

VIOLA DA GAMBA SOCIETY PACIFICA GAMMA NEWS

Volume 32, No. 5, January 2017

President's Letter



Happy New Year, faye and merry violists! A few years ago I heard Marie Szuts play treble during a Barefoot chamber concert and was blown away. It was one of the prettiest sounds I have ever heard. What a talent! I remember feeling very inspired to learn treble then, but I had just started learning bass, and thought the timing wasn't really right.

Fast forward a few years and I'm now renting a lovely treble. I haven't taken any formal lessons yet, but I'm totally loving learning to play this tiny beauty. In just a few weeks I've made pretty good progress going from scratchy to smooth sounds. I'm also learning proper use of my bowing arm which I hope will transfer to the bass. You see for over a year now I've had terrible neck and shoulder pain which has everything to do with a bad habit I developed in an effort to get around my bass. Instead of keeping my right arm and shoulder still,

I have been bending, twisting, and tensing my shoulder in all kinds of unorthodox ways to play the upper strings instead of keeping my elbow close to my side. One of the benefits of playing treble is worrying a lot less about holding the instrument and having less territory to navigate. This seems to have really freed me up to better focus my thoughts on my bowing arm and I think I'm finally figuring out the proper use of my right arm, elbow, and shoulder. I don't have pain after playing the treble which in itself is a revelation and blessing. Watching teaching videos on the VdGSA website (Yukimi Kambe and Elisabeth Reed) has helped along with re-reading Alison Crum's book *Play The Viol*. Also, Julie Jeffrey gave me great advice which was to pretend I'm an aristocrat in a corset, to help keep my upper body still. Now to see what happens when I try my new skills on the bass.

If you have not yet experienced playing on more than one type of viol, or if you just want to brush up your non-primary instrument, I highly recommend making this a New Year's Resolution for 2017. The Pacifica chapter makes it easy to do so with affordable monthly rentals of trebles, tenors, and basses. Please contact

rental coordinator Lynn Lipetzky for more information. Then head on over to vdgsa.org or imslp.org and download some free music to play!

- Cindi Olwell



January 14th Play Day with Hallifax & Jeffrey

Please join us for the fifth Play Day of the season on Saturday, January 14th at Hillside Swedenborgian Community Church, 1422 Navellier Street, El Cerrito, CA 94530. The 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 at 9:30 until lunch around 12:30. After lunch, there will be an uncoached afternoon playing session until about 2:30 pm.

We are thrilled to have Peter Hallifax and Julie Jeffrey who perform under the duo **Hallifax & Jeffrey** coaching us for this play day! They will be bringing some Charpentier excerpts from the "Descente D'Orphee aux Enfers" to share with the whole group. Peter Hallifax says "Lovely French string music, our favorite thing. French Fun for everyone! Operas are for viols, too!"

Peter Hallifax studied viol with Jane Ryan in London, while completing a Bachelor's degree in Music from the University of Surrey and a Master's degree in Musicology from the University of London, King's College. In 1976 he moved to the Bay Area. He was a founding member of Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, and taught viol at U.C. Berkeley, U.C. Santa Cruz, and many workshops and seminars throughout the U.S., while maintaining an active concert career throughout the U.S. as a violist.

After a 20 year hiatus, he started playing again in 2005, concentrating at first on the music of Forqueray, Couperin, Marais, and Dollé. More recently, he has been exploring English 17th-century music and the Bach sonatas. During her 32-year love affair with the viol, **Julie Jeffrey** has developed a career on the instrument which has taken her all over the world, performing, recording, teaching and inspiring enthusiasm for the viol. At home in the San Francisco Bay Area, when she is not being half of Hallifax & Jeffrey, Ms. Jeffrey is a member of Sex Chordae Consort of Viols, and is the creative mastermind of the acclaimed trio Wildcat Viols.

Devoted to promoting all aspects of interest in her instrument, Ms. Jeffrey is a co-founder and active member of the Viola da Gamba Society, Pacifica Chapter, and currently serves on the board of directors of the Viola da Gamba Society of America.

Play Day Protocol

Our early morning group session with Peter and Julie will be followed by a coffee/tea break at about 10:30 am. After the break, consort playing sessions (mostly one-on-a-part) in assigned groups using Pacifica Library music selected by each group will continue until the lunch break at about 12:30 pm. Coaching will be provided by Peter and Julie on a time-shared basis depending on how many groups we have. You may go out for lunch or bring a lunch to eat in the beautiful Hillside Church Sanctuary view. If you can, please plan to stay for un-coached consort playing in the afternoon after lunch, beginning about 1:30 pm until about 3:00 pm.

Please email our consort coordinator, 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. If you would prefer to double a part in our normal "one-on-a-part" consort playing please indicate that. The uncoached consort sessions in the afternoon will include a group in the Sanctuary where part doubling is encouraged. Sign-up sheets will be provided in the morning for those who would prefer to organize one-on-a-part consorts on their own in the two downstairs playing spaces for the afternoon. Please respond before the end of the day on Thursday (January 12th) 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.

Remaining Play Day Dates for 2016 – 2017 Season

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming Stanford Workshop on February 25th - Teachers announced!!

