

VIOLA DA GAMBA SOCIETY PACIFICA VOLUME 19, NO. 5 JANUARY 2006

GAMBA NEWS

March Play Day Treat

Master Class with Lisa Terry

Our March 11 play day will feature visiting professional Lisa Terry as coach. Lisa lives in New York, where she teaches and performs as a member of Parthenia, the Dryden Ensemble and ARTEK. In addition to the morning's coaching, Lisa will hold a master class in the afternoon. Only three slots are available for individuals or ensembles. This article aims to demonstrate why you should get yourself or your ensemble into one of those slots!

Most of you have probably been in the audience for a master class, whether on viol, or some other instrument. Many of you, however, may not have participated as a student in a master class. Many cite fear as their main reason for not participating in a master class. Feelings such as "I can't play in public," or "I don't play anything well enough" are common.

However, a master class is not a public performance. It is more of an ordinary lesson, in which other people also happen to be in the room. The very words "master class" inspire an image of a demi-god come to earth, whereas "lesson open to the public" yields a more realistic image: that this is a dialogue between teacher and student, one in which the teacher wishes only to help the student and the student wants to learn. There is no expectation of level or ability. The teacher addresses her comments where she thinks they will do the most good. Most of all, the teacher is not playing for the audience; she is there for the student. And, every audience member will relate to the student up front.

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Pacifica Play Day Schedule, 2005-2006

DATE	COACH
January 14	William Skeen
February 11	John Dornenberg at Stanford
March 11	Lisa Terry (coaching and master class)
April 8	Julie Jeffrey
May 5 - 7	Amy Brodo and Phebe Craig (Fresno North/South Meet)
June 3	Pacifica Chapter Concert for Friends/ Family/Each Other, 3-5 pm at St. Alban's

Sheet music, coffee and tea will be supplied. Please bring either a sack lunch for yourself or a dish or drinks to share at our customary pot-luck. The church has a microwave we can use. There is also a Mexican restaurant close by.

Please bring a music stand and any consort

Each month, as soon as you receive your Gamba News (or before), please call or email John Mark, our peerless consort arranger, to tell him you will attend the upcoming play day and what size(s) you will bring. (510) 531-1471; mark_bach8@hotmail.com.

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 am for the coached session.

music of your own you'd like to play. Consorts are formed based on the information you provide to John Mark. Newcomers and rank beginners are welcome.



Saturday, January 14
Play Day
with William Skeen

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 unpadding 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. Pfretschner**, 61 cm free hair length, 59 gms., new hair, asking \$700.

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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

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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@gmail.com; (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

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.

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.

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.

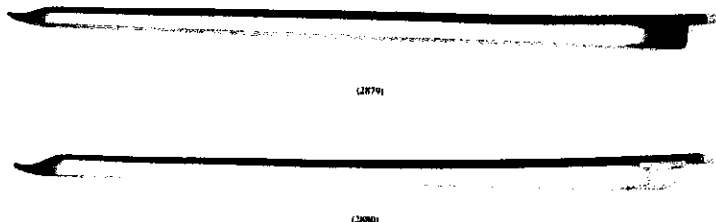
SFEMS will accept and record the donation, then transfer the funds to us. You will receive an acknowledgment letter from SFEMS for your tax records.

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.

Viol Talk

Next Board Meeting

Will be held at 7:30 pm on Monday, February 6, at the home of Ellen Farwell: 1807 Butte St. in Richmond, (510) 524-3327.



Membership Updates

New Member

Ellen Fisher
240 Stanford Ave.
Kensington, CA 94708
erfisher@gmail.com
(510) 525-3096



For Sale, cont'd

Pictures of all are available on my website (www.bill-lazar.com) on the 'used instruments' page. Contact Bill Lazar, 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.

Treble Viol Available to Rent

Treble viol by Michael Plant available for rent at reasonable price. Contact Lee McRae, (510) 848-5591, LmcR@aol.com.

