

VIOLA DA GAMBA SOCIETY PACIFICA VOLUME 20, NO. 10 JUNE 2007

GAMBA NEWS

Elisabeth Reed to Teach at Conservatory

This fall, Elisabeth Reed will be teaching Viola da Gamba to students at the San Francisco Conservatory. This is the first time the Conservatory has offered viol instruction. The Conservatory hired Reed, who performs extensively on baroque cello as well as Viola da Gamba, to co-teach baroque orchestra and baroque chamber music with harpsichordist Corey Jamason. Reed then proposed to Dean Mary Ellen Poole that she might offer her own student consort instruments (treble, tenor, bass) for use by the chamber class, with either three or six students having opportunity to be in the consort. The school has agreed to pay for strings and instrument insurance.

Reed, who has taught at Berkeley for six years, will be modeling her Conservatory class on her Berkeley experience. Reed co-teaches at Berkeley with Kate van Orden. Van Orden, who specializes in historical performance on the bassoon, had the original idea to bring viols to the program.

Elisabeth Reed will perform at the Conservatory in the fall with her group Wildcat Viols. She hopes that this concert will inspire students to want to study viol. In future, she hopes to combine the consort class with singers in order to study renaissance part songs with vocals. At this early stage, everything is possible and the future for viols exciting, indeed!

And an Update on the Youth Project from Elisabeth:

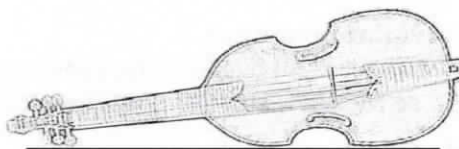
The Youth Project (Zice Viols) is going well. We are making a recording in June of their 'Greatest Hits,' which Imogen's dad will record. Katherine's mom has been very instrumental in getting this organized. Imogen will be going to the Scottish Fiddling Academy in the fall, so this is our last chance to record this group in its current formation. We will be playing two pieces on the June 9 Play Day: "Mi Libertad" and "Lo How a Rose Ere Blooming."

It's Party Time

Our June Party/Play for each other/Potluck will kick off at 2pm this Saturday, June 9, at St. Alban's in Albany. The space will be open from 12 noon until 2 pm, for anyone who wants to practice. Following the playing will be the eating, drinking and merry-making! Several groups will be performing, including ZICE Viols (the youth project.) This is a great, informal opportunity to hear what we all do outside of play day.

Come Fall

The first play day of the new season will be on September 15, at Zion Church. (It's far too early to be thinking of fall now, of course.)



~ See you in September ~

Until then, may your fish jump and your living be easy
And your relatives rich, and your viol-playing high

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 Millenium 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.

Bass viol, funky student model. String length 57.5 cm, metal strings, minimal soft case, tuning machines, stable repaired crack on bottom side. \$500

Viola da Gamba Bow: William Monical, octagonal stick, ebony frog/nut, 60.5 cm free hair length, 59 gms (treble/tenor,) new hair, asking \$650.

Pictures of all are available on www.bill-lazar.com; go to 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.

Bass Viola da Gamba for Sale

Bass viol, Wolfgang Uebel, Germany, 1967. Good condition. 65cm string length. A division viol, nice and small. Comes with hard case and/or padded soft case. \$1,900. May be viewed and played in Berkeley. Contact Joan (707) 546-8505

GAMBA 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, 1266 East 34th St., 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.

Mark Your Calendar

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

Thursday, July 19

Sex Chordae Consort of Viols plays music from Josquin to Thelonious Monk. John Dornenburg, Julie Jeffrey, Farley Pearce, and David Morris, viols. Also music by Ortiz, Coprario, Legrenzi, Purcell, Martha Bishop, and others.

8:00 pm, St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 1501 Washington Ave., Albany.
\$15/Children under 16 free if accompanied by adult, no credit cards, checks okay. *www.st-albans-albany.org/concerts*

July 22-29

A Bow to History: 700 Years of Viol Music. 45th annual VdGSA Conclave. Held at the University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA.

www.vdgsa.org/pgs/conclave.html

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.teatrodellamemoria.org/corsi/humor_eng.htm or contact Andrea Toschi, PO Box 17100 - 100189 Roma Grottarossa, Italy, or email info@teatrodellamemoria.org

July 29-August 4

The Baroque Flute & Viola da Gamba Boot Camp. Intermediate to advanced bass Viola da Gamba players can improve their continuo playing technique with small group classes, technical classes and ensemble playing. Viol instructors: David Morris and Ronnee Fullerton.

Seattle Pacific University, Seattle, WA. \$400 tuition, plus housing costs ~\$40/night. www.baroqueunorthwest.com/nfbfbc.html

July 29-August 5

Pan-Pacific Gamba Gathering: "The Viola da Gamba as a World Instrument." Opportunities to play, sessions for teachers, talks on history, demonstrations, new music, local musicians, instrument exhibits, concerts and relaxation, Hawaiian-style.

www.vdgsa.org/PPGG/

News from Members

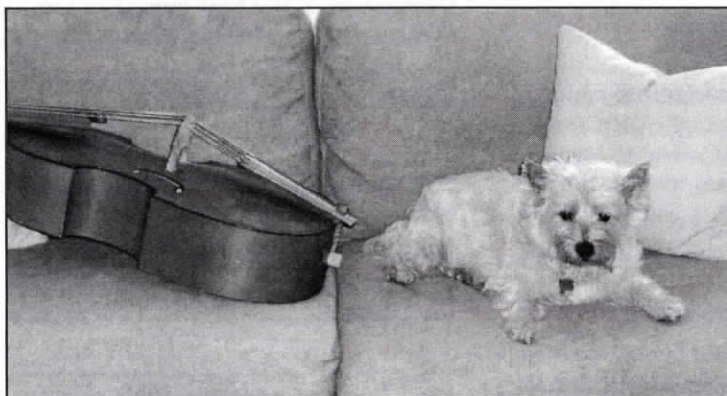
A thank You to the Pacifica Chapter Members

What an introduction to life as a member of the Pacifica Chapter! After four wonderful months of playing with so many of you, I'd like to thank all of you, including the newsletter editor for letting me know what's happening and for all the others with whom I've played. I think the number is around 25 different people at various venues.

