
SPECIAL PULLOUT INSIDE: A guide to the viol life

Gamba NEWS

Volume 12, Number 4

December 1999

Generous donation triples Pacifica's playing library

VdGS/Pacifica president earns new title: Angel

Music publisher **Peter Ballinger**, our chapter president, recently donated to the Pacifica playing collection a huge selection of his PRB publications for viol consorts of four or more.

The gift includes several complete collections, notably five- and six-part works by Dering and the six-part works by Symmes, both good for intermediate players. A delighted **John Mark**, Pacifica's acting librarian, says there are some works for every playing level. John is particularly pleased to see Bach's *Art of Fugue* added to the collection.

This gift essentially triples the size of Pacifica's library. All present and future playing members are in Peter's debt.

Peter and his wife, **Leslie Gold**, are hard at work on three more publications players can look forward to next year. Leslie's project is the complete six-part *Seven Fantasias and Almains* by Martin Peerson, edited by Virginia Brooks, which Peter describes as "a bit like Dering in difficulty level--good for intermediate players, not as difficult as Gibbons, for example." Peter is working on the complete five-part madrigals by Gibbons

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Dec. 4, 1999:	Coach Julie Jeffrey.
Jan. 8, 2000:	Coach Lynn Tetenbaum.
Feb. 12, 2000:	Coach John Dornenburg at Stanford.
March 11, 2000:	Coach (tentatively) Amy Brodo.
April 28-30, 2000:	Fresno Meet.
May 13, 2000:	Coach Lynn Tetenbaum.

for voices and viols, and on the complete five-part *Book Three of Madrigals* by Monteverdi for voices and viols.

Julie Jeffrey will coach December 4

Our beloved co-founder and former Pacifica president **Julie Jeffrey**, who has been missing in action from Pacifica play days for entirely too long, will return to coach the upcoming play day December 4 at Zion Lutheran Church, 5201 Park Blvd., Oakland, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Uncoached groups will play after lunch until 4 p.m.

If you're coming for the first time on December 4, please send in the enclosed reply card and phone **Lyle York** in advance, (510) 559-9273, to help us plan the playing groups. Beginners are extremely welcome!

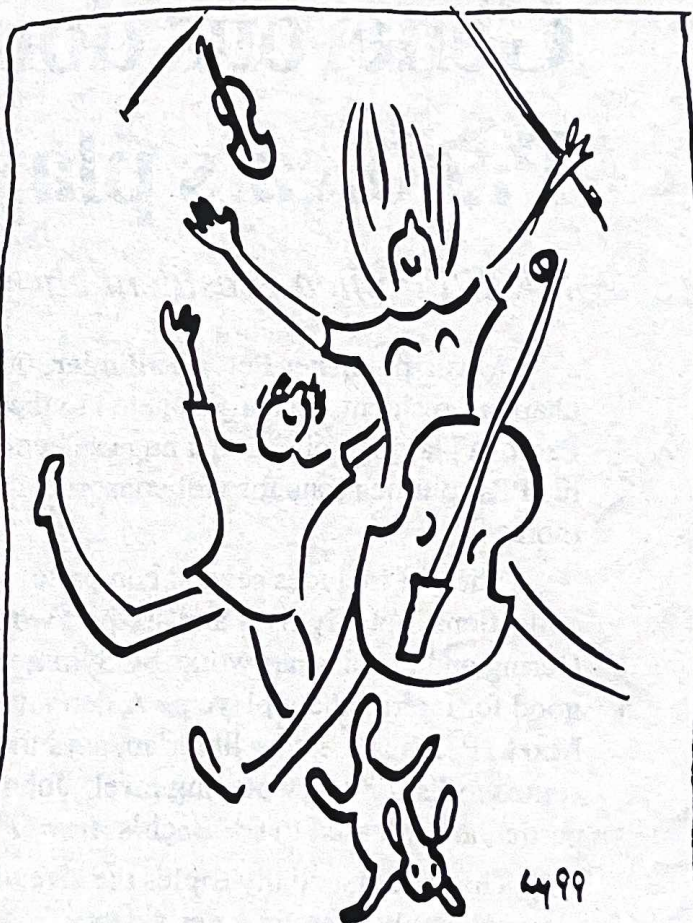
The church is just west of Highway 13 in Oakland. Exit at Park Blvd. and go west on Park. The church is about 1/4 mile down the hill on your right. Please bring a music stand. Coffee, conversation and announcements will start at 9:30 a.m., playing at 10 a.m.

