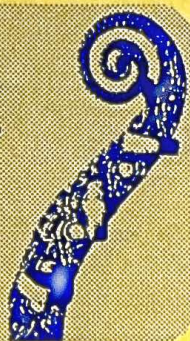


# Gamba News



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

Volume 3, Number 5  
September 1990

*Greetings to all : I hope you had a good summer, and are ready for our Fall program.*

### September Meetings

Our first meeting this season will be held at St. Mark's Church, Bancroft Way, Berkeley on Saturday, **September 8**. Please plan to arrive for tuning, dues-paying and socializing at 9:30. Playing will start at 10:00. Bring some dollar bills for the parking lot, which is accessed from Durant Avenue, and enter the building via the door adjacent to the parking lot. Brown bag lunch or eat at one of a variety of nearby restaurants.

There will be a special occasion for our members on the following weekend, **September 15-16**. As announced in the July Newsletter, Herb and Corliss Myers have invited us to Carmel on the Saturday, to play in groups at the Church of the Wayfarer, Lincoln Street at 7th Avenue. Try to arrive by 10:00 am. Drop off instruments etc., then park at nearby public lot. Herb and Corliss will be our hosts for dinner in the evening, and all who wish to stay overnight may do so, at their home or the homes of their friends. We are encouraged to prepare a piece to perform at the Church for the 9:30 and/or 11:00 service(s). Thanks to Corliss and Herb for this generous invitation.

**Important:** Be sure to *return your reply cards* as soon as possible, so that arrangements (for both meetings) can be made: board, lodging and music. **Dues for 1990-91** may also be paid along with your reply card: checks should be made out to VdGSA/Pacifica (\$15 Playing, \$25 Family, \$5 Newsletter only).

### Election Results

As you can see from the box below, we now have a Vice-Presidential office, inaugurated by **Lee McRae**. We are glad to have you still on the Board, Lee, where your experience as President will be valuable. The changes in the bylaws that made this possible, as well as the change in the number of members-at-large, were overwhelmingly approved. Of the ten candidates who volunteered for the five member-at-large positions, the winners were, in alphabetical order: **John Dornenburg, Glenna Houle, Jane Johnson, John Mark and Alvin Roper**. Congratulations to all.

### Schedule of Meetings

In addition to the September dates, the following meetings should be noted in your calendars:

<b>October 13</b>	(St. Mark's again)
<b>November 10</b>	(John Dornenburg Workshop)
<b>December 8</b>	
<b>January 12</b>	(another Workshop)
<b>February 9</b>	
<b>March 9</b>	
<b>April 13</b>	
<b>April 27</b>	(N-S Meet: weekend)
<b>June 8</b>	(Annual Meeting)

### OFFICERS

<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	Peter Ballinger
<b>VICE-PRESIDENT:</b>	Lee McRae
<b>SECRETARY:</b>	Marilyn Cantey
<b>TREASURER:</b>	Dalton Cantey



## A Chapter Flyer

A flyer describing the /Pacifica Chapter has been created and copies will be available to all for placing on bulletin boards or distribution to potential members. Please check the number of copies you would like on the reply card.

## Treasurer's Report

Dalton reports that we increased our total assets by about \$400 in the 1989-90 fiscal year, mostly because contingencies such as potential losses on workshops and the N-S meet, and payments for meeting places, did not occur. Our balance now stands at \$991.51

## Forthcoming Events

### Mid-Peninsula Recorder Orchestra:

**Wednesday, September 12,** Duveneck School Multipurpose Room, 705 Alester Ave., Palo Alto. First meeting of 1990-91 season. 8:00 PM with instruments and a music stand.

**Saturday, October 20,** Workshop with Gloria Ramsey devoted to early Hispanic Music of the New World. Duveneck School, 9:00 AM—4:00PM \$15.00. Information: Mary Ashley (415-494-1829).

### SFEMS Gamba-Related Activities:

**September 29, 8:00 PM.** Sweet Bird: Julianne Baird, soprano, with Music's Recreation. First Congregational Church, Dana & Durant, Berkeley (\$13/\$11). Program includes the "*Bladder Operation*" of Marais, and the E minor Paris Quartet of Telemann, as well as Clérambault's *Léander et Héros*. (843-2119)

**October 3—November 28** (9 evenings): SFEMS Evening Class in viol consort playing, given by John Dornenburg. Sight reading as well as polishing of the ensemble. MusicSources, 1000 The Alameda, Berkeley. 7:00 PM (possibly another class at 8:30). Call John for details (415-530-3202).

**February 10, 2:00 PM:** The Newberry Consort (including Mary Springfels). Legion of Honor, San Francisco. \$20/\$18 (subscription only: 843-2119)

**December 10, 3:00 PM** Baroque A-Z (Abel to Zachow): Luciana Lombardi, Viol, with a baroque ensemble. Highlands Park Senior Center, Santa Cruz (repeated December 12 & 17) (408-476-1131).

## Summer Activities

The **Berkeley Festival** provided a continuing feast for gambists, with several makers of instruments and bows exhibiting and demonstrating their creations. Ensemble Hesperion XX gave two excellent concerts, featuring fine ensemble playing by an incredibly international group of gambists, although Jordi Savall's lectures, I hear, left something to be desired. Larry Dreyfus made a sensation with his gamba playing in Handel's *La Resurrezione*: we are fortunate to have him in the Bay Area this year. The week ended with an outstanding joint appearance of the New York Consort of Viols and the Yukimi Kambe Consort.

With scarcely time to retake our bows, the **SFEMS Baroque Workshop** began at Dominican College, San Rafael, with two weeks of classes on all aspects of gamba technique and performance given by Mary Springfels. One reward was to work on Gibbons's *Goe from my Window*, until we could play it, not only without coming unglued, but reasonably musically.

Then it was off to San Luis Obispo, for a delightful week at the **Sett of Vyalls Workshop**, devoted to almost every aspect of gamba playing, from beginning tablature with Carol Herman to Treble Technique and Reading from Original Manuscripts with Wendy Gillespie. One innovation was a faculty concert given without the usual time consuming rehearsals. This made for a more relaxed faculty and a spirit of improvisation in the playing that was exciting and real.

**The Conclave:** will those who attended please send me their impressions for publication here?

## Quotation of the Month

There are, however, two reasons for moving the body: firstly, so that you will not look like a statue and secondly, in order to emphasize the text of the piece you are playing. When playing sad music you should handle the bow gently, and you should occasionally introduce a vibrato to add the necessary pathos. The opposite effect is achieved when playing cheerful music if you use the bow in a suitable manner.

— *Sylvestro Ganassi, 1542*