Mark Your Calendar

Upcoming Playing Opportunities, Concerts and Workshops

Tuesday, January 17

Music at Stanford presents **John Dornenburg**, viola da gamba, and **Yuko Tanaka**, harpsichord, performing music by Marin Marais including "Suite d'un gout Etranger," "Le Labyrinthe," and "Folies d'Espagne."

8:00 pm, Memorial Church, Stanford University. \$10/\$5. (650) 725-2787.

Sunday, January 22

Farley Pearce (viola da gamba, cello, bass) and friends perform virtuoso selections from the late classical period, including music by FX Hammer, Sperger, and Anton Kraft.

4:30 pm, Recital hall of the San Francisco Community Music Center, 544 Capp St., San Francisco. \$10/\$5. (415) 647-6015; www.sfcmc.org.

Sunday, February 19

Yalupemama Viols (Yayoi Barrack, Luciana Lombardi, Penny Hanna, Mary Elliott, Mary Prout) will perform music of Isaac, Locke, Purcell, Duarte, Kuhnel, and others.

3:00 pm, Parish Hall at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 1501 Washington St., Albany. Suggested donation \$10/\$5.

Saturday, February 25

SFEMS Medieval Renaissance Workshop Collegium. **Hanneke van Proosdij** and **Louise Carslake** will conduct madrigals and chansons for instruments and voices, with works by Crecquillon, Josquin, Monteverdi and others. Singers, recorder players, gambists, violinists, cellists, lutenists, and Renaissance reed and brass players are all welcome. All proceeds will benefit scholarships to the Medieval Renaissance 2006 Workshop.

2:00 - 5:00 pm, the choir room at St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave. (at Garber), Berkeley. To register please send a check for \$40 payable to SFEMS to: Louise Carslake, 3931 Linwood Ave., Oakland, CA 94602. (510) 530-3202, email jdornbrg@concentric.net.

Thursday, March 9

"The Music of Don Quixote," celebrating the musical references found in Cervantes' *Don Quixote*. **Jordi Savall, Hespérion XXI, and La Capella Reial de Catalunya** perform works by Luis del Milan, Juan Vasquez, Du Bailly, Diego Pisador, Joan Arañes, and more. Free pre-concert lecture given by Kate van Orden at 6:30 pm. Presented by Cal Performances.

8:00 pm, First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. \$52. www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

Saturday, March 11

Jordi Savall, Hespérion XXI, and La Capella Reial de Catalunya: "Musical Encounters of Fire and Water from the Old World and the New," exploring the spread of secular and sacred music from Europe to the New World. Pre-concert talk with Jordi Savall at 7:00 pm. Presented by Cal Performances.

8:00 pm, First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. \$52, sold out. www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.



Saturday, April 1

"East Meets West," the **Yukimi Kambe Viol Consort** presents works by Etenraku, Machaut, Isac, Cabezon, Salvatore, Lawes, Purcell, Boyvin and J.S. Bach. Presented by Cal Performances with assistance from The Japan Foundation Performing Arts JAPAN program.

8:00 pm, First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. \$42. www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

June 4-11

Berkeley Festival & Exhibition, and the Fringe Festival. Berkfest program information will be available online in February: www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

Saturday, June 10

"Early Music for Families." Instruments used to play medieval, Renaissance and baroque music will be demonstrated by small groups of young people as part of the Berkeley Festival.

A gamba consort of four sponsored by the Viola da Gamba Society-Pacific Chapter, student recorder players from the Junior Recorder Society, young musicians from the Junior Bach Festival, and bagpipers from Piedmont Bagpipe Band will be heard, and children from the Music Discovery Workshop will lead the audience in a Renaissance dance and singing game. This will be followed by an "instrument petting zoo," giving audience members a chance to hear, see and touch a variety of instruments.

Auditorium, details TBA. The International House, 2299 Piedmont Avenue, Berkeley. Free. For further information call Lee McRae (510) 848-5591.

