

# Gamba NEWS

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November

## Pagan viols among the Amish

### Sex Chordæ consort tours Pennsylvania

On the weekend of October 23-25, Sex Chordæ Consort of Viols (Director, John Dornenburg, with Julie Jeffrey, Farley Pearce, David Morris, and soprano Susan Rode Morris) flew to Lancaster, Pa. — the urban hub of Pennsylvania Dutch country — for a concert on the Sound Horizons Series at Franklin and Marshall College. Concert coordinator Sharon Taggart made us feel welcome, arranging comfortable accommodations at the Brunswick Hotel, a roomy van, lunch at the faculty club, and complimentary tickets to a performance by Bill Cosby (the other top-billed event that weekend).

Musical activities began on Friday with a lecture/demo and coaching session hosted by Music faculty member (late of Berkeley) Simon Andrews. The consort gave the audience a brief introduction to viols and their music, after which three Franklin and Marshall music students played Bach and Handel on modern strings. Coaches Dornenburg and Morris gave tips on baroque style and interpretation, in one case even letting a young violinist try a treble viol bow, to immediate and revelatory effect.

But life was not all business in Lancaster. The consort was afforded ample free time to take in the sights and cuisine of the local scene. We enjoyed fried oyster sandwiches, crab cakes and



*Sex Chordæ enjoying Intercourse, Pa.*

Red Rose Ale at the Lancaster Malt Brewery; David rescued a fragrant quince from the compost wagon at the Landis Historical Farm and Museum; Simon Andrews (with energetic toddler Cameron in tow) treated us to shoofly pie at the aptly named Red Caboose Motel (where every

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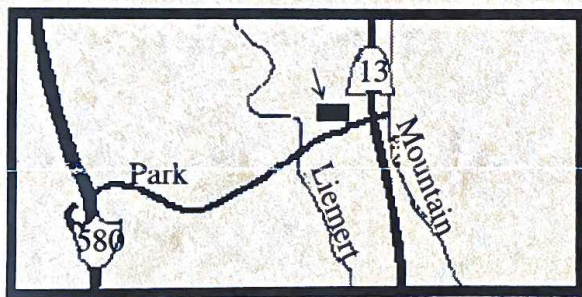
room was, indeed, an actual caboose); the consort was offered (and politely turned down) samples at the local scrapple museum, a.k.a. The Lancaster Public Market. Unfortunately, we were unable to fit in a stop at The House of Chipped Beef on Highway 30, but we did catch a glimpse of Amish and Mennonite life during a drive through the scenic towns of Bird-in-Hand, Blue Ball, Paradise and Intercourse.

Our concert of English music from Byrd to Purcell drew an appreciative audience and capped off a fun-filled weekend for all. Convinced that we could be as successful in the outlying districts as we were in the city, Sex Chordæ hopes to be engaged in Intercourse on our next tour through Amish country.

—Julie Jeffrey and David Morris

## Date of December meeting changed

Our November 14 meeting will be held at Zion Lutheran Church, 5201 Park Blvd., Oakland, at 9:30 AM. The church is just downhill from Highway 13. Please consult the



sketch map. Please bring a music stand; coffee, music and consort groupings (by request) are available, the latter based on the information you send on your reply postcards. Our consort coach will again be David Morris.

The date of our December meeting has been changed to December 5, the first Saturday in the month. Just how little your editor will be able to scrape together for the next *Gamba News* given so little time, he prefers not yet to ponder.

## No theme but go fun in Albuquerque

About 20 viol players met in Albuquerque on October 2, 3 and 4 for a workshop organised by Julie Jeffrey as "How to Play Up, Down and Sideways." This kind of workshop hints that no one had quite decided on a theme, but since the teachers were the incomparable Julie and Margriet Tindemans, people signed up eagerly anyway.

Albuquerque players have been running fall workshops for about 10 years; for the last two, the workshops have been organized and hosted by Linda Shortridge. This year's event was co-organized by Mary Bruesch, who plays a fine seven-string bass. Linda and John Shortridge's house, at the foot of Sandia Mountain, includes generous playing spaces and a workshop in which they build harpsichords, viols and bows. John, former curator of early instruments at the Smithsonian Institution, has been working for years on a Baroque chamber organ, a faithful reproduction of the original down to its faux marble and trompe l'oeil detailing.

