

GAMBA NEWS

Volume 15, Number 3

Viola da Gamba Society/Pacifica

March 2002

Getting to know you

Profiles of Pacifica Chapter members

By Ellen Farwell

From time to time we plan to publish brief profiles of Pacifica Chapter members. Anyone you'd especially like to see written up in future issues? Let us know.

We start with three of our most recent members:

ROBIN EASTERBROOK was born in Hackensack, New Jersey, and grew up in Palo Alto, where her parents still live. She has a 29-year-old daughter, Leila, who is very artistic and musical and lives in Hawaii.

Robin has 45 violin students, ranging in age from 4 to 14. Typically, she'll teach a few lessons before school, starting as early as 7:00 a.m., and again all afternoon until 8-ish. Her special cat, Snooky, helps get her students in line and assists in the classes, Robin says. If the students do well, Snooky will jump through a hoop.

Robin has been studying the treble and now the bass viol for almost two years with **Julie Jeffrey**. She says that she practices "only on the days that end in y." (How many of us can say that?) Robin also loves to paint and knit. She often spends weekends with her friend Lou in Sonoma (whose work appears on Page 3 of this issue). Robin is the newest member of the Pacifica Chapter board.

JOAN LOUNSBERY is a native San Diegan, and received her B.M. in music history from UCLA. After many years in Milwaukee as an arts administra-

PACIFICA PLAY DAY SCHEDULE

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

The church is just west of the Park Boulevard 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
March 9	Luciana Lombardi
April 12-14	Annual North/South Viol Meet, Fresno
May 11	TBA

tor and wife of a horn player in the Milwaukee Symphony, Joan returned to California to become executive director of the Santa Rosa Symphony in 1999. Now she has decided to return to her first love, arts consulting.

A former cellist, Joan started playing the bass viol in 1998, studying first with Thallis Drake and now with Michael Sand. Her goal, she says, is to someday own a tenor as well and play fluently in all clefs. Joan is also an amateur pianist. She has two children: Kathryn, 23, about to begin graduate work in music at the University of Southern California; and son John, who lives in Boulder with his

Yes! I want to join VdGS/Pacifica!

Just fill out the form below, write a check and mail them both in.

YOUR FIRST AND LAST NAME

YOUR MAILING ADDRESS

CITY, STATE AND ZIP

YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS

() -

YOUR PHONE NUMBER

\$ _____ **Playing Member (\$25):** You can attend monthly consort meetings for free, you get a free subscription to Gamba News, and you get a discount on consort-coaching sessions.

\$ _____ **Two-Person Membership (\$35):** Two playing members in the same household. You share all the rights and privileges of a Playing Member.

\$ _____ **Newsletter-Only Membership (\$10)**

\$ _____ **Donations (\$10, \$25, \$50, \$100 or more!)** to VdGS/Pacifica will help us buy sheet music and rental instruments.

\$ _____ **TOTAL ENCLOSED**

Make out checks to *VdGS/Pacifica*. Mail them with this form to:

*Helen Tyrrell, Treasurer
VdGS/Pacifica
P.O. Box 188
Orinda, CA 94563*

GAMBA NEWS

Published nine times a year by the Pacifica chapter of the Viola da Gamba Society. It goes on vacation during the months of June, July and August.

PRESIDENT **Julie Jeffrey** (jjeffrey@library.berkeley.edu)
VICE-PRESIDENT **Lyle York** (lyleyork@earthlink.net)
SECRETARY **Annette Higuchi** (annette.higuchi@esis.com)
TREASURER **Helen Tyrrell** (hesuome@pacbell.net)

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

Cindy Share, Coaching liaison (cynthia_share@peoplesoft.com)
John Mark, Rental program coordinator (mark_bach8@hotmail.com)
Lee McRae, VdGSA chapter representative (LmcR@aol.com)
John Dornenburg (jdmbrg@concentric.net)
Alvin Roper (925-426-0829)
Ellen Farwell (LBFarwell@earthlink.net)
Robin Easterbrook (snooky4176@aol.com)

Contributions welcome: Send concert listings and reviews, opinions, workshop experiences, CD reviews, drawings, or photos to **Lyle York**, Editor, 1932 Thousand Oaks Boulevard, Berkeley, CA 94707, or via e-mail: lyleyork@earthlink.net. Phone (510) 559-9273.

Classified ads: Short classified text advertisements in *Gamba News* are free to VdGS/Pacifica members. For non-members, ads are \$5 per issue. Please mail your check to **Lyle York** (address above), made out to VdGS/Pacifica.

Newsletters by e-mail: If you'd like to receive your monthly *Gamba News* on-line, please e-mail **Lyle York** at lyleyork@earthlink.net. Your reply postcard will take e-mail form as well.

Web site: 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; smmorris@mindspring.com.

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

wife Alexis and 1-year-old daughter Masen Joan. Like many who live in Sonoma County, her favorite hobby is food and wine.

