



VIOLETA DA GAMBIA SOCIETY - PACIFICA

GAMBIA NEWS

Three days in Fresno better than two, say early birds



*The Early Birds Thursday evening, with martinis.
Photo by Robin Easterbrook.*

The 30th annual North/South Viol Meet in Fresno had a good turnout this year—28, including coaches **Julie Jeffrey** and **Yayoi Isaacson**. Perhaps because Julie felt like celebrating the anniversary, and **Robin Easterbrook** was such a warm-hearted organizer, the atmosphere was even more relaxed than usual.

Six “early birds” arrived on Thursday by pre-arrangement and spent the extra day playing, unsupervised, as one can see from the restaurant photo. They ordered martinis. Robin (far left, eyes closed) was supposed to be the designated driver.

(Continued on page 3)

PACIFICA PLAY DAY SCHEDULE, 2003-2004

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 9:15 a.m. for the coached session.

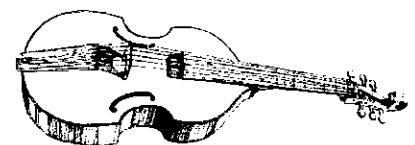
Sheet music, coffee and tea will be supplied. Please bring a music stand and any music of your own you'd like to play.

Potluck lunches have been working well this year. Please either bring a sack lunch for yourself or a dish or drink to share. The church kitchen has a microwave we can use.

Consorts are formed based on the information you provide to John Mark. Telephone John at (510) 531-1471 or email your data to 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
June 19	George Houle



News and notes for June

George Houle will coach our play day at Zion Lutheran Church June 19

We set this later-than-usual date to avoid conflict with the Berkeley early music festival and exhibition, and concurrent concerts, June 9-13 (see below). This will be the last regular play day of the season, and we'll regroup in September.

George Houle taught music history and theory at Mills College and the University of Colorado, and music history and literature at the University of Minnesota, where he also conducted the orchestra.

From 1962 to his retirement from full-time teaching in 1992, he taught a broad range of courses at Stanford and established a program for the performance of Renaissance and Baroque music.

George taught himself to play Baroque oboe, recorders, shawms, and other double reed instruments and then taught these to his students. He encouraged everyone to discover and learn historical singing technique as well as instrumental techniques to recreate the formal structures and esthetic frameworks of early music. He also learned and taught Renaissance and Baroque dancing as an integral part of the early music program, the better to perform music made to their measures. His first scholarly studies centered on the nature

(Continued on page 3)

VIOLA DA GAMBA SOCIETY-PACIFICA

GAMBA NEWS

GAMBA NEWS is published 10 times a year by the Pacifica chapter of the Viola da Gamba Society. It vacations in July and August.

PACIFICA CHAPTER BOARD

President **Julie Jeffrey** (jjeffrey@library.berkeley.edu)
Vice President **Ellen Farwell** (lbfarwell@earthlink.net)
Secretary **Marilyn Becker** (becker3049@yahoo.com)
Treasurer **Helen Tyrrell** (hesuome@pacbell.net)

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

John Mark Rental Coord. (mark_bach8@hotmail.com)
Lee McRae VdGSA chapter rep. (LmCR@aol.com)
Mary Elliott Coaching liaison (marell3@earthlink.net)
Lyle York Newsletter editor (lyleyork@earthlink.net)
John Dornenburg (jdrnbrg@concentric.net)
Alvin Roper (925-426-0829)
Elisabeth Reed (ereed@eskimo.com)
Colin Shipman (mrshipman@aol.com)
Robin Easterbrook (reasterbrook@mac.com)

Classified ads: Short classified 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.

Web site: Our VdGS-Pacifica chapter web site, www.pacificaviols.org, is maintained and regularly updated by Helen Tyrrell. It contains the Viol Player's 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. For more information, contact Stephen Morris, 2615 Tanglewood Road, Decatur, GA 30033-2729; (404) 325-2709; smorris@mindspring.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 email: lyleyork@earthlink.net. Phone (510) 559-9273.

Associate editors: Ellen Farwell, Mary Elliott and Julie Morrisett. **Designer:** Helen Tyrrell.

Fresno/continued

(Continued from page 1)



Julie Jeffrey wearing the Hat of Authority. Photo by Robin Easterbrook.

