

Gamba NEWS

Volume 13, Number 9

May 2001

Julie Jeffrey to coach May 19; John Mark to host après potluck

This month's play day, Saturday, May 19, will be a special one. Please make a note of the time and place variations:

We will meet for coffee a half-hour earlier than usual, at 9 am, at Zion Lutheran Church. Play, coached by **Julie Jeffrey**, will start at 9:30.

Because the church can't accommodate us in the afternoon, we will play there only until 12 noon.

We will then adjourn to **John Mark's** home for a potluck lunch and further consort playing afterward, until 4:00 or until we are all tired.

Please bring a dish to the potluck lunch – bread, cold cuts, cheese, chicken, raw vegetables, bagels, lox and cream cheese, fruit, cookies, a cake, hummus, soft drinks, bottled water, filet mignon, or baked Alaska.

In all seriousness, simple is better.

John's address is 10 Holyrood Manor, Oakland. It is in the hills east of the church. John will furnish directions to all

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 this month at 9 a.m. for coffee, then begin coached play at 9:30. See story on this page.

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
May 19	JULIE JEFFREY
June 9	ROY WHELDEN

who come for the play day.

If you can come only to the buffet and afternoon play at John's, please call him for directions at (510) 531-1471.

Roy Whelden to coach on June 9

We're pleased to announce that **Roy Whelden** will be our coach at Pacifica's June 9 play day. Any group that knows what pieces it plans to work on that day is encouraged to e-mail him ahead of time with the info: rwhelden@aol.com.

Roy studied viol with **John Hsu** in Ithaca, New York, and **Thomas Binkley**

in Bloomington, Indiana, and has performed with various ensembles, including Sequentia (of Cologne), Ensemble Alcatraz and American Baroque.

Roy lives in Oakland and teaches viol and vielle. He has recorded original compositions on the New Albion label.

Pacifica board welcomes Ellen Farwell

Ellen Farwell has joined the Pacifica board as a member-at-large.

We are delighted to have her talent and energy, which until recently was devoted to the Viols/West chapter. Now that Ellen lives in Richmond, SoCal's loss is our gain!

The board is made up of four elected officers and any number of appointed members-at-large.

Pacifica members who would like to get involved in board activities – it's not necessary to join the board to do so –

please contact any board member (see Random Notes, below).

The board meets twice or three times per year to discuss and decide such questions as: organizing the Fresno North/South meet (every other year, alternating with Viols/West); publicizing local and visiting artists' events; the rental program; hiring coaches; acquiring new instruments and maintaining the Pacifica library; dues and fees; and improving the coffee at Fresno's Picadilly Inn.

From Madrigal to Fancy: Report from Seattle

By Peter Stewart

Thirty students, some coming from as far away as Berkeley, California, and Los Alamos, New Mexico, attended a one-day workshop in Seattle on April 7.

Titled "From Madrigal to Fancy," and co-sponsored by the Early Music Guild of Seattle and the Pacific Northwest chapter of the VdGSA, the workshop was led by **Margriet Tindemans** and **Emily Walhout** of Boston. The focus of the workshop was to explore the development of the Italian madrigal, and how it found its way into the English fantasy.

The workshop began with Margriet leading the grand consort in a session on the instrumental interpretation of madrigals, which were written to be sung.

We began with the Italian madrigal "Vattene Pur, Crudel," written by Monteverdi in 1612. The text, with punctuation, was underlain, and we had translations on a separate sheet. Margriet insisted that the word meanings, as well as the punctuation, were crucial to the musical interpretation of the piece. What's more, they were

often counterintuitive to a person just looking at the notes.

Our second piece was the English madrigal "Down in a Valley" by John Wilbye. The text, needing no translation, was easier to interpret musically. Margriet then pointed out that the fantasy was an outgrowth of the madrigal, and that musical interpretation of a fantasy required the instrumental consort to concoct its own word effects and punctuation. Not an easy task.

We then broke into small consorts, and went about trying to play fantasies as though they were songs.

