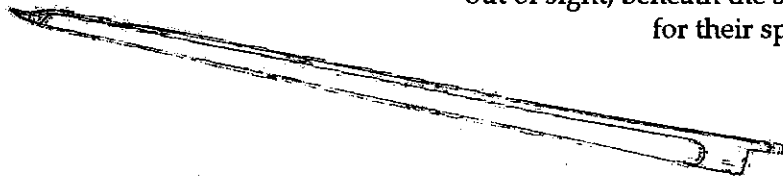


VIOLADA GAMBA SOCIETY PACIFICA VOLUME 18, NO. 10 JUNE 2005

# GAMBA NEWS

## Seasons of the Viol

**V**iol seasons run counter to calendar seasons; as the regular blooming of our monthly play days comes to an end, viol players prepare for viol winter. This period is a time to disperse and concentrate on learning opportunities at various workshops. Perhaps, even, to take a break from playing and attend to other needs. We may not see one another regularly, but know that lots is going on. Most plants require a dormant period; viol players are no different. Winter is the time when everything happens out of sight, beneath the soil, as seeds prepare for their spring debuts.



**O**ur final playday of the season will be held June 11. Amy Brodo will preside as coach 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 am for the coached session. As always, please bring a music stand and either as sack lunch for yourself or a dish or drinks to share at our customary potluck. The church has a microwave we can use. Please call or email John Mark, our peerless consort arranger, to tell him you will attend the upcoming play day and what size(s) of viol(s) you will bring. (510) 531-1471; mark\_bach8@hotmail.com.



**John Mark**  
Photograph by  
Robin Easterbrook



**Amy Brodo**

**A**nd, before entering your own dormant period, be it woodshedding at viol camp or reading trashy thrillers by the shore (your editor draws sustenance from both pursuits), mark down September 10, 2005 in your calendars. That will be our first playday of the coming season! Play days are scheduled for the second Saturday of every month except February. There are many other delights planned for 2005-06, including the Berkeley Festival & Exhibition, which will happen in June. The chapter is also planning to hold a potluck/performance for ourselves, family and friends. This would be a low-key event in which we could hear each other in the context of whatever groups we regularly play with. The main idea would be, yes, to have fun.

*Viva la Viola da Gamba!*

## For Sale

**Bass Viola da Gamba bow by Ralph Ashmead;** \$1,500 or best offer. Contact Elisabeth Reed, (510) 482-1684.

**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; (510) 559-9563, in Albany.

**Bow Rehair** Alexandra Saur is now offering rehairing for both modern and early bows. Top quality hair and quick turnaround! 510-559-9563, bowrehair@alexandrasaur.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.

**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.

**Bass viol, Peter Tourin,** Jericho, VT. English division bass after Henry Jaye; no. 49, 1983. With decorated fingerboard and tail-piece, carved rose. 67.3 cm free string length. Very nice condition with a few chips to the finish on the edges. It sold in 1983 for \$3225 for the decorative work. The viol would sell now for about \$9-10,000, according to Peter Tourin. Comes with a nice custom-fitted hard case and bow. Asking \$7000.

**Bass viol, Wolfgang Uebel,** Celle, Germany, 1977. With carved rose on sound board; 64 cm free string length. Very nice condition. Asking \$6000 with unpadded soft case. Bows available separately.

**Treble viol, Neil Hendricks,** Reno, CA, 1973. With gear tuning machines. Suitable for a beginner. Asking \$450, with Hendricks 'ratchet' bow, no case.

**Bows (4):** **Chris English,** octagonal/round stick, 60 cm free hair length, 74 gms., asking \$1000; **Harry Grabenstein/Tourin bow** (1983), ebony frog/nut, 60 cm free hair length, 68 gms., new hair, asking \$1000; **William Monical,** octagonal stick, ebony frog/nut, 60.5 cm free hair length, 59 gms., new hair, asking \$800; **H.R. Pfretzschner,** 61 cm free hair length, 59 gms., new hair, asking \$700.

