

Gamba NEWS

Volume 13, Number 6

February 2001

John Dornenburg will coach at Stanford on February 17

February 17 is the date for Dr. Dornenburg's Annual Remedial Viol Technique Clinic. (Seriously, it's just a very well-coached play day.)

This event fills up fast, so please send in your reply postcard quickly or e-mail John at the address in the schedule box, at right.

Play will start at 9:30 a.m. and end at 4:00 p.m. Players gather in Room 102, next to the office, at the Braun Music Center, Stanford campus.

Parking on campus is free on Saturdays, including permit zones. Players can buy lunch on campus at the Union Coffee Shop or Mexican restaurant, both very close to the music department. There will be a prepared consort performance after lunch, with commentary by John.

PACIFICA PLAY DAY SCHEDULE

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

This month's play day will be coached by John Dornenburg at Stanford University.

Directions to the campus:

From the East Bay, take the Dumbarton Bridge (84) and turn left at the first traffic lights onto University Avenue. University crosses 101 and eventually becomes Palm Drive at the Stanford campus. Turn left onto Campus Drive East. Turn right on Mayfield, and right again into the parking lot next to the Braun Music Center.

From 101, exit at University, heading west, and follow directions above.

From 280, exit at Sand Hill Road; turn right on Junipero Serra; bear left onto Campus Drive East; turn left on Mayfield, and then right into parking lot.

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 **Dornenburg** at jdornbrg@concentric.net.

Newcomers and rank beginners are welcome. If you're coming for the first time, please phone ahead: (510)530-3202.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Coach</u>
February 17, 2001	JOHN DORNENBURG AT STANFORD
March 10, 2001	DAVID MORRIS
April 27-29, 2001	FRESNO WORKSHOP WEEKEND
May 19, 2001 (new date)	JULIE JEFFREY
June 9, 2001	UNCOACHED PLAYING

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Re: Sex Chordae of Viols: *Claudio Monteverdi:* *Third Book of Madrigals for Viol Consort*

DEAR EDITOR – As a viol student of relative neophyte status, I have found this recording both pleasurable and instructive, especially with the opportunity to engage it in different ways thanks to having the score and parts by PRB Productions. Singing along is very accessible and fun because of the obvious care taken by the players to be faithful to the Italian text in syntax and meaning. However, when trying to double a part either on voice or viol, one soon discovers that “artistic license,” always suited to the text but not marked in the score, has been liberally employed through tempi changes and subtly added cadences, making it tricky to keep one’s place!

But I have also found rewards simply in listening, with or without following the Italian or its English translation. Expertise and refinement as displayed in this consort’s technique and ensemble seem to me prerequisite to musical expressiveness, and here convey the meaning of these “songs without words” often very transparently, always exquisitely. “O come e’ gran martire” was obviously placed first for dramatic impact; its first note clearly does not, I believe, require the support of printed translation to be recognized as the anguished “O.” The obsessively recurring themes and contrasts of desire and sorrow (also in “O come,” and frequently sounded throughout the madrigals), of desire and joy (merely one example: “Sovra tenere herbette”), of dying and rebirth (as in “Se per estremo ardore”), are all there for the hearing. No less, the grief and despair of parting – “Rimante in pace (seconda parte)” brought tears to my eyes before I ever knew the text.

To Sex Chordae, many thanks. Looking forward to your next, I am ...

Sincerely yours,

Marilyn Becker

A new date for the May play day

Due to a conflict with the East Bay Recorder Society’s Marin Headlands weekend workshop, May 11, 12 and 13 – to which viols are invited – the Pacifica play day for May has been changed from May 12 to May 19. Please make a note! The Headlands workshop encourages the attendance of viols and is a lot of fun. Detailed information will be published in *Gamba News* for May. For details now, contact Britt Ascher, (510) 283-7134, or bascher@holonet.net.

On May 19, **Julie Jeffrey** will coach, as previously scheduled. We will start early at

Zion Lutheran Church, meeting for coffee at 9 a.m. and starting play at 9:30. Because the church can't accommodate us in the afternoon, we will play there only until 12:00 noon. Please bring a dish to share and plan to adjourn to **John Mark's** home at noon that day for a potluck lunch and further consort playing in the afternoon.

How to get hold of Sex Chordae's new Monteverdi CD

At press time, the new CD by the Sex Chordae Consort of Viols, *Claudio Monteverdi: Third Book of Madrigals for Viol Consort* (Centaur CRC 2482), has not yet arrived in local stores. But you can get it fast (and cheaper) by ordering it directly from Sex Chordae.

