

VIOLA DA GAMBA SOCIETY PACIFICA

GAMBA NEWS

VOLUME 19, NO. 8 APRIL 2006

New techniques in art restoration prove the existence of the "Ham-Fisted" bow hold

"We tend to focus on the beauty of Renaissance music, forgetting the very real, more pragmatic concerns of the day. Plague, papists, new theories in planetary motion—all of these combined to create a

general sense of anxiety that would be very familiar to the modern time-traveler," comments one musicologist. "The Ham-Fisted bow hold was a way to take control, to lend a sense of security to playing the viol that was often missing from other areas of life."

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Foolish Times

The staff of the *Gamba News* would like to acknowledge one of the Great Holidays, April Fool's Day. (Tune in next October for that Other Great Holiday.) This April catches us in—shall we say—a more pensive mood. Without further ado, here is Volume 19, No. 8:

The April issue of the *Gamba News*.

With a very happy birthday to John Mark!

"American Viol" to Debut on FOX This Season

FOX producer says, "Forty million people watch 'American Idol.' But what about the other 135 million? We think AV will appeal to this crowd—gut strings, esoteric repertoire, and polyphonic music. Yes, we're going to slot this show against 'Desperate Housewives.'"

Continued, page nine

Pacifica members: Run for office!

Become a lobbyist for the viola da gamba in Washington, DC! Make beaucoup bucks! Retire to Mexico!

Seriously, it's time to nominate yourself or a friend for Pacifica offices. *See page four*

Mark Your Calendar

Upcoming Playing Opportunities, Concerts and Workshops

Friday, April 7

EBRS hosts a collegium-style evening, Cindy Beitman conducting. Singers and all early instrumentalists invited. The evening will center on composers of the Venetian School, including A. Gabrieli, G. Gabrieli and Giovanni Croce. Pitch=440.

7:30-10:00 pm, Zion Lutheran Church, 5201 Park Blvd., Oakland. \$3 copying fee. RSVP to Glen Shannon at (510) 525-1249 or glen Shannon@comcast.net

Saturday, April 22

"Cal Day." In celebration of 100 years of music performances at UC Berkeley, all UC music groups, including early music, will perform. There will also be tours of the new

music library, keyboard instrument demonstrations and a sound garden.

10:00-4:00 pm, various performance spaces. Free. <http://music.berkeley.edu>

Sunday, April 30

John Dornenburg and Yuko Tanaka will perform at St. John's Episcopal Church at the corner of 5th and C Streets in Petaluma Calif.

A \$10 donation is requested. For more info call (707) 762-8872 or (707) 762-6418

May 5-7

Fresno Workshop with Amy Brodo and Phebe Craig, coaches.

Contact Robin Easterbrook for registration information: (510) 390-2003

May 19-21

Marin Headlands Workshop for Records and Viols. See Page 5 for details.

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.

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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) 720-1247.

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.

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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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| | |
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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 Morisett, 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

A Message from Lisa Terry

For those of us lucky to have been at the last play day, we know how mutual these feelings are:

"Please pass the word to your Pacifica chapter that I had a marvelous time working with you, hearing the master class, and performing for you. You all made me feel very very welcome. Let's do it again!"

Lisa also has "Technique Checklists" for both left hand and right hand. Contact **Mary Elliott**, marell3@sbcglobal.net, if you would like a copy.

A Feast

Just when you thought having one early music store in your backyard was incredible, there are now two! Northwards, we have **A Cheerfull Noyse** at 1228 Solano Avenue in Albany, www.acheerfullnoyse.com. Southwards, there is now **(Bill) Lazar's Early Music**, at 21070 Homestead Rd., Suite 105 in Cupertino. Check it out: www.LazarsEarlyMusic.com.

Warm Welcome

We welcome **Ellen Fisher** as a new member of our Pacifica Chapter. Ellen is a newcomer to the viol, and is taking lessons from Julie Jeffrey. She and her husband are retired. They live half the year in Kensington, and the other (warmer) half in Maine. We're looking forward to meeting her in April when she's planning to attend her first play day.



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.

Pacifica Board Officer Nominations Requested!

Lyle York

It's time for elections again! We have no Red and Blue candidates for Pacifica offices. We have only a Coalition of the Willing called the Pacifica Board, and they are red, white, and blue all the way.

The Board makes decisions benefiting our viol-playing community: choosing monthly coaches, maintaining our playing library, buying new music, renting out viols, organizing youth programs, helping with the Berkeley Early Music Festival, determining fees, dues and scholarships, and many other projects. They are paid in cookies, tea and coffee at our meetings, held roughly four times a year.

The Board always welcomes all Pacifica members at its meetings, announced in advance. The next meeting will be held April 20 at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Lyle York: 1932 Thousand Oaks Blvd., Berkeley. Call 510-559-9273 or email lyleyork@earthlink.net for directions. Come and learn more about what the Board does, and you may decide to join!

