

# Gamba NEWS

Volume 13, Number 3

November 2000

## New recorder orchestra calls for viols

Viol players who also know and love the recorder (and so many do) will want to attend the debut concert of the newly formed **American Recorder Orchestra of the West**. Because the orchestra is in its formative stages, this concert will serve both to present music to the public and to entice new players to audition.

"This unique presentation of the orchestra in its formative stages is an 'exploration of possibilities,' " says director Richard Geisler. "We will present some of the diverse repertoire of multi-part music that distinguishes the recorder orchestra from the more familiar smaller recorder ensembles."

Recorder and viol players who may wish to join the orchestra are especially invited to attend. The orchestra's regular rehearsals will be in Oakland, dates and location to be decided. The membership goal is 25 to 30 players. Tenor and bass viol players are particularly welcome to apply for membership, since the group needs lower instruments to balance the high recorders.

### PACIFICA PLAY DAY SCHEDULE

All play days except those at Stanford are held at Zion Lutheran Church, 5201 Park Blvd., Oakland.

The church is just west of the Park Blvd. exit off Highway 13. We meet at 9:30 a.m. for the coached session. Lunch break is at 12:30; players can go to nearby restaurants or bring lunch from home. Uncoached afternoon playing goes on till 4:00 p.m.

Sheet music, coffee and tea will be supplied.

Please bring a music stand and any music of your own you'd like to play. Consorts are formed based on the information you provide on the enclosed postcard.

**Please mail it in immediately!** Or e-mail your data to **John Mark**, mark\_bach8@hotmail.com.

Newcomers and rank beginners are welcome. If you're coming for the first time, please phone ahead: (510) 531-1471.

Date	Coach
November 11, 2000	UNCOACHED PLAYING
December 9, 2000	AMY BRODO
January 13, 2001	LYNN TETENBAUM
February TBA, 2001	JOHN DORNENBURG AT STANFORD
March 10, 2001	DAVID MORRIS
April 27-29, 2001	FRESNO WORKSHOP WEEKEND
May 12, 2001	JULIE JEFFREY
June 9, 2001	UNCOACHED PLAYING

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Pacifica member **Bill Lazar** is currently the orchestra's lone bass viol player, joined by a Baroque cello. "Playing viol in the middle of a group of recorders is quite satisfying," he reports. "The viol can carry the dynamics and expression of a piece (at least on the bottom line) to quite a surprising degree. It is also a pleasure to play with a Baroque cello. Although the instruments have a different sound, they complement each other quite well."

Recorder orchestra repertoire sometimes includes parts for viols, but if not, viols would play along with the great bass and contrabass recorders. "However," says orchestra member Stan McDaniel, "composers nowadays are creating works that combine viols with recorders, and we have at least one piece currently in that format. We also have two composers in our group who will eventually write for the orchestra and would enjoy having viols to write for as well as the recorders."

The orchestra's current repertoire includes Bach, *Brandenburg Concerto #1*, movements 1 and 3, for which viols would be especially useful; *Quando El Rey Nimrod* (a Sephardic melody); *The Agincourt Song* (traditional British); Palestrina, *Tu Es Petrus* (motet); Grieg, *Varen*; Monteverdi, *Quel Augellin*, *Che Canta*; and an early English keyboard suite arranged for recorders.

There will be a dress rehearsal on November 18 at St. Albans Episcopal Church, 1501 Washington Avenue, Albany, from 10:00 a.m. to 3 p.m., with a break for lunch. Prospective members are invited to attend. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. the same day.

A \$10 donation is suggested. For more information, contact Richard Geisler at (530) 477-2293 or richgeis@jps.net.

### COMING UP

## Still room in continuo master class

Gambists, cellists and harpsichordists of all levels are welcome to participate in a continuo master class presented by the San Francisco Early Music Society (SFEMS). Leaders will be **Julie Jeffrey**, viola da gamba; **Elisabeth LeGuin**, baroque violoncello; and **Phebe Craig**, harpsichord. The class will be held Saturday, November 25, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 1501 Washington Avenue, Albany (near Santa Fe and Solano avenues). The cost is \$60 for participants and \$30 for auditors. No application is required. For information and reservations, call (510) 549-9799.

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# Son of 'Ask your viol teacher'

Because imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, *Gamba News* wants to commend the *VdGSA News* for its column, Ask Your Viol Teacher, compiled by **Laurie Rabut**, and then steal the idea. We might call the column "Ask Your Viol Teacher Again." Technique, tuning, care and repair of the viol, repertoire, practice and consort playing are some of the topics that will be addressed.

