
VIOLA DA GAMBA SOCIETY PACIFICA VOLUME 22, NO. 2 NOVEMBER 2008

GAMMA NEWS

THE WOODS WOULD BE VERY SILENT
IF NO BIRDS SANG EXCEPT
THOSE THAT SANG BEST.
HENRY VAN DYKE

Play Day 2008 - 2009

November

Peter Hallifax studied viol with Jane Ryan in London, while completing a Bachelor's degree in Music from the University of Surrey and a Master's degree in Musicology from the University of London, King's college.

In 1976 Peter moved to the Bay Area, where he was a founding member of Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra. He taught viol at U.C. Berkeley, U.C. Santa Cruz, and many workshops and seminars throughout the U.S., while maintaining an active concert career throughout the U.S. as a violist.

After a 20 year hiatus, he started playing again in 2005, concentrating at first on the music of Forqueray, Couperin, Marais, and Dollé. More recently, he has been exploring English 17th century music, the Bach sonatas and the music of Ennrique Botolero (Henry Butler).

He is half of Hallifax & Jeffrey, the viol duo best known for their biennial performances of the complete published works of Forqueray at the Berkeley festival. They are currently working on a Forqueray CD, and a program of English viol music, as well as a forthcoming Marais program, transcriptions of Dufhly and Couperin, and many other projects.

December

A Bay Area native, Marie Dalby recently returned to the west coast after over a decade in New York and Connecticut, where she regularly performed on the viola da gamba with numerous ensembles. She is a member of the New York Consort of Viols as well as the acclaimed baroque ensemble, Flying Forms, and also often collaborates with singers in programs around the country.

While finishing a master's degree in medieval church history at Yale University, she was on the teaching faculty of the Neighborhood Music School in New Haven, CT, and also founded and directed the Yale Temperament Consort. She has taught at the Amherst Early Music Memorial Day Weekend workshop and has led private ensemble workshops in Connecticut, New York and Massachusetts. She is currently the Vice President of the Viola da Gamba Society of America, and will be on the faculty of the VdGSA 2009 Conclave.

Read more about Marie Dalby on page five

DATE	COACH
November 15	Peter Hallifax
December 13	Marie Dalby
January 10, 2009	David Morris
March 14	Roy Whelden
April 11	Farley Pearce
May 9	Bill Skeen

For Sale

Ask Miss Fret-Knot: A guide to consort manners, by Prudence Fret-Knot and Lyle York, is available for \$14.95 plus shipping from Lazar Early Music: www.bill-lazar.com, jblazar.com, or (408) 734-4920.

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 Repair 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. Viols, used and new. Competitive prices, instruments sent on approval, personalized service and advice. **Bill Lazar**, (408) 734-4920.

Treble viol, unknown. Female carved head, antiqued to look like old instrument. 37 cm string length. New frets, Gamut strings, soft case. \$2250

Treble viol, Uebel, 1966. 36.7 cm string length. Carved rose and fingerboard. Some finish wear, but generally in good condition. Homemade hard case, new frets, Gamut strings. \$1600

Bass viol, Zuchowicz, 6-string English Consort, 1983. 68 cm string length, new Gamut strings, like-new condition, hard case. \$7500

Treble viol/Baroque violin bow, 51 gms, 64.1 cm stick, 53.2 cm free hair, clip-in frog, figured snakewood. \$600.

Tenor/Treble viol bow, Stephen Marvin, 59 gms, 71.2 cm stick, 57.2 cm free hair, highly figured snakewood, clip-in frog. \$1200.

Bass viol bow, William Salchow, 73 gms, 71.7 cm stick, 57.8 cm free hair, snakewood. \$1200

Pictures are available on www.bill-lazar.com. 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! To hear and play the Ruby, contact **Kirby Leong**, (510) 317-0834 or (510) 332-0834 (24-hour message); gambaguy@msn.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, 1266 East 34th St., Oakland, CA, 94610, or jmorrisett@gmail.com; (510) 534-3690.

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.