*continued on page three*

*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

<b>President</b>	Ellen Farwell lbfarwell@earthlink.net
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<b>Alexandra Saur</b>	asaur@sonic.net

### Contributions Welcome

Send concert listings and reviews, opinions, workshop experiences, CD reviews, drawings, or photos to Julie Morrisett, Editor, 1148 Norwood Ave. #1, Oakland, CA 94610, or jmorrisett@sbcglobal.net; (510) 444-2380.

## 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 made out to VdGS-Pacifica to Julie Morrisett, Editor, 412 Arkansas Street, San Francisco, CA 94107.

### [www.pacificaviols.org](http://www.pacificaviols.org)

Our VdGS-Pacifica chapter website 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) website is [www.vdgsa.org](http://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 \$15 to \$30 per month. In charge of rentals is John Mark, 10 Holyrood Manor, Oakland, CA 94611; (510) 531-1471; [mark\\_bach8@hotmail.com](mailto:mark_bach8@hotmail.com).

### Donating to VdGS-Pacifica

The Pacifica Chapter is an affiliate of the San Francisco Early Music Society (SFEMS), and along with other privileges this affiliation confers, we can receive tax-deductible donations. These include not only cash but viols, bows, musical scores, method books, tuners, stands and other viol paraphernalia. Especially since we now have a Youth Project working to teach young people the viol, please remember the chapter when you are cleaning out your music room.

Cash donations can be used for new rental instruments and bows, new music for the chapter playing library, the Pacifica Youth Project, or our scholarship fund.

To ensure that your donation will be tax-deductible, please make out the check to SFEMS with a note on the lower left corner: "for VdGS-Pacifica." Then send your donation check to Penni Savage, Treasurer, VdGS-Pacifica, 436 Hudson Street, Oakland, CA 94618. She will forward your check to SFEMS.

SFEMS will accept and record the donation, then transfer the funds to us. You will receive an acknowledgment letter from SFEMS for your tax records.

When you donate a viol or other materials, you will receive a letter citing the estimated value of the instrument or materials for your tax records.

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## Viol Talk

### All Are Invited!

The next board meeting will be held June 9, 7 pm, at the home of Ellen Farwell, 1807 Butte Street, Albany.

### Membership Updates

Be sure to contact Roy Whelden, our Membership List Coordinator, with any updates to your address, phones or email.

### Stork Delivery to Former Board Member

Baby Shipman, offspring of Violet and Colin Shipman, arrived May 11, weighing in at 8.5 pounds.



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## For Sale, cont'd

Pictures of all are available on my website ([www.bill-lazar.com](http://www.bill-lazar.com)) on the 'used instruments' page. Contact Bill Lazar, [jblazar@aol.com](mailto:jblazar@aol.com), (408) 730-2238 for more information.

### Ruby Instruments

The world's first production model of a 7-string solid body electric viola da gamba! Play traditional and crossover music on one instrument! To hear and play the Ruby, contact Kirby, (510) 317-0834 or (510) 332-0834 (24-hour message); [gambaguy@msn.com](mailto:gambaguy@msn.com).

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## Viols Available

### Treble Viol Available for Rent

High-quality treble viol available for rent at reasonable price. Contact Lee McRae, (510) 848-5591, [LmcR@aol.com](mailto:LmcR@aol.com)

Would anyone like to use my bass, tenor and treble viols over the summer?

I will be gone from June 18 to October 1, and would be happy to lend them to responsible persons who would like to play them while I am away. They are all responsive, reliable instruments with bows and cases. The tenor and bass are made by Uebel, and the treble is by Michael Plant. In return, a donation to our Pacifica Chapter viol rental program would be appreciated.

Ellen Farwell, (510) 524-3327, [Lbfarwell@earthlink.net](mailto:Lbfarwell@earthlink.net)



# Mark Your Calendar

## Upcoming Playing Opportunities, Concerts and Workshops

**Friday, June 17**

**Church, Court and Tavern, The Skyflower Consort** (Jim Denton, Gary Digman, Robin Easterbrook and Felicia McFall). A glimpse of 17th century life in Germany, England and Holland; music for baroque violas da gamba, violin, lute and voice.