The Pacifica Chapter Board consists of both officers who are elected by the membership and members-at-large who are appointed by the Board. The elected officers are President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. These officers serve for two years. They may run for re-election as often as they wish.

The terms of our present officers are up in June. The Board is now asking for nominations for new officers. You may nominate yourself or a friend for any office, but when nominating someone else, please make sure he or she is willing before nominating.

Send nominations to the Pacifica Board Nominating Committee, c/o Lyle York, Vice-President (contact numbers above).

Elected Position Nominations

Ellen Farwell has been nominated for a second term as President. Please send any additional nominations to the Board.

Lyle York is stepping down as Vice-President. **Ricardo Hofer** has been nominated for Vice-President. Please send any further nominations to the Board.

Marilyn Becker is stepping down as Secretary. **Joan Lounsbery** has been nominated for Secretary. Please send any additional nominations to the Board.

Penni Savage has been nominated for a second term as Treasurer. Please send any additional nominations to the Board.

Other Board positions are appointed, not elected, and we welcome anyone interested in one of these positions to contact a Board member. These are Rental Coordinator, VdGSA Chapter Representative, Coaching Liaison, Webmaster, Membership List Coordinator, and Newsletter Editor.

Mary Elliott, our excellent and tireless Coaching Liaison, is retiring; we are pleased to announce that **Alexandra Saur** will be the new Coaching Liaison.

The excellent and tireless **Lee McRae** is continuing in the job of VdGSA Chapter Representative, but is happy to discuss the post with any member interested in taking on this responsibility.

Finally, the excellent and tireless **Helen Tyrrell**, who built the Pacifica web site and has maintained it for many years, would like to pass on this responsibility to any interested Pacifica member.

In the May issue of Gamba News, we will announce all nominations for elected office and provide voting instructions. In the June issue, we will announce the elected officers.

Mark Your Calendar, *continued from front page*

A gamba consort of four sponsored by the Viola da Gamba Society-Pacifica 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," (volunteers needed to bring their instruments to the 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

continued next page

Marin Headlands Workshop for Recorders and Viols

The time is rolling around for East Bay Recorder Society's SIXTEENTH! annual celebration of the Bay Area's early-music richness and geographic glory. Again this year, recorder and viol players will gather above the Golden Gate to enjoy the views and wildflowers and to sample playing sessions with ten of the region's finest early-music professionals.

The weekend begins with dinner on Friday, followed by recorder virtuoso Frances Blaker's "Music from the Time of the Conquistadors." Saturday brings fourteen sessions, including Frances Feldon's "Spinning Out the Music: Ricercare and Fantasia," Annette Bauer's "The Chansonnier Cordiforme," Robert Dawson's "Motets and Drinking Songs by Ludwig Senfl," Louise Carslake's "Madrigals by Luca Marenzio," Tom Bickley's "Japanese Shakuhachi Music for Recorders," and Judith Linsenberg's "Overtures and Suites by Telemann, Corelli, and Handel." Saturday

also includes time for a hike to the lighthouse and an open-mike session for groups. It ends with Letitia Berlin's session on "Contemporary Music for Recorders" and Fred Palmer's "Three Faces of Antonio Vivaldi." Sunday brings Shira Kammen, presenting music from the Medieval and Early Renaissance periods.

Save the dates, and come for all or part of the weekend. Our location is the Pt. Bonita YMCA, with simple, comfortable accommodations and playing spaces, all on one level. The food is good, the company is friendly and welcoming, and the music is sensational.

Information and a registration packet will be mailed to past participants. To place your name on the mailing list or for further information, please contact Susan Richardson at 510-526-7861, susanvrichardson@yahoo.com.

Calendar

June 18-24

SFEMS Baroque Workshop, "Music of the French Baroque: Droll, Dramatic, and Sacred." Viol coaches: John Dornenburg, Shira Kammen, Gail Ann Schroeder.

www.sfems.org

June 25-July 1

SFEMS Medieval and Renaissance Workshop, "If Music and Sweet Poetry Agree." Viol coach: Martha McGaughey.

www.sfems.org

August 6-12

Viols West. Faculty includes: Joanna Blendulf, John Dornenburg, Julie Jeffrey, Larry Lipnik, Rosamund Morley, David Morris, Elisabeth Reed, Margriet Tindemans, Craig Trompeter, Brent Wissick.

www.violswest.org

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



Pacifica Play Day Schedule 2005-2006

| DATE | COACH |
|-----------|---|
| 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 |

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.

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 potluck. The church has a microwave we can use. There is also a Mexican restaurant close by.

Please bring a music stand and any consort 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, April 8
Play Day
with Julie Jeffrey



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



Mary Elliott
920 Ventura Avenue
Albany, CA 94707

