



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

*Volume 3, Number 7
November 1990*

November Meeting

Don't miss our November 10th Workshop, given by **John Dornenburg**. John's topic will be "Viol Calisthenics". Registration (\$15; \$10 playing members) starts 9:30 AM at Braun/Campbell Rehearsal Hall, Stanford University (see map). Coffee and lunch available at nearby cafeteria. Please return your reply card as soon as possible.

October Meeting

This meeting, held at St. Mark's, Berkeley, was enjoyable, although sparsely attended: some of our stalwarts were missing. (In particular, we wish a speedy resumption of viol activities by our friends **Virginia Janes** and **Alvin Roper**, both of whom are recuperating after surgery.)

New Members

We extend a hearty welcome to three new members: **Susan Alexjander**, **Annette Barnett**, and **Kit Robberson**; and a greeting to **Alexandra Saur**, now back on the active list! Our list of 52 members will be in the December Newsletter. Please update your address/phone on reply cards.

Carmel Meeting

Our chapter received an unexpected and very generous honorarium from the Church of the Wayfarer, at whose services we played music in September. Also, belated acknowledgments of the further hospitality of **Herb and Corliss Myers**, who provided the coffee and goodies during the day's activities. Informal photographs will be on view at our December Meeting.

December Meeting

This meeting will be a seasonal one, to be held at **Peter Ballinger's** home in Albany, December 8. More information in the next Newsletter.

Report on the Gamba Bande

The Gamba Bande of Pine Hollow Elementary School, Concord CA began as a result of an inquiry made by the Secondary Education Committee of Early Music America concerning educators who were interested in using early music in their curriculum. **Ernie Ridout** indicated his interest, and **Lee McRae**, Chair of the EMA Committee consulted with **Pacifica Chapter** and formed a local Education Committee, which located instruments and resources for him, as well as arranging for his own instruction.

Ernie introduced his students to the instruments with recordings and pictures. When the actual instruments were brought, they began with the bow and open strings, using ideas he had learned from **Carol Herman's** workshop (*Pacifica Chapter, November 1989—ed.*) They played gamba on alternate days for about half-an-hour, after which they would return to the modern instruments. **Martha Bishop's** Method was valuable; the introductory exercises and repertoire were ideal for young students with a strong

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:	Peter Ballinger
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Lee McRae
SECRETARY:	Marilyn Cante
TREASURER:	Dalton Cante

foundation in music. John Dornenburg came to the school twice to work with the students. He inspired them with his gentle manner, and their technique and tone improved noticeably. On May 16, the Gamba Bande participated in a school performance entitled *Ancient and Future*, a joint concert with students who had composed pieces for a computer music system. The Bande played four pieces from Martha's book (*Tallis's Canon*, *The Song of the Ass*, *Shepherds Hey* and a Praetorius dance), in a performance that was well received by parents and school administrators. They also performed for the student body as part of a Medieval Fest on May 18.

Ernie says that the students in the Gamba Bande enjoyed the experience tremendously, and the reaction from the parents was positive. From a purely musical standpoint, the results were quite good, and provide encouragement for continuing to develop early music education in the public schools.

(A note of appreciation to Lee, John, the Education Committee and the providers of time, instruments and materials to the project. Ernie is still involved in education, but is no longer with the public school system. We hope that projects of this kind will continue — ed.)

Advertisements

For sale: Bass viol after Barak Norman. 72 cm string length. New, \$2500. Other models and sizes made to order. Alexandra Tantranon-Saur, (415) 568-5452.

For Sale: Praetorius Bass Viol, made in Celle, Germany in 1963. Excellent condition. Appraised value \$2800, asking \$2000. Betty Nichols, (415) 798-5335.

Wanted: Case for Bass Viol. Contact Susan Alexjander, (415) 525-9244.

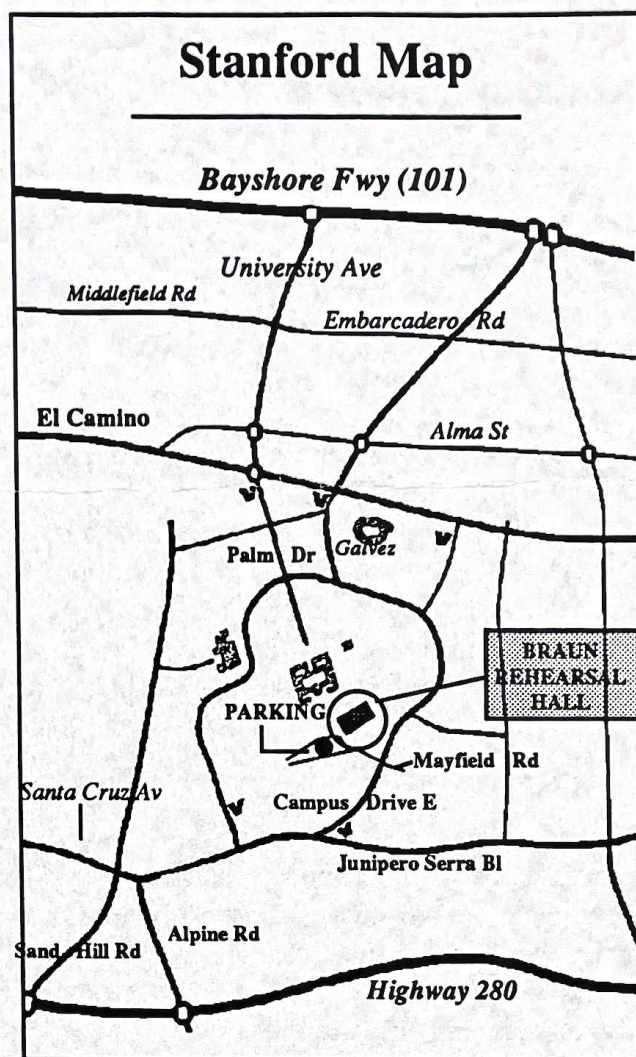
Viol Tablature Primer: Alphabet Soup, by Carol Herman. 21 pieces; instructions, poetry. \$14.00 December: PRB Productions, 963 Peralta Av., Albany CA 94706 or from Boulder Early Music Shop.

Quotation of the Month

Rare is the voice itself, but when we sing
To th' lute or violl, then 'tis ravishing.

—Robert Herrick (1591—1674)

Gamba News page 2



Appeal for Instruments

SFEMS is planning a new class for beginning viol players, to be taught by John Dornenburg. To get this project off the ground, they need to loan or rent (for a modest fee) instruments. If you have one or more instruments that you can spare for the duration of the class, please call John at (415) 530-3202, and/or include the information on your reply card. In fact, Pacifica Chapter would like to compile a list of instruments and their owners, and as part of this endeavor, we are starting (at John's suggestion) a new Vital Statistics column to record the arrival of new instruments to our membership.

Vital Statistics

Axford, Anita: 6-string Bass, with one-piece back, by Lyn Elder, June 1990.

Ballinger, Peter: Bass after Stainer, by Peter Hüttmannsberger, June 1990.