

# VIOLA DA GAMBA SOCIETY PACIFICA GAMMA NEWS

Volume 27, No. 1 October 2011



The all-faculty smiling event (aka, last day)

## Play Days 2011-12

Date	Coach
October 8	Elisabeth Reed
November 12	Amy Brodo
December 10	David Morris
January 14	Shira Kammen
February 4	Stanford Workshop with John Dornenburg, full faculty to be announced
March 10	Peter Halifax and Julie Jeffrey
April 14	Roy Whelden
May 12	Shirley Hunt
June 6	End of year Bash

Hillside Swedenborgian Community Church, 1422 Navellier Street, El Cerrito, CA 94530.

Please try to arrive by 9:00 AM for coffee/tea and conversation by 9:15, to be followed by consort playing beginning at 9:30. If you can, please plan to stay for uncoached consort playing in the afternoon.

## Viols West in Photographs

Pacifica Chapter's first Viols West was a huge success August 7-13, in San Luis Obispo.



On three evenings, faculty and students doubled on consort parts



Ros Morely, Music Director

## Membership

### Membership 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.

**Dues are due!** Use the membership form at the end of the newsletter to send your dues to Alice. Note the new membership amounts!

**Renewals have been received from:** Stuart Elliott, Carolyn Butler, Robin Easterbrook, Mary Elliott, Bill Lazar, Linda Skory, Kirby Leong, Charmion Burns.

### www.pacificaviols.org

Our VdGS-Pacific chapter website is online and in the process of being updated by Alexandra Saur and other members. The VdGSA (national) website is [www.vdgsa.org](http://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](mailto:mark_bach8@hotmail.com).

### Donating to VdGS-Pacific

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-Pacific." Then send your donation check to Alice Benedict, Treasurer, VdGS-Pacific, 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



# GAMA NEWS

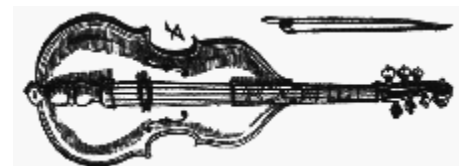
Gamba News is published by the Pacifica Chapter  
of the Viola da Gamba Society

## PACIFICA CHAPTER BOARD

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## Message from the President

### Welcome to the Pacifica 2011 – 2012 Season

Thanks to the efforts of many, our plan for the 2011 – 2012 season of Pacifica viol playing activities has been firmed up as follows, all at Hillside Church except as noted:

October 8—Play day coached by Elisabeth Reed

November 12—Play day coached by Amy Brodo

December 10—Play day coached by David Morris (Voices and Viols)

January 14—Play day coached by Shira Kammen

February 4—One day workshop, coaching directed by John Dornenburg at Stanford University, Palo Alto

March 10—Play day coached by Peter Hallifax & Julie Jeffrey

April 14—Play day coached by Roy Whelden

May 12—Play day coached by Shirley Hunt

June 16—Annual Pacifica party and playing for each other and friends

August 5 -11—Viols West Workshop (week long), coaching directed by Rosamund Morley at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

The September 17<sup>th</sup> play day was a lovely day with a great view of the East Bay from our location at Hillside Church in El Cerrito. A total of 12 of our members enjoyed consort playing with morning coaching provided by Pat O'Scannell. Pat ended the morning session with a group session devoted to the theory and application of bowing techniques on the viol complete with exercises and application to practical consort pieces. Seven of us were able to stay for an afternoon session of a6 Lupo pieces with doubling on the bass part, a very enjoyable session. The Sanctuary of Hillside Church turns out to be an acoustically great place to enjoy viol consort playing.

I look forward to our next play day at Hillside Church on October 8<sup>th</sup> coached by Elisabeth Reed. We have scheduled our first Pacifica Chapter Board meeting to also occur on that day at Hillside Church from 2:30 PM to 4:00 PM after the playing is completed. A number of important items are on our agenda for discussion and decisions by the Board. We need to finish our Board meeting promptly by 4:00 PM because Hillside Church has another event scheduled to start at 4:00 PM on that day.

In August this summer we completed our first ever sponsorship of the week long Viols West Workshop in San Luis Obispo. Thanks are extended for the outstanding efforts of Melita Denny and Stuart Elliott on workshop coordination and financial planning and the work of a great coaching staff with eight members led by Ros Morley. We had another wonderful week of viol playing in beautiful Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. We cycled upwards of \$43,500 through our Pacifica Chapter bank account to make this happen and we ended up very slightly in the black at the

end of it all, a tribute again to the amazing financial planning of Stuart Elliott! We cannot expect to achieve this positive balance in all future years. A Pacifica Chapter workshop fund reserve is clearly needed. We have made a reservation with Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo for Viols West 2012 during the week of August 5th through August 11th, 2012. Gwen Rodman from the southern California Viols



West Chapter has for many years provided coffee and tea for breaks during the workshop activities for which she was reimbursed by the workshop budget. Gwen would like to hand off this responsibility to someone else in the future and we are looking for a volunteer or volunteers to accomplish this task at the workshop. Please let Dalton Cantey know if you have any thoughts or suggestions on this subject.

### Dues are due!

Because of the new cost of facility rental this season, the Pacifica Board has reluctantly decided to increase dues for this season by \$5 as follows:

Playing member (\$40). Attend monthly play days and receive email subscription to Gamba News.