Membership

New Members

Gwyneth Davis

600 Snow Road
Sebastopol, CA 95472
(767) 823-7264
tkfarm@sonic.net

Polly Gibson

9500 Thornton Ave
Newark, CA
(503) 348-5368
gibsonpolly@gmail.com

Gordis Family

1118 Hopkins Street
Berkeley, CA 94702
(510) 524-4318
ibgordis@yahoo.com

Ted Savarese

714 Clearfield Drive
Millbrae, CA 94030
(650) 302-2172
(650) 692-7087
info@octomutt.com

Verlene Schermet

1568 Silvercrest Drive
San Jose, CA 95118
(408) 448-6685
verleneschmer@sbcglobal.net

Lucinda Weisbach

(408) 464-8441
lucinda@mac.com

Renewals

Dalton Cantey, Robin Easterbrook, Bill Lazar,
Kirby Leong, Joan Lounsbery, John Mark, Julie
Morrisett, Linda
Skory, Nelda
Smith, Helen
Tyrrell, Roy
Whelden



Mark Your Calendar

Wednesday, November 5

San Francisco Conservatory Baroque Ensemble, Corey Jamason and Elisabeth Reed, directors, present vocal music, with voices and viols, of Monteverdi, Caccini and Peri.

8:00 pm *Recital Hall, San Francisco Conservatory of Music, 50 Oak St., San Francisco. Free. www.sfcm.edu*

Friday, November 7

East Bay Chapter, ARS, monthly meeting. Frances Feldon, guest conductor. Viols welcome!

7:30 pm -10:00 pm, *Zion Lutheran Church, 5201 Park Blvd., Oakland. \$5 payable at the door for non-EBRS members. (510) 483-8675 or (415) 472-6367*

Saturday, November 8

Berkeley Baroque Band, an offshoot of Alice's Renaissance String Band, will present "Ground Round," a concert of vocal and instrumental music composed over repeating bass lines. Featuring works by Marini, Ortiz, Purcell, Buxtehude, J.C. Bach and others. Featuring guest artist David Wilson, baroque violin. Berkeley Baroque Band includes Christina Schiffner, soprano; Celeste Winant, mezzo-soprano; Paula White, baroque violin; Mary Elliott and Mary Prout, violas da gamba; Sally Blaker, baroque cello; Howard Kadis, theorbo; and Dawn Kooyumjian, harpsichord and organ.

8:00 pm *St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 1501 Washington Avenue, Albany. Donations accepted; suggested donation \$15. All proceeds will be donated toward the restoration of St. Alban's historic 1914 Hook & Hastings organ. Reception to follow concert.*

Wednesday, November 12

Mid-Peninsula Recorder Orchestra regular meeting for players of recorders, early winds, and early strings. Bring your music stand.

8:00-10:00 pm *Music Room number 060, J.L. Stanford Middle School, 480 East Meadow, Palo Alto. (650) 591-3648 or www.sfems.org/mpro*

Saturday, November 15

Pacific Collegium presents Louis-Nicolas Clerambault's *Miserere mei*, a North American premiere, as well as works by Marc-Antoine Charpentier, Andre Campra, and others. Pacific Collegium is directed by Christopher Kula, and includes Tonia D'Amelio, Jennifer Paulino, Celeste Winant, voices; Rebekah Ahrendt, viola da gamba; and Leon Chisholm, organ.

8:00 pm *St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church, 500 De Haro St., San Francisco. \$10-\$20. www.pacificcollegium.org*

Sunday, November 16

San Francisco Conservatory Baroque Ensemble, Corey Jamason and Elisabeth Reed, directors, present a program of German Baroque music, including Schein's *Banchiero Musicale*, with viols.

2:00 pm *Recital Hall, San Francisco Conservatory of Music, 50 Oak St., San Francisco. Free. www.sfcm.edu*

Pacific Collegium repeats program of November 15.

4:00 pm *St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 114 Montecito Avenue, Oakland. \$10-\$20. www.pacificcollegium.org*

Wednesday, November 19

Mid-Peninsula Recorder Orchestra regular meeting for players of recorders, early winds, and early strings. Bring your music stand.

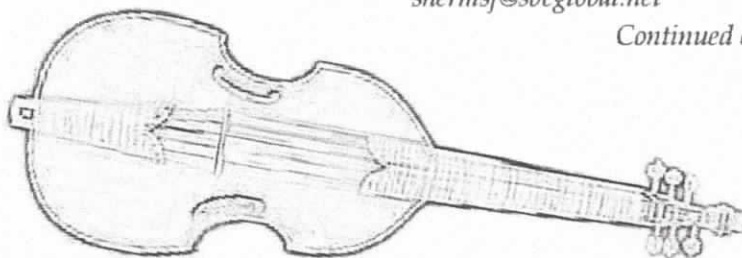
8:00-10:00 pm *Music Room number 060, J.L. Stanford Middle School, 480 East Meadow, Palo Alto. (650) 591-3648 or www.sfems.org/mpro*

Tuesday, December 2

Sacramento Recorder Society meeting. With Jerry Schwartz, guest conductor. Viols and other early instruments welcome! Bring a stand; refreshments and music provided.

