

# GAMBA NEWS

## Newsletter of the Viola da Gamba Society / Pacifica

Volume 3, Number 4 May 1990

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### North-South Meet

This annual event drew thirty gambists from the two West Coast chapters. An informal poll of those attending found near-unanimous approval of the return to the Piccadilly Inn, and it was suggested that the /West chapter make a reservation for next year now, so we can get a similar block of rooms downstairs in the same module as the executive room, where we met for large group playing. We were sorry that **Kathy Bumpass**, who had been so helpful as our on-location person, was unable to attend at the last minute because of illness. Our coaches, **Hazelle Miloradovitch** and **Patricia Halverson**, organized us into compatible groups and gave us valuable guidance throughout the weekend. Several people remarked on an improvement in the level of playing this year. In our large group sessions, we were assisted on Friday evening by **Peter Ballinger**, who conducted several pieces including a new edition of the *Gabrieli Sonata Pian' e Forte* with parts in gambists' favorite clefs, and the first movement of a piece for 6 viols that he is composing. On Saturday evening, after our traditional dinner (at Guido's) we were conducted by our coaches and by **Todd Wetherwax** and **Peter**. **Hazelle** conducted a new canonic piece for viols by **David Dixon**, a recent convert to the gamba. We were very pleased to have **Jim Winter** as our guest that evening for an appreciation of **Pearl Winter**, who passed away recently. Our members from Nevada played music by Tallis for this occasion, and several members spoke of her in appreciation. A word of thanks to **Dalton Cantey**, who coordinated the arrangements: we look forward to next year's Meet, which will be hosted by the /West chapter.

### May Meeting

Our May meeting will be held at **Jane Johnson's** home, 2174 Clayton Drive, Menlo Park (415 854-0496) from 9:30 until 4:30 on May 19. Brown bag lunch, although several fast food places are a short distance away. Please send in the tear-off portion of the attachment to this newsletter as soon as possible. Apologies to recorderists: no alternative date was available.

### March Workshop

**Mary Springfels** led this workshop, held at **Peter Ballinger's** home: three groups played during the day, with Mary as rotating coach: in the afternoon, Mary gave advice on ensemble playing. As a practical illustration, the entire group (18 in all) played a two-part fantasy by **Gibbons**, first divided across the room, then with the parts randomly assigned. Mary's main point, to stay together by listening to the other voice(s) instead of just counting, was dramatically demonstrated!

### Revision of Bylaws

At the last Board meeting, (April 23), a proposal to add the new office of Vice President to the Board was MSC'd. The Vice President's duties would include, but not be limited to: act for the President in his/her absence; act as chairperson of the Facilities Committee, which arranges the meeting locations and calendar; maintain placement of informational brochures and flyers at appropriate locations. Playing members will find the proposed changes in the attachment, and are asked to vote and/or comment on these on the tearoff slip.

### Elections

Playing members were asked in March for nominations to the offices of President and three Members-at-large. Nominations submitted were as follows: for President: **Peter Ballinger**. For Members-at-large: **Jeffrey Earnest**, **Jane Johnson**, **Maureen McTigue**. Recently, **Peter Brown** submitted his resignation as Secretary effective September 1990, although the post is for a two year term. We appreciate his work for the chapter and look forward to seeing him at our meetings in the future. **Marilyn Cantey**, who is not yet a member of the chapter, has volunteered to act as Secretary, for which we thank her. **Dalton Cantey** continues as treasurer for another year. The post of Vice President, if the bylaw changes are approved, will require nominations. More about this next month.



## Berkeley Festival & Exhibition

During this weeklong event (June 10 - 17), there will be a number of not-to-miss items for gambists:

**GambaFest — East Meets West: *New York Consort of Viols* PLUS the *Yukimi Kambe Viol Consort*.** Of special interest will be the world premieres to be presented by both consorts (the Festival's only contemporary music) in their joint program which will span four centuries of music for viols. David Loeb's "Quartet in One Movement" will receive its first performance by the New York Consort, and the Kambe Consort will premiere "A Cat in Springtime" by Tsutomu Mizuno, and "Suite for a Noble Cat" by Ryohci Hirose. Other composers will include Gibbons, Jenkins and Purcell, as well as Charpentier (joint performance of Suite in d minor) and a collection of English Dances. Saturday, June 16, 5:00 PM, First Congregational Church. \$12.00

**Ensemble Hesperian XX** (Jordi Savall, with three other gambists and a large number of other Renaissance instruments): Tuesday/Saturday, June 12 and 16, 8:30 PM, Hertz Hall. \$20.00.