Everyone made it safely to Friday, when the rest of the players showed up. Discipline broke down again early that evening, when someone discovered a circlet of white plastic flowers on the Piccadilly's coffee table. When Robin rose to welcome us, the flowers were on her head. These flowers became the official speaker's Hat of Authority. **Walter Unterberg** looked especially fetching in it when he conducted us in two English madrigals for double choir by Thomas Morley and Giles Farnaby. Julie and Yayoi coached us well but not too strictly, except for the incident when Julie, keeping time for a consort with extreme body language, was dubbed Miss Metro-Gnome. Yayoi gave us, along with her fine and subtle advice, the sight of herself dressed like a Polynesian goddess.

After all that, and a good Saturday night Armenian dinner at Diana's, we decided that three days might be better than the usual two. Next year the Viols West chapter may decide to offer the Early Bird (Thursday added) option again.



Walter Unterberg conducting under the Hat of Authority. Photo by Robin Easterbrook.

News and notes/continued

(Continued from page 2)

of musical meter and rhythm and culminated in his book *Meter in Music 1600-1800*. Seventeenth-century notation, meter, and tempo continue to be scholarly interests.

He was music director of the New York Pro Musica from 1972 to 1974, on leave from Stanford, and led the ensemble in concerts and operas on three continents. During his tenure at Stanford he presented innumerable concerts in which he performed with his students.

Currently he is an enthusiastic consort player, and edits and publishes music for the viol. He has studied with **John Dornenburg** and **Margriet Tindemans**. Playing the viol and acquainting his students at the Fromm Institute at the University of San Francisco with its music is a continuing pleasure.

New Pacifica officers for 2004-2005

Beginning their terms of office this month are our newly elected officers of the VdGS-Pacific Board of Directors. They are:

President: Ellen Farwell
Vice President: Lyle York
Secretary: Marilyn Becker
Treasurer: Penni (PJ) Savage

We encourage all Pacifica members to attend future board meetings, which will be announced ahead of time to the entire membership. And if you are interested in any of the board-appointed functions, speak to any board member. Some of the traditional functions are: VdGSA chapter representative; rental

(Continued on page 4)



A wedding had been held at the Piccadilly on Saturday, so we chose the bridal bower for a group photo. Left to right, back row first: Bob Buzzard, PJ Savage, Gwen Rodman, Mark Makabe, Lyle York, Bill Lazar, Dalton Cantey, Lynn Lipetzky, Billie Hamilton, Lee McRae, Kristina Herrick, Yayoi Isaacson, Ellen Farwell, Dorothy Orolin, Alvin Roper, John Mark, Gail Petersen, Julie Jeffrey, Neil Hendrix, Stuart Elliott. Missing are Saskia Dyer, Art Smoke, Natalie Sera, Bill Lindley, Walter Unterberg, and the picture taker, Robin Easterbrook.

News and notes/continued

(Continued from page 3)

coordinator; coaching liaison; and newsletter editor. To find out what one of these "jobs" entails, contact the board member who currently performs it.

Next issue of *Gamba News* will come in September

And in the September issue we will ask for your membership renewal check.

A schedule of Berkfest events

We're calling it Berkfest even though it is not the official Berkeley Early Music Festival but a new combination of a conference and exhibition June 10-12, sponsored by Early Music America, and a series of concurrent "fringe" concerts June 9-13, coordinated by the San Francisco Early Music Society.

For a full schedule of events, see these Web sites: info@earlymusic.org, www.earlymusic.org for the EMA

(Continued on page 5)

News and notes/continued

(Continued from page 4)

conference and exhibition, and for an "Early Music on the Fringe" concert schedule, www.sfems.org/fringe2004.htm.

A conference registration form and more information may be obtained from Early Music America, 2366 Eastlake Avenue East #429, Seattle, WA 98102, 1-888-SACKBUT, or from the Web site above.

The conference will focus on "The Future of Early Music in America." Much of the conference will be geared toward professional performers, music administrators, and educators, but of particular interest to non-professionals will be the sessions on Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque performance practice; and a session on creating early music programs for children, including a Junior Bach Festival presentation by young Bay Area performers. Other sessions deal with such topics as prospects for the future, marketing, presenting successful workshops, early music on the radio, and degree programs in early music.

Mary Springfels, who is well known to many of us as a performer on viola da gamba, director of the Newberry Consort, and workshop teacher, will give a keynote speech (and a master class in the viola da gamba; more on this below). Other featured speakers are Thomas Forrest Kelley, medieval scholar and chair of the Harvard University Music Department; and Lisa Remby, expert on marketing for non-profit arts organizations. Mary will also take part in the concluding panel discussion on "the future of early music, the performers' perspective, with emphasis on differences/similarities between early music in North America and Europe," according to the brochure.

