

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

introduce the violon da gamba to his string students. (He currently teaches a string orchestra, among other instrumental groups, and is well-known in the area as a member of the Renaissance band "The Whole Noyse".)

Thanks to efforts on the part of the Education Committee, we will be able to lend him some instruments. In addition, Corliss Myers has offered the use of a treble she is not using, and Al Roper will be able to lend a bass. Peter Ballinger will be able to lend a bass bow as well.

Carol Herman's workshop presented him with basic information; in addition, Lee McRae videotaped the session (with Carol's permission) and he will make a copy of it for his use. Carol has also offered to send him her very helpful work-out sheets, and several of us have already given him music.

The most important element, many of us felt, was that of private lessons. The Board was not ready to advance money for this purpose, but has offered him free membership in the Chapter. He explained that his Parent Booster Club has made \$50 available to him to start this class. Lee McRae and Peter Ballinger have both volunteered to match this money, giving him \$150 for private lessons and perhaps a "clinic" with John Dornenburg. Ernie will be reporting to us on a regular basis regarding the progress of this project. We invite other Chapter members to join us in contributions to the Education Fund.

— Lee McRae.

Forthcoming Events

January 22, Stanford University Music Department, Braun Rehearsal Hall, 8:00 PM: Recital by **John Dornenburg**, Viola da Gamba (with Patricia Halverson, gamba; David Hahn, theorbo; and Scott Pauley, theorbo). Program includes Couperin *Suite in E Minor*, Marais *Tombeau pour Monsr. de Lully*, Dalla Casa *Madrigali da Sonar*, Kühnel *Sonata a 2*. \$6.00 / \$3.00 students.

The **Mid-Peninsula Recorder Orchestra** holds its first meeting of 1990 at 8 PM Wednesday, January 3 at the Duveneck School multipurpose room, 705 Alester Avenue, Palo Alto. Players of recorder,

early winds or early strings are invited, together with their instruments and music stand. Music to be provided. Further information: Mary Ashley 415-494-1829.

The SFEMS Early Music Evening School's **Gamba Consort Class**, led by John Dornenburg, was a success this Fall, and will therefore be repeated next year, beginning February 7. More information in the January Newsletter. (*John tells me that they had six participants: one more, and they can have two sessions — a four and a three.*)

North-South Meet

Thanks to all of you who democratically voted for the Piccadilly Inn as venue for this annual event: that's where it will be, so save the dates — April 27-29, Fresno. More about this in January.

Membership News

Dalton Cantey, our Treasurer, reports that our balance stood at \$959.29 as of November 18, reflecting the continued support of our membership.

At its meeting of that date, the Board clarified the situation of family memberships: in future, the fees for two playing members receiving a single newsletter mailing will be \$15 for the first, and \$10 for the second for a total of \$25. This will be effective next fiscal year (September 1990).

Editorial note to patient readers who change their addresses, phone numbers, or merely wish to receive a single newsletter addressed to their correctly spelled name: the computers, always reluctant to allow such tampering with their innards, have now been forced to submit to corrections. Please remember that the Newsletter mailing list can only be changed by the editor, to whom changes should be communicated (415-526-0722, or by means of the enclosed return card).

Finally, in the department of *mea culpa*: I made a couple of errors in my transcript of John Dornenburg's lecture on Marais in the November Newsletter: corrected text enclosed (no charge to /Pacifica) — the musical illustrations are unchanged.

— Peter Ballinger.