**Lecture Demonstration by Jordi Savall:** Friday, June 15, 10:00 AM, Durham Theater (below Dwinelle Hall). \$5.00.

The list of exhibitors at the Exhibition includes: Joe Baker, Guy Derat, Peter Hüttnannberger, and Dominick Zuchowicz (**Instrument Makers**); Ralph Ashmead, Louis Bégin, and Christopher English (**Bowmakers**); David T. Van Zandt (**Restorer**); and Damien Dlugolecki (**Strings**).

For more information about the Festival, call 415 642-2849.

## Forthcoming Events

**June 3:** Mid-Peninsula Recorder Orchestra concert (medieval — 20th Century): Palo Alto Cultural Center, 1313 Newell Rd., Palo Alto, 2:30 PM. Free (415 881-3115 d, 591-3648 e).

**June 9:** /Pacifica meeting. Election of Officers. Please check your calendars.

**June 17 — 30:** SFEMS Baroque Workshop (Mary Springfels, gamba).

**July 1 — 7:** SFEMS Renaissance Workshop (Margriet Tindemans, gamba).

**July 8 — 15:** Summer Workshop, San Luis Obispo (Sett of Vyalls).

**July 29 — Aug 5:** VdGSA Conclave, Richmond VA (919 967-2319)

## Recent Events

Four of us (Carolyn Coolidge, Virginia and Dick Janes, and Peter Ballinger) formed a viol consort under **John Dornenburg's** able direction as part of the SFEMS Evening Classes (10 Wednesday evenings, beginning February 14). With his help, we were not daunted by Jenkins 4-part fantasias, and gave a performance of the Purcell g minor for the other classes. Thank you, John, for some rewarding hours.

John Dornenburg, with Patricia Halverson and **Richard King**, gave a fine recital at Trinity Chapel on April 22. The grateful acoustics of the chapel enhanced the excellent ensemble playing: the Divisions by Jenkins, and the Marais Pièces were particularly well done.

## In Memoriam

Many of us in our gamba world were saddened to learn of the death, on March 5, of Pearl Winter. Kathy Bumpass had kept me well informed, so I was relieved to know that Pearl, who bravely fought a rapidly invasive brain tumor, did not seem to be in pain during the deadly progress of the disease. She left peacefully, surrounded by her devoted family. Bless Kathy, who spent time almost every day with Pearl, who arranged all sorts of music, both recorded and live, to support her at all times, and who never doubted that those sounds reached Pearl, even when other communication seemed to fail.

I first met Pearl at La Casa, in my own very first workshop. I was nervous, and had spent weeks preparing. I was convinced I could never teach this instrument we all love, and, knowing me, I probably talked more than I taught! Pearl put me at ease, and I learned that she and I shared cello backgrounds, professor husbands, children, and, of course, a fascination with the viol. We became instant friends. Through the years I have always put her right at the top of my list of "the really good people of this world." She was one of the most generous people I've known, in all ways. She was a dedicated and patient cello teacher, and a loyal and longstanding member of the Fresno Philharmonic. I never heard Pearl say a really unkind word about anyone, but I'm not implying that she was a Pollyanna. She had a



marvelous sense of humor, and enjoyed laughing over life's little twists, especially those in the music world. Pearl gave of herself — every bit of herself — to Jim, to her church, to her friends, to her students, and to music. Winter hospitality is legendary. I've stayed at the house on E. Barstow on many happy occasions, with Pearl cheerfully fixing meals for anyone who walked through the door, even though she might be setting off for an orchestra rehearsal in minutes! Several times colleagues and I spent long hours in the Winter's music room, practicing for concerts neither Jim nor Pearl could even attend, due to schedule conflicts. It didn't matter; all were welcome. Their special warmth and interest in their many friends' lives always made me feel I left the Winters a better person than when I came.

