

New Music for Gamba Quartet

The Galax Quartet on April 29

On Sunday, the 29th of April, the Galax Quartet—David Wilson and Joseph Edelberg, violins; Roy Whelden, viola da gamba; David Morris, 'cello—will present an unusual and provocative concert at the College Avenue Presbyterian Church (5951 College Avenue, Oakland CA). Not only will there be a world premiere of a quartet recently commissioned by the quartet from the award winning San Francisco composer Belinda Reynolds, there will be a New World premiere of a quartet by Carl Friedrich Abel (d. 1787) and a rare performance of the electro-acoustic composer Carl Stone's Quartet from 1994. These three quartets, taken as a whole, represent three distinct approaches to the repertoire of what might be called the 'gamba quartet'.

Abel's Quartet no. 4 in A major was part of the first string quartet collection ever published in England. (I'm now using the term 'string quartet' in the classical sense: two violins, viola and cello.) In fact, its publication date of 1769 makes it one of the earliest quartets ever published in Europe, for Franz Joseph Haydn, universally recognized as the father of the string quartet medium, began writing them only around 1760 when he was in his late 20s. Abel's A major Quartet was arranged sometime during the 18th century—perhaps by the composer himself or someone who knew of the composer's performance predilections—for violin, viola, viola da gamba and 'cello. For our performance, we procured a copy of the original manuscript parts—lying overlooked until very recently—from the archives of the Lambach Monastery in Austria. Peter Ballinger, of PRB Publications, has expressed interest in bringing out an edition of this delightful work.

Extending the repertoire for the 'gamba' quartet will, in large part, be the commissioning of new works from modern composers. We were lucky to have found a first commissioning partner in Ms. Reynolds. Not only was she familiar with our instruments—she had worked with the early instrument ensemble American Baroque on the

recording Shock of the Old (Santa Fe New Music 0513)—she is also a facile collaborator in a workshop setting. In fact, the give and take of the workshop is her preferred model for musical creation. She has produced a wonderful, image-provoking piece for us titled Envision, somewhat reminiscent, at least in its large-scale structure, of a multi-sectional, multi-tempo Toccata of Frescobaldi.

Continued on page seven

April 21, 2007

The End of Fresno

Due to waning interest from both the Northern and Southern contingents, resulting in insufficient enrollment, the Fresno North/South meet is cancelled. Fresno would have celebrated its 33rd birthday this year. Originally conceived and planned by Walter Unterberg, from Van Nuys, and our own Lee McRae, the *Gamba News* hopes to run a brief history of this event in the May issue.

Uncoached Play Day

The Pacifica chapter will, however, hold an uncoached Play Day at Zion Lutheran Church on April 21. Please let John Mark (mark_bach8@hotmail.com) know if you will be coming and what instrument(s) you will be bringing.

Gail Ann Schroeder

April 21 also happens to be the day that Gail Ann Schroeder will be arriving in the Bay Area for a week's visit. Although she will not be in time for our Play Day, she will be available for private lessons that week. To arrange a lesson, email her at gail.schroeder@earthlink.net or phone (until April 20) (828) 298-4268. She will be staying in Oakland.

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; (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.

Lazar's Early Music

Moeck (recorders and early winds), Kueng, Mollenhauer, Yamaha, Aesthe, Dolmetsch Millennium Recorders, and others in the near future. Competitive prices, instruments sent on approval, personalized service and advice. **Bill Lazar**, (408) 734-4920.

Bass viol, Wolfgang Uebel, Celle, Germany, 1977. With carved rose on sound board; 64 cm free string length. Very nice condition. Asking \$2100 with unpadded soft case. Bows available separately.

Bows (2): William Monical, octagonal stick, ebony frog/nut, 60.5 cm free hair length, 59 gms (treble/tenor,) new hair, asking \$650; **Unknown**, well made, ivory frog/nut, nice balance, 60.5 cm free hair length, 70 gms (tenor/bass,) frog crack is repaired, \$500.

Pictures of all are available on my website (www.bill-lazar.com) on the 'used instruments' page. Contact **Bill Lazar**, jblazar@aol.com, (408) 734-4920 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! Coming soon! The Ruby dock, an attachment to hold the Ruby conventionally as well as to play on a stand! 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.

Plant Tenor Viol For Sale

String length 54.6 cm, excellent condition, includes snakewood Landwehr heavy treble/light tenor bow (58g, made in Holland), Kingham case. \$4,300. Contact Jill Geary, Alameda, (858) 382-7046 or providenceV39@aol.com.

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.

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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, 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.

Pacifica Play Day Schedule 2006-2007

DATE	COACH
April 21	Uncoached Play Day
May 12	William Skeen
June 9	Our Party 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.