One last thing

We thank **David Dreyfuss**, editor of the *VdGSA News*, for his advice on protecting your viol from Y2K problems.

"Suppliers of strings, tuning forks, rosin and bows have all given us assurances of continuous availability.

"We recommend, however, that you do not plan to have a bow in the air on New Year's Eve."



THE RAPTURE

MIDNIGHT, DECEMBER 31, 1999

A couple of viol players had their bows in the air.
Suddenly came the sound of angels singing,
a blinding light, and a tremendous updraft.

They were never seen again.
Nor their little dog, either.

CLIP 'N' SAVE GUIDE TO BAY AREA VIOL PLAY

Viols, bows, music, teachers, fear of flying

Beginners want to know where to rent a viol or buy an inexpensive viol and bow, where to find method books and music, and how to find a teacher. And all viol players, at every level, want to know how the heck to get a viol into the cabin with you on a plane.

Some of the information below is purely factual; some is a matter of opinion. No endorsement by VdGS/Pacifica is implied by these listings. They are an ongoing project, never comprehensive, always improved by readers' feedback. Please send additions, complaints and ideas for future listings to newsletter editor **Oliver Iberien**, 1733 4th Avenue, Oakland 94606, (510) 663-1465, darv@sfo.com. (This December edition was produced by **Lyle York**, (510) 559-9273, ly@sfgate.com, so blame her for any mistakes in this issue.)

Finding a Local Teacher

Albany:	Shira Kammen	(510) 524-7952
Oakland:	Amy Brodo	(510) 482-3470
	John Dornenburg	(510) 530-3202
	David Morris	(510) 658-3382
	Lynn Tetenbaum	(510) 271-8041
Richmond:	Julie Jeffrey	(510) 237-8579
San Francisco:	Farley Pearce	(415) 750-1536
South Bay:	Martha Blackman	(650) 493-0243
	John Dornenburg at Stanford	(510) 530-3202
	Hazelle Miloradovitch	(650) 854-3818
Santa Cruz:	Luciana Lombardi	(408) 476-1131

Renting a Learner's Viol

Members of VdGS/Pacifica (\$25 annual individual dues) can rent an adequate viol from the chapter's rental collection for \$10-\$25 per month. Contact **Lyle York**, (510) 559-9273, ly@sfgate.com.

Members of VdGSA (the national viol organization of which Pacifica is a chapter) can rent a viol. For availability and rates, contact **Stephen Morris**, 2615 Tanglewood Road, Decatur, GA 30033; (404) 525-2709.

Buying an Inexpensive Viol

Some makers of instruments in the \$1,000 range:

Joe Baker	Box 332, Monterey, MA 02145	(413) 528-9385
Chris Davies	136 International Blvd., Oakland, CA 94606	(510) 465-5685
Daniel Foster	707 Harding Ave., Blacksburg, VA	(540) 961-6326
Neil Hendricks	1920 Wilder St., Reno, NV 89512	(702) 329-1905
Charles Ogle	2540 Woodland Dr., Eugene, OR 97401	
Linda Shortridge	725-1 Tramway Lane NE, Albuquerque, NM 87122	(505) 822-1311

Machine-made viols by the Ceske company of the Czech Republic may be available, now or soon, from the Early Music Shop in Bradford, England (sales@e-m-s.com), and at some U.S. outlets. Until we can offer further information, try contacting Charles Ogle (above), The Boulder Early Music Shop or the Von Huene Workshop (below).

Sources for used viols:

- VdGS/Pacifica web site: home.pacbell.net/hesuome
- VdGSA web site: www.enteract.com/~vdgsa
- Early Music Shop UK: www.e-m-s.com
- Boulder Early Music Shop: (303) 449-9231 www.bems.com
- San Francisco Early Music Society web site: www.sfems.org

Buying an Inexpensive Bow

Jim Davis	18160 Bayview Dr., Los Gatos, CA 95030	(408) 353-2672
Neil Hendricks	1920 Wilder St., Reno, NV 89512	(702) 329-1905
Boulder Early Music Shop		www.bems.com

Strings

Damien Dlugolecki	520 SE 40th St., Troutdale, OR 97060	(503) 665-2738
Ifshin Violins	1633 University Ave., Berkeley, CA	(510) 843-5466
Discount String Center		(800) 348-5003
(A catalog for music stands, tuners, rosin, strings, etc. Low prices.)		
Boston Catlines		(617) 776-8688

Bow Rehairing

Joan Balter	1729 Beverly Place, Berkeley, CA 94707	(510) 524-4333
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Repairs

- **Herb Myers**, Menlo Park, "can fix any viol that can be fixed," according to newsletter editor **Oliver Iberien**. "Reasonable prices, deeply knowledgeable." (650) 854-1447.
- **Roland Feller**, Violinmaker: Very good for bow rehairing and simple viol repairs. 551 Divisadero St. between Fell and Hayes, San Francisco. (415) 567-3708.

