

GAMBA NEWS

Newsletter of the Pacifica Chapter
of the Viola da Gamba Society of America
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Our March 6 meeting will be held at Zion Lutheran Church, 5201 Park Boulevard, Oakland, at 9:30 AM. The church is just downhill from Highway 13.

Please bring a music stand; coffee, John Mark's "al fresco" nondairy creamer (as used by the great French Impressionists) and music will be provided. Pre-formed groups are encouraged to attend; for all others, consort groupings will be provided based on the information supplied on the return postcards.



Harpsichordist Phebe Craig, who teaches at the University of California at Davis, will be taking Carol Herman's place as a coach at the upcoming North-South Viol Meet in Fresno. Originally from Colorado, Phebe has appeared as a soloist and chamber musician throughout the United States. She has specialized in continuo realization and is a member of the Arcangeli Baroque Strings. She has appeared with the American Bach Soloists, at the Carmel Bach Festival, the Regensburg Tage Alter Musik, and the Berkeley Early Music Festival. She can be heard on recordings of a wide variety of music, both chamber and orchestral music, and is producing a series of play-along CDs on the KATastropHE label. Phebe is a popular teacher in the San Francisco Bay Area and is co-director of the San Francisco Early Music Society's Renaissance Workshop.

We assure our readers that Carol Herman's decision was not made because she doesn't like them. We offer the following letter as proof:

To my many Pacifica friends:

I definitely planned to be with you in Fresno, but my dramatic life has intervened at a most inopportune time. That very

weekend I am joining 13 cast members from ages six to 80, opening in a musical revue called A Dream Is a Wish Your Heart Makes.

If that sounds vaguely Disney-esque it's because it is! Under the auspices of the Disney Special Events Committee, this promotional family-type show plays for many weekends at various venues in the Los Angeles/South Bay area during the next few months.

Picture three fairy godmothers moving the action along in a loosely organized presentation of Disney songs from various shows, "working" the audience while sprinkling fairy dust, and trying to stay upright in the dance routines. Picture me attempting to learn music from only word sheets and tapes, trying desperately to slide around notes, land off beats, add twiddly descants, and generally unlearn approximately 50 years of dedicated note reading. Also picture me in my "generic Snow White-ish" costume and character shoes, trying to translate "give me those Disney arms," or remember which foot goes front first in the Charleston.

So on Fresno weekend, instead of hammering home to you the virtues of rhythmic stability, my voice will be moving up, down, and around whatever pitch might—or might not be—needed, and I shall probably never once be even vaguely rhythmic! But hey, that's show biz, as they say, and boy, can I ever sprinkle fairy dust!!

Carol Herman, AKA F.G.#3



The initial results of our informal survey of current and lapsed members are in. Various respondents of all skill levels have requested that con-

sorts at our meetings be more accurately grouped according to musical skill and reading ability, and that consorts have designated leaders. Several respondents of varied skill levels have also expressed a dislike of participating in large ensembles of unevenly matched players. There were also many requests for more active coaching, and more guest coaching, many having considered the guest appearance of Mary Springfels last month a great success.

Individual respondents also proffered the following suggestions: that a second coach be hired for lower-level groups; that upper-level members establish a "mentoring" program for lower-level players; that consorts at meetings be obliged to work on the pieces they choose and not just "chew through" several pieces in a row; that there be greater variety of consort sizes at meetings; that there be more "theme" sessions; and that music for meetings be available to members in advance, on request.

Finally, we received from a member a response in limerick form to our query about "pre-formed groups," the first line of which has been altered to conceal the respondent's identity (editorial glosses are in square brackets):

There [...] was a fellow [just who, we can't say],
Who pre-formed with his member each day.
When approached with a query,
He said, "Listen, dearie,
It's simple: the thing is the play!"

We eagerly solicit your responses to these suggestions. Please respond by mail, or by e-mail to <darv@sfo.com>. Please remember that we may well make good on our threat to publish any member submissions.



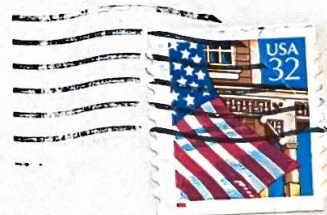
If you would like change, run for office! Elections to the Pacifica board (president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary, and members-at-large) will be held in June. Use the reply cards in this month's newsletter to make nominations, but you must first have the approval of the nominee before the name is put on the ballot.



John Dornenburg has confirmed that our meeting with him at Stanford will be on May 2. That evening, he will be playing there in Purcell's opera *Dido and Aeneas*, and says that if 10 or more people would like to go, he could possibly get them a group discount. Please let us know on Mar. 6 if you would be interested.



Phebe Craig will conduct a SFEMS Collegium evening of the music of Heinrich Schütz on Mar. 25 at 7:30 at St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Albany. Collegium evenings are community early-music making events open to all early instrumentalists. The music is available for practice, by telephone request, two weeks prior. For advance reservations, call (510) 527-9029.



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