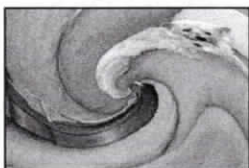
Twice each week some of us have been playing regularly at my place on Alvarado. This is such a treat for me, after quite some time in Texas when I had to travel almost 150 miles to spend an evening playing consort music. A special thanks to Ricardo, Pj, Lyle, Ellen, Robin, Mary, Joan and Alice.

I am looking forward to the concert on 9th June, and then to the Med/Ren Workshop. I'll be housesitting for a month until end of July—while continuing to play, of course. Then comes my annual exodus to Ontario and the lake district for summer fun. I have

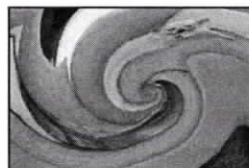
a cottage at the edge of one of the lakes with boats for running around, family and friends, and lots of



Angus Irons, Cairn Terrier, before practicing.



And afterwards.



tennis. I'll be playing weekly in a mixed consort of lute, singers, recorders and viols. And there will probably be a few meetings to play in Toronto, as well.

As some of you know, I'm learning to play the bass viol at the moment. This should keep life interesting. John Dornenburg has been a most helpful teacher during these past months.

I am planning on returning to Berkeley in early October to continue this viol life. And to add further interest, I am hoping to be part of a mixed consort then as well. I can always be reached at hgirons@aol.com.

What would life be without music? Thanks again.

Heather Irons



Robin Easterbrook, John Mark, Ellen Farwell, Marilyn Becker, Roy Whelden and Julie Morrisett play a Jenkins Fantasy on February 3 at a memorial for Alan McRae.

Condolences to Pj Savage, whose mother recently passed away.

Congratulations to Joan Lounsberry who has just retired!

Condolences, congratulations and relief for Ellen Farwell, who recently came through a mugging ordeal relatively unscathed.

News from the Board

Rules about the Use of the VdGS/Pacifica Music Library

The Board has decided to institute a new set of rules for the use of library materials by VdGS-Pacifica playing members. The Board has appointed Ricardo Hofer as Librarian, and all requests for materials should go to him. (Should Ricardo be out of town, another board member will be designated Librarian during his absence.)

Please know that the Board is implementing these rules on a trial basis and will reevaluate and refine as needed.

A. Use of the Library during play days

1. As has been the custom, players can take music out of the library for use during the day.
2. At the end of the morning or afternoon session, the music will be returned to the Librarian or someone designated by the Librarian for this purpose.
3. Only the Librarian can return the music to the boxes, after checking that all parts are present.

B. Use of the Library between play days

1. Playing members can check out up to two items by signing up with the Librarian or someone designated by the Librarian for this purpose and leaving a deposit of \$25 in cash.
2. The item(s) must be returned no later than the next play day.
3. No material can be checked out at or after the last play day of the year.
4. The borrower will be billed for replacement of any missing item or part thereof.
5. If the member will not attend the next play day, it is her or his responsibility to return the material to the Librarian or someone designated by the Librarian for this purpose.

C. Use of the Library at workshops

1. The Library can be taken to workshops as long as the Librarian or someone designated by the Librarian for this purpose is present the entirety of the workshop and can secure it.
2. Registered participants of the workshop or its faculty (who will have preference) can check out up to two items from the Library.
3. All items are due the morning after they are checked out.
4. Longer loans to be evaluated by the Librarian or someone designated by the Librarian for this purpose.

Raising Dues

After many years--so many that no one can remember the exact number -- of membership dues being \$25, the Board has decided that it is necessary to raise them. The main reason for this increase is a substantial reduction in income from instrument rentals.

As of September 2007 Playing members' dues will increase to \$35 and the two-person membership will increase to \$45. Newsletter-only memberships will remain the same (\$10).

It should go without saying that we still need your contributions. Please consider making as big a donation as you can. This will allow us to continue to offer and keep at the same high standard all the services that Pacifica provides: coached play days, instrument rental, a first-class music library, the newsletter and an educational program which includes adult volunteers who present school programs as well as a nationally recognized, chapter-subsidized Youth Project (teaching a consort of young people) now in its fourth year. Thanks!

Speaking of Dues...

The Board would like to encourage everyone to consider becoming members of the San Francisco Early Music Society (SFEMS) and Early Music America (EMA)

SFEMS, in addition to its fabulous concert series, provides VdGS-Pacifica a great many benefits. These include liability insurance coverage for events, a newsletter and calendar of early music offerings, and the wonderful Medieval/Renaissance and Baroque Summer Workshops.

Similarly, EMA provides its members networking, scholarship and insurance benefits on a national scale. EMA's quarterly magazine Early Music America brings together early music news from all over, helping to solidify our community feeling.

Next Board Meeting

Will be held in late September or early October, TBA.