

2008 Berkeley Festival and Exhibition

May 31 - June 8

Be sure to check the calendar listings on pages four and five to learn about the many viol-related events, both festival and fringe. For more information and complete concert listings, go to www.sfems.org/festival.

There will also be an Early Music Exhibition, featuring instrument makers, music publishers, record stores, national societies and presenters, held noon-6pm Thursday, 10-6 Friday, and 10-5 Saturday at the First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. This event is free and wheelchair accessible.

Rosin: An Exploration

Sharon Young

Ed. Note—Thanks to Nelda Smith for suggesting this article, and Sharon Young of the Pacific Northwest Viols Chapter for allowing us to reprint it here.

Does the type of rosin one uses really make a difference? I used to think probably not, unable to tell much difference beyond more and less sticky from one cake to another. That changed recently when I tried a friend's rosin during a consort session and felt and heard a dramatic difference from what I'd been using.

This piqued my curiosity. First I googled "rosin" and followed links to read a little about its composition and manufacture. See the Wikipedia rosin entry and the two stringsmagazine.com entries with 115 and 98 in the URLs for a start. The latter is an article with photos showing a small firm's process.

After looking at a vendor's plethora of rosins for sale I searched for advice on choosing. One place to find forums on rosin is the Internet Cello Society. From www.cello.org click "forums", then "instruments and equipment". Click "search", enter "rosin"; yield should be a list of recent posts (I've had different lists pop up for same search word). Googling specific rosin brands finds additional sites. I didn't find a viol-specific rosin discussion, so with the other information

I had gleaned I chose six rosins to sample from the Johnson String Instrument site. Service was quick and courteous.

Most advice for using a new rosin is to have clean bow hair and strings. I didn't want to go through the soap and water or alcohol process of hair cleaning in between each trial, so made do using a soft cotton cloth in a pinch grip to remove a fair amount of rosin from the bow hair, wiping the strings well.

I tried the rosins ordered plus what I already had on three sizes of viol (though not all rosins on all sizes.) I was amazed at the differences and that I liked different rosins on different sizes. The criteria for what I like include the "right" combination of gripability and smoothness, ease of controlling chuff without scritchiness, and tone quality.

The results of what I liked follows, keeping in mind that currently I lean toward rosins on the less sticky side (this could change), and the subjective nature of such choices:

Treble

Andrea Vivaldi. Andrea Bang makes several rosins graded for violin/viola/cello for solo or orchestra.

continued on page six

For Sale

Ask Miss Fret-Knot: A guide to consort manners, by Prudence Fret-Knot and Lyle York, is available for \$14.95 plus shipping from Lazar Early Music: www.bill-lazar.com, jblazar.com, or (408) 734-4920.

Visit Your Local Viol Builder! 7-string bass, Bertrand model, rich sound. 6-string bass, Jaye model, bright and delightful to play. Treble, Hoskins model. Tenors and other bass models also available. Soft and hard cases custom-fitted to your instrument. Repairs. Come by to try an instrument, take a shop tour and learn about building viols, or for idle chit-chat. **Alexandra Saur**, (510) 558-6927; (510) 559-9563, in Albany.

Bow Rehair Alexandra Saur is now offering rehairing for both modern and early bows. Top quality hair and quick turnaround! 510-559-9563, bowrehair@alexandrasaur.com.

Lazar's Early Music

Moeck (recorders and early winds), Kueng, Mollenhauer, Yamaha, Aesthe, Dolmetsch Millenium Recorders, and others in the near future. Viols, used and new. Competitive prices, instruments sent on approval, personalized service and advice. **Bill Lazar**, (408) 734-4920.

Tenor viol, Michael Plant, (Bakewell 2000), new Gamut strings, new frets, soundpost adjusted. Kingham hard case. \$2000

Treble viol, unknown. Female carved head, antiqued to look like old instrument. Instrument will be restrung, refretted and adjusted. Soft case. Price forthcoming.