February 25, 2017	Stanford Workshop directed by John Dornenburg. Teachers include Julie Jeffrey, Elisabeth Reed, and Marie Dalby-Szuts
March 11, 2017	Adaiha MacAdam-Somer
April 8, 2017	Shira Kammen
May 13, 2017	Yukimi Kambe
June 10, 2017	Pacifica Chapter Concert ("Bash") for Friends/Family

Viols West August 6-12, 2017

Don't forget to mark your calendar with the dates of Viols West 2017 summer workshop, hosted by our chapter. It takes place every summer on the beautiful campus of California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly) in San Luis Obispo, except for when the Viola da Gamba Society of America's annual Conclave takes place on the West Coast. If you haven't yet been to a Viols West workshop you are in for quite a treat. World class teachers, lodging, food, and fellow students. Not to mention the San Luis Obispo Farmer's Market! The dates for 2017 are August 6-12. Directorship will be shared by Ros Morley and Larry Lipnik. **It was decided at a recent board meeting that up to \$1,500 will be set aside this year for scholarships.** There are also work study opportunities available as well. More information will be available in January, 2017 via Melita Denny, administrative director, who can be reached at violswestworkshop@gmail.com; (805-835-9173).

New Teaching Videos uploaded to VdGSA website

There are two new teaching videos posted on the VdGSA website. These were filmed last summer at conclave. Check out Patricia Neely's approach to diminution playing and John Moran's video on shifting. Perhaps there are others you haven't seen or want to revisit? https://vdgsa.org/cgi-bin/teaching_videos/tv.cgi

Upcoming Workshops and Events

January 6, 6PM

HALLIFAX & JEFFREY (Peter Hallifax & Julie Jeffrey, viols) with **SHIRA KAMMEN**, violin and viola: *Fine Knacks: Elizabethan Gems for 3 players.*

Includes a varied program of Elizabethan and Jacobean music, including music by Dowland, Gibbons, Hume, Coperario, Lupo, and more. **Parish Hall, St. Mark's Church, Berkeley, CA.**

<http://barefootchamberconcerts.com/2016-2017-season/hjc/>

January 11th, 7:30PM

John Dornenburg, Viola da gamba and Yuko Tanaka, Harpsichord

Suite in A Major by Charles Dollé, two Fantasia for solo viol by Telemann, plus music by J.S. Bach and others.

Stanford Memorial Church, Stanford. <https://music.stanford.edu/events/upcoming-events>

January 14, 7:30PM

HALLIFAX & JEFFREY (Peter Hallifax & Julie Jeffrey, viols)

“King Charles’ Delight” - music by Coperario, Simpson and Jenkins with **Andy Canepa**, organ. This concert features rarely played and unusually stunning music, most of which is published by Peter Ballinger (PRB) for 2 bass viols and organ from the Court of King Charles 1.

St. Mary Magdalene, Berkeley, CA.

Feb. 11, 8pm

Archetti Baroque String Ensemble

John Dornenburg and Carla Moore, co-directors

Masters of the Italian Concerto

Live at Mission Blue, Brisbane (south SF)

<http://liveatmissionblue.com/tickets/>

Feb. 12, 2pm

Jennifer Paulino, soprano, John Dornenburg, viola da gamba, Elaine Thornburgh, harpsichord

French cantatas by Clerambault and Rameau, Pièces de viole by Marais, music by L. Couperin

510 48th Ave., San Francisco (house concert)

info: Elaine Thornburgh: ilanabardavid@gmail.com

Feb. 16, 7:30pm

Jennifer Paulino, soprano, John Dornenburg, viola da gamba, Elaine Thornburgh, harpsichord

French cantatas by Clerambault and Rameau, Pièces de viole by Marais, music by L. Couperin

Stanford Memorial Church, Stanford University campus

<https://music.stanford.edu/events/upcoming-events>

February 25th

Stanford Viol Workshop

The faculty for the Feb. 25, 2017 Stanford Viol Workshop will be:

John Dornenburg, director

Julie Jeffrey

Elisabeth Reed

Marie Dalby-Szuts

Stanford University

August 6-12 2017, Viols West

Scholarships are available for students and individuals needing assistance. Look for details and updates to go up on this site, www.violswest.org, in January of 2017. In the meantime, for more details or questions please contact Melita Denny, Administrative Director at violswestworkshop@gmail.com; 805-835-9173.

San Luis Obispo, CA

Salon de la viole final Saturday of every month in Ashland, Oregon

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 per 'Salon', lunch included. Contact Pat for more information, or to reserve your space. 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.

WANTED: Gamba Stories, Photos, Reviews, and More!

Have a good story? We want to know about it! Did you attend a concert recently, learn a new playing tip, discover an amazing new product or book, or have something else noteworthy to share with your fellow gamba enthusiasts? Or you can even just send some nice pictures of you and your friends playing music. Contribute to the gamba newsletter! We'd love to hear from you. Just send an email to cindi.olwell@gmail.com.



Pacifica members rehearsing at the home of Cindi Olwell in December of 2016, in preparation for a Mary Springfels coaching on Lawes and Jenkins

From Clockwise: Amy Warren, Melita Denny, Alice Benedict.



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.

Please join us our **Viola da Gamba Society Pacifica** Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PacificaViols>

Share your stories, videos, photos, concerts and more!

2016-2017 Pacifica Chapter Contacts

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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

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