ELLEN FARWELL grew up in the New York suburbs and went to Antioch College in Ohio. (Her mother told everyone that Ellen was going “out West” to college.) Ellen and her husband, Leonard, lived for 40 years in Riverside. In middle age, Ellen studied music history and played in the Collegium Musicum at UC Riverside. Later, she worked there as an admissions counselor. She

started learning viol from **Carol Herman** in the 1970s, and has been playing ever since.

Ellen and Len moved two years ago to the Bay Area (Richmond Annex), to be near their daughter Patty and family in Berkeley. The Farwells are bi-coastal, spending summers on Cape Cod, not far from son Paul and family near Boston. They have five grandchildren. Ellen is in “early music heaven” here – she plays and sings with several groups, and enjoys the concert scene. She joined the Pacifica board last year.

Sign up for Fresno by March 12

The upcoming North/South Viol Meet in Fresno, April 12 – 14, promises to be an outstanding one, with coaches **Shira Kammen** and **Elisabeth Reed**.

Registration forms have been mailed. If you

need one, please contact **Lyle York**: (510) 559-9273, or lyleyork@earthlink.net.

Registration forms should be mailed by March 12 to **Cindy Share**, 429 Westcliffe Place, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

John Mark frets *by Louis Leal*



Why should I fret so much over the consort assignments?



I have an idea!!!

This will do it!



Here are your consort assignments. I will fret no more!

Report on the Yukimi Kambe Viol Consort

By Lyle York

This is a report, not a review. A review of an upcoming U.S. concert will appear in a future issue of *Gamba News*.

One could say that the Yukimi Kambe Viol Consort took Berkeley by storm, but that was too literally true; a hard rain discouraged some attendance at the first concert of their U.S. tour. All things considered, the February 16 concert at St. Albans Church was well attended, and the afternoon's lecture-demonstration at MusicSources was standing room only. From all reports, the consort's lecture-demonstration for Kate Van Orden's viol class at UC was also a success. The consort, and all who heard them, are enormously grateful to **Lee McRae** for her year and a half of work to make their U.S. tour possible, and to **John Mark** for his help in local arrangements, including a dim sum lunch for the consort (a big hit).

The consort members proved to be as warm and engaging as their playing. Complimented on the beautiful gowns they wore in performance, Yukimi Kambe confessed, "We wear them so that people who don't care for our music will have something to look at."

The consort's mission, as Kambe explains it, is twofold: to play traditional viol music in a particularly Japanese way, and to bring contemporary music to the viol. In her lecture notes, Kambe explained their approach to consort music:

Polyphonic music allows each instrument, each voice, its individual expression. Polyphony is like conversations in a salon. This is perhaps typical in Europe and America. In Japan, we do not need individualism in daily life. Harmony is important to us, to be part of a larger community. The whole is as important as the individual. Japanese must learn individualism from European and American cultures. We are learning from early music.

Many viol consorts play wonderfully. What is different about the Kambe Consort? Their emphasis on unity, coupled with impressive discipline, produces a sound I can only describe as organic. Listening, one does not notice dynamics and tempo

Why we play new music on the viol

By Yukimi Kambe

If you visit the Japanese city of Kyoto, you will see tradition that goes back 1,000 years: the gardens, the architecture, the beauty of the kimono. But Kyoto has not been preserved unchanged. It is a living city, not just a museum. It adds new beauty to reflect the changing sensibility of each generation.

When we think of European music and its great tradition, we need to think of it the way we think of Kyoto. Tradition is beautiful. It deserves our admiration and respect. But true admiration comes when you renew tradition, keeping it fresh and making it speak to our times.

This is the challenge for American and Japanese musicians and composers who work with the European tradition.

In the 1970s, American, European and Japanese musicians and audiences wanted to hear "early music" played with period instruments. They wanted to bring the past back to life, to understand the color of the sound, the methods of playing. Early music became quite popular in Japan, as well.

Today, we are happy to offer you the next step in early music. These are contemporary American and Japanese compositions written specially for the viol consort. Consider today's concert an interim report on the new early music: the earliest music from our new century.

changes *per se*; one experiences a beast moving through a landscape, breathing and pacing. Their notes can be rounded, spiky, pointed, slashing, *collegno*, *sur ponto*, even slammed on the strings. They use every part of the viol to sound like woodwinds, guns, humans whining or cats fighting. This is their showy aspect; but they honor traditionally beautiful notes with equal verve.

The consort's second mission, to encourage new music for the viol, is best explained by Kambe in an excerpt from her lecture notes (see box above).

Mark your calendar

MARCH 1, 3, 2002

ENSEMBLE 6-4-2: Byron Rakitzis, baroque flute; Lynn Tetenbaum, viola da gamba; Yuko Tanaka, harpsichord, performs music of Telemann, Couperin, Boismortier and Leclair. For information: (510) 271-8041. \$18/\$15.

March 1: 8:00 p.m., Parish Hall, St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 1501 Washington Street, Albany.

