



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

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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.

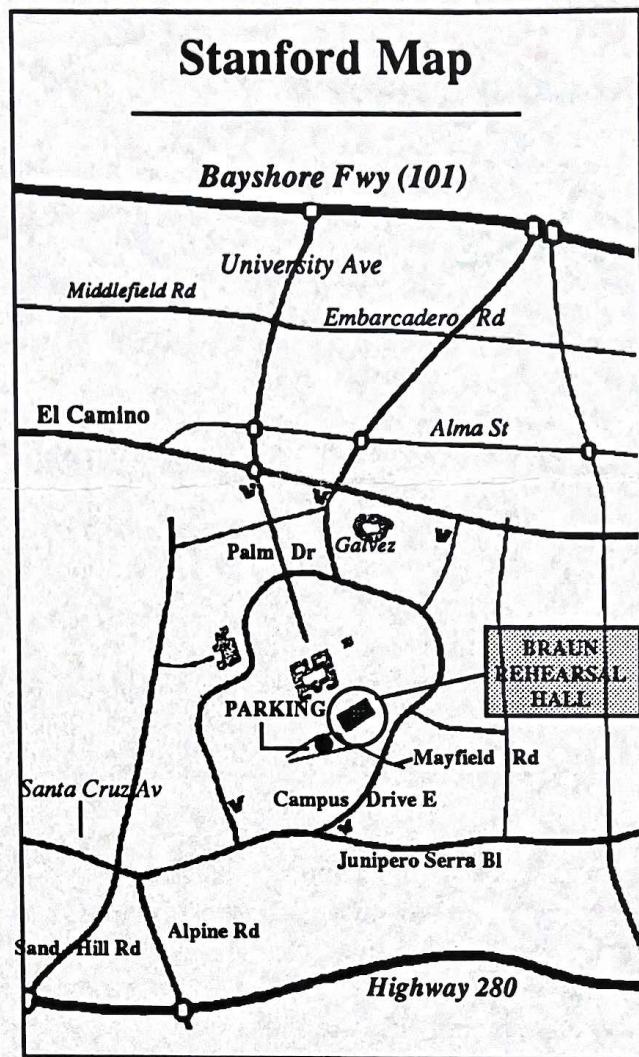
Viol Tablature Primer: Alphabet Soup, by Carol Herman. 21 pieces; instructions, poetry. \$14.00 December: PRB Productions, 963 Peralta Av., Albany CA 94706 or from Boulder Early Music Shop.

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)

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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.

Gamba News



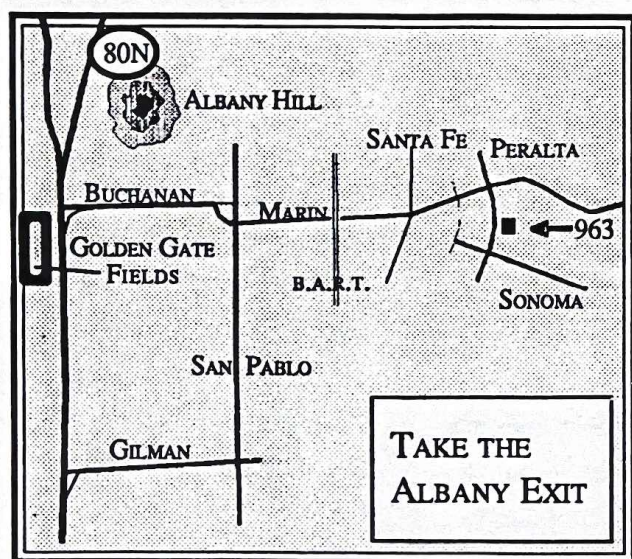
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December Meeting

A reminder that our last Chapter Meeting of 1990 will be held at the home of Peter Ballinger, 963 Peralta Avenue, Albany (415 526-0722). See map for directions. Please try to arrive around 9:30 AM. Playing will begin at 10:00. Bring whatever seasonal goodies you might like to share for lunch. Coffee will be available. There is enough room for up to four acoustically isolated groups to play, and we'd like to have good attendance, particularly as there will be a sale of books on music and printed music generously donated by Paul Furnas. Please send in your reply card as soon as possible.

Map for December Meeting



Advertisement

For Sale: Praetorius bass gamba, good condition, speaks well, with bow and padded vinyl case. \$2000 or best offer. Leo Christiansen. 415 388-7317 day; 388-6413 evg.