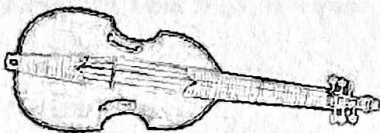
Pictures are available on www.bill-lazar.com. Contact **Bill Lazar**, jblazar@aol.com, (408) 734-4920 for more information.

Ruby Instruments

The world's first production model of a 7-string solid body electric viola da gamba! Play traditional and crossover music on one instrument! To hear and play the Ruby, contact **Kirby Leong**, (510) 317-0834 or (510) 332-0834 (24-hour message); gambaguy@msn.com.

Bass Viola da Gamba for Sale

Bass viol, Wolfgang Uebel, Germany, 1967. Good condition. 65cm string length. A division viol, nice and small. Comes with hard case and/or padded soft case. \$1,900. May be viewed and played in Berkeley. Contact Joan (707) 546-8505



GAMMA NEWS

VIOLA DA GAMBA SOCIETY PACIFICA VOLUME 21, NO. 7 MAY 2008

Gamba News is published 10 times a year by the Pacifica chapter of the Viola da Gamba Society. It vacations in July and August.

PACIFICA CHAPTER BOARD

President	Ellen Farwell Leonardfarwell@comcast.net
Vice President	Ricardo Hofer hofer52@gmail.com
Secretary	Joan Lounsbery joanl@sonic.net
Treasurer	Penni (Pj) Savage pjsavage@earthlink.net

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

Rental Coordinator	John Mark mark_bach8@hotmail.com
VdGSA chapter Representative	Lee McRae LmcR@aol.com
Coaching Liaison	Alexandra Saur alexandra@alexandrasaur.com
Webmaster	Helen Tyrrell hesuome@pacbell.net
Membership List Coordinator	Roy Whelden roywhelden@mac.com
Newsletter Editor	Julie Morrisett jmorrisett@gmail.com
Peter Ballinger	prbprdns@aol.com
John Dornenburg	jdlaac@got.net
Robin Easterbrook	reasterbrook@mac.com
Mary Elliott	marell3@sbcglobal.net
Julie Jeffrey	jjeffrey@library.berkeley.edu
Elisabeth Reed	soundbodies@gmail.com
Lyle York	lyleyork@earthlink.net

Contributions Welcome

Send concert listings and reviews, opinions, workshop experiences, CD reviews, drawings, or photos to Julie Morrisett, Editor, 1266 East 34th St., Oakland, CA, 94610, or jmorrisett@gmail.com; (510) 534-3690.

Classified Ads

Short classified advertisements in Gamba News are free to VdGS-Pacifica members. For non-members, ads are \$5 per issue. Please mail your check made out to VdGS-Pacifica to Julie Morrisett, Editor, 1148 Norwood Ave. #1, Oakland, CA 94610.

www.pacificaviols.org

Our VdGS-Pacifica chapter website is maintained and regularly updated by Helen Tyrrell. It contains the Viol Player's Calendar, along with a list of local teachers, sources for music, supplies, inexpensive viols, repairs, and travel tips. The VdGSA (national) website is www.vdgsa.org.

Rent a Viol

Pacifica has trebles, tenors and basses to rent. Donations of viols and bows to our rental program are extremely welcome—we'll accept them in any condition. Rental fees range from \$15 to \$30 per month. In charge of rentals is John Mark, 10 Holyrood Manor, Oakland, CA 94611; (510) 531-1471; mark_bach8@hotmail.com.

Donating to VdGS-Pacifica

The Pacifica Chapter is an affiliate of the San Francisco Early Music Society (SFEMS), and along with other privileges this affiliation confers, we can receive tax-deductible donations. These include not only cash but viols, bows, musical scores, method books, tuners, stands and other viol paraphernalia. Especially since we now have a Youth Project working to teach young people the viol, please remember the chapter when you are cleaning out your music room.

Cash donations can be used for new rental instruments and bows, new music for the chapter playing library, the Pacifica Youth Project, or our scholarship fund.