Sheet Music Sources

- **Boulder Early Music Shop**, 3200 Valmont Road, Suite #7, Boulder, CO 80301. (303) 449-9231. www.bems.com.
- **PRB Productions**, 963 Peralta Ave., Albany, CA 94706, (510) 526-0722, prbprdns@aol.com
- **The von Huene Workshop**, 59-65 Boylston St., Brookline, MA 02146, (617) 277-8690, www.vonhuene.com.
- **The Early Music Shop UK**: www.e-m-s.com. Good for hard-to-find European editions, cheap hard cases.

Organizations and Web Pages

- **Viola da Gamba Society of America**, membership: **Ken Perlow**, 131 Humphrey, Oak Park, IL 60302, (708) 383-4608. www.enteract.com/~vdgsa.. A great newsletter and a membership directory with which you can find someone to play with almost wherever you travel.
- **VdGSA/Pacifica Chapter**, your Bay Area chapter of the above. Membership: \$25 individual, \$35 household, \$10 newsletter only. Newsletter, workshops, coached play days. Contact **John Mark**, 10 Holyrood Manor, Oakland, CA 94611. (510) 531-1471.
- **San Francisco Early Music Society**, P.O. Box 10151, Berkeley, CA 94709. (510) 528-1725. sfems@sfems.org. www.sfems.org.
- **Early Music America**: Publishes a lively magazine, including a master list of all summer workshops in the U.S. and abroad. (216) 229-1685, EMAoffice@aol.com; www.earlymusic.org.

Airplane Tips

Some purely anecdotal advice (I have tried these ploys myself or heard that someone else successfully tried them):

Pack your viol in preparation for the worst--it might be taken away from you and flung onto a baggage carousel, perhaps landing upside down. Use the strongest case you can find. Lower the strings a bit but not so much that the bridge could fall. Secure the neck with cord and

pack small cloth items around the pegs, neck, and bridge, and under the tailpiece. Bits of foam or your underwear work equally well. Secure the bow with twist ties so it doesn't fall on the viol, and protect the top of the viol further with a piece of foam or more socks. Since airline cabins and baggage holds are terribly dry, include a Dampit or sponge inside a plastic bag. Pack extra padding around the instrument so that the viol cannot move inside its case and, most important, support both sides of the bridge. Lock and/or tape the case.

Aim first to get the viol on the plane with you in the passenger cabin.

If you have a treble or tenor, hold your viol unobtrusively at your side and don't mention it to the airline staff ahead of time. Just walk on as if you had every right to be carrying this long thing. You may have good luck boarding with it if the plane is not full. Try to be one of the first passengers to board, for the obvious reason that you must find overhead bin space for your viol. Overhead bins are especially large on 757s.

If you have a bass, all bets are off, and you will do well to assume the air of a famous soloist on his or her way to a concert that very evening, carrying an irreplaceable instrument that if damaged would break the hearts of ticketholders from around the world.

If all these tactics fail and you are stopped at the boarding point, this is ideal, for if you have gotten this far you can be sure your instrument will be hand-carried to the baggage compartment. If you're lucky it will be the last item loaded and the first item unloaded, also hand-carried at your destination. At the moment of relinquishing the viol, slap a huge sticker on it that says "HAND CARRY." The reason it is not advisable to put this sticker on earlier, advises **John Dornenburg**, is that "the airline will think it can get away with checking your viol," and your every aim is to avoid checking your viol until the last minute and until all your pleas have failed.

When retrieving your checked viol, look quickly in odd places such as "Outsize Baggage" areas. If it's hand carried, it may end up there. But as soon as the carousel starts to spit out bags, station yourself or a friend right at the opening in case your viol is spit violently out.

If you are fairly sure your viol will be wrested from you and flung heartlessly on a carousel, you might prepare as Washington, D.C.-area performer and teacher **Tina Chancey** recommended in the June 1998 issue of the *VdGSA News*: make a gamba duffel.