March 3: 4:00 p.m., First Lutheran Church, 600 Homer Avenue, Palo Alto

MARCH 3, 2002

HAUSMUSIK: "CARNIVAL OF FLORENCE," a program of works from early 16th-century Florence: art songs, rowdy street songs and theater music, and virtuosic instrumentals, performed by the Renaissance mixed consort Danza (Suzanne Elder Wallace, mezzo-soprano; Francies Feldon, winds/tenor viol; Shira Kammen, vielle/harp/alto voice; Herb Myers, winds/violin; and Roy Whelden, vielle/viol). For information: (510) 527-9029 or FRANFEL@AOL.COM. \$18/\$15.

4 p.m., St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Curtis and Washington streets, Albany.

MARCH 3, 2002

SAN JOSE CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY presents Camerata Koln (Michael Schneider, recorder/flute; Karl Kaiser, flute; Sabine Lier, violin; Ingeborg Scheerer, viola/violin; Rainer Zipperling, cello/viola da gamba; and Sabine Baure, harpsichord) performing trio sonatas, quartets and concerti by Bach, Telemann, and Handel. \$10/\$25. For information: (408) 286-5111.

6:30 p.m., pre-concert chat; 7 p.m., concert. Le Petit Trianon, 72 North 5th Street, San Jose.

MARCH 6, 2002

MID-PENINSULA RECORDER ORCHESTRA regular meeting, for players of recorder, early winds or early strings. Bring a music stand. For information: (650) 591-3648.

8 to 10 p.m., Music Room 2, J.L. Stanford Middle School, 480 E. Meadow, Palo Alto.

MARCH 8, 9, 10, 13, 15, 2002

PHILHARMONIA BAROQUE ORCHESTRA, Jordi Savall, conductor, presents "Splendors of Versailles and Madrid." Baroque music from the courts of Spain and France, including Lully, Marais, Duron, De Laserna, and Rameau. With soprano soloist Montserrat Figueras \$34-\$49. For information: (415) 392-4400.

March 8: 8:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church, Hamilton and Webster, Palo Alto.

March 9: 8:00 p.m., First Congregational Church, Dana and Durant, Berkeley.

March 10: 7:30 p.m., First Congregational Church, Dana and Durant, Berkeley.

March 13: 8:00 p.m., Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek.

March 15: 8:00 p.m., Herbst Theatre, Van Ness and McAllister, San Francisco.

MARCH 15, 16, 17, 2002

SFEMS PRESENTS ARCANGELI BAROQUE STRINGS (Michael Sand, David Wilson, Kate Button, and Tekla Cunningham, violin; Daria D'Andrea, viola; Marc Vanscheeuwijck, cello; Chris Deppe, violone; and Phebe Craig, harpsichord) performing "A Night of Transfigured Bach," transcriptions of sonatas and concertos by J.S. Bach in unusual resettings. For information: (510) 528-1725; www.sfems.org. \$22/\$19.

March 15: 8:00 p.m., First Lutheran Church, 600 Homer at Webster, Palo Alto.

March 16: 8:00 p.m., St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Avenue, Berkeley.

March 17: 4:00 p.m., St. Gregory Nyssen Episcopal Church, DeHaro at Mariposa, San Francisco.

MARCH 17, 2002

NOE VALLEY CHAMBER MUSIC presents Musica Pacifica (Elizabeth Blumenstock, violin; Judith Linsenberg, recorders; Yuko Tanaka, harpsichord; and David Morris, viola da gamba) performing works of Bach, Telemann, Vivaldi, Leclair, Matteis. For information: (415) 648-5236.

4:00 p.m., Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco.

Gamba News is printed by Crazy Copy, 1483 Solano Avenue, Albany, CA

Classifieds

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

TREBLE VIOL Kelischek workshop with Metal bow, lined wooden hard case and extra Dlugolecki strings. \$2500. Contact **Cindy Share**, (925) 939-3551.

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

TREBLE VIOL by Higgins; neck replacement by him; viol in excellent condition. Early ratchet bow by Neil Hendricks and hard case "arranged" by Herb Myers. \$1,500 for viol, bow, and case. Contact **Kris Montague**, (650) 969-1668.

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

WANT TO TRY AN ALTO? Pacifica has an alto viol available for short-term loan, not rental, to any of our experienced members wanting to try such an unusual instrument. It is tuned A to a, one step up from a tenor. Contact **John Mark**, (510) 531-1471 or mark_bach8@hotmail.com (408) 737-8228.

LOOKING TO BUY A SEVEN-STRING GAMBA: My first choice is a historical instrument, but I will also consider a contemporary instrument. Whatever I buy, it needs to be a professional quality instrument with which I can fall in love. Contact **Barbara Bailey-Metz** at (480) 350-9827 or JohnR Metz@aol.com.

BASS VIOL BOW FOR SALE: Excellent condition, like new. Snakewood. Sturdy, plays well on a six-string. Made in 2000 by Christopher English. \$1300. For information: **Marina Vidor**, (413) 585-6085, starting 1/28/02.

Gamba NEWS

c/o Higuchi, 2502 Hearst Avenue, Oakland, CA 94602



♪ Mary Elliott
920 Ventura Avenue
Albany, CA 94707