The conference will take place at the Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Avenue, Berkeley. The "official" conference is June 11 and 12 (Friday and Saturday), 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., with two "preconferences" on professional development offered simultaneously on Thursday, covering fundraising and audience development. Registration fee for the conference is \$125 for EMA members, \$165 for non-members. The preconference fee is \$75 for members, \$100 for non-members.

The Exhibition is described in the brochure as a "diverse early music marketplace, including bookstores and publishers, record stores and companies, instrument makers, national societies, presenters and agents." It will take place at the First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley, noon to 5:00 p.m. June 10, and 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. June 11-12. Admission is free. **Our Pacifica chapter has been asked to staff the table for the Viola da Gamba Society of America at the Exhibition. (If you can spare some time, please contact John Mark.)**

Some vendors who have committed to showing their instruments, bows, strings and sheet music are: **Peter**

Huetmannsberger, Wesley Brandt, Ralph Ashmead, Daniel Larson, Oxford University Press, Zuchowicz String Instruments, Harry Grabenstein, Baroquecello.com (Charles Ogle), PRB productions, Wendy's Viols (student viols built in China and sponsored by Wendy Gillespie), Scholar's Choice, and Gamut Musical Strings.

The Pacifica Chapter will present a viol master class by Mary Springfels. Five players will play solo and trio pieces for Mary on Sunday morning, June 13, 10:00 to 12:30, at MusicSources, 1000 The Alameda, Berkeley. Anyone is welcome to attend for a nominal fee (probably \$5). After the master class, we will share a potluck lunch in the Unicorn Garden at MusicSources.

Concurrent musical events include concerts by the vocal ensemble Chanticleer, performing music of Ockeghem Friday, June 11, 8:00 p.m., at St Mark's Episcopal Church; and the Philharmonia Chamber Players, including **Farley Pearce** on viola da gamba, performing works by Couperin, Telemann and Vivaldi, Saturday, June 12, 8:00 p.m., at the First Congregational Church.

Wildcat Viols (Elisabeth Reed, Julie Jeffrey, and Joanna Blendulf) will perform English consort music for three viols by Purcell, Locke and others on Saturday, June 12, 5:30 p.m., at Trinity Chapel, adjacent to the First Congregational Church.

There is a possibility, at press time, that **David Morris** will play the lirone in a concert with Phebe Craig, harpsichord, sometime during the festival. Check the concert schedule! David demonstrated this beautiful instrument for us at the May 8 play day. If this concert materializes, it would be the West Coast debut of the lirone.

Here are some more "fringe" concerts in which viols will take part:

Theatrum Musicum/Jennifer Torreson, songs with lute and viol (**Julie Morrisett**), June 9, 8:00 p.m., St. Joseph of Arimathea Chapel.

Letitia Berlin, recorders; Katherine Heater, harpsichord; and **John Dornenburg**, viola da gamba, playing music of Nicolao a Kempis, Louis de Caix d'Hervelois and J.S. Bach, June 11, 2:30 p.m., Trinity Chapel.

Ronnee Fullerton, gambist from Seattle, plays unaccompanied music for viol by Hume, de Machy, and Telemann, June 11, 4:00 p.m., St. Joseph of Arimathea Chapel.

The Galileo Project (Sarah Eyerly, soprano; Amy Haltom and David Segó, Baroque violins; Loren Ludwig, viola da gamba; Julia Ageyeva, harpsichord; Gary Hess, theorbo) performing music of Purcell, Blow, Lawes and Locke, June 13, 7:00 p.m., St. Joseph of Arimathea Chapel.

(Continued on page 6)

Mark Your Calendar

May 29-June 5

Recorder, Viola da Gamba and Harpsichord Workshop: Letitia Berlin, director. For advanced players (but intermediate players interested should inquire). With master classes, coached Baroque chamber ensembles, and separate Renaissance consort classes for recorders and viols. Faculty includes Margriet Tindemans, viola da gamba.

Hidden Valley Institute of the Arts, Carmel Valley. For workshop information: Tish Berlin, (510) 559-4670; tish-feb@mindspring.com. To register or to inquire about accommodations: Peter Meckel, (831)-659-3115; hvms@aol.com. Web: hiddenvalleymusic.org.

June 9-June 13

"Fringe" early music events and official Festival and Exhibition sponsored by

Early Music America and SFEMS. For a listing of events featuring viols, see Page 5.

June 20-26

SFEMS Baroque Workshop: Faculty includes Mary Springfels, viola da gamba.

Dominican University campus, San Rafael. P.O. Box 10151, Berkeley 94709; (510) 528-1725.