Two-person membership (\$50). Two playing members in the same household. You share all the rights and privileges of a Playing Member.

Student membership (\$15). For full-time students. Attend monthly play days and receive email subscription to Gamba News.

Newsletter only membership (\$15). Receive email subscription to Gamba News.

Make out check to VdGS-Pacifica. Mail along with Name, Address, Email and Telephone to: Alice Benedict, Treasurer VdGS-Pacifica, PO Box 9813, Berkeley, CA 94709

~~ Dalton Cantey

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**Elisabeth Reed** will coach the October 8 play day at



Hillside Church. Elisabeth teaches viola da gamba, baroque cello, and ensembles at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and at the University of California at Berkeley. A graduate of the North Carolina School of the Arts, the Oberlin Conservatory, the Eastman School of Music, and Indiana University's Early Music Institute, she can be heard on the Virgin Classics, Focus, and Magnatune recording labels.





Josh Lee's class prepares for the Saturday morning student concert



Marc Armitano, with his grandmother Shirley Amritano, and Stu Elliott; many of us wished that we, too, were still young enough to attend with a chaperone



Trilby's left foot?



A brief splintering over technical issues



Melita Denny, Administrative Director and John Dornenburg



David Morris' homeroom class



# Mark Your Calendar

**Where are all the calendar listings?** The calendar listings that have been presented in the past, are now readily available from SFEMS, which sends regular emails announcing the SFEMS concerts, as well as very complete listings of other early music performances around the Bay Area. As Pacifica Members, you are added to the SFEMS mailing list. Visit [www.sfems.org](http://www.sfems.org). The Gamba News will gladly take notices for concerts by members and of special interest to viol players.



## **Barefoot Chamber Concerts 2011-2012 Season**

Friday October 28, 2011: **The Marteau String Quartet**

(Adam LaMotte and Greg Ewer, violins; Hillary Schoap, viola; and Tanya Tomkins, cello)  
All-Schubert program including Quartet in D minor: "Death and the Maiden"

Friday, November 18, 2011: **Lynn Tetenbaum and Katherine Heater**

**The 3 Bach Sonatas for Viola da gamba and Harpsichord**

Friday, December 9, 2011: **Judith Linsenberg** in recital

**"The Most Excellent Recorder" With Katherine Heater, Harpsichord**

Friday, January 20, 2012: **Hallifax & Jeffrey, Viols**

**"Tous les Mai - Tais du Monde:" a cocktail of French music before Forqueray:  
gems by Marais, Couperin, Ste. Colombe, and more**

Friday, February 17, 2012: **Carla Moore: "Violino Solo Senza Basso"**

**Bach's Sonata # 1 and other works for violin**

Friday, March tba, 2012: **Faire Violls & Corey Carlton: "ByrdSong"**

**Consort Songs and Fantasies by William Byrd**

Friday, April 13, 2012: **Ensemble Ursae Majoris**

(Alex Opsahl, cornet; David Sego, violin; Josh Lee, viol, and Gilbert Martinez, keyboards)  
**"Suonare e Passegiare": Extravagant 17th-century Italian and Spanish Music**

**Barefoot Chamber Music is fresh, sustainably grown, organic, locally sourced,  
slow-cooked and always delicious. Accept no substitutes.**

**All Regular Season concerts are in the Parish Hall of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 2300  
Bancroft Way, Berkeley, and start at 6 p.m. Tickets \$10 - \$15, cheapest online. Full details  
at [BarefootChamberConcerts.com](http://BarefootChamberConcerts.com).**



**SONOMA  
Bach**

## *Viol Lab*

Improve your consort-playing skills in this 3-part workshop  
Led by Live Oak Baroque Orchestra's own violist da gamba, **Shirley Hunt**  
For intermediate players

Fall 2011 topics to include:

- Consort songs of William Byrd
- Bach for viols
- Tunes from Spain & Latin America

\$25 per class or \$65 for three classes  
Pre-registration on our website is required.

Tuesdays, 6-8:30 pm  
October 4  
November 15  
December 6

Arlene Francis Center  
99 West 6th St.  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401  
Off Railroad Square  
behind A'Roma Roasters

For more information or to register,  
visit our website: [www.sonomabach.org](http://www.sonomabach.org)  
or call Education Coordinator Cheryl Moore  
at (877) 914-BACH, ext. 3



## 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](http://www.LazarsEarlyMusic.com), [Bill.Lazar@gmail.com](mailto: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 Rehair.** Alexandra Saur is now offering rehairing for both modern and early bows. Top quality hair and quick

turnaround! (510) 559-9563,  
[bowrehair@alexandrasaur.com](mailto: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](mailto:gambaguy@msn.com).

### **Lazar's Early Music**

Huge collection of early instruments. . See updated detailed listing at [www.lazarsearlymusic.com](http://www.lazarsearlymusic.com)

### **Classified Ads**

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

# 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** (\$40). Attend monthly play days and receive email subscription to *Gamba News*.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Two-person membership** (\$50). Two playing members in the same household. You share all the rights and privileges of a Playing Member.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Student membership** (\$15). For full-time students. Attend monthly play days and receive email subscription to *Gamba News*.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Newsletter-only membership** (\$15). Receive the email subscription to *Gamba News*.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation to VdGS-Pacifica 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:

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