Membership Updates

New Member

Sheila Newbery
1727 Marin Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94707
(510) 524-5188
sheila@sheilanewbery.com

Updates

Felicia McFall
704 Montclair Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95409
(707) 537-9062

Mark Your Calendar

Upcoming Playing Opportunities, Concerts and Workshops

Wednesday, April 11

The Mid-Peninsula Recorder Orchestra (MPRO) bimonthly meeting. Early strings, winds and recorder players are invited to attend. Please bring music stand. Future meetings: April 25 and May 2, 16, and 30.

8:00 pm, Jane Lathrop Middle School, Music Room #060, 480 E. Meadow Drive, Palo Alto. Contact Frederic Palmer (650) 591-3648; www.sfems.org/mpro

Saturday, April 14

German Chocolate: BWV 106 and cantatas by Buxtehude, Weckmann, Rosenmüller, Johann Christoph Bach and Telemann. Presented by the **Richmond Heights Collective:** Frances Blaker, Sally Blaker, Letitia Berlin, Mary Elliott, Dawn Kooyumjian, Mary Prout, Paula White and David Wilson, with soloists Christina Schiffner, Celeste Winant, Robin Lee and Richard Mix.

8:00 pm, St. David of Wales Church, 5641 Esmond Avenue, Richmond. \$15 suggested donation. Wheelchair accessible, parking available, reception following concert. (510) 207-8294 for information

Thursday, April 26

The **Galax Quartet** invites you to an open rehearsal for its upcoming concert **ISE and Other String Quartets** (see April 29.) Composers on the program will be present to discuss their works.

8:00 pm, First United Methodist Church, 201 Martina Street, Point Richmond. \$10 suggested donation. www.galaxquartet.org

More information on the Galax Quartet in this month's cover article.

Sunday, April 29

The **Galax Quartet** performs **ISE and Other String Quartets**. Including ISE, by Belinda Reynolds, Mae Ploy by Carl Stone, and the recently discovered Quartet in A Major, by Carl Friedrich Abel. Composers Reynolds and Stone will be present to discuss their works.

7:30 pm, College Avenue Presbyterian Church, 5951 College Avenue, Oakland. (Two blocks from BART.) Suggested donation to the church's food for the homeless program. www.galaxquartet.org

More information on the Galax Quartet in this month's cover article.

Friday, May 4

Cal Performances presents **Jordi Savall**, viola da gamba. With **Pierre Hantaï**, harpsichord, and **Xavier Diaz**, theorbo and guitar. "**Marin Marais & Antoine Forqueray, L'Ange & le Diable**," including works by Marais, Visée, Couperin,

and Forqueray. Pre-performance talk by musicologist **Victor Gavenda**.

7:00 - 7:30 pm, pre-concert lecture, 8:00 pm, concert, both at First Congregational Church, Dana & Durant, Berkeley. \$48. www.calperfs.berkeley.edu

Saturday, May 5

Cal Performances presents **Jordi Savall**, viola da gamba. With **Pierre Hantaï**, harpsichord, and **Xavier Diaz**, theorbo and guitar. Program will include works by Ortiz, Tobias Hume, Visée, J.S. Bach, de Sainte-Colombe, and Scarlatti. Pre-performance talk by musicologist **Victor Gavenda**.

7:00 - 7:30 pm, pre-concert lecture, 8:00 pm, concert, both at First Congregational Church, Dana & Durant, Berkeley. \$48. www.calperfs.berkeley.edu

May 18-20

Marin Headlands Workshop for Recorders and Viols. Sixteen playing sessions, featuring conductors David Barnett, Annette Bauer, Tish Berlin, Tom Bickley, Frances Blaker, Louise Carslake, Frances Feldon, Eileen Hadidian, Fred Palmer, and one other. Entire weekend or partial attendance. Please register before May 3.

Point Bonita YMCA

Please see accompanying article, next page

June 17-23

SFEMS Baroque Music and Dance Workshop, "The Crossroads of the Baroque: Dresden, Prague & Vienna." Now at Sonoma State University. David Morris will coach viol students.

www.sfems.org for more information and enrollment form

June 24-30

SFEMS Medieval & Renaissance Workshop, "Tales of the Cities." Now at Sonoma State University. With Joanna Blendulf, John Dornenburg, and Mary Springfels, viol coaches.

www.sfems.org for more information and enrollment form

July 28-August 4

L'Humor Bizzarro; Intarsi di Musica e Danza Antica. Directors Claudia Celi and Andrea Toschi present the sixth edition of this workshop held in Bagnacavallo, Italy. Eight days of courses, concerts and workshops in early music and dance, with viola da gamba coach Humberto Orellana.