6:45 - 9:15 pm, *Friends Meeting House, 890 57th St., between H and J, Sacramento. (916) 489-2771 or shermsj@sbcglobal.net*

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Prodigal Daughter Returns to Bay Area

Marie Dalby in Conversation with Joan Lounsbery

Marie Dalby and Joan Lounsbery

The Pacifica chapter welcomes Marie Dalby back to her home state of California. Marie has spent the last several years on the East Coast; in 2008, she received her MA in Religion and the Arts from Yale University. Marie is Vice President of the national VdGS. Chapter members who haven't met Marie will have the chance when she coaches Play Day on December 13.

Joan Lounsbery interviewed Marie recently. The following is excerpted from their conversation.

I was born in Chicago, then moved to Kensington when I was three and eventually my family moved to Berkeley. Currently, I live in El Cerrito. I come from a musical family. I was a cellist until I discovered the gamba. My sister is a cellist, my younger brother is a violinist and my dad is an excellent pianist. We three kids all went to the Crowden School. I attended grades 7 and 8 there, and my cello teacher was David Morris! My dad was Chairman of the Board of Crowden at one point.

At the beginning of my sophomore year at Yale, I thought about taking up the gamba. I had learned about it in a music history class at Crowden. I knew it was sort of a "renaissance-y" instrument. I was a Medieval music scholar and loved the music of that period. I inquired at the Yale Collection of Musical Instruments, and they sent me to the Neighborhood School in New Haven. Grace Feldman lent me a bass, and took me on as a student. I had lessons with Grace every other week, and I adapted very quickly, having played a bowed instrument.

The following summer I developed a tumor in the palm of my hand, and had hand surgery which kept me from playing either cello or gamba for nine months. I was a mess not playing, but started singing, and joined the Yale Collegium. I'm a low alto and my colleagues called me 'Low C Marie'! When I returned to the gamba, I started playing treble because it was easier on my healing hand. Playing the treble was the most fun thing ever, after all those years of playing a low instrument. I started playing in Grace's consorts. Grace is a brilliant teacher. She doesn't throw hard, solo music at you for a long time. You slowly build your technique, including getting a good sound out of the instrument, until you are solid enough to play the solo repertoire.

I went to my first Conclave in 2000, at Reed College. I had a quirky peanut-shaped bass and used a viola

bow because that's all I had at the time. I drove from home up to Reed, and that experience opened my eyes and ears to all the wonderful consort opportunities, especially playing all that great music late into the evening. I have been to every Conclave since, with the exception of 2001. Now that I am Vice President of VdGS, I have made a 12-year commitment to the organization: four years as Vice President; four years as President; four years as Past President.

After receiving my BA in Humanities at Yale I became a professional writer and editor, working in New York City. At the same time I started playing with Larry Lipnik and taking lessons from him. At this point I dropped the cello. I began playing professionally and joined VdGS-Greater New York. In 2003 I joined the NY Consort of Viols, replacing Ros Morley. The core members of the group are founder Judith Davidoff, Larry Lipnik and Lucy Bardo. I'm still a member of the group and hopefully can continue even though I now live on the West Coast.

At Yale I started a student consort called Yale Temperment. Eventually I taught at the Neighborhood School, and had fun starting an adult Renaissance Band called Adult Noyse. I have also taught at the Amherst Workshop.

In the summer of 2007, Wendy Gillespie, Brent Wis-sick, Ken Perlow, Liam Byrne and I formed the group American Seat (a play on Tobias Hume's A Merrie Conceite) to play at the Tacoma Conclave and then to travel to Hawaii to represent the United States at the first Pan Pacific Gamba Gathering in Hawaii. Liam arranged the Hume tune into a 5-part piece. We sat in a circle and, while playing, passed instruments to each other. It was probably the most fun I've ever had playing the instrument but, needless to say, it was tricky to choreograph.

For two years I have been Director of the Consort Co-op at Conclave. It is set up to encourage younger players. We had ten participants in Tacoma in 2007, and the number grew to 15 in Rindge in 2008. In all, there were over 30 younger players at Rindge this year. In 2000 there were eight. I think the growth in the number of younger players has to do with the Society focusing some of its resources on younger players. It helps that Chapters such as Pacifica are offering workshop scholarships (in 2008 Pacifica awarded scholarships to Jamie Jim to attend

Continued next page

Marie Dalby, cont'd

Viols West and to Lucas Chen and James Williamson to attend the SFEMS Baroque Workshop.) When younger people play, their word of mouth is gold. There will be a long weekend workshop outside of Boston in January, for younger players. This is a first for VdGS. Josh Lee is running it, and Josh, Wendy Gillespie and Sarah Mead are the faculty. All of these efforts toward younger players means that we will start to see new professional ensembles formed and they will be the voice of the future.