To ensure that your donation will be tax-deductible, please make out the check to SFEMS with a note on the lower left corner: "for VdGS-Pacifica." Then send your donation check to Penni Savage, Treasurer, VdGS-Pacifica, 436 Hudson Street, Oakland, CA 94618. She will forward your check to SFEMS.

SFEMS will accept and record the donation, then transfer the funds to us. You will receive an acknowledgment letter from SFEMS for your tax records.

When you donate a viol or other materials, you will receive a letter citing the estimated value of the instrument or materials for your tax records.

Last Play Day

May 10

Shira Kammen will lead us at the upcoming play day.

Please contact John Mark (mark_bach8@hotmail.com or 510-531-1471) as soon as possible to let him know you will attend. Newcomers and rank beginners are always welcome.

Zion Lutheran Church
5201 Park Blvd., Oakland

Start Time 9:15 am

Sheet music, coffee, and tea supplied

2007-2008 Schedule

DATE	COACH
May 10	Shira Kammen
May 31	Pacifica End-of-year party at Zion



Membership

New

Jim Davis

18160 Bayview Drive
Los Gatos, CA 95033
(408) 353-2762
jimbow@wolftone.com

Mark Your Calendar

May 16 - 18, 2008

Marin Headlands Workshop for Recorders and Viols, sponsored by East Bay Chapter, American Recorder Society, at Pt. Bonita YMCA. Sixteen playing sessions, featuring conductors David Barnett, Annette Bauer, Tish Berlin, Tom Bickley, Frances Blaker, Louise Carslake, Frances Feldon, Eileen Hadidian, Shira Kammen and John Tyson. Friday through Sunday, with one and two day options. Music will cover the waterfront from Machaut to Palestrina, Byrd to Handel, Celtic to the New World. Please contact Cindy Keune at cindy_keune@yahoo.com, Jody Harcourt at jodyharcourt@comcast.net, or Anna Lisa Kronman at 925-258-9442, annalisakronman@gmail.com, for further information or to be added to the mailing list.

Saturday, May 17

Women's Antique Vocal Ensemble (WAVE) presents "Rule Britannia" English Music from Henry V, VI, VIII, Elizabeth I, James I and William and Mary. From the late medieval "Old Hall Manuscript" to Henry Purcell's 1694 "Birthday Ode for Queen Mary," 200 years of English musical tradition. WAVE will be joined by Jonathan Salzedo, harpsichord, Shira Kammen and her viol consort (Julie Morrisett, Mary Prout, Kit Robertson, viols,) Howard Kadid, lute; and Joyce Johnson-Hamilton, cornetto and baroque trumpet.

8 pm, First Lutheran Church, 600 Homer at Webster, Palo Alto. \$15/\$5. Wheelchair accessible. (510) 233-1479 or www.wavewomen.org

Monday, June 2

Hallifax and Jeffrey, violas da gamba, present "Coffee with Forqueray" - the complete published works of Forqueray, presented over five days. Monday: Suite 1 in d minor. Free coffee and doughnuts for the first 25 listeners.

11 am, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. \$12/\$10. Series: \$35/\$25. forquerayrules@earthlink.net

Tuesday, June 3

Hallifax and Jeffrey, violas da gamba, present "Coffee with Forqueray" - the complete published works of Forqueray, presented over five days. Tuesday: Suite 2 in G Major.

11 am, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. \$12/\$10. Series: \$35/\$25. forquerayrules@earthlink.net

Wildcat Viols (Joanna Blendulf, Julie Jeffrey, Elisabeth Reed) are joined by guest artists Farley Pearce, David Morris and William Skeen to perform "The Great Set: 17th century English Music for six viols." With music by William Byrd, Orlando Gibbons, John Jenkins and William Lawes.

8 pm, Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus. \$28. Wheelchair accessible. (510) 642-9988 www.sfems.org/festival

Women's Antique Vocal Ensemble (WAVE) presents "Rule Britannia." See Saturday, May 17 for details.

