

VIOLA DA GAMBA SOCIETY PACIFICA GAMBA NEWS

Volume 32, No. 1, September 2016

President's Letter

-Cindi Olwell



September has arrived and that means play days are about to start again! Before we get to that and all of the other good stuff in this e-newsletter including upcoming events and reporting from Conclave, I thought you might like to know a little bit about me, as I step into the role of your new president, a position held so well by Dalton Cantey for the past six years. Be sure to join us as we toast him at the September 10 play day (details below).

I studied viola at the San Francisco Conservatory back in the 90s, and have been playing violin and viola for the better part of 30 years. But after holding a viola da gamba for the first time at the 2012 Berkeley Early Music Festival, the course of my life was on track to change. (The picture of me above is the first time I ever held a viol.) I've been dreaming of the resonance of the bass viol, the reediness of it, the harp-like quality of it, the crazy frets and underhand bow hold, and especially the way it vibrated through my body, ever since that first time! So in 2013 when on a family vacation in Sonora I happened upon a Halifax & Jeffrey house concert flyer, I knew I was destined to attend. Next I started taking lessons with Lynn Tetenbaum, joined the VdGSA, and Pacifica chapter. Since then I've been attending as many Pacifica play plays, viol workshops, nights of consort-playing, and concerts as I can cram into my schedule (which includes a full time job with *Strings* magazine). Last year I joined the Pacifica chapter board. When approached for nomination as the new chapter President earlier this spring, I must admit I was pretty nervous as I haven't been playing that long. But I learned from my esteemed colleagues that advanced viol playing experience is a not a requirement for such a post. I absolutely love playing the viol and I want to spread the word to as many people as I can and help our local (and global) viol community to grow. I'll work with the board to make our chapter as fun, inspiring, and informative as possible, and ultimately to serve you and your needs. I've never been a part of a musical community as welcoming and encouraging as this one, and I feel so fortunate to be a part of it. Please contact me anytime with questions, comments, and suggestions.

September 10 Play Day

Please join us for the first Play Day of our 2016-2017 season on Saturday, September 10th at Hillside Swedenborgian Community Church, 1422 Navellier Street, El Cerrito, CA 94530. The Church's website is hillsideswedenborg.org. We will meet in the Sanctuary. Please try to arrive by 9:00 am for coffee/tea and conversation, to be followed by morning playing events beginning promptly at 9:30 until lunch around 12:30. **Lunch today will be a potluck celebrating former president Dalton Cantey! Please bring food or beverage to share.** After lunch, there will be an uncoached afternoon playing session until about 2:30 pm.

We are extremely pleased to have David Morris coaching us for this play day. The theme for his group coaching presentation will be as follows.



Georg Muffat (1653-1704)
Orchestral suite *Constantia* from *Florilegium* (Augsburg, 1695)

This is terrific five-part music written by one of the most gifted exponents of an “internationalized” music style in the late 17th century. This particular collection includes not only Muffat’s incomparable orchestral compositions but also plenty of technical information for performers, including bowing articulations, the use and execution of ornaments and advice about tuning. Lovely source material from a great composer and musical thinker, *Constantia* is full of dances with programmatic titles; we’ll work on giving each

piece its own character and mood as we play through the suite.

The original is scored for five-part violin band, but we will adapt it as follows:

Violin I= Treble I

Violin II= Treble II

Viola I= Tenor I

Viola II= Tenor II (or some high basses)

Bassi= Bass Viol (with any violone players more than welcome to join in the fun!).

David Morris is a member of Quicksilver and the Galax Quartet. He has performed with Musica Pacifica, the Boston Early Music Festival Orchestra, NYS Baroque, Tragicomedia, Tafelmusik, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, American Bach Soloists and Seattle's Pacific Musicworks. He has recorded for Harmonia Mundi, New Albion, Dorian, New World, Drag City Records, CBC/ Radio-Canada and New Line Cinema. Since 1997, he’s been a regular coach at the Viols West Workshop in San Luis Obispo, and has also coached at the Madison and Amherst Early Music Workshops. His special interest is music related to the 17th- and 18th-c. stage, as well as the late flowering of the Italian madrigal, ca. 1580–1615.