Music is a joy in my life and I want to play professionally, but it will not necessarily be my whole career. Life works best for me when I have a day job and then I play music. I'm currently free-lancing in the Bay Area as a writer, editor and project manager. I chose to move back here because my family is here, and because there is such a vibrant early music community here, with people who are really fun to be around and do projects with. It is rife with possibilities. There is a lot of history on the East Coast, but there is a lot of potential here in California. I'll be glad to be part of it all. ■

Mark Your Calendar

Continued from page four

Friday, December 5

East Bay Chapter, ARS, monthly meeting. Eileen Hadidian, guest conductor. Viols welcome!

7:30 pm -10:00 pm, Zion Lutheran Church, 5201 Park Blvd., Oakland. \$5 payable at the door for non-EBRS members. (510) 483-8675 or (415) 472-6367

Saturday, January 10

Trinity Chamber Concerts presents *Les Graces*, Jennifer Paulino, soprano; Annette Bauer, recorders; Rebekah Ahrendt, viola da gamba; and Jonathan Rhodes Lee, harpsichord.

8:00 pm, Trinity Chapel, 2320 Dana St., Berkeley. \$12/\$8. Wheelchair accessible. www.trinitychamberconcerts.com or (510) 549-3864

Friday, January 30, 2009

John Dornenburg, viola da gamba, and Yuko Tanaka, harpsichord, perform music by Marais, Sainte-Colombe, Abel and J. S. Bach. Presented by Numina Center for Spirituality & the Arts.

8:00 pm, Church of the Incarnation, 550 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa. Tickets available online at numinacenter.org or by phone at (707)579-3079

Chapter News

Submitted by the membership

Stanford Viol Workshop

The Stanford Viol Workshop will return for its second year on Saturday February 14, 2009, at the Braun Music Center at Stanford University. This one-day workshop is directed by John Dornenburg, who will be joined by instructors Elisabeth Reed, David Morris, and Julie Jeffrey. There will be three class sessions (two morning, one afternoon) on a wide variety of topics, followed by a concluding session for viol orchestra in the Rehearsal Hall. The workshop will begin at 9am and end at 4:30pm. Full class details and fees will be announced soon. Last year's workshop attracted 28 participants, and a good time was had by all!

Al Roper

It has been a couple of years since Al Roper, that stalwart gamba lover and player, has not been able to participate in our activities, as his mind has progressively betrayed him. Realizing the trend of his disease and his inability to continue playing, Al donated three recorders (one of which is already in the hands of a Junior Bach alumnus), his bass gamba (rented out to the SF Conservatory) and his entire library of music to our chapter.

Three boxes of music were given to the local chapter of the Recorder Society; some of it will be added to the Junior Recorder Society library and the rest will be sold at SFEMS workshop benefits. Three additional boxes of music were given to our chapter. Of these, 36 works were added to the Pacifica Chapter Library: 28 that were not in the library before, 4 that duplicate existing works and 4 that came in score form only. Obviously this is a significant and important addition to the Library. Finally, one box of viol music will be offered for sale to the membership at the end-of-the-year party and concert, with the proceeds to go to the chapter.

Perhaps the best way to appreciate this hugely generous gesture is to realize that Al's memory will live on as long as this chapter has members who will see his name on the music that they play during future play days and events.

End-of-Season Music and Potluck

June 6 has now been reserved at Zion Lutheran for the Love of Music & Food Potluck event, tentatively from noon to 5 pm.

This Month...

and Next Month

Saturday, November 15

Play day with
Peter Hallifax

Saturday, December 13

Play day with
Marie Dalby



Please contact John Mark
(mark_bach8@hotmail.com or 510-531-1471)
as soon as possible to let him know you will
attend. Newcomers and rank beginners are
always welcome.

Start Time 9:15 am

Sheet music, coffee, and tea supplied

Zion Lutheran Church
5201 Park Blvd., Oakland

Join VdGS-Pacifica or renew for 2008-2009

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

First and last name _____
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Penni (Pj) Savage, Treasurer
VdGS-Pacifica
436 Hudson Street
Oakland, CA 94618

_____ Playing Member (\$35): *Attend monthly consort meetings free; plus
receive a free subscription to Gamba News.*

_____ Two-person membership (\$45): *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 grow
our scholarship fund. May we acknowledge your donation in the newsletter?

Yes ☐ No ☐

_____ TOTAL ENCLOSED