7:00 pm, *Guerneville Community Church, 14520 Armstrong Wood Rd., Guerneville. Gary Digman: (707) 869-2564. \$10/\$5.*

**June 19-25**

**The San Francisco Early Music Society 2005 Baroque Music and Dance Workshop**, Phoebe Craig, director. "Fiori musicali d'Italia! – The Flowering of Music in Italy." Viol faculty includes Mary Springfels.

*Dominican University, San Rafael. phebec@aol.com; (510) 525-2396, (510) 684-5177; www.sfems.org*

**Tuesday, June 21**

**The Flowering of Music in Italy**, SFEMS baroque workshop faculty featured in ensemble performances, with Mary Springfels, viol.

7:30 pm, *Meadowlands Assembly Hall, Dominican University, 50 Acacia Avenue, San Rafael. (510) 528-1725; www.sfems.org. \$15/\$10.*

**June 26-July 2**

**The San Francisco Early Music Society 2005 Medieval and Renaissance Workshop**, Annette Bauer, Louise Carslake, Hanneke van Proosdij, directors. "La Dolce Vita: Music from Italy, Spain and Portugal." Viol faculty includes David Morris and Gail Ann Schroeder.

*Dominican University, San Rafael. medren2005@sbcglobal.net; (510) 236-9808; www.sfems.org*

**Thursday, June 30**

**La Dolce Vita: Music of Spain and Italy**, SFEMS Medieval and Renaissance Workshop faculty, including David Morris and Gail Ann Schroeder, viols.

8 pm, *Meadowlands Assembly Hall, Dominican University, 50 Acacia Avenue, San Rafael. (510) 528-1725; www.sfems.org. \$15/\$10.*

**July 10-16**

**Port Townsend Early Music Workshop**, Margriet Tindemans, director. Presented by the Seattle Recorder Society. Viol faculty includes Jack Ashworth, Larry Lipnik, Rosamund Morley, David Morris, Margriet Tindemans and Brent Wissick.

*Fort Worden State Park Conference Center, Port Townsend, WA. (206) 784-5518; www.seattle-recorder.org*

**Tuesday, July 19**

**I Flauti Dolci**, SFEMS Recorder Workshop faculty, with Julie Jeffrey, viol.

8 pm, *Meadowlands Assembly Hall, Dominican University, 50 Acacia Avenue, San Rafael. (510) 528-1725; www.sfems.org. \$15/\$10.*

**July 24-31**

**The 43rd Annual VdGSA Conclave, "The Spirit of Gambo."** Viol faculty too numerous to list. Registration deadline June 24.

*Holy Cross College, Worcester, Massachusetts. www.vdgsa.org*

**August 7-13**

**Viols West, "The Divided Viol."** Rosamund Morley, director. Faculty includes Martha Bishop, John Dornenburg, Julie Jeffrey, Larry Lipnik, David Morris, and Margriet Tindemans.

*Cal Poly University, San Luis Obispo, California. www.violswest.org*

**August 13-19**

**Hidden Valley Institute of the Arts Early Music Seminar**, Seminar for recorder, viola da gamba, and harpsichord. Renaissance recorder consort, viol consort, continuo class for harpsichordists, baroque ensembles and collegium for all. For advanced players. Some scholarship assistance available. Faculty includes Geert Van Gele, Letitia Berlin, David Morris and Webb Wiggins.

*Carmel Valley, CA. Information: Peter Meckel, General Director, Hidden Valley Institute of the Arts, Box 116, Carmel Valley, CA 93924. (831) 659-3115. Fax: (831) 659-7442; hvms@aol.com; hiddenvalleymusic.org.*

*Concurrent youth recorder academy seeks loan of viols for beginning viol class. Please contact Letitia Berlin at (510) 559-4670.*

### Playing Opportunity

**ORCHESTRA AROW** (American Recorder Orchestra of the West), based in Oakland, CA, is seeking players. For the performance of the upcoming repertoire, Musical Traditions of Eastern Europe, AROW is also looking for musicians who play both oboe & recorder or viola & recorder; there is need also for a cello or bass gamba.

