

VIOLA DA GAMBA SOCIETY PACIFICA VOLUME 19, NO. 9 MAY 2006

GAMBA NEWS

Calling All Pacificans!

Let's Put On a Show!

Lyle York

On Saturday, June 3, at 3:00 p.m., Pacifica members will present a free play-in/recital/concert for each other and close friends.

Mary Elliott organized this performing play day months ago, and reserved the hall--the Parish Hall of St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Albany, which has great acoustics. Now all we need is commitments from players--individuals, duets and larger groups. Uncle Christopher (Simpson) needs YOU! Also Uncle Marin, Uncle Antoine, Uncle Henry, and Aunt Leonora. We'd like to hear a mixture of solos, duets, trios, quartets, a 5s, a 6s, and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

John Mark will bring a play-in piece for all of us, Vaughn Williams' Rhosymedre, arranged for viols by Jack Ashworth. John describes this as "a short but lively five-part piece." Several groups have promised they will play: The Gamba Group, members of The Outlawes, The Violettes, a Schenk duo, and some solos. Best of all, the youth quartet being coached by Elisabeth Reed, who call themselves ZICE Viols (the initials of their first names), will open our program.

Please contact Lyle York with your name or names and pieces you plan to play (lleyork@earthlink.net or 510-559-9273). Each player or group should limit itself to around 10 minutes onstage. Costumes are encouraged. You can decide to play at the last minute, of course, but in order to devise a program, Lyle would like to know what you are playing by May 31.

We will furnish a harpsichord for an accompanist of your choice.

The Parish Hall is also reserved for a dress rehearsal the same day, between 12 noon and 3 pm. The performance is 3 pm to 5 pm, and a potluck will follow between 5 and 7 pm. We are all responsible for inviting guests; there won't be any formal publicity. Invite your friends and family! Plan to bring food for the potluck!

If you've never performed in your life, now is your chance. This will be a delighted (and delightful!), supportive audience (of us and our friends.) We're not inviting any critics, we are having food, and we will have fun!

Think Outside the State

— and Outside the Country

When you sit down to plan your 2006 summer viol workshop tour, consider leaving the boundaries of the familiar. Many fine local and semi-local workshops are listed on page four, and a person (particularly a viol-playing person) cannot go wrong attending any of these excellent workshops.

However, think, for a minute, of Ravenna, Italy. Former seat of the Roman Empire, later home of Dante Alighieri, and current location of "L'Humor Bizzaro: Intarsi di musica e danza antica." Study viol with Bettina Hoffman while you check out the mosaics: www.teatrodelamemoria.org/corsi.htm. Or, perhaps you're an Anglophile who dreams of punting on the Cam

(while playing the viol.) Now you can do so, while participating in the Renaissance Music for Voices and Instruments Workshop (www.cemss.org.)

If you are looking for a new climate to study viol in, there are workshops all over the world. For a more complete listing, visit <http://www.vdgsa.org/pgs/events.html>.



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.

continued on page three

GAMMA 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	Ellen Farwell lbfarwell@earthlink.net
Vice President	Lyle York lyleyork@earthlink.net
Secretary	Marilyn Becker becker3049@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Penni (Pj) Savage pjsavage@earthlink.net

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

Rental Coordinator	John Mark mark_bach8@hotmail.com
VdGSA chapter Representative	Lee McRae LmcR@aol.com
Coaching Liaison	Mary Elliott marell3@sbcglobal.net
Webmaster	Helen Tyrrell hesuome@pacbell.net
Membership List Coordinator	Roy Whelden roywhelden@mac.com
Newsletter Editor	Julie Morrisett jmorrisett@gmail.com
Peter Ballinger	prbprdns@aol.com
John Dornenburg	jdrnrbg@concentric.net
Robin Easterbrook	reasterbrook@mac.com
Ricardo Hofer	hofermr@sbcglobal.net
Julie Jeffrey	jjeffrey@library.berkeley.edu
Elisabeth Reed	ereed@soundbodies.net
Alexandra Saur	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@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, 1148 Norwood Ave. #1, Oakland, CA 94610.

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

Financial Aid Available for SFEMS Workshops

The Pacifica Chapter is pleased to announce that any viola da gamba student attending either the Medieval & Renaissance Workshop or the Baroque Workshop may be able to receive financial assistance. If you are interested in learning more, please contact the directors of the workshops:

Medieval & Renaissance Workshop Directors:

Louise Carslake, Hanneke van Proosdij
medren2005@sbcglobal.net
(510) 236-9808

Baroque Workshop

Director: Phebe Craig
phebec@aol.com
(510) 525-2396, (510) 684-5177

Assistant Director: David Morris
mahlsdorf@earthlink.net

Insurance For You and Your Instrument

Early Music America members may apply for health insurance and instrument insurance. Visit www.earlymusic.org for full membership benefit information.