Play Day Protocol

Our morning group session with David will be followed by (mostly one-on-a-part) consort playing sessions in assigned groups using Pacifica Library music selected by each group until about 12:30 pm. Coaching will be provided by David on a time-shared basis depending on how many groups we have. If you can, please plan to stay for un-coached consort playing in the afternoon after lunch, beginning about 1:00 pm until about 2:30 pm.

Please respond to Cindi Olwell if you plan to attend the morning and/or afternoon sessions. For the morning sessions, tell her what size gamba(s) you will bring, and your playing level. If unsure, you may refer to the self-rating guide here, <https://vdgsa.org/pgs/selfrate.html>. If you would prefer to double a part in our normal "one on a part" consort playing please indicate that. Please respond before Friday (September 9th) at about 4:00 PM to expedite formation of assigned groups for the following Saturday morning. **Note that merely replying to this email will not deliver an email to Cindi.** Use this email address – cindi.olwell@gmail.com - to send her a message.

Play Day Dates and Coach Line-Up for 2016 – 2017 Season

September 10, 2016	David Morris
October 8, 2016	Shira Kammen
November 12, 2016	Loren Ludwig
December 10, 2016	Mary Springfels
January 14, 2017	Hallifax and Jeffrey
February 2017 (Date TBA)	Stanford Workshop directed by John Dornenburg
March 11, 2017	Adaiha MacAdam-Somer
April 8, 2017	Frances Blaker
May 13, 2017	Yukimi Kambe
June 10, 2017	Pacifica Chapter Concert ("Bash") for Friends/Family

The VdGs Pacifica Chapter is an Affiliate of the San Francisco Early Music Society, and "Gamba News" is our official newsletter. We strongly encourage members to send us any original articles, photographs, suggestions, or reviews that you think may be of interest to other members. Email cindi.olwell@gmail.com.



Chapter Reps Meet

-Ellen Fisher, Treasurer and Chapter Representative

The Viola da Gamba Society of America is an organization of about 1,000 people devoted to the viol and its music. The more local levels of VdGSA organization are Areas and Chapters, and our organization, Pacifica, is one of 20 US and foreign Chapters. There are 45 US and foreign Areas. Every year members of VdGSA come together for a week-long workshop called “Conclave” to meet, learn, and play. It is typically the last week of July, but the location varies. This year it was at Pacific University, close to Portland, Oregon, so Pacifica’s Chapter Reps, Carolyn Butler and Ellen Fisher, were both there. It was terrific! Tuesday of Conclave week, all the Area and Chapter reps who have come to Conclave meet at lunch time. We meet each other if we’re new, and share problems and solutions—productive time. Among other things, we discussed forms of newsletters, non-profit status, membership, and how many chapter members are also members of VdGSA. Membership in the national organization and the chapter are separate, but we want to support each other and encourage your membership in both. Later this fall, the VdGSA wants to gather data on how many Chapter members are also VdGSA members (maybe other things too), so I will be asking for that information soon. Meanwhile, visit the websites below to learn more and join or renew your memberships.

VdGSA website: vdgsa.org

VdGS-Pacifica website: pacificaviols.org

Letter from VdGSA 54th Annual Conclave

-Dalton Cantey

The recent West Coast VdGSA Conclave was a very successful and fun filled event conducted at the beautiful campus of Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon, near Portland on July 24th thru July 30th. Over 200 enthusiastic viol students and coaches participated in this week long workshop of intense viol playing, classes, concerts, lectures, meetings, and a Scholarship Auction. The week was concluded by an elegant Conclave Banquet including Frolics, Feasting and Festivity. The West Coast location of this Conclave allowed about 20 students and faculty from the Bay Area to participate in this great event including many of our Pacifica Chapter members. Up to four viol class periods per day could be scheduled by each student during the week from Monday through Saturday in the mornings and afternoons. I had two great classes out of the three that I took each day with great East Coast Coaches that I had never meet before. This was a rare opportunity to meet and play with new Viola da Gamba enthusiasts from all over the country, including Canada and Australia. The afternoon and evening of Wednesday were free so that all could participate in local sight-seeing or other fun events in the area. Everyone seemed to really enjoy this year's Conclave and are looking forward to the next West Coast VdGSA Conclave in three years!