Please send your questions to *Gamba News*: **Lyle York**, Editor, 1932 Thousand Oaks Blvd., Berkeley, CA 94707; (510) 559-9273; ly@sfgate.com. Any question can be signed or anonymous. *Gamba News* will poll area viol teachers for their answers and print them here.

We *know* you have questions. "Why do I drop my viol when I wear that silk dress?" "My cat runs out of the room when I practice. What can I do?" "My cat attacks my dog when I practice. Do you think I play too much Forqueray?" "Do you recommend mean tuning when playing duets with a rackett?"

## Viols West 2001

Director **Carol Herman** announces the 2001 Viols West workshop, The Soothing Viol, to be held August 12-18 at Cal Poly University, San Luis Obispo, CA. Viol players will find a variety of classes at Lower Intermediate to Advanced levels. The program will also include an optional afternoon Voices and Viols session, an informal faculty concert, and traditional time off to visit beaches, parks or downtown San Luis Obispo. The workshop will be limited to 60 students. In addition to Carol – who will step down as director after next summer's workshop – the faculty includes **Jack Ashworth, Tina Chancey, John Dornenburg, Julie Jeffrey, Larry Lipkis, Ann Marie Morgan, Rosamund Morley, David Morris, Laurie Rabut, and Brent Wissick**. Brochures will be available in the new year.

Send e-mail inquiries to Carol: chgamba@aol.com, or to administrative assistant **Alice Renken**: arenken@sandwich.net Carol may also be reached at (909) 621-2367.

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## Random Notes

**Contributors wanted:** Send *Gamba News* your concert listings and reviews, opinions, workshop experiences, CD reviews, drawings, photos, poems or out-of-body episodes. Send all contributions to **Lyle York**, Editor, 1932 Thousand Oaks Blvd., Berkeley, CA 94707, or via e-mail: [ly@sfgate.com](mailto:ly@sfgate.com). Phone (510) 559-9273. Short classified advertisements in plain text to be placed in *Gamba News* are free to VdGS/Pacifica members. For non-members, ads are \$5 per issue. Please mail your check for \$5 to **Lyle York** (address above), made out to VdGS/Pacifica. Deadline for calendar submissions, classified ads and all editorial contributions for a given month's newsletter is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month (e.g., the deadline for the April issue is March 15).

**Newsletters by e-mail:** If you'd like to receive your monthly *Gamba News* on-line, please e-mail **Lyle York** at [ly@sfgate.com](mailto:ly@sfgate.com). Your reply postcard will take e-mail form as well.

**Join VdGS/Pacifica!** The annual membership rates are: Playing Members, \$25 (can attend regular coached consort meetings free, receive *Gamba News*, and get a discount on special consort-coaching sessions); Two-Person Memberships, \$35 (two playing members in the same household); Newsletter-Only Members, \$10. For a membership form, contact **Annette Barnett**, 2502 Hearst Avenue, Oakland, CA 94602; (510) 482-8649; [annette.barnett@esis.com](mailto:annette.barnett@esis.com).

### **Pacifica chapter officers are:**

President, **Julie Jeffrey**; Vice-President, **Lyle York**; Secretary, **Annette Barnett**; Treasurer, **Helen Tyrrell**; Members at Large: **Cindy Share**, Coaching Liaison; **John Mark**, Rental Program Coordinator; **John Dornenburg**, **Alvin Roper**, and **Lee McRae**, VdGSA Chapter Representative.

**Information, please:** Our VdGS/Pacifica chapter Web site, [home.pacbell.net/hesuome](http://home.pacbell.net/hesuome), is regularly updated by the able **Helen Tyrrell**. The VdGSA (national) Web site is [www.vdgsa.org](http://www.vdgsa.org). Need

a list of local teachers? Sources for sheet music, supplies, inexpensive viols, repairs? Travel tips? We have extra copies of a back issue full of information. We also welcome contributions and corrections to our store of knowledge. Contact **Lyle York**, Editor, *Gamba News*, 1932 Thousand Oaks Blvd., Berkeley, CA 94707, (510) 559-9273; or via e-mail: [ly@sfgate.com](mailto:ly@sfgate.com).

**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 \$10 to \$25 per month. At the moment we have two trebles and a bass available. In charge of rentals is **John Mark**, at 10 Holyrood Manor, Oakland, CA 94611; (510) 531-1471; [mark\\_bach8@hotmail.com](mailto:mark_bach8@hotmail.com).

