viola da gamba) with Thomas Binkley there and also with John Hsu in Ithaca, New York, and then began an international career as a performer, composer and teacher of viol and medieval fiddle. The many ensembles with which he has been affiliated include *Sequentia* (Cologne), the Boston Camerata and the Bay Area groups *American Baroque* and *Ensemble Alcatraz*.

His energies now are focused on the Galax Quartet, a group playing in an unusual eighteenth century string quartet configuration—two violins (sometimes violin/viola), viola da gamba and cello—originated by the composer and last gamba virtuoso Carl Friedrich Abel. The classical repertoire for this particular ensemble is rather meagre and, essentially, died along with Abel in 1787. For this reason, the Galax Quartet has been busy during the last five years commissioning modern composers to create new works for the ensemble. Their first recording will be released soon on the Innova record label; *On Cold Mountain—Songs on the Poetry of Gary Snyder* contains four new song cycles created for the contralto Karen Clark and the quartet by Fred Frith, W.A. Matheiu, Robert Morris, and Whelden.

Roy’s composing credits are substantial. Early Music America called him a “key figure in the world of new



music” and he has been profiled as composer and gambist by Minnesota Public Radio. His compositions have been recorded on the New Albion label and are available on iTunes: *Galax—music for viola da gamba*, *Like a Passing River*, *Shock of the Old*.

Mark Your Calendar

Friday, November 5

Philharmonia Baroque presents Vivaldi: *Le quattro stagioni* (The Four Seasons); Corelli: Concerto grosso Op. 6, No. 11 in B-flat major; Pergolesi: Sinfonia in F major; Durante: Concerto No. 5 in A major; Zavateri: Concerto decimo a Pastorale, Op. 1. Music Director Nicholas McGegan conducts a program that opens with Antonio Vivaldi’s *Le quattro stagioni* (The Four Seasons). Elizabeth Blumenstock, violin. 8:00 PM. Herbst Theater,

401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco. \$25-\$85.

www.philharmonia.org

Saturday, November 6

Sonoma Bach’s inaugural dance workshop is an opportunity to learn some of the most famous dances of the Renaissance and Baroque eras. Baroque dancer and violinist Julie Andrijeski will teach basics of dances including the bourée, gavotte, and minuet. Musical accompaniment provided by members of Live Oak

Baroque Orchestra and the Young People's Chamber Orchestra. This class is open to musicians, singers, dancers, and music-lovers of all types who are new to historical dance. No previous dance experience is required. Ages 13 and up are welcome. Space is limited and registration is required. 12:00 noon to 6:00 PM (light refreshment provided). Penngrove Clubhouse, Downtown Penngrove, corner of Woodward and Oak Street. \$50 general; \$40 student/teacher/senior. For more information or to register, go to www.sonomabach.org or call (877) 914-2224 x 3.

Philharmonia Baroque repeats program of October 15. 8:00 PM. First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. \$25-\$85. www.philharmonia.org

MusicSources presents *Il Canzoniere: Music from the Age of Petrarch*. Ensemble Canconier with Gilbert Martinez, organetto in a program of pieces by Landini, Jacopo da Bologna, Ciconia, and poetry from Petrarch's collection *Il Canzoniere, the Songbook*. 7:30 PM. St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 1501 Washington Ave., Albany. \$20 non-members, \$15 members, seniors, and students. www.musicsources.org

Sunday, November 7

Philharmonia Baroque repeats program of October 15. 7:30 PM. First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. \$25-\$85. www.philharmonia.org

Tuesday, November 9

Philharmonia Baroque repeats program of October 15. 8:00 PM. Center for Performing Arts, Menlo-Atherton High School, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. \$25-\$85. www.philharmonia.org

Wednesday, November 10

Philharmonia Baroque repeats program of October 15. 8:00 PM. Hofmann Theater, Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. \$25-\$85. www.philharmonia.org

Friday, November 12

Voices of Music presents *Stylus Phantasticus*, virtuoso violin music from 17th-century Germany and Italy; music

by Buxtehude, Rosenmuller, and Uccellini. Lisa Grodin, Katherine Kyme, Carla Moore, and William Skeen, baroque strings; Hanneke van Proosdij, harpsichord; Dominic Schaner and David Tayler, theorbos. First Lutheran Church, 600 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. 8:00 PM. \$30, \$25 SFEMS/ARS/EMA members, students, and seniors. www.voicesofmusic.org

Saturday, November 13

Voices of Music repeats program of November 12. St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 1111 O'Farrell St., San Francisco. 8:00 PM. \$30, \$25 SFEMS/ARS/EMA members, students, and seniors. www.voicesofmusic.org

Sunday, November 14

Voices of Music repeats program of November 12. St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 1501 Washington St., Albany. 7:30 PM. \$30, \$25 SFEMS/ARS/EMA members, students, and seniors. www.voicesofmusic.org

Friday, November 19

SFEMS presents Tanya Tomkins, solo cello. J.S. Bach cello suites. 8:00 PM. First Lutheran Church, 600 Homer at Webster, Palo Alto. \$28, \$25 for SFEMS members and seniors. www.sfems.org

Saturday, November 20

SFEMS repeats program of November 19. 7:30 PM. St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College at Garber, Berkeley. \$28, \$25 for SFEMS members and seniors. www.sfems.org

Sunday, November 21

SFEMS repeats program of November 19. 4:00 PM. St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 1111 O'Farrell St., San Francisco. \$28, \$25 for SFEMS members and seniors. www.sfems.org

Next Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be held at 1:30 PM on Saturday, November 13, at Zion Lutheran Church, 5201 Park Blvd-Oakland. All members are welcome.

Please come and share your thoughts about our Play Day facility.



Dress suggestions
for Thanksgiving.
No need to be shy.
It's been done
before.



VdGS-Pacific Membership

Join the Chapter or renew your membership

First and last name _____

Mailing address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Note: Email is required to receive the Gamba News, our Chapter newsletter. The Gamba News is distributed in PDF by email only.

Phone number with area code () _____

\$ _____ **Playing member** (\$35). Attend monthly play days and receive email subscription to *Gamba News*.

\$ _____ **Two-person membership** (\$45). Two playing members in the same household. You share all the rights and privileges of a Playing Member.

\$ _____ **Student membership** (\$10). For full-time students. Attend monthly play days and receive email subscription to *Gamba News*.

\$ _____ **Newsletter-only membership** (\$10). Receive the email subscription to *Gamba News*.

\$ _____ Donation to VdGS-Pacific will help us buy sheet music and rental instruments and grow our scholarship fund. May we acknowledge your donation in the newsletter?

Yes No

\$ _____ Total Enclosed

Make out check to VdGS- Pacifica

Mail with this form to:

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