July 11-17

SFEMS Medieval-Renaissance Workshop: Faculty includes Julie Jeffrey, David Morris, and Elisabeth Reed, viola da gamba.

Dominican University campus, San Rafael. P.O. Box 10151, Berkeley 94709; (510) 528-1725; medren@lanset.com.

July 11-17

Canto Antigo West Coast Early Music & Dance, Chapman University, Orange, Calif. Faculty includes Alice Renken, viola da gamba. (800) 358-6567; www.cantoantigo.com.

July 25-August 1

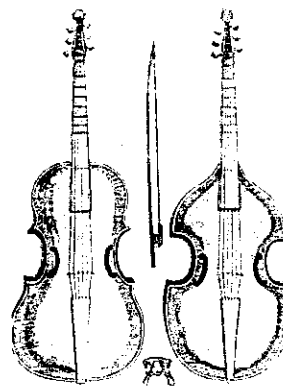
VdGSA Conclave, Tacoma, Wash. For a brochure and registration form (which have been mailed), contact Ken Perlow, (708) 383-4608, (708) 989-1729; post@VdGSA.org; www.vdgsa.org

News and notes/continued

(Continued from page 5)

Pacifica players give back to Zion Lutheran

John Mark, Robin Easterbrook, Lee McRae and Ellen Farwell played for two Mother's Day morning services at Zion Lutheran Church, as a gesture of appreciation for use of its facilities for Pacifica's play days. They played prelude music just before the service and filled in for the choir where the anthem is normally sung.



Classifieds

FOR SALE

VISIT YOUR LOCAL VIOL

BUILDER! 7-string bass, Bertrand model, rich sound. 6-string bass, Jaye model, bright and delightful to play. Treble, Hoskins model. Tenors and other bass models also available. Soft and hard cases custom-fitted to your instrument. Repairs. Come by to try an instrument, take a shop tour and learn about building viols, or for idle chit-chat. **Alexandra Saur**, 510 558-6927, 559-9563, in Albany.

TREBLE VIOL by Higgins; neck replacement by him; viol in excellent condition. Early ratchet bow by Neil

HOW TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD

Short classified advertisements in Gamba News are free to VdGS-Pacific members.

For non-members, ads are \$5 per issue. Please mail your check to:

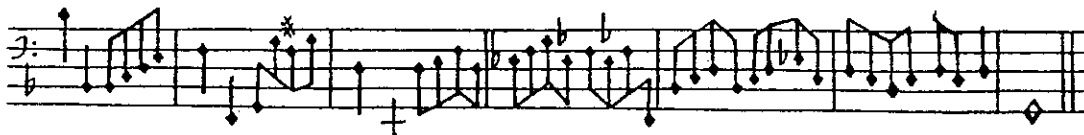
Lyle York
GAMBA NEWS
1932 Thousand Oaks Blvd.
Berkeley, CA 94707-1638
Make checks out to VdGS-Pacific.

Hendricks and hard case "arranged" by Herb Myers. \$1,500 for viol, bow, and

case. Contact **Kris Montague**, (650) 969-1668.

BASS VIOL FOR SALE: Bass viol, 6 string, German-made in the 1970s. With bow and hard case. \$3500. Contact **Helen Tyrrell**, (925) 253-1782; hesuome@pacbell.net.

LAZAR'S EARLY MUSIC: Moeck (recorders and early winds), Kueng, Mollenhauer, Yamaha, Aesthe, Dolmetsch Millenium Recorders, and others in the near future. Competitive prices, instruments sent on approval, personalized service and advice. **Bill Lazar**, (408) 737-8228; jblazar@aol.com; www.bill-lazar.com.



Yes! I want to join VdGS-Pacific! Or renew for 2003-2004!

YOUR FIRST AND LAST NAME

YOUR MAILING ADDRESS

CITY, STATE AND ZIP

YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS

YOUR PHONE NUMBER, INCLUDING AREA CODE

Make out checks to VdGS-Pacific. Mail them with this form to:

Helen Tyrrell, Treasurer
 VdGS-Pacific
 P. O. Box 188
 Orinda, CA 94563

\$ _____ **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)**
 \$ _____ **Donation to VdGS-Pacific** will help us buy sheet music and rental instruments and fatten our scholarship fund.

\$ _____ **TOTAL ENCLOSED**

GAMBA NEWS

c/o Becker, 3049 23rd Avenue, Oakland, CA 94602



Mary Elliott
920 Ventura Avenue
Albany, CA 94707