Aren't refrigerators revealing? Although a peek inside is always interesting, the door *front* is the true indicator of life styles. Pearl covered her refrigerator door with a wide variety of cartoons, photos, newspaper clippings, and snippets from the church bulletin, as well as notices of concerts, lectures and such. Once I said I wished I had a copy of the following, which many of you may have seen. She simply took it off and handed it to me, saying she could get another easily. How Pearl-like! And how like Pearl to have it there in the first place.

*"Why were the saints saints? Because they were cheerful when it was difficult to be cheerful, patient when it was difficult to be patient; and because they pushed on when they wanted to stand still, and kept silent when they wanted to talk, and were agreeable when they wanted to be disagreeable. That was all. It was quite simple and always will be."*

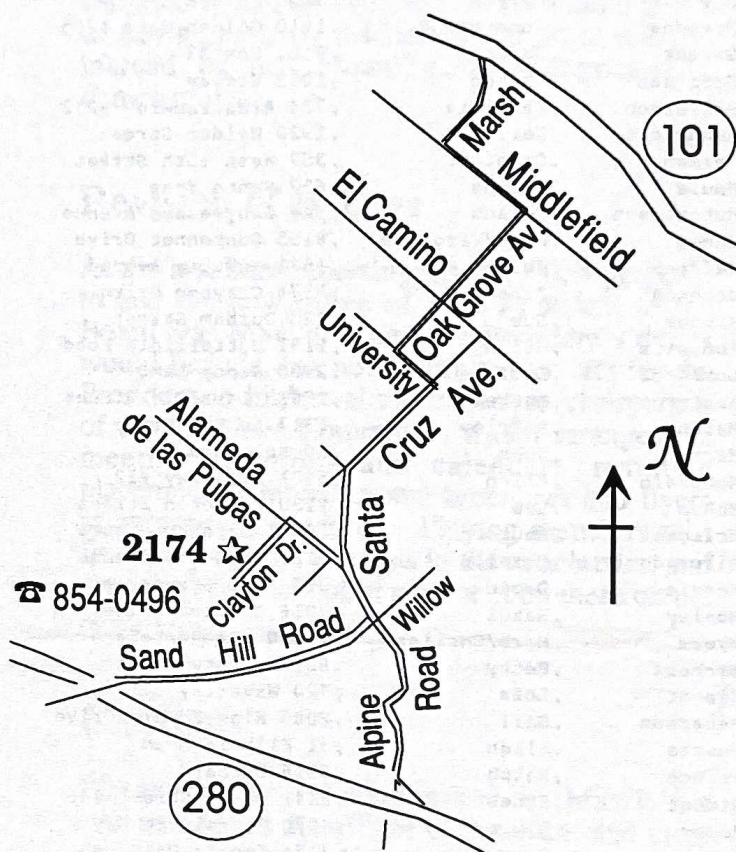
Oh Pearl, how you would laugh if we called you a saint! We *all* know nobody can swallow that sort of thing — but it's funny, having known you kind of makes me wonder.

— Carol Herman

## Directions to May Meeting

Those approaching from the East Bay are encouraged to take **highway 280 South**, via the Bay Bridge (or via the San Mateo Bridge — but stay on 92 until 280). Exit at Sand Hill Road, turn left at the first major intersection onto Santa Cruz Avenue, staying in the left lane and taking the left fork (Alameda de las Pulgas). Turn left almost immediately on Clayton Drive: No.

2174 is on the right. Intrepid travellers driving **south on 101** should exit at Marsh Road (Atherton), proceed southwest to the T at Middlefield Road. Then left (southeast) on Middlefield one mile to Oak Grove Avenue (first light). Turn right, drive southwest across El Camino to the T at University Street (NOT University Avenue in Palo Alto!). Turn left, then right on Santa Cruz Avenue, which eventually makes a 45 degree left turn after a 4-way stop sign. Make a sharp right when you reach Alameda de las Pulgas and thence to Clayton Drive. Arriving from the south on 280, take the Alpine Road exit, proceed north(east). Alpine becomes Santa Cruz, so continue as above. The following map may be of help.



## Advertisement

John Bull: Chromatic Hexachord Fantasy, for four viols (TrTBB). New, corrected edition with preface and notes by Walker Cunningham. Score and parts \$10.00 PRB Productions, Albany CA.

## Membership List

An up-to-date list of our members appears overleaf. Please send corrections to both Dalton Cantey and Peter Ballinger, as their mailing lists are separately maintained.



# /Pacifica Chapter Mailing List

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