The VdGSA, Pacifica's parent organization, also rents viols. For VdGSA members, rates are \$250 per year for trebles and tenors, \$300 for basses, and \$750 for a complete consort of viols. For more information, contact **Stephen Morris**, 2615 Tanglewood Road, Decatur, GA 30033-2729; (404) 325-2709; [smorris@mindspring.com](mailto:smorris@mindspring.com).

The VdGSA recently instituted a Rent-To-Own program. If interested, contact **John Mark**, address above.

**Classifieds:** FOR SALE: M. Plant tenor with hard case, \$3,200; R. Ashmead light bass (tenor) bow, \$750; P. Stewart tenor-sized viol stand with carrycase, \$50. All in excellent condition. Package deal available: **Joseph Kirabel**, (415) 552-3227.

FOR SALE: Zuckerman Flemish harpsichord, single manual, one 8' and one 4' stop, natural wood finish. Asking \$3500. Also seeking to purchase a virginal or small spinet, or a Roland electronic harpsichord. **Eileen Hadidian**, (510) 524-5661 or [eilhad@aol.com](mailto:eilhad@aol.com).

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# Mark your calendar

NOVEMBER 5, 2000

**CHAPEL CONCERTS AT PARK HILL PRESENTS:**

**MUSIC PERIOD FRENCH: CHAMBER MUSIC OF COUPERIN, D'ANGLEBERT, FORQUERAY, HOTTETERRE.** Amy Brodo, viola da gamba; Fred Fox, baroque oboe; Katherine Heater, harpsichord; Rachel Streeter, traverso.

4 p.m., 351-355 Buena Vista Avenue East, Chapel, San Francisco. By prepaid reservation only. \$15/\$10. (415) 255-0926 or [Foxoboe@pacbell.net](mailto:Foxoboe@pacbell.net).

NOVEMBER 5, 2000

**BAROQUE MUSIC CONCERT: PURCELL, BACH, FASCH, QUANTZ AND TELEMANN.** Nancy Rivera, violin; John Mark, violin and viola da gamba; Janice Woo, viola; Lisa Capaldini, violoncello; bass voice, Richard Stumpf; harpsichord, Dawn Kooyumjian; oboe and recorder, Alan Paul and Todd Wetherwax; clarinet and recorder, Carl Lyngholm; flute and recorder, Glen Shannon.

4 p.m., Church of St. Mary Magdalen, Milvia and Berryman, Berkeley. No charge.

NOVEMBER 12, 2000

**CANTEMIR WITH IHSAN OZGEN:** Works of Prince Demetrius Cantemir, greatest of Turkish classical musicians. The program features improvisations, *alla Turca* dance music and a recent work by Lou Harrison. Ihsan Ozgen, Ottoman classical instruments; Amy Brodo, viola da gamba.

8 p.m., UC-Santa Cruz Music Center Recital Hall, UC-Santa Cruz. \$16/\$13. Web site: [events.ucsc.edu/artslecs](http://events.ucsc.edu/artslecs).

NOVEMBER 18, 2000

**AMERICAN RECORDER ORCHESTRA OF THE WEST:** The debut performance of this orchestra, which includes early strings and percussion.

7:30 p.m., Parish Hall, St. Albans Episcopal Church, 1501 Washington Avenue, Albany. \$10 donation suggested. See Page 1 for details. For more information, call (530) 477-2293.

NOVEMBER 25, 2000

**CONTINUO WORKSHOP:** Phebe Craig, harpsichord; Elizabeth Le Guin, Violoncello; Julie Jeffrey, viola da gamba.

Parish Hall, St. Albans Episcopal Church, 1501 Washington Avenue, Albany. See Page 2 for details. To register or for information, call (510) 549-9799.

DECEMBER 1-3, 2000

**MUSIC OF MONTEVERDI, FROM ST. MARKS IN VENICE:** California Bach Society and the Sex Chordae of Viols.

8:00 p.m., December 1, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Berkeley.

8:00 p.m., December 2, St. Patrick's Seminary, Menlo Park.

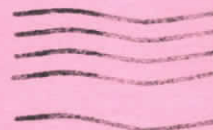
4:00 p.m., December 3, St. Gregory Nyssen Episcopal Church, San Francisco.

Information: (650) 299-8616, or [www.calbach.org](http://www.calbach.org).

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