The workshop finale was the grand consort under Margriet, playing "Hard Destinies Are Love" by John Wilbye, the sequel to the morning piece. The piece ends with the words "but languish, faint, and dye in her displeasure," so you can imagine what 30 viols did with that.

Peter Stewart is on the board of the Viola da Gamba Society – Pacific Northwest.

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.

Another way to join is from the Pacifica web site, <http://home.pacbell.net/hesuome>. Click on "Join the Chapter."

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; **Lee McRae**, VdGSA Chapter Representative; **John Dornenburg**, **Alvin Roper**, and **Ellen Farwell**.

Information, please: Our VdGS/Pacifica chapter Web site, <http://home.pacbell.net/hesuome>, is maintained and regularly updated by **Helen Tyrrell**. It contains the Viol Players' Calendar, which is often more up to date than the *Gamba News* calendar—along with a list of local teachers, sources for music, supplies, inexpensive viols, repairs, and travel tips. The VdGSA (national) Web site is 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 \$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

VIOLS MADE by **Alexandra Saur**. Beautiful copies of Bertrand, Jaye, and Hoskins masterpieces. (510) 558-6927, (510) 559-9563.

TREBLE VIOL by Dominic Shann, 1981, after English models; 38 cm string length. Cooped top, double purfling, inlaid fretboard and tailpiece, open scroll, tiger maple sides and back. Very light construction. Baroque blackwood bow with ivory nut by Ralph Ashmead; hard case by Early Music Shop (UK), extra gut strings by Damien Dlugolecki.

Asking \$4,500 for viol, case and bow. Contact **Oliver Iberien**, (510) 834-6062; oliver.iberien@mindspring.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 A BOW: I am looking for a good tenor bow. Contact **Bill Lazar**, jblazar@aol.com; (408) 737-8228.

Mark your calendar

MAY 11-13, 2001

MARIN HEADLANDS WORKSHOP FOR RECORDERS AND VIOLS: Sponsored by the East Bay Chapter of the American Recorder Society. Conducted by David Barnett, Letitia Berlin, Frances Blaker, Louise Carslake, Robert Dawson, Frances Feldon, Eileen Hadidian, Peter Maund, David Morris, Frederic Palmer, Joanna Bramel-Young.

Information: (925) 283-7134 or brittascher@home.com.

JUNE 11-17, 2001

BOSTON EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL & EXHIBITION: The brochure cites performances by gambists Susie Napper, Paolo Pandolfo, David Douglass, Erin Headley, Jane Hershey, Laura Jeppesen, Carol Lewis, Patricia Neely, Alice Robbins, John Mark Rozendaal, Christel Thielmann, Emily Walhout and Brent Wissick. Especially note the Viol Extravaganza, June 16, 2 p.m., featuring viols a4, a6, a7, a12 and a *tout autant de parties* (everybody plays).

Information: (617) 424-7232; bemf@bemf.org; web site www.bemf.org.

JUNE 24-30, JULY 1-7, 2001

SAN FRANCISCO EARLY MUSIC SOCIETY SUMMER WORKSHOPS: Two of SFEMS' four summer workshops are of special interest to viol players. The Baroque Workshop is June 24-30; the Medieval and Renaissance Workshop is July 1-7. Both are held at Dominican University in San Rafael. Among the faculty will be gambists Mary Springfels and Julie Jeffrey.

Information: info@sfems.org; www.sfems.org; (510) 528-1725.

JULY 14 - AUGUST 5, 2001

CARMEL BACH FESTIVAL: Send for a brochure; note that J. S. Bach's St. Matthew Passion (performed on various dates) will include John Dornenburg on viola da gamba; on July 23, Dornenburg, Tina Chancy and Julie Jeffrey, viols, will join soprano Rosa Lamoreaux in a program of music by Gibbons, Byrd, Purcell, and Schutz.

Information: (831) 624-2046 or www.bachfestival.org.

AUGUST 12-18, 2001

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

Information: e-mail Carol, hgamba@aol.com, or Alice Renken, arenken@sandwich.net

Gamba NEWS

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