I invite your inquiry to learn further about AROW membership. The fall-winter rehearsal schedule has been set, with the first rehearsal on Sept. 24. AROW goes into concert performances beginning in Feb. and continues through the spring months, performing altogether 4-5 concerts.

Contact director Richard Geisler, richgeis@jps.net, to inquire further regarding opportunities, experience and expectations.

# The Pacifica Chapter and Local Outreach

Lee McRae and Julie Morrisett

Many of you are VdGSA members, but may not have an idea of how the Pacifica chapter stacks up compared to the average local chapter. The VdGSA supports a total of 13 local chapters. A recent survey of chapters (completed by our Representative, Lee McRae) showed that the average chapter has 38 members and averages ten scheduled playing meetings. Only two chapters have websites (many do not even have newsletters) and only a couple chapters do viol outreach. The Pacific Consort of Viols (Robin Easterbrook, Ellen Farwell, John Mark, Lee McRae and Julie Morrisett) has recently given two very different outreach performances.

Members of the Pacific Consort of Viols (also known as "The Gamba Group") recently performed for the Longfellow Middle School orchestra (see photograph next page) and are in the process of inviting these string players to take advantage of our "Youth Project". Amy Brodo has offered to coach a new consort of young players, should there be enough interest. As part of the middle school program, we showed a videotape of our first group of young players, who have been taught by Elisabeth Reed for the past two years.

The Pacific Consort of Viols has also played "Music

for a Memorial Service." The occasion was a Parkinson's Disease Support Group where the meeting's theme was "end of life" arrangements for survivors. We asked the listeners which pieces they found calming, reflective, soothing and suitable for such a service. The top choices were, in order, "Belle qui tiens," "This is My Song" (Sibelius), "Ave Maria" (Arcadelt), "Pavanne in d minor" (Jenkins), and "Triste Espana" (Encina).

If your group is involved in viol outreach, the Gamba News would love to hear about it. Send commentary to the editor (contact details on page two.)

## Membership Updates

### New

Catherine Berner  
Cheryl Ishida  
925 Pomona Ave  
El Cerrito, CA 94530-2965  
(510) 528-6510  
cishidasan@aol.com

### Updates

Joan Garvin  
25 Acacia Ave.  
Berkeley, CA 94708

Julie Morrisett  
1148 Norwood Ave. #1  
Oakland, CA 94610  
(510) 444-2380

Elisabeth Reed  
ereed@soundbodies.net

## Join VdGS-Pacifica or renew for 2004-2005

First and last name \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State and Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number, including area code \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Playing Member (\$25): *You can attend monthly consort meetings 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-Pacifica will help us buy sheet music and rental instruments and fatten our scholarship fund.

\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL ENCLOSED

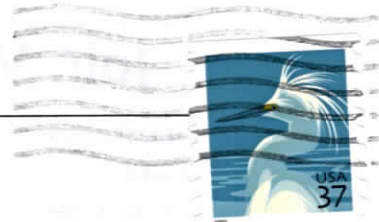
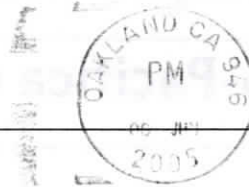
*Make out check to VdGS-Pacifica. Mail it with this form to:*

Penni (Pj) Savage, Treasurer  
VdGS-Pacifica  
436 Hudson Street  
Oakland, CA 94618



**The Pacific Consort of Viols perform at Longfellow Middle School. Story on page five.**  
*Photograph by Robin Easterbrook*

Gamba News  
c/o 468 62nd Street  
Oakland, CA 94609



Mary Elliott  
920 Ventura Avenue  
Albany, CA 94707