For information in English, www.teatrodelamemoria.org/corsihumor_eng.htm or contact Andrea Toschi, PO Box 17100 - 100189 Roma Grottarossa, Italy, or email info@teatrodelamemoria.org

Marin Headlands Workshop for Recorders and Viols

Come Make Music May 18-20

Spring hills of the Marin headlands will again ring with the sweet harmonies of recorders, viols, and perhaps a psaltery or drum on May 18-20 this year. Intermediate and advanced players are warmly invited to join members of the sponsoring East Bay Chapter of the American Recorder Society, a SFEMS affiliate, at this annual musical workshop. Music making begins on Friday and continues through Sunday afternoon, including also one- and two-day options.

This year's faculty, a rich resource to inspire individual growth and collective delight, will include David Barnett, Annette Bauer, Letitia Berlin, Tom Bickley, Frances Blaker, Louise Carslake, Frances Feldon, Eileen Hadidian, Peter Maund, and Fred Palmer. Music will come from lands of Spain, Ireland, Italy, Germany, France, Switzerland, and the New World, from composers ancient to contemporary. A few of the topics: "The Golden Hind: Glorious Music for Great Adventures and Events" (English music from the Elizabethan Age); "Alpine Inspiration: 'Muzic zu Pontorma,' by Roland Mozer, and other Swiss Treats", "New Ale in Old Kegs: Settings of Celtic

Music by 20th Century Composers", "Spanning the Italian Baroque: Allegri, Cazzati, Scarlatti", and "Fleet Fingers: Music to Improve Speed, Accuracy, and Flexibility". The workshop is designed to be welcoming and inclusive as well as challenging.

The workshop is held at the Point Bonita YMCA, one of very few public facilities on this largely undeveloped area of California coast. Set in a meadow with short walks to Pacific Ocean vistas, the historic Point Bonita Lighthouse, and remnants of WWII fortifications, it is a place to get away, recharge, and meet new friends, re-connect with old. The accommodations include dormitory-style rooms, a large dining area, and playing spaces all on one level. Rooms are also available for impromptu playing sessions.

Information on accommodations and registration will be mailed to past participants. Please contact Susan Richardson at 510-526-7861, susanvrichardson@yahoo.com, or Anna Lisa Kronman at 925-258-9442, annalisakronman@gmail.com, for further information or to be added to the mailing list.

Viol Talk

Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be held on May 10, 7:30 pm, at the home of Ellen Farwell, 1807 Butte Street, Richmond. All are invited; cookies follow meeting.

End of Season (Second) Annual Bash

It is time to start thinking about what you might play at our June party this year at St. Alban's on June 9, at 2 pm. Solo or consort, the only restriction is that music not exceed five minutes. Please send an email to Ricardo Hofer (hofermr@sbcglobal.net) or PJ Savage (pjsavage@earthlink.net) indicating you would like to play, and with whom (if non-solo) and what.

Looking for Small Rental Space

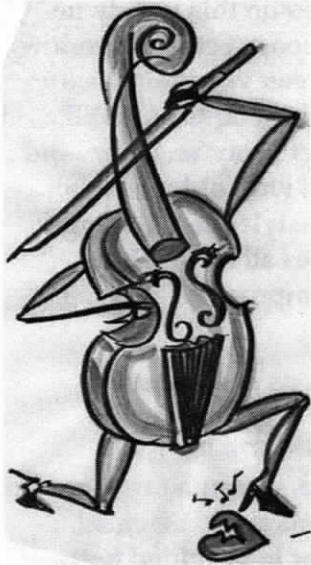
I am looking for a small space (part of a spare closet?) in which I might store a few instruments (guitar, octave mandolin, tenor viol until it is sold, small mandolin, violin.) All are in hard cases and can be stacked. I do not expect to be needing regular access. Will pay a monthly storage fee and have my own insurance coverage. Temporary, about 18 months. If you can help, please contact Jill Geary, (858) 382-7046 or providenceV39@aol.com



Music in the Community

Hosted by John Evans of KDFC

April 22nd in Albany



A Cheerfull Noyse

Presents

2 Concerts On The Same Day Each With A Different Program

Celebrating Music In the Community

From classical music to jazz

Concert 1: 4:00 pm

Concert 2: 7:00 pm

April 22nd

St. Alban's Episcopal Church
1501 Washington Ave., Albany
Wheelchair accessible

Suggested donation: \$20/concert
or \$35 for both
Raffle tickets at the door



Tickets:
www.acheerfullnoyse.eventbrite.com
Info or reservations: 510/524-0411

jazz baroque folk choral instrumental recorder jazz piano story telling guitar choir flute harpsichord harp