We enjoyed official consort coaching; plenty of extracurricular playing; a concert by Margriet, Julie, Mary and other local players; playing Marais, Locke, Buxtehude, Telemann; relaxation exercises by Julie; master classes by Margriet. Each morning also produced the sight of thousands of passenger balloons, since our meeting coincided with Albuquerque's annual Balloon Festival.

—Lyle York



## Directory of Local Viol Teachers

### San Francisco

Pearce, Farley ..... 415-750-1536

### South Bay

Blackman, Martha ..... 650-493-0243

Dornenburg, John\* ..... 510-530-3202

Miloradovitch, Hazelle\* ... 650-854-3818

*\*VdGS/Pacifica Members*

### Santa Cruz

Lombardi, Luciana\* ..... 408-476-1131

### East Bay

Kammen, Shira ..... 510-524-7952

Brodo, Amy\* ..... 510-482-3470

Dornenburg, John\* ..... 510-530-3202

Morris, David ..... 510-658-3382

Tetenbaum, Lynn\* ..... 510-271-8041

Jeffrey, Julie\* ..... 510-237-8579

## Advertisements, Concert Listings, and Contributions

*Ads may be placed in Gamba News on the following reasonable terms: \$5 per ad, to be printed either as plain text or as a graphic no larger than a standard business card. All graphics must be sent ready to print as GIF, JPEG or Mac-compatible EPS files. Checks should be made out to VdGS/Pacifica. Ads advertising viols for rent, placed by individuals, are free. Member contributions are also welcome.*

*Please send us your concert listings. Any concert featuring any viol, no matter how small or how submerged the viol may be, is eligible.*

Gamba News, c/o Iberien, 381 Belmont St. #202, Oakland, CA 94610-4807 • <darv@sfo.com>

## Schedule Meetings

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-Dornenburg

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## Event Calendar

The Southern Arizona Society for Early Instruments presents the "First Annual Tucson International Early-Music Workshop: History and Performance," Feb. 19-21, Oro Valley, Ariz.

Instructors include

Alison Crum, bowed strings and Roy Marks, recorder, viol. For more information, contact Dr. Charles J. Warner, 12645 N. Pioneer Way, Oro Valley, AZ 85737, tel. (520) 498-1840, e-mail <jswarner@theriver.com>.

Gambist Mary Springfels, violinist David Douglass and player-of-anything-with-strings-

and-a-bow Margriet Tindemans and will lead a one-day workshop on the music of Anthony Holbourne, Saturday, January 16, 1999, in Seattle. The fee is \$65; the registration deadline is December 31, 1998. For more information, call the Early Music Guild at the Northwest Center for Early Music Studies at (206) 325-7066.

Ensemble Sans Souci reprises its "4 Seasons for 3" concert (*The Four Seasons* of Antonio Vivaldi (1725)) arranged for concertato (solo) harpsichord with baroque flute and viola da gamba, for the Manteca Kindred Arts concert series. Saturday, January 30, 1999, 7:30 PM East Union High School Drama Building, 1700 N. Union Rd., Manteca, CA



*As the holiday season approaches, give a thought to your local viol society, struggling to keep amateur viol-playing alive in the Bay Area.*

**Then consider giving us  
a little extra financial support.**

The Pacifica Chapter of the VdGSA would appreciate any donation toward such efforts as the hiring of a variety of coaches, including those from out of town, for workshops; the purchasing of at least one new student viol for the viol rental program (we still have no traditional basses or tenors); and a school viol-consort program.

Because of our new affiliation with SFEMS, all donations to Pacifica are now tax-deductible. Donations should be made payable to the San Francisco Early Music Society, with "For VdGS/Pacifica" written on the check. SFEMS address is P.O. Box 10151 Berkeley, CA 94709. If any of our members have any fundraising or grant-writing experience, please contact us at hesuome@pacbell.net.

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