

# GAMBA NEWS

Newsletter of the Viola da

Gamba Society, Pacifica Chapter

Volume 1, Number 3 May 1988

## May Chapter Meeting

Those attending our meeting held at Stanford University on May 21 seemed to have had an enjoyable day - if you did (or didn't), please send your comments to us. Twenty people attended, and were assigned to groups of from 4 to 6 players. Expert coaching was provided by Stanford residents **Patty Halverson** and **Roland Hutchinson**. **Lois Nisbet** and **Martha McGaughey** made the event possible, and Patty played an excellent mini-recital of pieces from her concert which was to take place the following day. She was joined by **Vera Kochanowsky** on the harpsichord. A special thank-you to all of the above, and to our music co-director, **Julie Jeffrey**, who hunted down consort music in the Cal Berkeley Library, and then had the thorny task of assembling consorts based only on the available instruments checked by you on your return cards. In future we need to know your playing skills, for everyone's benefit. We are therefore reprinting the self-rating guide which appeared in the VdGSA News of June 1987. We urge you to determine your playing level by an honest application of this questionnaire, and to include your level on the enclosed reply card. This will make our co-director's job much easier when arranging groups for our...

## Next Chapter Meeting

Our next meeting will be held from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Saturday June 18, at Hayward Christian Reformed Church, 25927 Kay Avenue, Hayward - see map. Thanks to **Margriet** and **Todd Wetherwax** for making this possible. Please send in the enclosed return card as soon you can.

## July Workshop

**Judy Davidoff** will give this workshop on Saturday, July 16, at the Hayward Christian Reformed Church. Thanks again, Margriet and Todd! Registration and tuning will begin at 10:30 am. The rest of the time will be scheduled as follows:

11:00 - 12:30	Small ensembles	11 - 1
12:30 - 1:30	Lunch break	1 - 2
1:30 - 3:30	Small ensembles	2 - 3:30
3:30 - 5:30	Large group playing	4 - 5:30 <i>Charpentier</i>

Existing ensembles can participate as such. The fee for this workshop will be \$25. Please send the enclosed reply card, together with a check for this amount, (made payable to Lois Nisbet), to Julie Jeffrey, who needs the instrument and rating information to arrange the groups. Judy plans to bring unusual Italian and Spanish music for viols, as well as a dance suite by Charpentier for large ensemble. If you need advance copies of these pieces, please add \$2 to your check (\$27 total) to pay for copying and postage. Further information on the workshop: call Lee McRae at 415-848-5591. Please disregard the term 'masterclass' on the return cards - this is a *Workshop!*

## Lost and Found Department

A plea from the Secretary for the correct, *current* address of these members, whose newsletters were returned by the Post Office:

Robin Chaffe and Richard King - as well as any other potential member who would like to receive this newsletter. Send to Peter Ballinger, 963 Peralta, Albany 94706, or call him at 415-526-0722.

## Self-Rating Guide (VdGSA)

Read the entire list carefully, then circle the numbers of descriptions which apply to you (don't cheat!). The category where you have the most circles is your level.

### Lower Intermediate (L.I.)

1. Fewer than 3 years playing viol (unless already proficient on another stringed instrument and/or studying regularly).
2. Need help with rhythm - get lost easily, can't play with a metronome.
3. Need more experience sight-reading in an unpressured situation.
4. Need help in tuning and adjusting intonation.
5. Play one or two sizes of viols but need experience on one of them.
6. Read one or two clefs.
7. Can manage andante tempi but "go to pieces" in an allegro.

Typical literature: Leetherland Pavan (JACOBEAN CONSORT MUSIC [JCM], p. 153) at quarter-note = 60.

### Middle Intermediate (M.I.)

1. Can hold down a part without getting lost.
2. Can tune reasonably quickly with minimum of help.
3. Fluent in two clefs on one size of viol.
4. Ability to "get around" instrument in first position at moderately fast tempi.
5. Some ability to shape phrases musically.
6. Practicing regularly.
7. Some performing experience in a group situation.

Typical literature: Wilbye Fantasia (JCM p. 141) at quarter-note = 84.

### Upper Intermediate (U.I.)

1. Reasonably strong in rhythm and sight-reading so as not to get lost or throw off other players.
2. Ability to tune instrument and hear pitch discrepancies, and adjust accordingly.
3. Fluent in two clefs and willing to learn a third, on one or two instruments.
4. Ability to "get around" instrument in various positions at moderate allegro tempi.
5. Ability to control bow so as to shape phrases and obtain musical nuances.
6. Obtaining some private instruction during the year or at least practicing regularly.

7. Experience in performing in an ensemble.

Typical literature: Phillips Passamezzo Pavan (JCM p.155) at quarter-note = 63.

### Advanced (Adv.)

1. Soloistic capabilities and/or experience.
2. Very strong sight-reader with strong rhythmic sense (ability to read difficult rhythms).
3. Very good intonation and ensemble feeling; ability to adjust intonation to other members of the group and to compensate if another player misses a beat.
4. Good sound and concept of musical phrasing; good rhythmic articulation.
5. Fluent on main instrument in allegro tempi and in three to five clefs.
6. Ability to play two or three sizes of viols and have instruments which blend well in a consort.
7. Have knowledge of various styles of music, ability to ornament, octavate, play chords and do some improvising.

Typical literature: Ward In Nomine (JCM p. 148) at quarter-note = 69.

## Regional Coordinator

Following is a biography of another of our officers *pro tem*, **Luciana Lombardi** (Monterey Bay coordinator):

*Luciana has performed in, organized and led viol consorts and mixed ensembles, and given solo recitals in California (Davis, San Francisco and Santa Cruz) and in Indiana since 1974. She taught at UCSC for three years and has been a leading participant in the Santa Cruz Baroque Festival and the Antiquarian Funk since 1976. She studied with John Hsu, Wieland Kuijken and Peggy Sampson, among others. She participated in the first Seasoned Players Program at the 1987 Conclave, and looks forward to working with our new Pacifica Chapter. She often features "Music for a Viol" on her radio program (KUSP-89 FM).*

**For Sale:** Bass Viol made by F. Uppmann (Celle, Germany, 1963) with Maurice Vincent Bow and canvas case - \$3000. Betty Nichols 415-998-5335 (Rate for ads: \$5 for 25 words maximum. Send copy to Peter Ballinger - address on previous page).