November Workshop

Our workshop with John Dornenburg was held at Stanford in Campbell Recital Hall and adjacent rooms: after coached group playing in the morning, we assembled in Braun Rehearsal Room for John's featured talk on Viol Calisthenics. We performed several exercises for the bowing arm, then several more for the left hand. The remainder of the afternoon was devoted to more coached group playing. Thanks to John for his very helpful coaching, and for the valuable exercises, distilled from many years of playing and teaching.

Forthcoming Events

San Francisco Bach Choir presents Elizabethan Christmas Music for voices and viols*—Tallis, Gibbons, Byrd, Purcell and Blow. St. Paulus, Gough and Eddy, SF. December 7 and 8 at 8 PM. \$12/\$7 advance, \$15/\$10 at door. 931-4529, or 392-SHOW. *[Mary Springfels, Patricia Halverson, Julie Jeffrey and Richard King]

Quotation of the Month

Many are the ways of applauding...striking the two hands flat against each other gives but a dull and commonplace sound. Only first-year apprentice *claqueurs* or barber's assistants applaud like that...the *claqueur* who is carried away applauds

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fast, hard, and for a great length of time. During his applause he looks to right and left, and these exhibitions failing to satisfy him, he stamps, he shouts: "Bravo-o-o! Bravo-o-o!" (note the long vowel) or else "Brava-a-a!" (That one is the scholar of the gang; he has kept company with Italians and can distinguish masculine from feminine)...the violinist-*claqueur* strikes the back of his violin with the back of his bow...this form of applause is less common and...more sought after...unfortunately it is nearly impossible to find out when his applause is ironical and when genuine.

Hector Berlioz, *Evenings with the Orchestra*. (tr. Jacques Barzun), U of Chicago Press.

SFEMS Evening Classes

The Consort class will continue next year: there are openings for new participants. John Dornenburg,

who teaches this class, will also teach a new class for beginning viol players, assisted by various members of the /Pacifica Chapter who have offered to loan instruments and bows to beginners. Both classes will be on eight Wednesday evenings, from February 13 to April 3. For further information, call John at 415 530-3202. *[Four of us (Carolyn Coolidge, Lee McRae, Kit Robberson and I) have been enjoying ourselves in the current Consort class, studying two of Purcell's 4-part fantasies, as well as relaxing with consorts by Byrd, Gibbons and Lupo.]*

Vi-al Statistics - December

Dornenburg, John: a new contrabass gamba by Dominik Zuchowicz. This instrument, which sounds an octave below the bass viol, will provide the continuo in the SFEMS Viva Vivakdli concert, December 8 at First Congregational, Berkeley, 8 PM (843-2119)

Alexjander, Susan: bass viol by Charles Sutton, Santa Cruz CA

Membership Listing

P = Playing Member, N = Newsletter Member. D = *day* phone number.

Abbott	Mary	1201 Liberty #12	El Cerrito	CA 94530 415-526-7925 N
Alexander	Ellen	5701 Grisborne Av	Oakland	CA 94611 415-339-2659 P
Alexjander	Susan	267 Berkeley Park Bl	Kensington	CA 94707 415-525-9244 P
Ashmead	Ralph	P.O. Box 1411	Tuolumne City	CA 95379 209-928-1272 N
Axford	Anita	7260 Occidental Rd	Sebastopol	CA 95472 707-823-5289 P
Ballinger	Peter	963 Peralta Av	Albany	CA 94706 415-526-0722 P
Barnett	Annette	2676 Bush St #3	San Francisco	CA 94115 415-346-2246 P
Binford-Walsh	Hilde	89 F Escondido	Stanford	CA 94305 N
Brown	Peter	1363 Contra Costa Dr.	El Cerrito	CA 94530 415-237-9778 P
Bumpass	Kathryn	311 W Sierra Madre	Fresno	CA 93705 209-221-0607 ND
Cantey	Dalton/Marilyn	10462 Noel Av	Cupertino	CA 95014 408-996-1393 P
Dallas	Pamela	1540 Carlin St	Reno	NV 89503 702-747-4377 P
Dallmann	Diana	128 Steamer Ln	Vallejo	CA 94591 707-554-6843 P
Dixon	Dave	1687 Noreen Dr	Sparks	NV 89434 702-358-3744 ND
Doris	Cecilia	431 Lee St #15	Oakland	CA 94610 415-465-4849 PD
Dwight	Frances	6647 El Colegio Rd	Goleta	CA 93117 805-968-0602 N
Earnest	Jeffrey	Music Library, Braun Hall	Stanford	CA 94305 415-795-8608 P
Friedes	Jonathan S.	1610 Golden Gate #205	San Francisco	CA 94115 415-563-4347 PD