Upcoming Events

SALON DE LA VIOLE FINAL SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH

Starting September 24 | Ashland, OR

Pat O'Scannell, gambist, and former Early Music director at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, sponsors a monthly Play Day for gambists on the final Saturday of each month. Each month highlights renaissance music from different countries, and begins with a half-hour coaching session before the group forms consorts and reads. There will be a morning and afternoon reading session with luncheon served in between. The cost is \$20, lunch included. All levels are welcome, with guided sessions for beginners. Music will be provided, but your additions are welcome! All sessions will be held at a private home in the scenic hills of Ashland, Oregon. Pat Says: "You might also make a note that I would be happy to try for COMP tickets at Oregon Shakespeare Festival for anyone coming, and giving me notice. I can only procure 2 tickets per show, and it is completely based upon availability." Contact: (541) 482-9757 / pato@opendoor.com. patoscannell.weebly.com.

**VDGSA SOUTHERN ARIZONA, EARLY MUSIC WORKSHOP, "VIOLS IN A DESERT OASIS,"
OCTOBER 27-31 | ORACLE, AZ**

Faculty includes: Mary Springfels, Artistic Director; with John Dornenburg, Larry Lipnik, Josh Lee, and David Morris. Limited to just 30 participants. Visit <http://vdgs-saz.org/> for more info and registration form.

**HIDDEN VALLEY ROAD SCHOLAR EARLY MUSIC WORKSHOP,
OCTOBER 30 – NOVEMBER 5 (WEEK 1), NOVEMBER 6-12 (WEEK 2) | CARMEL, CA**

Viol faculty includes: Ros Morley, Shira Kammen, David Morris. Visit <http://www.hiddenvalleymusic.org/event-road-scholar-early-music-workshop-week-1-134.htm> for more information.

EARLY MUSIC OPEN MIC NIGHTS | EL CERRITO, CA

Get your group together and practice up! Or come and listen! Event takes place last Wednesday of the month if enough interest. Email Sally Blaker at earlymusicopenmic@gmail.com for more info and details on the next open mic.

VIOLS WEST

AUGUST 6-12, 2017 | SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA

<http://www.violswest.org/>

BAREFOOT CONCERTS ANNOUNCES 2016-17 CONCERT SEASON | SAN FRANCISCO, CA

September 30 concert: Pluribus Fidibus (Carla Moore, David Wilson, John Dornenburg, Yuko Tanaka): "Scordatura music of Heinrich Biber." barefootchamberconcerts.com

Welcome New Board Members

This spring we elected two new board members. Please welcome Cindi Olwell, President, and Lynn Tetenbaum, Secretary. Many thanks to Dalton Cantey who steps down as President, and Betsy St. Aubin and Carolyn Butler former co-secretaries, for their hard work and dedication to the chapter.

Dues for the Pacifica Chapter's 2016-2017 Season NOW DUE!

Our membership year runs September – August. If you have not done so already, please download the membership form online at <http://www.pacificaviols.org/chapterform.html>, (click on "Join the Chapter" on left side of page) fill it out, and mail it along with your check this month to **Viola da Gamba Society-Pacifica, 8635 Thors Bay Rd, El Cerrito, CA 94530-2568, or give to Cindi Olwell at the 9-10 play day.** This information is very important to us for keeping our membership records up to date, so don't forget the form with your check!

For Sale



Tenor Viol Crafted by Lyn Elder

Large Jaye model tenor viol made by Lyn Elder in 1997. Curly maple with purfling around the front and back edges; dark rosewood fingerboard and pegs; open scroll.: \$5000. Excellent instrument with even sound throughout its range. Price with Kingham MTM hard case.

Email mary.elliott@pineground.com for more info.

Your 2016-2017 Pacifica Chapter Contacts

Cindi Olwell cindi.olwell@gmail.com

Vice President: Ricardo Hofer hofer52@gmail.com

Secretary: Lynn Tetenbaum lynnt@gambagirl.com

Treasurer and membership list coordinator: Ellen Fisher erfisher@gmail.com

Rental Coordinator: Lynn Lipetzky lynnlipetzky@sbcglobal.net

VdGSA Chapter Representatives: Ellen Fisher erfisher@gmail.com

And Carolyn Butler sparkyb@sonic.net

Webmaster: Alexandra Saur alexandra@alexandrasaur.com

Pacifica Chapter Website: <http://pacificaviols.org>