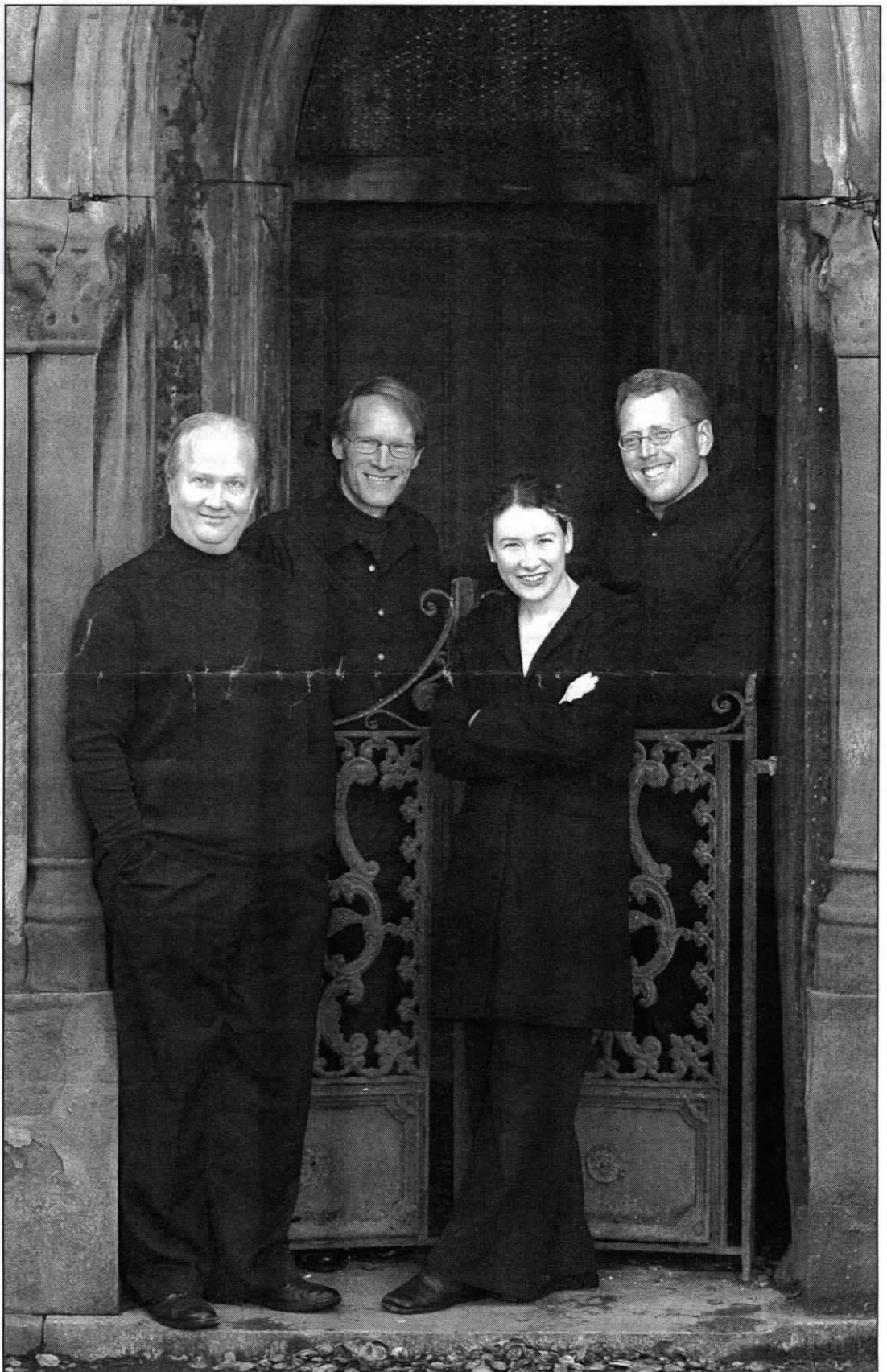
The Galax Quartet, continued from cover

Carl Stone's Quartet from 1994 represents yet a third approach to augmenting the repertoire of the Galax Quartet: we proposition composers whose work we find attractive, asking them if they have material which would be suitable for us. More often than not they do and are enthusiastic to have it performed. At this point we have to mutually commit to re-working the piece for our instruments. Such was the case with Mr. Stone. His striking quartet, *Mae Ploy*, reflects his predilection for Japanese titles, though the music itself may be only minimally influenced by Japanese musical traditions. We will be performing the first movement of this work.

Both Ms Reynolds and Mr. Stone will be present at the concert and will discuss their pieces. You are invited to join the Galax Quartet at 7:30 on April 29th at the College Avenue Presbyterian Church. Admission is by free will donation to the church's food for the homeless program. This concert is part of the church's "Music that Cooks" series. There will also be an open rehearsal on April 26 at 8:00 at Point Richmond's First United Methodist Church (201 Martina Street) with at least one, possibly both, of the composers present. Admission is by a suggested \$10 donation.

This concert and the Reynolds commission are supported

by grants from the American Composers Forum and the East Bay Fund for the Arts. We wish to thank the many generous individuals from the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond who donated to this project.



The Galax Quartet
Photograph by Norbert Brein-Kozakewycz