Furnas	Paul	3128 Gateway Dr	Cameron Park	CA 95682 916-676-1737 ND
Grosjean	Ok-Koo	1002 Ordway St	Albany	CA 94706 415-526-8695 N
Halverson	Patricia	5417 Kentucky Av	Pittsburgh	PA 15232 412-621-5145 ND
Herman	Carol B.	357 W 10th St	Claremont	CA 91711 714-621-2367 N
Herrick	Kristina	2161 W. San Jose	Fresno	CA 93711 209-435-4448 ND
Hough	Devin	1706 Balsam Place	Davis	CA 95616 916-758-5150 P
Houle	Glenna	657 Santa Ynez	Stanford	CA 94305 415-327-0105 P
Janes	Dick/Virginia	8155 Sunbonnet Dr	Fair Oaks	CA 95628 916-922-3889 P
Jeffrey	Julie	1521 Sequoia Av	Richmond	CA 94805 415-237-8579 P
Johnson	Jane T.	2174 Clayton Dr	Menlo Park	CA 94025 415-854-0496 P
Johnson	Kenneth	1385 Church St	San Francisco	CA 94114 415-647-7851 P
Kaplan	Helga	31162 Monterey St	South Laguna	CA 92677 714-499-4799 N
Kimber	Sue	227 Durham St	Menlo Park	CA 94025 415-325-3693 P
Konowitz	Helen	1181 Butterfield Rd	San Anselmo	CA 94960 415-456-2132 N
Lindley	William	7363 Eads Av	La Jolla	CA 92037 619-454-7346 N
Lombardi	Luciana	2900 Sandy Ln	Santa Cruz	CA 95062 408-476-1131 PD
Macintosh	Andrea	12013 Lasselle St	Moreno Valley	CA 92388 714-243-0664 ND
Mark	John	10 Holyrood Manor	Oakland	CA 94611 415-531-1471 P
McRae	Lee	2130 Carleton St	Berkeley	CA 94704 415-848-5591 P
McTigue	Maureen	10541 Barnhart Ct	Cupertino	CA 95014 408-996-9825 P
Miloradovitch	Hazelle	2190 Monterey Av	Menlo Park	CA 94025 415-854-3818 N
Morris	David	385 61st St	Oakland	CA 94618 415-658-3382 N
Myers	Herb/Corliss	26000 Via Portola	Carmel	CA 93923 408-624-4598 P
Nichols	Betty	801 Augusta Ct	Concord	CA 94518 415-798-5335 PD
Nisbet	Lois	720 Waverley	Palo Alto	CA 94301 415-326-0516 P
Powers	Ellen	31 Kilburn Rd	Belmont	MA 02178 N
Pumell	Marilyn	24065 Ocean Av #117	Torrance	CA 90505 213-375-6124 N
Robberson	Kit	621 Prentiss St	San Francisco	CA 94110 415-824-7870 P
Roper	Alvin	4090 Rennellwood Wy	Pleasanton	CA 94566 415-426-0829 PD
Rose	Diemut	7921 Lemon Ci	La Mesa	CA 92041 619-466-3091 N
Rule	Gary	3174 Impala Dr #3	San Jose	CA 95117 408-378-8094 ND
Rundles	Mary Lois	801 Augusta Ct	Concord	CA 94518 415-798-5335 P
Russell	Carolyn	5667 Amherst	Ventura	CA 93003 805-644-5623 N
Saur	Alexandra	10717 Snowdown Av	Oakland	CA 94605 415-568-5452 N
Unterberg	Walter	5709 Burnet Av	Van Nuys	CA 91411 818-780-6333 N
Ure	Bill	2310 Santa Barbara St	Santa Barbara	CA 93105 805-682-7754 N
Wetherwax	Todd	13730 E. 14th St #112	San Leandro	CA 94578 415-483-0976 P