Collector's Edition

The forthcoming June issue of *Gamba News* will be the last Pacifica newsletter to be mailed in a printed edition. September 2006 will mark our entrance into the space age as we transition to email distribution.



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

Friday, May 12

1568 Bavarian Wedding of Duke Wilhelm V & Renée of Lorraine. The Women's Antique Vocal Ensemble (WAVE) with Bay Area musicians and dancers will perform a program based on the extravagant musical celebration of this 1568 wedding. Music by Orlando de Lassus and others. Musicians include **Mary Elliott** and **Penny Hanna**, violas da gamba.

8 pm, Lake Merritt United Methodist Church, 1330 Lakeshore Avenue, Oakland. \$15/\$5. Wheelchair accessible. www.wavewomen.org

Friday, May 19

Distant Mirror: Through the eyes of Johann Georg Pisendel. Felicia McFall, baroque violin; Robin Easterbrook, viola da gamba; and Dawn Kooyumjian, harpsichord, will present a program of violin sonatas by J.S. Bach, Pisendel and Vivaldi.

7:30 pm, Healdsburg Society for Music and Art (HSMA), 431 Center St., Healdsburg. \$10/\$5. More information: (707) 433-4762 or hsma@pon.net

Saturday, May 20

Distant Mirror: Through the eyes of Johann Georg Pisendel. Repeat of Friday, May 19 program.

8:00 pm, Music Sources, 1000 The Alameda (at Marin), Berkeley. \$10/\$5. More information: (510) 528-1685 or msources@lmi.net

Sunday, May 21

Distant Mirror: Through the eyes of Johann Georg Pisendel. Repeat of Friday, May 19 program.

5:00 pm, Mission San Francisco de Solano, 114 East Spain St., Sonoma. \$10/\$5. More information: (707) 938-1519

May 19-21

Marin Headlands Workshop for Records and Viols. Instructors include Annette Bauer, Letitia Berlin, Tom Bickley, Frances Blaker, Louise Carslake, Frances Feldon, Robert Dawson, Shira Kammen and Judith Linsenberg.

Point Bonita YMCA, Marin. Contact Susan Richardson for more information: (510) 526-7861 or susanvrichardson@yahoo.com

June 4-11

Berkeley Festival & Exhibition, and the Fringe Festival. Viol-inclusive concerts include performances by Le Poème Harmonique and Capriccio Stravagante Trio.

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," (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

June 18-24

SFEMS Baroque Workshop, "Music of the French Baroque: Droll, Dramatic, and Sacred." Viol coach: Martha McGaughey.

www.sfems.org

June 25-July 1

SFEMS Medieval and Renaissance Workshop, "If Music and Sweet Poetry Agree." Viol coaches: John Dornenburg, Shira Kammen, Gail Ann Schroeder.

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

July 2-8

Summer Viol Workshop. Held at Bastyr University in Seattle and directed by Margriet Tindemans.

Contact Ann Stickney for information: (206) 362-8062, annstickney@comcast.net

Correction

The April issue of *Gamba News* incorrectly listed the viol coaches for the SFEMS Medieval & Renaissance and Baroque Workshops. John Dornenburg, Shira Kammen and Gail Ann Schroeder will coach the Medieval & Renaissance week, and Martha McGaughey will coach the Baroque week.

Nominees for Pacifica Board Offices and Ballot

Lyle York

We have nominations for new Pacifica officers. Their terms will begin in June 2006 and run until June 2008. Coincidentally, there is only one nomination for each office. The nominating committee submits these names to you, the membership. Please regard this page as a ballot, and if you would like to vote yes or no on any or all candidates, please do so, by May 15. You may also write in a candidate.

Your anonymity will be respected. We will remove your ballot from its envelope before reading it. We trust our members not to vote more than once.

Mail your ballot to:

Pacifica Nominating Committee
C/o Lyle York
1932 Thousand Oaks Blvd.
Berkeley, CA 94707



The nominations are:

President (for a second term): **Ellen Farwell**

Vice President (current VP Lyle York is retiring): **Ricardo Hofer**

Secretary (current Secretary Marilyn Becker is retiring): **Joan Lounsbery**

Treasurer (for a second term): **Penni (PJ) Savage**

Write-in:

In addition, a nonelective (but crucial) Board appointment is that of **coach coordinator**. Mary Elliott is retiring from that position, and **Alexandra Saur** has been appointed new coach coordinator.

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
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.



Amy Brodo

May 5-7
Fresno Meet



Phebe Craig



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



Mary Elliott
920 Ventura Avenue
Albany, CA 94707