8 pm, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. \$15/\$5. Wheelchair accessible. (510) 233-1479 www.wavewomen.org

Wednesday, June 4

Hallifax and Jeffrey, violas da gamba, present "Coffee with Forqueray" - the complete published works of Forqueray, presented over five days. Wednesday: Suite 3 in D Major.

11 am, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. \$12/\$10. Series: \$35/\$25. forquerayrules@earthlink.net

Le Poème Harmonique presents "Venezia delle strade ai Palazzi" (world premiere.) Vincent Dumestre, artistic director, theorbo & baroque guitar; including Lucas Guimaraes, treble & bass viol, and Françoise Enock, violone. Music of Claudio Monteverdi and Francesco Manelli, part concert and part theater: Monteverdi's "Lamento della Ninfa" as well as canzonettas, bergamasques. Produced by Cal Performances. Repeats June 5 and 7.

8pm Zellerbach Playhouse, UC Berkeley Campus. \$56. Wheelchair accessible. www.sfems.org/festival

Old First Concerts presents "Far Out Friends: Poetry and Music." Gary Snyder, poet; Karen Clark, contralto; Galax Quartet (David Wilson and Cynthia Freivogel, violins; Roy Whelden, gamba; David Morris, 'cello.) New song premieres by Fred Frith, Allaudin Matthieu, Robert Morris, Roy Whelden; celebrating a half-century of Snyder's career.

8pm Old First Church, 1751 Sacramento at Van Ness, San Francisco. Wheelchair accessible. \$15/\$12 415-474-1608 www.oldfirstconcerts.org

Mark Your Calendar

Thursday, June 5

Barok Concerto Orkest (Anthony Martin, violin; Yueh Chou, bassoon; David Morris, gamba; Yuko Tanaka, harpsichord) perform music of Veracini, Schwartzkopff and Marais.

11 am, Trinity Chapel, 2320 Dana, Berkeley. \$12/\$8.
Wheelchair accessible. yuehchou@gmail.com (650) 430-7592

Hallifax and Jeffrey, violas da gamba, present "Coffee with Forqueray" – the complete published works of Forqueray, presented over five days. Thursday: Suite 4 in g minor.

11 am, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. \$12/\$10. forquerayrules@earthlink.net

Le Poème Harmonique repeats program of June 4.

8pm Zellerbach Playhouse, UC Berkeley Campus. \$56.
Wheelchair accessible. www.sfems.org/festival

Friday, June 6

Hallifax and Jeffrey, violas da gamba, present "Coffee with Forqueray" – the complete published works of Forqueray, presented over five days. Friday: Suite 5 in c minor.

11 am, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. \$12/\$10. forquerayrules@earthlink.net

Saturday, June 7

Alta Sonora, Les Violes Douces & singers "Spanish Renaissance Music for Winds, Voices, and Viols." Music by Cabezon, Ortiz, Vásquez, Victoria and Vivanco, including double and triple choir motets.

12:30-2pm Trinity Chapel 2320 Dana, Berkeley.
\$15/\$12/\$10. 510-233-0868 www.trinitychamberconcerts.org

Le Poème Harmonique repeats program of June 4.

8pm Zellerbach Playhouse, UC Berkeley Campus. \$56.
Wheelchair accessible. www.sfems.org/festival

Saturday June 14

David Wilson, baroque violin celebrates his 50th birthday. Music by Fontana, Muffat, Biber, Buxtehude, Couperin and Bach. With David Morris, viola da gamba and Katherine Heater, harpsichord.

2pm St. Alban's Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 1501 Washington Ave (corner of Curtis and Washington,) Albany. Free. Reception follows. Wheelchair accessible.

June 15 - 21, 2008

SFEMS Baroque Music and Dance Workshop: "The World of Charles Burney and the Musical Life of 18th-century Europe." Viol instructors: David Morris and Mary Springfels (Springfels was not listed in the SFEMS brochure, but will be an instructor.) Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA. www.sfems.org. Early bird deadline May 1 (discount \$50.)

