



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

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## November Meeting

The November meeting will be held at Zion Lutheran Church, Park Blvd., Oakland (near Hwy 13) on Saturday November 12. Please arrive promptly at 9:30 AM for coffee. We look forward to seeing old and new members. Send in your reply card as soon as possible, so that Julie Jeffrey can arrange the groups.

## Concert Review

A new viola da gamba ensemble, Duo Chelyum, made its debut recital August 21 at St. Alban's Church, Albany. Duo Chelyum (the name will be readily decipherable by those familiar with Christopher Simpson's book, *The Division Viol*) comprises gambists Roland Hutchinson and Julie Jeffrey. On this occasion they were joined by Joseph Kimbel, harpsichord. In the central group of three pieces, the first, *Tombeau: Reflections on the ground When I Am Laid in Earth*, by John Joubert (b. 1927), a solo played by Hutchinson, prefaced Purcell's *Dido's Lament* with expostulatory recitative-like passages whose tension became almost unbearable until relieved by the polyphony of the lament itself, strikingly performed by Hutchinson using the multiple stops that are one of the viol's unique capabilities. The second piece was Marais's *Tombeau de Mr. Meliton*. When heard by itself, this can be almost too powerful an experience, but the Joubert solo formed the perfect foil for it, preparing the listener for the intensity which followed: this was further emphasized by the uncanny thematic resemblance of the opening of the Marais to Dido's first phrase in the Purcell. In the third piece, *Passacaille in G minor* by Louis Couperin, Joseph Kimbel gently prolonged but soothed the emotions aroused by Marais, in harpsichord music whose key and

musical structure made it seem to have been composed for the occasion.

The Duo played on viols by different makers, but which complemented each other in timbre. In the warm acoustic of St. Alban's Church, it was sometimes difficult to tell which instrument was playing the upper voice without studying the fingering of the players. The first piece on the program, *Sonata No. 2 in E minor*, by August Kühnel was a daring choice, for it has a restless structure, with frequent quixotic changes of tempo. The Duo had obviously spent many hours on it, as was shown by their unshakeable ensemble playing. It was followed by an even more unsettled piece by the eccentric composer Matthew Locke, his *Fantasy-Suite in C minor*. Louis Couperin's *Pièces de clavecin* in D minor, which followed provided a rational, and extremely beautiful interlude at the hands of Joseph Kimbel. The first half of the program ended satisfyingly with the *Concert in G major* (No. 13) by François Couperin.

The second part of the program, after the splendid group described above, ended with the three performers in a performance of a Trio by J. S. Bach, arranged from his trio for two flutes and continuo and the sonata for solo viol. The trio was well performed, excitingly so in the high passages of the two fast movements.

All in all, a well-prepared, well attended, successfully produced concert. □

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## Calendar of Events

**Master Class:** Sarah Cunningham is planning to give a gamba master class in the Berkeley area on Monday, February 13, 1995. Fees are set tentatively at \$50 for playing (solo or group) and \$15 for auditing. If you are interested in attending, please call Glenna Houle at (415) 327-0105.

**February 4:** The Baltimore Consort (Mary Anne Ballard, gambist). St. John's Presbyterian Church, Garber at College, Berkeley. 8:00 PM. Information: SFEMS (510) 528-1725.

**February 12:** James Galway, flute (Sarah Cunningham, gambist). San Francisco Symphony Series, Davies Hall. 7:00 PM

**February 25:** The Newberry Consort (Mary Springfels, gambist). SFEMS series: St. John's Church, Berkeley. 8:00 PM. Information: (510) 518-1725.

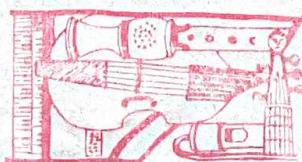
## Advertisements

**Cost:** \$5 for 50 words, good for three insertions.

**Treble Viol for sale:** Michael Plant, with hard case and bow. Call Gretchen Elliot, (415) 587-5999. Roberta Charlton, (602) 253-5055.

**Viols for sale:** Hoskins treble, 42 cm. Jaye bass, 69 cm. Norman bass, 72 cm. Bertrand 7-string, 72 cm. Reasonable: cases available. Do you have a viol or bow you're not playing or want to upgrade? If suitable for rental, I'll give you credit towards purchase of a new viol. Alexandra Tantranon-Saur (510) 568-5452.

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