A *five-foot-long* gamba duffel. "While nothing in this life is sure," wrote Tina, "I've used my gamba duffel for six years now to carry my Tourin six-string on more than 60 flights . . . and nothing has broken yet." She created a duffel out of heavy-duty canvas. Inside she puts a mattress of dense 3-inch foam to support the neck. She pads the instrument as usual, locks it in its case and stands it on its side inside the duffel and mattress. The result is disarmingly light and bouncy, she says, like a Pillsbury Dough Boy, and she thinks its comical shape and blue color disarm airline check-in personnel--usually she doesn't have to pay over-size charges.

Bob Buzzard of San Diego has an ingenious method that also gets you a little revenge on the baggage handlers: Pack your viol inside its case and pack the case inside a huge box, clearly labeled fragile and identified, but that *includes no handle*. "If they can't pick it up by a handle," says Bob, "they can't fling it."

Send your ideas to the Editor for future discussion of this painful topic!

Future subjects for listings and discussion: high-end viols; method books; workshops.

— Lyle York

Mark your calendar

December 2, 3, 4

MEDIEVAL VIOL MUSIC: Anachronous Three (John Mark, Ralph Prince and Lyle York) will play viol tunes in a vocal concert featuring Dufay's *Missa Se la Face Ay Pale* by Coro Ciconia and the New Queen's Ha'Penny Consort of recorders. December 2 at Villa Montalvo, 15400 Montalvo Road, Saratoga; December 3 at Goat Hall, 400 Missouri Street, San Francisco; and December 4 at St. Alban's Church, 1501 Washington Ave., Albany. All at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact Lyle York, 510-559-9273, ly@sfgate.com.

December 18 and 19

HAUSMUSIK PRESENTS "NOWELL SING WE": A festive medieval and Renaissance celebration from the British Isles and Scandinavia, performed by Kristin Womack, mezzo-soprano; Eileen Hadidian, recorder, flute, harp; Shira Kammen, violin, vielle, harp; Natalie Cox, lever harp; and Julie Jeffrey, viola da gamba. St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 1501 Washington Avenue at Curtis, Albany, 8 p.m. (December 18). \$17/\$14. Concert is at 4 p.m. on December 19, same location.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: (510)-559-4670.

January 8

VDGS/PACIFICA'S MONTHLY PLAY DAY at Zion Lutheran Church, Oakland (see page 2 for directions), 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Lynn Tetenbaum will coach.

January 12

RECITAL BY JOHN DORNENBURG: Wednesday, January 12, 2000, 8:00 p.m., at Stanford Memorial Church, accompanied by harpsichordist Yuko Tanaka. Music includes

Marais, "Suite d'un goût étranger," Couperin, "Suite in E Minor," J.S. Bach, "Sonata in G Minor," and Telemann, "Sonata in A Minor." Tickets are \$8.

January 15

DRIVE THE COLD WINTER AWAY, OR, SCATTER THE MUD: The East Bay Recorder Society presents a one-day workshop on traditional Celtic and Celtic-derived music for recorder players, viol players, and singers on January 15, directed by Eileen Hadidian, Shira Kammen and David Morris. Planned class offerings include "Dance Tunes by Ear," "Modal Improvisation in the Medieval and/or Celtic Style," "Music from Playford's English Dancing Master," "Celtic Songs for Everyone," "Scottish Renaissance Polyphony," and "Haydn's Scottish Songs." Saturday, January 15, Zion Lutheran Church, 5201 Park Blvd., Oakland.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact Britt Ascher, workshop coordinator, at (925) 283-7134 or bascher@holonet.net.

January 28 through February 4

JORDI SAVALL CONDUCTS PHILHARMONIA BAROQUE in a program of J.S. Bach's Orchestral Suites. He won't be playing the viol. Any side performances Savall might offer during his stay in the Bay Area are still unknown.

February 12

VDGS/PACIFICA PLAY DAY WITH JOHN DORNENBURG: Our annual Stanford University play day coached by John Dornenburg will be February 12, 2000, from 9:30 until the last dog dies. Gather in Room 102 by the Music Department office, Braun Music Center, as usual. Parking in the adjacent lot (and all lots) is free on Saturdays (no permit required).

HELP WANTED

My wife and I live in Pacifica. We are hoping to find a gamba player to join our current lineup of harpischord, two baroque flutes and recorder. Actually any string players would be nice. Please e-mail us at quikscor@ix.netcom.com.
Thanks, John Sayre.

GAMBA NEWS

POSTMASTER: If undelivered, please return to Barnett, 2502 Hearst Avenue, Oakland, CA 94602