



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

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April 1992

April Meeting

Yes, there is an April Meeting! (But no May meeting, and our June Meeting will have to be delayed until June 20, because of the Berkeley Festival of Early Music, which will occupy many of us from June 7 until the 14th—see later article). Well, about the April 11th Meeting: we shall return to our home base at **Zion Lutheran Church**, 5201 Park Blvd., Piedmont. We look forward to rejoining several of our stalwarts whom we have missed on the previous two forays into the mysterious peninsula! Coffee, conversation and calisthenics (viol variety) at 9:30 AM. Send your card in promptly, as this Newsletter is late, as usual. Also, on your card, please give nominations for officers, who must be elected at the June meeting. A plethora [*ancient Mycenaean instrument with 101 strings*] of newly unearthed consort music awaits you!

March Meeting

For those who missed it, and those who didn't, but have poor memories, like me, this was a delightful repetition of last year's meeting held jointly with the Mid-Peninsula Recorder Orchestra. Our viols submitted gamely to being tautened to an unaccustomed 440: half a dozen recorder players were introduced to viols by **Julie Jeffrey**, who coached them into a triumphantly sustained g-d-g drone while the rest of us played Bach's Gavotte II (*ou la Musette*) from his third English Suite. A Musette by Couperin, involving a number of note changes, was reserved until next year. **Fred Palmer** and **Peter Ballinger** each conducted two polychoral pieces for the mixed ensemble of some thirty players. A splendid pot-luck brunch-lunch-tea was available during the day. Our chapter turnout was disappointing, again: I realize there were health

reasons in several cases, but if there is something that is bugging you about our meetings, please let us know. Write a letter for *Gamba News*, or bring it up at the April Meeting, or something!

Election of Officers

Please take the time to put forward the names of members (who must agree to be nominated!) for the following positions: President, Treasurer and six Members-at-large. (**Marilyn Cantey** and **Lee McRae** continue in their posts for another year.) Do this on your reply card, even if you do not plan to come to the April meeting.

North-South Meet

By now you should have received, *and returned*, your registration form for this event, to be held at the Piccadilly Inn (Shaw location) in Fresno, April 24-26. **Shirley Marcus** and **John Dornenburg** will be our coaches. Full details were given in the March *Gamba News*

Forthcoming Events

May 15-17: Marin Headlands Recorder and Viol Workshop. See enclosed brochure and registration form.

June 7: Thirtieth Anniversary of the Mid-Peninsula Recorder Orchestra. Concert of music for recorders by

OFFICERS

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

Handel, di Lasso, Hans Poser and others. William Barnhart, the orchestra's founder, Angela Owen, its director from 1967 to 1987, and Frederic Palmer, the current director are among the conductors. Palo Alto Cultural Center, 1313 Newell Rd., Palo Alto, 2:30 PM. Admission free. Information: (510)881-3115 (day); (415)591-3648 (evg).

June 21 - August 1: SFEMS Summer Workshops: Baroque, Recorder, Renaissance, Medieval and Instrument Building. For information, call (510)524-5661

July 12-18: Viols West Workshop, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. Faculty: Carol Herman, Music Director, with Martha Bishop, John Dornenburg, Shirley Marcus and Margriet Tindemans. Tuition: \$240 (\$20 off for early enrolment). Room/

board: \$225 double, \$265 single. Send for brochure from Marilyn Purnell, 2426 W.236th Place, Torrance, CA 90501-5953

August 2-9: The Conclave, Troy, New York.

November 26: Fretwork performs at First Congregational Church, Berkeley.

Quotation of the Month

Music must be supported by the king and the princes, for the maintenance of the arts is their duty no less than the maintenance of the laws.

Martin Luther, Table Talk (1566), quoted in A Dictionary of Musical Quotations, Routledge, London (1988)