CDs are \$15 each including post and packaging. Checks should be made out to Sex Chordae Consort of Viols. Mail your order to: **3931 Linwood Ave., Oakland, CA 94602-1627.**

Also note that PRB Productions in Albany has recently published a new edition Monteverdi's *Third Book of Madrigals* with performance parts suitable for viols, recorders, and/or voices. Viol Consort Series No. 34. PRB Productions, (510) 526-0722; Prbpdns@aol.com.

Also of interest to viol players, and still available on the same terms above:

- J.H. Schein: *Banchetto Musicale*
Sex Chordae Consort of Viols
Centaur CRC 2357
- William Lawes: *Fantazia Suites for Violin, Bass Viol, and Organ*
Music's Re-creation
Centaur CRC 2385
- Marin Marais: *Pieces de Violes, IIIe Livre*
John Dornenburg, viola da gamba, with Malcolm Proud, harpsichord,
and Lynn Tetenbaum, viola da gamba
Centaur CRC 2429

Department of shameless commerce

No, this is actually the department of amusing quotations. Shameless commerce has been practiced elsewhere in this newsletter. The following is a collection of musicians' observations on making a living.

Thanks to Lee McRae for contributing these quotations.

The amount of money one needs is terrifying.

—Ludwig van Beethoven

**I would rather play “Chiquita Banana” and have my swimming pool
than play Bach and starve.**

—Xavier Cugat

**(Musicians) talk of nothing but money and jobs. Give me businessmen every time.
They really are interested in music and art.**

*—Jean Sibelius,
explaining why he rarely invited musicians to his home*

Only become a musician if there is absolutely no other way you can make a living.

—Kirke Mechem

My sole inspiration is a telephone call from a producer.

—Cole Porter

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: lleyork@earthlink.net. 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 15th 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 lleyork@earthlink.net. 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.

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, is regularly updated by the able **Helen Tyrrell**. The VdGSA (national) Web site is 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: lleyork@earthlink.net.

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. In charge of rentals is **John Mark**, at 10 Holyrood Manor, Oakland, CA 94611; (510) 531-1471; 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.

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

Classifieds: FOR SALE: Boulder Early Music Shop Hungarian tenor viol. Good quality student instrument, less than one year old. Asking \$1,600 with bow and hard case. Call **Michael** or **Vicki** at (408) 298-3255 or e-mail to: harp@standingstones.com.

FOR SALE: Zuckerman Flemish harpsichord, single manual, one 8' and one 4' stop, natural wood finish. Asking \$3,500. Also seeking to purchase a virginal or small spinet, or a Roland electronic harpsichord. **Eileen Hadidian**, (510) 524-5661 or eilhad@aol.com.

SEEKING A GAMBIST: My wife and I and two friends play baroque flutes and recorder. We would like to find a gambist willing to play with us in Pacifica. **John Sayre**, (650) 355-8895.

SEEKING BOWS: I am looking for a good treble or tenor bow. Contact **Bill Lazar**, jblazar@aol.com; (408) 737-8228.

Mark your calendar

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2001

FLAUTI DIVERSI, WITH JULIE JEFFREY, VIOLA DA GAMBA: Italian and French music of the early Baroque.

7:30 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley,
1 Lawson Road, Kensington. \$15/\$10. Information:
(510) 525-0302.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2001

JOHN DORNENBURG AND LYNN TETENBAUM, VIOLAS DA GAMBA: Music by Sainte-Colombe, Tobias Hume, Matthew Locke, etc.

8:00 p.m., Memorial Chapel, Stanford University.
\$8/\$4. Information: (650) 723-3811.

FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 2001

LYNN TETENBAUM, VIOLA DA GAMBA, WITH YUKO TANAKA, HARPSICHORD, AND JULIE JEFFREY, VIOLA DA GAMBA: Music by Christopher Simpson, August Kuhnel, J.S. Bach and Marin Marais.

8:00 p.m., St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 1501

Washington Avenue, Albany. Tickets (available at the door): \$10/\$8. Information: (510) 271-8041.

SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 2001

(FRIDAY PROGRAM ABOVE REPEATS)

4:00 p.m., St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, 500 De Haro Street, San Francisco.

AUGUST 12-18, 2001

VIOLS WEST: THE SOOTHING VIOL: Carol Herman, director; faculty includes Carol, Jack Ashworth, Tina Chancey, John Dornenburg, Julie Jeffrey, Larry Lipkis, Ann Marie Morgan, Rosamund Morley, David Morris, Laurie Rabut, and Brent Wissick. CalPoly campus, San Luis Obispo.

For more information, e-mail Carol,
chgamba@aol.com, or Alice Renken,
arenken@sandwich.net.

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