Master class in March

Continued from page one

A teacher may focus on technique, interpretation, or both in her comments. Some players may feel that they barely have a "technique", much less an interpretation, and so what would they get out of a master class? In fact, you may discover that you do have preferences about the music, and reasons for doing things the way you do. To quote, "part of being a good musician is having opinions, and a master class is a great way to find out what yours are." The teacher will have her own style and technique, and they are most likely different from yours. Being presented with a differing perspective will help you to consciously articulate your own.

"Part of being a good musician is having opinions"

The fear of public performance is just one of many feelings that can partially immobilize a participating student. No less distracting might be the desire to impress, either the teacher or audience. In fact, every time you sit down to play, distracting thoughts go through your head. Maybe you are thinking about a work problem, or you are thinking about changing your strings. The wonderful thing about participating in a master class is that you will play your piece sev-

eral times, and no matter what is distracting you, you will play better each successive time. By the second or third time, you may be able to incorporate some of the teacher's suggestions, and see how they feel.

Finally, there is no "substitute for feeling what a teacher says in your muscles rather than in your ears/brain." Participating as a student gives you the chance to do just that, in the context of working with a professional you might not otherwise encounter. And because you will be given a lot of suggestions/information in a short time, one person recommends having a friend in the audience who will take notes—on a copy of the music—of the teacher's comments. Having a recording made is also a very useful tool.

As someone who has herself participated in a master class, I can attest it is an invaluable experience. Preparing for the class is a great exercise in itself, and you will find that you get more out of observing a master class after you have participated yourself.

To reserve a slot on March 11 for yourself or your ensemble, contact Mary Elliott: (510) 527-6671 or marell3@sbcglobal.net.

Thank you to everyone who contributed their thoughts for this article—Ed.



Join VdGS-Pacifica or renew for 2005-2006

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**

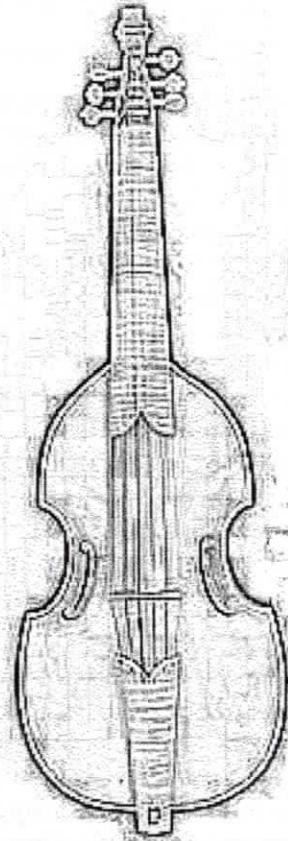
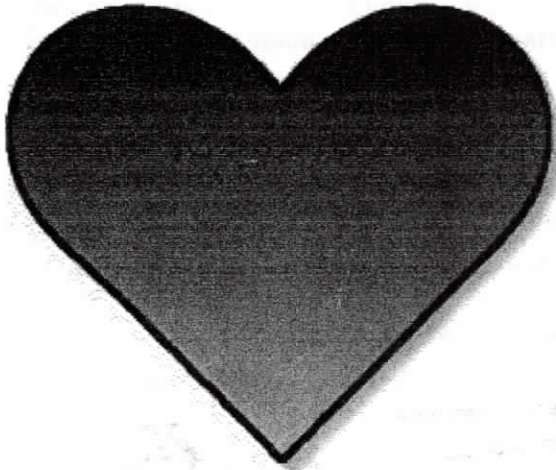
Make out check to VdGS-Pacifica. Mail it with this form to:

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

Coincidence?

Many have noticed the similarity between the curvature of the heart and that of the viol. The word "viol" even shares three letters with the word "love." If you have any stories concerning love and the viol, send them to the Editor for possible inclusion in our February issue: Julie Morrisett

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