

GAMBA NEWS

Newsletter of the Viola da

Gamba Society/Pacifica

Volume 2, Number 1 January 1989

Membership Statistics

First of all, a very happy and musically satisfying New Year to you! Our total paid-up membership now stands at 48, including 37 full memberships. A list of these fortunate people appears on the second page of this Newsletter. If your name is not on the list, you may * be reading a copy of the Newsletter lent to you by someone who is gently hinting that you subscribe either \$15 for full membership, including participation at all meetings, or \$5 to receive the Newsletter only. Please send a check for either amount to Lois Nisbet, 720 Waverley, Palo Alto CA 94301, including your mailing address, telephone number and the size(s) of viola da gamba that you play. We welcome three new members: **Helen Konowitz** of San Anselmo, **Faith Harris** of Oakland, and **Amalie Sorensen** of Ashland, Oregon.

*Unless you are the Chapter Representative or Secretary of another Chapter, to whom we send an complimentary copy.

January Meeting

The first meeting of 1989 will be held at 963 Peralta Avenue, Albany, from 10:00 to 5:00 on Saturday, January 14. This is the home of Peter Ballinger, your Newsletter editor. There will be enough rooms with minimal acoustic interference to accomodate four groups of 3-6 players. Please bring a bag lunch - microwave oven and complimentary coffee available: there are also restaurants a few blocks away. Please refer to the map in this issue for directions. If you plan to come, complete the attached card and send it as soon as possible to Julie Jeffrey so she can plan the groups.

A special feature of the January meeting will be a short presentation on gamba playing by **John Dornenburg**, who will also be on hand during part of the day for group coaching.

December Meeting

We had a enjoyable meeting at Hillside School, courtesy of **Peter Brown**, on December 4th. About 17 members attended and played a number of consort pieces by German composers of around 1600. The afternoon concluded with **Todd Wetherwax** leading the combined groups in several polyphonic compositions.

Peggy Sampson Workshop

One of our Pacifica Chapter aims is to present workshops with nationally known gambists when they are visiting our area. This is an advance notice that we will be presenting the eminent Canadian gambist Peggy Sampson in a workshop at Mills College. She will perform with members of the Mills College Music Department staff on Sunday, February 5th. We were able to arrange to have her conduct a workshop which will be co-sponsored by Mills College, on Saturday afternoon, February 4th in the Ensemble Room at Mills. A number of us were fortunate to work with her during summer workshops given by VdGS/West in Southern California, and we remember her vibrant personality and good humor. She has asked that small groups - duos, trios, quartets - perform for her. We shall be mailing a registration form later this month for the afternoon session, and we shall make it a full day of celebration starting with a regular chapter play/meeting in the morning. Schedule: 10:00 - 12:00 (playing)/lunch/1:30 - 5:30 (workshop). The fee for all of this is minimal - \$10 for both players and auditors - so plan to join us! Out-of-towners are offered overnight accomodations with chapter members.

Forthcoming Recitals

January 17, 1989, 8:00 pm in Braun Recital Hall, Stanford. **John Dornenburg**, viola da gamba and **Charlene Brendler**,

harpsichord. Program includes music by Ortiz, Bach, Frescobaldi, Simpson, Marais and Forqueray. The same program, minus the Simpson and Forqueray pieces, will also be given on January 13th, 12:00 Noon, in the Chapel of the University of the Pacific.

February 12, 3:00 pm at Highlands Park, 8500 Highway 9, Ben Lomond, and February 17th, 8:00 pm at First Presbyterian Church, 350 Mission Street, Santa Cruz. Baroque Surprise program. Performers include members **Luciana Lombardi** and **Gabrielle Stocker**. Admission \$5, under 12 free.

Membership Listing

Full Members

Mary Abbott	John Mark
Ellen Alexander	Ellen McDonald
Ralph Ashmead	Lee McRae
Anita Axford	Maureen McTigue
Peter Ballinger	Sara Beth Michael
Peter Brown	Hazel Mosley
Dalton Cantey	Herb & Corliss Myers
Carolyn Coolidge	Betty Nichols
Pamela Dallas	Lois Nisbet
Diana Dallmann	Ralph Prince
Cecilia Doris	Alvin Roper
Faith Harris	Mary Lois Rundles
Fran Jacobs	Natalie Sera
Dick/Virginia Janes	Amalie Sorensen
Julie Jeffrey	Gustavo Valadez-Ortiz
Jane T. Johnson	Todd/Margriet Wetherwax
Sue Kimber	Luciana Lombardi
Helen Konowitz	

Newsletter Only

Hilde Binford-Walsh	Shirley Marcus
Katherine Bumpass	David Morris
Sue Erienkotter	Gabrielle Stocker
Paul Furnas	Richard/Cathy Taruskin
Ken Johnson	Juliette White

STOP PRESS:

John Dornenburg's topic for the January Meeting will be:

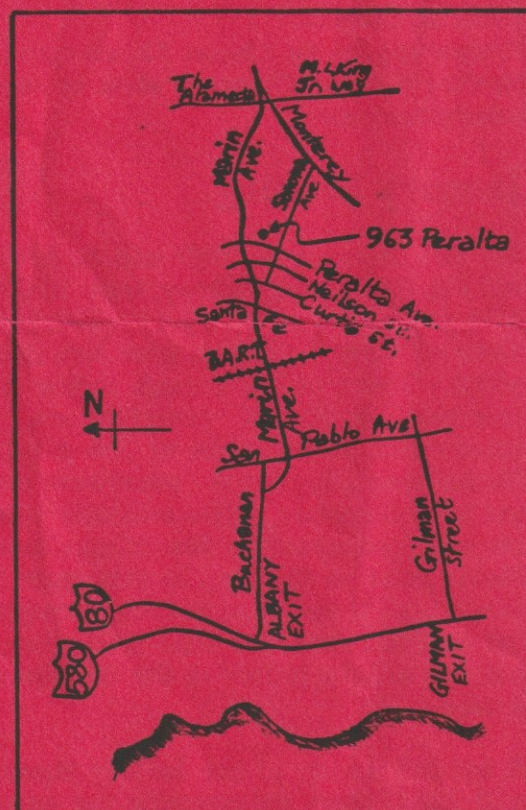
**Better Sound with Less Tension —
Practical Suggestions for Broadening
your Gamba Technique.**

Seasonal Gamba Activities

A group consisting of Carolyn Coolidge, Julie Jeffrey, Lee McRae, John Mark and Peter Ballinger provided the viol quintet for a performance of 'This is the Record of John' by Orlando Gibbons, which took place during the morning service at St. Mark's Church in Berkeley on December 4th., together with the St. Mark's choir under its director, David Higgs. We had a great experience taking part in this sublime music.

If we haven't mentioned any other such activity by our membership, it's because we didn't hear about it. Please send any publishable accounts of concerts, recitals, and other gamba related activities to the Peter Ballinger, 963 Peralta Avenue, Albany, CA 94706 for inclusion in future Newsletters. Also, don't forget our reasonable rates for advertisements. Individual: \$5 minimum for up to 35 words; \$1 per 10 words thereafter. Commercial: a space the size of a credit card costs \$10.

Map for January Meeting



Telephone: 415-526-0722

GAMBA NEWS

Newsletter of the Viola

da Gamba Society / Pacifica

Volume 2, Number 8 December 1989

December Meeting

As announced, we shall meet at Dominican College, San Rafael on December 9. Please try to arrive at Guzman Hall, second floor, ready to start tuning at 9:30 AM. We shall play in small groups, uncoached, until lunch time (BYO), and be joined in the afternoon by Lyn Elder's Consort of Voyces group. Music to be played will include *"This is the Record of John"* (Orlando Gibbons), for which viol parts in proper clefs will be available, and possibly the Lassus five part motet that we did with Mary Springfels last June. Please send in your reply cards as soon as possible.

November Meeting

Fifteen members spent an enjoyable day at First Presbyterian Church of Hayward, under Carol Herman's humorous and expert direction. The premises were ideal and we look forward to holding further meetings there. Thanks to John Mark and to the church authorities for this opportunity. Carol provided handouts illustrating her talk on combining right hand "weight" and left hand freedom of action, and valuable exercises for developing these areas. Carol coached three groups in the morning and afternoon, and conducted a popular hour of eight part pieces for the whole group.

January 1990 Meeting

Four luminaries of the viola da gamba world will come to the Bay Area in January for their concert and masterclass the weekend of January 20-21. A Sett of Vyalls will also feature our own Judith Nelson in consort songs of the mid-16th century, the rich period of combining voice with viols.

This is an extraordinary opportunity to

hear repertoire rarely performed, and by some of the most well-known gambists touring today: Wendy Gillespie, Mary Springfels, Margriet Tindemans, and Carol Herman.

In addition to this very special program, they will be giving a masterclass at MusicSources on Sunday, January 21, 12:00—3:00. This class is sponsored jointly by SFEMS, MusicSources, and the VdGS / Pacifica Chapter, which will handle all the arrangements for the class. Auditors \$10.00; participants; /Pacifica and SFEMS members \$15.00, non-members \$20.00.

As a special incentive to those who have thought about learning the gamba, the VdGS/P would like to invite all masterclass auditors and participants not currently members of the Chapter, to join them in their January Chapter playing session (at MusicSources), on Sunday the 21st from 9:00 — 11:15, for small group playing, at no extra charge. The VdGS/P is eager to introduce those interested in historical music to the many pleasures of consort playing with viols, and welcomes this opportunity to make this experience available to the larger community in conjunction with the "Sett of Vyalls" masterclass. All auditors and participants (those who will play for the masterclass), not members of the VdGS/P, please call ahead to reserve your place in the morning and/or afternoon session(s). And if you would like to try playing a viol at this time, please tell us. Call Lee McRae, President VdGS/P, 848-5591, by December 13.

Education Committee Report

At the last Board meeting (November 18), Ernest Rideout, music instructor at the Pine Hollow Intermediate School (Concord), made a presentation at our request concerning his long-range plan to