



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

Volume 4, Number 2
February 1991

February Meeting

As announced in last month's Newsletter, the February meeting will be held jointly with the **Mid-Peninsula Recorder Orchestra (MPRO)**. This will be our first joint venture with one of the oldest established early music groups in the Bay Area. **Fred Palmer** informs me that of the 16 MPRO members who intend to come, the astonishing total of *eleven* have volunteered to try out on viols! To meet this challenge, our members should plan to bring more than one viol each. The meeting will start with tuning and socializing at 9:30 AM, February 9 at Duveneck School multipurpose room, Alester Avenue at Channing, Palo Alto (tiny map, p.2). The morning will be spent in group playing for recorders only; viols only; and viol initiation for recorder players. Bring your lunch. In the afternoon, more ensemble playing, including as much broken consort as possible (A-440 alert!), concluding with massed group playing. Seven rooms will be available, so there should be plenty of variety. So bring suitable music (most recorder ensemble music is playable at sight by viols), extra viols, and lunch!

The rental fee for the school facilities is being shared by/Pacifica and MPRO. However, the fee would be voided if some of our members would play for the school assembly for half an hour on a day (TBA) in April. **IMPORTANT:** send in your reply card as soon as possible, to Julie Jeffrey: avoid the postal rate hike (to 19¢ on Feb 3), and make her job of organising groups easier. This will be an especially time-consuming task because of the mixed ensembles. Let us know what instruments you will bring, and if you could play for the school assembly.

Board Meeting

Board members (including members-at-large) are asked to provide a list of feasible times when they could attend a meeting. Please add this information to your reply card.

January Meeting

Wendy Gillespie was our director for this workshop, attended by 12 members; after a morning of coached ensemble playing, we heard two groups, a specially constituted trio of **John Mark, Julie Jeffrey** and **Peter Ballinger**, and a peninsula trio (**Glenna Houle, Lois Nisbet** and **Dalton Cantey**) who played for Wendy's critical ear. She then entertained and challenged us by leading us in group improvisations on short, Ortiz-like themes, with no music in front of us. We were so stimulated by this exercise that the concluding large group playing (*Gabrieli a 7, 8 and 10*) went on until 4:45, with general reluctance to stop. This workshop was held at First Presbyterian Church of Hayward: our thanks to the church and to John Mark, who made the arrangements.

Calendar

SFEMS Evening Classes Update: beginning on Wednesday, February 13, the SFEMS Evening Classes includes two viol classes offered by **John**

OFFICERS

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

Calendar (contd.)

Dornenburg: at 7 PM, a new course for *absolute beginners* and at 8:30 a class for experienced players in English consort music. There will be eight classes of 1½ hr. each, all on Wednesday evenings at MusicSources (see advt. this page). Beginners will be provided with instruments and bows kindly lent by members of our chapter. In fact, John still needs one or two bows, especially a bass bow. There may still be room for one or two students in each of these classes. Phone Louise Carslake for registration information (530-3202).

Announcing: the formation of an ensemble class focusing on reading from original Renaissance notation led by Frances Feldon at her home, 966 Kingston Av in Piedmont. Commencing first week of February. \$15 per class (1½ hr.) Call (415)601-1322 for information.

SFEMS Gala Concert: Newberry Consort (Mary Springfels, Drew Minter, David Douglass, Kevin Mason, and Mitzi Meyerson) at Palace of the Legion of Honor, San Francisco, February 10, 2 PM. (415)843-2119 for information. There may still be some tickets available.

Saturday, March 2: Ensemble Sans Souci with guests Susan Hedges, soprano and Jonathan Harris, recorder, in a program of Baroque Music entitled "Crossing the Channel". Pieces by Marais, Campra, Couperin, Locke, Purcell and others. Shepherd of the Hills Church, 401 Grizzly Peak Bl at Spruce, 8 PM. Donation \$10 to benefit SFEMS Baroque Workshop. (415)621-3085.

Sunday, March 3: English and Italian music for voices and viols, by Gibbons (*This is the Record of John*), Jenkins, Monteverdi, Vecchi, and others. **Ensemble Nova Albion** (Julie Jeffrey, Sara Beth Michael, Kit Robberson, George Shotts, and William Wright, viols). All Saints' Parish, 1350 Waller, San Francisco (621-1862). 4 PM. \$6/\$3. **Preview Concert**, including three of the pieces, same location and prices: **Tuesday, February 26**, 7 PM, as part of Evensong.

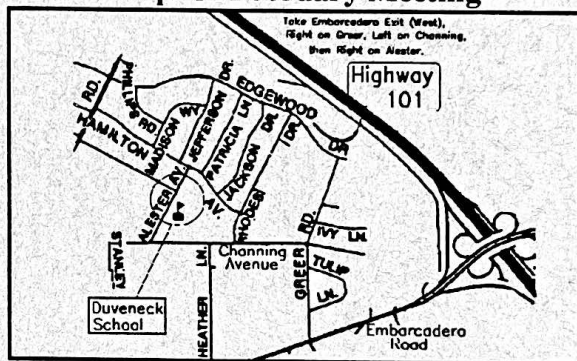
Sunday March 17, 7 PM. Solo concert by **John Dornenburg:** Virtuoso viol music of Germany

(Bach, Schenk etc.), with Jillon S. Dupree, harpsichord. San Jose Chamber Music Society, at First Unitarian Church, 160 N 3rd St., San Jose. (408)286-5111.

Don't forget the N-S meet in Fresno, April 26-28 Quotation of the Month

But it [the violin] is a terribly powerful instrument in neighborhoods where only millionaires can afford to live in detached houses. How much pleasanter it would be to live next to Mr. Arnold Dolmetsch, with his lutes, love viols, and leg viols, than to the ordinary string quartet! . . . but if we went back to the old viols with sympathetic strings and the old harpsichords, I suppose we should have to begin to make them again; and I wonder what would be the result of that. . . (January 11, 1893). From *Music in London*, by Bernard Shaw, New York, Vienna House, 1973, Vol. 2, pp. 236-7.

Map for February Meeting



There's still time to enroll in the SFEMS EVENING CLASSES

Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque Music Instruction
for Singers, Instrumentalists, and all Music Lovers

- * 8 Classes, February 13 — April 3
- * Wednesday Evenings, 7 and 8:30 PM
- * At Music Sources, 1000 The Alameda, Berkeley
- * \$128 per 8 week class, \$220 for two classes

(SFEMS Members \$120 and \$200)

Classes

Baroque Style for Flutists	String Ensemble
Viol for Beginners	Viol Consort
Theory for Everyone	Sight Singing
Beginning Recorder Ensemble	Beginning Percussion
Recorder Technique & Repertoire	Recorder Ensembles
Motets, Madrigals & Masses	Shawm Band
Harpsichord Performance	Ensembles

INFORMATION: (415) 530-3202 OR 843-2119