

GAMBA NEWS

Newsletter of the Viola da

Gamba Society, Pacifica Chapter

Volume 1, Number 4 September 1988

After a summer breather, we are back with our fourth issue. Our readership has increased to about 110, with the addition of a few new Pacifica area players, as well as all of the Chapter Representatives of the VdGSA. We hope you will participate in the coming season's activities, and tell us your news and views. Because of the expense of publication and distribution of the Newsletter, we want to be sure that it is not just another piece of junk mail to be discarded unread. Unless you tell us, on the enclosed reply card, that you do want to continue receiving it, this issue of **Gamba News** will be your last. Your name will remain on the Pacifica Chapter list, but the computer will pass it by when it prints the address labels!

October Chapter Meeting

Our first meeting of the new season will be held from 10:00 *am* to 4:00 *pm*, Saturday October 1, at Hayward Christian Reformed Church, 25927 Kay Avenue, Hayward. Please tell us if you are coming when you return, promptly, the enclosed reply card. The information you provide will help in scheduling the small group ensembles. There were some requests for an additional chance to play the dance suite by Charpentier that was introduced to us at the Davidoff workshop in July, so please bring your copies of that piece with you.

How to get there: *Coming from either San Mateo Bridge, 580 or 880 (Nimitz) on Highway 92, turn north onto Hesperian Blvd., which is west of the Nimitz. Turn right on Cathy Way, right at Calaroga Avenue and left on Kay Avenue. The church is on Kay at Calaroga.*

For Sale: Bass Viol made by F. Uppmann (Celle, Germany, 1963) with Maurice Vincent Bow and canvas case - \$3000. Betty Nichols 415-798-5335 (Rate for ads: \$5 for 25 words maximum. Send copy to Peter Ballinger - address on envelope).

VdGSA Conclave

Northern California was well represented at the Conclave, held at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. Gambists included Tracy Achtman, Ralph Ashmead, Anita Axford, Peter Ballinger, Hilde Binford-Walsh, Carolyn Coolidge, Glenna Houle, Julie Jeffrey, Sue Kimber, Luciana Lombardi, Mark Makabe, John Mark, Lee McRae, Corliss and Herb Myers, Betty Nichols, Lois Nisbet, Paul Ponto, Al Roper, Mary Lois Rundles, Joel Schaefer, Natali Sera, Gustavo Valadez-Ortiz together with Conclave Instructors Margaret Panofsky, Martha McGaughey and Roland Hutchinson. (The latter two are now resident in the East). We also were represented by Lee McRae at the VdGSA Board meeting which heard reports from chapter and regional representatives. It appears that we have already accomplished a great deal with a large mailing list, two workshops and good attendance at our meetings. Some chapters no longer hold meetings — just workshops. In Australia and Texas, gambists have to fly at considerable expense to get to meetings. The New England Chapter has promoted the most activities of an educational nature — lectures, workshops, meetings devoted to specific themes or composers, for example.

Proposed Committees

At the September planning meeting the president *pro tem* recommended that we create a number of committees which could facilitate the running of our Chapter. Most important at this stage is the By-laws Committee of which Lois Nisbet, Jane Johnson, Barbara Barclay and Luciana Lombardi are members. They will present their ideas at the November Chapter Meeting. Among other things, they will define the role of officers and the functions assigned to committees. Suggested committee titles at this point are: **Arrangements** — to include researching

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sites for chapter meetings, weekend retreats, North-North Meet etc: **Workshop; Regional Representatives; Education** (see description below). Ideas and volunteers welcome!

Education Committee

We have all commented on the fact that there are few young people playing the viol. Lee McRae has proposed that our Chapter take an active role in developing a program for children through an Education Committee which will be made up of interested members. Please volunteer!

The Elementary-Secondary Education Committee for Early Music America was started at her suggestion. It is headed by Dr. Craig Kridel, specialist in curriculum development at the University of South Carolina. Members include leaders in the VdGSA such as Judith Davidoff, Laurie Castellano and Martha Bishop. While at the VdGSA Conclave in August Lee met with Laurie, Martha, Margriet Tindemans and others to discuss how education in early music awareness through learning the viol could get started in public and private schools and even through Chapter efforts. The latest news is that Gordon Sandford, newly elected president, has appointed an Education Committee for the VdGSA. Laurie Castellano, whom some of us found to be an excellent Conclave instructor, and who teaches strings in the Amherst, Massachusetts public schools, will be developing a "pedagogy for teachers" of young people.

Meanwhile, if you are a teacher of music, classroom teacher, performer, instrument maker or public school administrator eager to incorporate early music instruments/history, ideas and skills in teaching students at this level, please call Lee at 848-5591. For example, Ralph Prince is making available a treble and a small bass viol originally owned by the late Fr. Hopkins for this project.

Election of Officers

The *pro tem* committee of your Chapter is calling for an election, to be completed by mail, before the November Chapter

meeting, which will probably be held on November 12. Officers to be elected, for one year terms, are: President, Treasurer, Secretary and one or more Music Co-directors. Although we do not have a Vice-President *pro tem* it is proposed that one be elected. In addition to deputizing for the president, the Vice-President would be the Program Chairperson, responsible for coordinating chapter meetings and workshops. More about this at the October meeting. Meanwhile, please write in your proposed nominee(s) on the return card, but do so *only* if you have obtained the consent of the person(s) you nominate.

Conclave Highlights

There has been little time to plan the contents of this newsletter, but we hope that readers will take the time to send us accounts of classes, concerts, lectures etc. that they have enjoyed this summer, and wish to pass on to others in subsequent issues of *Gamba News*. Among the classes at the Conclave, the annual *Contemporary Music for Viol* class was of particular interest in that it worked on pieces by four composers, all of whom were present at the Conclave as instructors or students. Pieces by three of them were played in the Contemporary Viol Music concert. One of the movements of one piece was played by the Kambe Consort, a group of five Japanese gambists of impeccable musicality and superb viol technique, who also performed at other times during the Conclave, to everyone's delight and envy.

Forthcoming Concert

On Saturday, September 24 at 8:00 *pm* the San Francisco Consort (Judy Frankel, Julie Jeffrey, Lee McRae and Todd Wetherwax) will give a concert entitled "A Musical Bouquet — Flowers of the Renaissance" at the Berkeley Arts Center, 1275 Walnut Street at Live Oak Park. Admission \$8:00. Call 848-5591 for information. Compositions by Isaac, Josquin, Senfl, Arcadelt and others will be performed by voices, viols, recorders and krummhorns.

(Please send us your concert announcements for inclusion in future newsletters - PRB)