

GAMBA NEWS

Newsletter of the Viola da Gamba
Society of America/Pacifica Chapter

Volume 2, Number 5, August 1989

Welcome to the 1989-90 season of the
PACIFICA CHAPTER!

Since our Newsletter editor Peter Ballinger is now in England for 6 weeks, this edition was prepared by Lee McRae and Todd Wetherwax.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Our first meeting will be held on September 9th at MusicSources, 1000 The Alameda, in Berkeley. We want to start playing at 9:45 a.m., so please come at 9:30. Be sure to return your response card! We always have a rewarding day of playing consorts because of the return card system. Julie Jeffrey spends considerable time planning consorts in advance according to playing level, instrument(s), and music is then provided to fit. New groupings are available in the afternoon. Remember to bring your music stand and lunch!

SCHEDULE FOR THE YEAR

- Save these dates:

September 9	(see above)
October 21	John Dornenburg
November 18	Carol Herman
December 9	
January 21	Sett of Vyalls
February 17	
March 17	with ARS (tentative)
April 27-29	N-S Meet, Fresno
May 12	
June 16	(tentative)

Membership Dues

Deadline: October 1. For the Newsletter only: \$5.00. Playing memberships (free coached meetings, reductions for workshops, Newsletter): \$15.00. Send your check and the enclosed coupon to our treasurer, Dalton Canteay.

Election Results

Twenty of our members returned their ballots: the unopposed candidacies of President, Secretary and Treasurer, and five of the six members-at-large were confirmed with

from 14 to 18 votes each. Five names were submitted for the sixth member-at-large, four of them receiving one vote each, and the fifth, Ken Johnson, receiving three votes. Our officers are now:

President	Lee McRae
Secretary	Peter Brown
Treasurer	Dalton Canteay
Members-at-large:	Lois Nisbet, Luciana Lombardi, Alvin Roper, John Mark, Jane Johnson and Ken Johnson.

Looking Back - Looking Ahead

There were four of us proudly representing the Pacifica Chapter at the VdGSA Conclave in Burlington, VT: Carolyn Coolidge, Peter Ballinger, Lee McRae, and Alvin Roper. We were very happy that Peter's entry into the composition contest made it to the final round, and was played by the New York Consort of Viols to great applause in an evening devoted to the finalists.

There were 130+ registrants which made it the biggest (and best so far, it was agreed) Conclave. The level of playing is rising as well, as was proved by the mass play-in of over one hundred viols on the first evening - what a thrilling sound!

Lee sat in on the the Chapter Representatives' Meeting as well as the Education Committee sessions. The VdGSA is now taking hold of the important education issues of identifying teachers, preparing a pedagogy, working to improve the apprentice teachers' program at the annual meetings, searching for viol makers of student models, etc.

At our chapter planning meeting in August we were happy to welcome Ken Johnson, our newest *member-at-large* representing the San Francisco area.

He will be taking on the responsibility of planning a joint play-in with a local ARS chapter, tentively scheduled for our March meeting. He will also plan the school demonstration program we will give to the students at the Arroyo High School (the site of

our June Workshop.) If any of you are free during the day and would like to be part of this, please let us know.

We have planned a number of special events for the year. Our first Workshop will be with John Dornenburg for our meeting on October 21st.

Our second will be with Carol Herman on November 18th. Our December 9th meeting will be a celebration of the season - with voices and viols! Our January meeting will shift from Saturdays to Sunday the 21st at MusicSources. Our chapter has been asked to assist in handling this SFEMS-sponsored Workshop in conjunction with the concert performance of *A Sett of Vyalls* (featuring gambists Wendy Gillespie, Margriet Tindemans, Mary Springfels and Carol Herman.) Details to be announced.

In April (27-29) our meeting moves to Fresno for the annual North-South Meet. Here again, we have been asked to handle the arrangements, working with Pearl Winter who will make the on-site decisions. In June we will ask our members to support The Berkeley Festival & Exhibition: Music in History - a major early/and later music festival sponsored by UC Berkeley. Jordi Savall, one of the world's leading virtuosi of the viol, will perform with his ensemble Hesperion XX. There may be other gamba events as well. Your chapter president is on the Steering Committee of the Festival and has proposed a very interesting program which would have many viols on stage - a program which would include contemporary music written for the viol. At this time she can report that the Committee is interested - stay tuned!

WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR A PERMANENT PLACE FOR OUR MEETINGS. PLEASE CALL LEE at 415 848-5591 if you have any suggestions.

See you in September!
- Lee McRae

Early Music Night School

John Dornenburg will conduct one or more viol consort classes to begin on October 4th at MusicSources. The classes, sponsored by SFEMS, and given on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30 (and also some from 8:30-10:00 pm) include *Harpsichord Technique*, *Harmony*, the *Da Capo Aria*. John's class

will be devoted to a study of one or more specific consort works, with emphasis on ensemble, "working out the difficult bits" and the dynamic subtleties involved in preparing a fantasia or set of dances for performance. Depending on enrollment and playing level, the second period of the evening might be used for a beginners' class. A brochure about this and the other classes will be sent to SFEMS members. The tuition is \$160 for the ten-week series (\$300 for two classes: SFEMS members \$150/280 - installment payments OK. For further information call: 415 843-2119.

Advertisement

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Mary Springfels Workshop

Mary's workshop, held June 17 at Arroyo High School, was attended by 15 members: we heard an interesting account of *Rhetoric in Music* illustrated by a six-voice motet by Lassus, for which a modern score and viol parts were prepared by Peter Ballinger. A member group (Ken Johnson, Julie Jeffrey, George Shotts, Bill Wright) played two dances by Jenkins, and were warmly praised by Mary, who also gave them valuable suggestions. The remaining time was spent in small group playing, coached by Mary.

Directions for our September 9th Meeting

From the South take 80 North to the Albany Exit (past University Avenue/Berkeley.) Bear right, cross San Pablo Avenue and continue on up Marin to The Alameda. MUSIC-SOURCES is at the corner of Marin and The Alameda.

From the North: take 80 South (crossing the Richmond-San Rafael bridge if you are coming from Marin County.)

Take the Gilman Street Exit (just past Golden Gate Fields).

Go left under the freeway, and immediately turn left again to get back on the freeway going North.

Take the next exit - Albany.

Follow directions as above.