



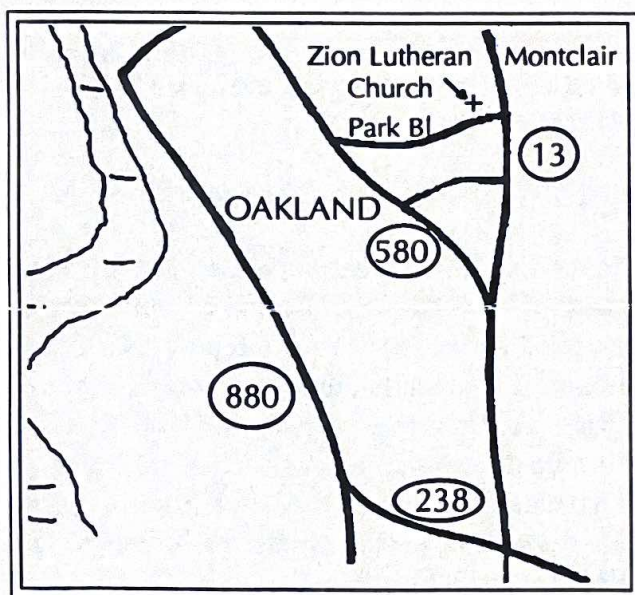
Newsletter of the Pacifica Chapter of the Viola da Gamba Society of America

Volume 4, Number 3
March 1991

March Meeting

Our next meeting, March 9 at 9:30 AM finds us at a new location, thanks to **Zion Lutheran Church** and to **Lee McRae**, who made the arrangements. The church is at 5201 Park Boulevard, Piedmont. See map below. The format will be typical, with group playing morning and afternoon. Bring your own lunch, or lunch in Montclair or at one of Park Boulevard's eateries. Send in your reply card as soon as possible: the card also has questions relating to our February joint meeting.

Map for March Meeting



February Meeting Report

On February 9th our Chapter joined with the Mid-Peninsula Recorder Orchestra for a joint meeting at the Duveneck School in Palo Alto. The day was a tremendous success thanks to the hard work of Pacifica's Music Coordinator **Julie Jeffrey**, and

the Recorder Orchestra's Director, **Fred Palmer**. We thank them both for a very rewarding meeting. Eleven recorder players had indicated in advance that they would be interested to try a gamba. Julie spent the morning instructing them on various trebles and basses which had been lent by chapter members. These beginners now want to know where they can find instruments to rent or borrow! Good work Julie!

For the others (recorder players, gambists) the morning was spent in small group playing as usual. During lunch we renewed acquaintance with old friends with whom we had played recorders in the past. After lunch we were divided into small mixed consorts of a few recorder players and a few viols each. We finished the afternoon with polychoral works conducted by Julie and Fred. Julie featured the beginning gambists in *Purcell's* "Fantasy Upon One Note" - a successful debut - with recorders and viols on the other parts. Fred conducted 8-part works of *Giovanni Domenico Treggi* (Sonata "La Porta"), *Tiburitio Massaino* ("Canzona"), and *Luodovico Grossi da Viadana* ("La Mantovana").

Special thanks also go to the recorder players who provided a delicious and generous spread of refreshments. All agreed that we want to repeat this kind of stimulating collaboration next season.

- Lee McRae

OFFICERS

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

More on February Meeting

Fred Palmer tells me that he was very pleased with the response to this joint meeting, and that the **Oriana Consort of Viols** (Jane Johnson, Lois Nisbet, Dalton Cantey, and Herb Myers) will perform for the Duveneck School assembly, thereby relieving us of the necessity of paying the rental fee. He has invited us to provide a group to play a piece of English viol music at the Mid-Peninsula Recorder Orchestra's annual concert on June 2 (2 PM at the Palo Alto Cultural Center, 1313 Newell). If any group would like this chance to perform, please call Fred at (415)591-3648. By the way, viols are always welcome to participate in the MPRO's regular meetings, held at 8 PM in the Duveneck School Multipurpose Room, Alester at Channing, Palo Alto. Forthcoming meetings will be on April 3, 17; May 1, 15.

Evening School for Viols

John Dornenburg is pleased that no fewer than five absolute beginners are enrolled for his 7 PM beginning viol class, and five more experienced players are working on consort music by Byrd and others at the 8:30 class. As announced in previous newsletters, these are SFEMS-sponsored classes, taking place at MusicSources in Berkeley on Wednesday evenings. The continuing interest in taking up the viol is leading to a shortage of instruments suitable for beginners, who are understandably reluctant to purchase expensive viols before they have come to terms with the instrument's idiosyncrasies. If anyone has a solution to this welcome problem, we'd like to hear of it; we reiterate the request that 'spare' viols be declared on your meeting attendance reply cards.

Forthcoming Events

First, an apology to the Oriana Consort (members listed above) for failing to list their February 3rd concert in these pages. I was notified, but forgot to look at the piece of paper that I had secreted in my viol case. To avoid further lapses, please be sure to mail announcements in legible typescript to me at 963 Peralta Av, Albany, 94706.

Saturday, March 2: Ensemble Sans Souci (Robert Andrews, recorder, Dennis Clark, harpsichord and Julie Jeffrey, viol), 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 (parking available), 8 PM. Donation \$10 to benefit SFEMS Baroque Workshop. (415)621-3085.

Sunday, March 3: English and Italian music for voices and viols; Gibbons, Jenkins, Monteverdi, Vecchi, and others. Ensemble Nova Albion (Julie Jeffrey, Sara Beth Michael, Kit Robberson, George Shotts, and William Wright, viols). All Saint's Parish, 1350 Waller, San Francisco (621-1862). 4 PM. \$6/\$3.

Sunday, March 17: Solo concert by John Dornenburg. Virtuoso viol music of Germany (Bach, Schenk, Kühnel, Abel and others), with Jillon Stoppels Dupree, harpsichord. San Jose Chamber Music Society, at First Unitarian Church, 160 N. 3rd St., San Jose, 7 PM. (408)286-5111.

March 27, 28 & 30: San Francisco Symphony/Rilling in Bach's St. Matthew Passion: John Dornenburg tackles the prickly gamba solo!

Frances Feldon announces the rescheduling of her ensemble class for reading from original Renaissance notation: commencing March 7, 7:30 PM at her home, 966 Kingdon Av in Piedmont. \$15 per class, (1½ hr.) (415)601-1322.

Quotation of the Month

[Purcell's] *Sound the trumpet* was performed on James II's birthday. "Jove is Heaven's Caesar, Caesar Jove below," sang the poet in a riot of enthusiastic devotion, little knowing that before a year was out Jove below would be living in retirement on the other side of the English Channel...after Purcell's death the music of this ode was applied to other words to welcome William III home from Flanders.

from "Purcell" by J.A. Westrup (J.M.Dent, 1947)

Advertisement

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