June 22 - 28

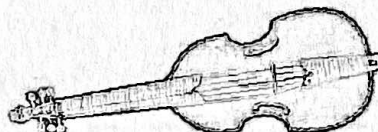
SFEMS Medieval/Renaissance Workshop: "The Elements: Earth, Water, Wind and Fire." Viol instructors: Rebekah Ahrendt, John Dornenburg, Margriet Tindemans. Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA. www.sfems.org. Early bird deadline May 1 (discount \$50.)

July 6 - 12

Pacific Northwest Viols Summer Workshop to be held at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma. "We will be located in comfortable Trimble Hall, familiar to those who have attended Conclave there. Even though the venue has changed, the small congenial workshop size has not. Faculty includes director Margriet Tindemans, Jack Ashworth, Lee Inman, Larry Lipnik, Mary Springfels, and Craig Trompeter. Email Cathy Palmer at pnv08workshop@gmail.com to request a brochure. This workshop always fills quickly, so be sure to register promptly!"

July 27 - August 3

VdGSA Conclave. "Sing with your viol!" including composers such as Machaut, Dufay, Dowland, Isaac, Senfl, Byrd. Franklin Pearce College, Rindge, New Hampshire. www.vdgsa.org



Rosin, *continued from front page*

Vivaldi is the all-purpose one.

Tenor

Pirastro Goldflex. Contains gold particles. This is the friend's rosin that started the investigation. Too sticky for treble, not enough for bass, just right for tenor.

Bernardel. One I've had around a while, similar result to Goldflex.

Bass

Melos Cello Light. From Greece, a satisfying mellow and rich sound.

Motrya Gold. Contains gold particles, produces slightly more "metallic" sound than Melos.

Other results

Arcos. A French rosin from Brazil, bought in a local violin shop. I like this on the treble, but a visit to Arcos website now shows only a rosin that didn't do much for me, which is...

Pierre Guillaume. Bought a while back because I loved the polished round wooden box it comes in. Doesn't seem to have much effect on any size instrument.

Kaplan Premium Light. The gadgety packaging seduced me, a latched hinged plastic case, the rosin

attached on a rotating base that one dials from underneath the case. So-so compared to the other rosins.

Millant-Deroux. Too sticky for treble, as yet untried on other sizes, love the fiddle playing cat on the label.

Other brands that friends who prefer stickier rosins like are Kolstein and Jade. They might choose dark varieties where I chose light.

A rather expensive line (\$27-\$40/cake, depending on source) about which I encountered much discussion is Liebenzeller. It comes in several metal-added varieties (gold, silver, copper, tin, etc.) and six hardness grades. I'm very curious, but unwilling to gamble a lot of money on one.

As for age of rosin, I found proponents of "use only fresh," whose reasons make sense, and "age doesn't matter," citing empirical anecdote, in about equal number.

Advice on how much and when to apply varies widely. My solution is to ignore it all, use a rosin as long as it seems to work well (which remains to be seen given my newly acquired awareness), apply some when things feel too slippery or sound too scratchy.

~

Join VdGS-Pacifica or renew for 2008-2009

Make out check
to VdGS-Pacifica.

Mail it with this form to:

First and last name _____

Mailing address _____

City, State and Zip _____

email address _____

Phone number, including area code _____

Penni (Pj) Savage, Treasurer
VdGS-Pacifica
436 Hudson Street
Oakland, CA 94618

_____ Playing Member (\$35): Attend monthly consort meetings free; plus
receive a free subscription to Gamba News.

_____ Two-person membership (\$45): Two playing members in the same household. You share all the
rights and privileges of a Playing Member.

_____ Newsletter-Only Membership (\$10)

_____ Donation to VdGS-Pacifica will help us buy sheet music and rental instruments and grow
our scholarship fund. May we acknowledge your donation in the newsletter?

Yes ☐ No ☐

_____ TOTAL ENCLOSED