



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

Volume 4, Number 5
June 1991

June Meeting

Our final meeting of this season will be held June 8 at Zion Lutheran Church, 5201 Park Bl., Piedmont: near the top of Park Bl. on the north side. Ample parking in the lot. (See map in either of the previous issues of *GN*). Plan to arrive at 9:30 for coffee and socializing, and send in your return cards to Julie Jeffrey, who will perform her usual assignments to groups. Our annual elections will take place, if we have more nominations for Member-at-large. (See April *GN*). Bring a lunch or eat locally. See following article for an appreciation of Zion Church for their hospitality.

Viols at Zion

Our Chapter members have expressed their appreciation for the use of the meeting rooms at Zion Lutheran Church this Spring. We showed our appreciation by providing a consort comprising John Mark, Peter Ballinger, Lee McRae and Cecilia Doris, who performed the Prelude (by East) and Offertory (by Jenkins) for the Mothers Day Services on June 12. Members of the congregation came up afterwards to thank the players (and Julie Jeffrey who coached the consort) for our beautiful music. On the Monday following Mr. McKinney, the church Music Director, informed Lee that he had just received a call from a church member who told him to be sure to tell the consort how much she enjoyed our music. Mr. McKinney said that had never happened before!

—Lee McRae, V-P and Facilities Chairperson

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.

Schedule for 1991-2 Season

1991: September 14; October 12; November 9; December 14*.

January 11; February 8; March 14; April 11; April 24-26; June 13.

*Possible Workshop. §Scheduled N-S Meet weekend (Fresno).

The North-South Meet

This year the arrangements for this annual event reverted to Viols West, with Walter Unterberg as Master of Ceremonies. We appreciate his efforts, carried out in spite of his work-related travels to distant cities during the weeks before the meeting. About 31 players assembled on the Friday evening (April 26) for informal large group playing. Conductors Hazelle Miloradovitch (one of the coaches), Walter, and Peter Ballinger presented a variety of early and contemporary pieces. On the Saturday evening, Shirley Marcus, our second coach, joined the above to lead more large group pieces. The rest of the weekend was devoted to consort playing, with the coaches circulating indefatigably from group to group. A measure of the general contentment with their assignments was the request by at least two of the groups to stay together for the second session. On Sunday, because of early departures, one of the groups was dispersed among several others, allowing them to work with 6- instead of 5-part consort music. Congratulations and thanks to Viols West! Our Chapter hopes to match their expertise in arranging the 1992 Meet.

OFFICERS

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

Summer Activities

The Conclave: this year held a little closer to our coast, at Boulder, Colorado (July 28 *through* August 4). Pacifica members (who are not VdGSA members) may not have received a brochure and registration form for this event; if you would like one, please call Kathy Schenley at (919)967-2319.

The SFEMS Workshops:

Mary Springfels at the Baroque (June 23 *through* July 6): for complete information on this and all other workshops, call SFEMS at (415)843-2119.

Canto Antiquo Workshop

Ojai, California: August 4-10. Program includes Gamba, Early Winds, Renaissance Dance and Ornamentation. Scholarships may be available: call (714)626-4322 or (213)399-0238.

New Members

We welcome two new members: Sara Morrison, who took the SFEMS beginning viol class, taught by John Dornenburg; and Karen Ande, who took the SFEMS advanced consort class, also given by John. These classes were very successful: the beginners were playing Renaissance pieces half-way through the course, and the advanced consort people (Karen, Lee McRae, Anita Axford, Janet Greene and Peter Ballinger) gave an exciting (especially for the players!) performance of the Byrd Canonic Fantasia a 5 at the final concert.

Dues for the 1991-2 Season

Dues are unchanged at \$15 for playing members, \$25 for households (includes one copy of *GN*), and \$5 for Newsletter only members. Not actually due until September 1, but as this is the last *GN* until August, a reminder seemed in order. Send check to our treasurer, Dalton Cantey, at 10462 Noel Av, Cupertino, CA 95014. Playing members also receive rebates at special workshops and at the North-South Meet.



Quotation of the Month

[*Apropos* of electronic music] ". . . Everything that was limited becomes unlimited; everything that was 'imponderable' can now be subjected to precise measurement." — *Pierre Boulez, 1952.*

". . . This same frenzy for technology began in Europe about 1953. By 1958 it had all died down. The idea of electronics as the big future of music is just an American trick of fashion. Next year they'll discover the viola da gamba." — *Pierre Boulez, 1969.*

Quoted by Andrew Porter, in Musical Events, 1983-1986 (Summit Books, New York, 1989), pp.168-9.

Editor's Corner

Ugh! this will not be a regular feature. But I want to express my regrets as President of the Chapter for not being present at the June meeting. I shall be in Europe, and plan to attend the British Gamba Society's meeting June 1, where the celebrations of the Quatercentenary of Jenkin's birth will begin. Later I will be meeting Rita Morey, whose annual Consort Course at Charney Manor commissions a new piece for viol consort each year. Next year's piece has been commissioned from Martha Bishop.

Another Advertisement

Available now: David Loeb, *Nine Fantasias for the Japanese Consort* (3-6 viols, various combinations). \$12.00

Rosemary Thorndycraft: *Fantasia* (ttTTB) and Christine Hodgkinson: *Chaconne in D minor* (ttTTBB). These are the third and fourth (current) years' commissioned works for the Charney Manor Consort Course. \$10.00 each.

Bach, J.S: *Prelude and Three Fugues for Five Viols* (ttTTB) (arr. Ballinger). \$12.00

Margaret Panofsky: *Bass Viol Technique - a comprehensive instruction manual*. xiv + 340 pages, over 100 musical exercises and over 200 photographs of fingering and bowing technique. Available June 20. \$40.00

John Hingston: *The Consort Suites of Five and Six Parts* (edited by John Dornenburg): *Four Suites a 5* (ttTTB); *Three Suites a 6* (ttTTBB); Full scores, 6 part books and Organ part (169 pages of music). Avail. July 1. Price not avail. (\$25-30?).

Prices do not include postage: PRB Productions, 963 Peralta Avenue, Albany, CA 94706 (415)526-0722.

[*Editor's note: I am absorbing the costs of this newsletter (approx \$30) in return for this very long advertisement.*]