

Gamba News

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

Volume 9, Number 5
September 1996

Welcome Back

We hope you all had a pleasant, musical summer. Among the subjects covered in this Newsletter are the September Meeting; the schedule for subsequent meetings; nominations for officers; and annual dues.

September Meeting

This will be held at Zion Lutheran Church, 5201 Park Blvd. (near the Warren Freeway exit), Saturday, September 21 at 9:30 AM. Playing starts at 10:00. As the church is required for other purposes in the afternoon, playing will resume after lunch at John Mark's house. Please bring a music stand. If you are *newly joining* as, or *changing your status* to, a playing member, please inform Julie Jeffrey at 510/237-8579 which instrument(s) you will bring. Established playing members, please use the enclosed reply card, so that Julie can arrange groups.

A suggestion was made that at our meetings, there should be some large group playing for all: please let us know whether you would like this, or not, on the reply card.

Nominations

Because of the Berkeley Festival, we were unable to hold our election for officers last June. We are now seeking nominations for the following officers: President, Vice-President, and Treasurer. The term of office is two years

in each case. You may nominate more than one person for each post, but in all cases, the nomination can be accepted *only if the nominee has been consulted and has agreed* to accept the post if elected. Please use the reply card for your nomination(s). The ballot will appear in the next newsletter and the election will be held by mail via next month's reply card.

Annual Dues

Checks for annual dues, for the period September 1996 to June 1997, should be mailed to Peter Ballinger, 963 Peralta Avenue, Albany, CA 94706. Peter will then be able to record new or changed addresses etc. before sending the checks to the treasurer. Please make the check payable to VdGS/Pacifica. Playing members, \$15 (\$25 for two members at the same address); \$5 for newsletter members. Please be sure to include evening phone number, fax number, e-mail address if applicable; and check the appropriate boxes for instruments played.

Newsletter Contributions, Anyone?

Don't forget, you are welcome to submit items for publication in this Newsletter. To facilitate and encourage this, we have established a schedule of Newsletter Deadlines. You will find these dates listed in this issue, alongside their corresponding Meeting dates.

VdGS/Pacifica Chapter Membership Renewal

Please give your name(s) (First)_____ Middle Initial_____ Last_____
(First)_____ Middle Initial_____ Last_____

Address:_____

City:_____ State:_____ Zip:_____ Phone: (____)_____

Fax: (____)_____ E-mail:_____

Type of Membership: ☐ Playing (\$15) ☐ 2 Person (\$25) ☐ Newsletter (\$5)

Please give Instrument(s) and Playing Level (B, LI, UI, Adv., Prof.):

Pardessus: ☐ Level_____

Treble: ☐ Level_____

Tenor: ☐ Level_____

Bass: 6 string: ☐ 7 string: ☐ Level_____

Teacher? (check box) ☐

Thank you: please enclose check for the appropriate amount, payable to VdGS/Pacifica.

Please mail this form, with your check, to Peter Ballinger, 963 Peralta Avenue, Albany, CA 94706

Meeting Schedule

Meetings will be held as follows, all of them at Zion Church unless otherwise indicated. Each date has a corresponding Newsletter Deadline date: please be sure that any material for publication in the newsletter that precedes the associated meeting reaches Peter Ballinger by the deadline.

Meeting Date	Other Info.	Newsletter Deadline
Oct 12		Sep 28
Nov 9		Oct 26
Dec 7		Nov 23
Jan 11		Dec 28
Feb 8 or 15	-- Stanford with JD	Jan 25
Mar 15	----- Wkshp with Margriet?	Mar 1
Apr 18-20	--- N-S Meet, Fresno	...
May 10		Apr 26
June 7		May 24

Viols and Bows for sale

Bill Lazar has given us the following list of instruments and bows. All are for sale (offers considered), and loan of instruments can probably be arranged for prospective buyers.

1. Dominik Zuchowicz small English Jaye Treble viol: dark stain, purfling, soundboard medallion, hollow scroll, carved pegbox, rosewood fingerboard, tailpiece and pegs (Ottawa, 1989). \$3150
2. Dominik Zuchowicz large English Treble viol: dark stain, purfling, soundboard medallion, hollow scroll, rosewood fingerboard, tailpiece and pegs (Ottawa, 1988). \$3150
4. Dominik Zuchowicz English consort Bass viol: dark stain, purfling, hollow scroll, carved pegbox, rosewood fingerboard, tailpiece and pegs (Ottawa, 1989); 71 cm string length, 120 cm instrument length. Includes soft case. \$4350
5. Dominik Zuchowicz English consort Bass viol: dark stain, purfling, soundboard medallion, hollow scroll, ebony fingerboard and tailpiece, boxwood pegs (Ottawa, 1989); 68 cm string length, 115 cm instrument length. Includes soft case. \$4350
6. Dominic Shann large Treble viol: light finish, purfling (1981). \$2750
7. Pierluigi Galetti Bass viol: light finish, purfling, unusual carved head, carved tailpiece, heavy instrument, (Cremona,

1975); 67 cm string length, 121 cm instrument length. Includes soft case. \$2000

8. Robert Bailey Tenor viol: dark stain, hollow scroll, rosewood fingerboard, tailpiece and pegs, small instrument, can also be used as an alto viol, (Norwich, 1978); 45 cm string length, 78.7 cm instrument length. \$2500

Zuchowicz' current prices are \$4200 (treble), \$5000 (tenor) and \$5800 (small consort bass).

1. Ralph Ashmead hexagonal bass/tenor bow (ca. 1989), light hair, kingwood frog and button, 69 gm., 60.7 cm open hair length, 73 cm overall length. \$575

2. Ralph Ashmead hexagonal treble/tenor snakewood bow (ca. 1989), light hair, boxwood frog and button, 54 gm., 57.0 cm open hair length, 69 cm overall length. \$600 (Weights are approximate, using a postal balance.)

Ralph Ashmead currently sells his standard bows for \$1000-\$1300.

Contact Bill Lazar, 1377 Bluebird Ct., Sunnyvale, CA 94087; (408) 737-8228; e-mail: jblazar@aol.com for more information.

Loaner/Rental Instruments!

The good news: In the past several months we have heard from quite a few people who are seduced by the incomparable sound of the viol and wish to learn how to play our noble instrument. The bad news: There is a desperate shortage of instruments available to Bay-Area beginners. Can you help? Do you have, hidden in your closet or attic, a viol you could rent or loan to a worthy beginner? There is a particular demand for basses, but any size would be welcome. Please scribble a note to me (Julie Jeffrey) on this month's reply card if you can help in any way. — Julie Jeffrey

JD on CD

The sound of John Dornenburg's viol playing can now be heard on a Planet Dog Records Compact Disc entitled "Three Complete Novels" by Monica Pasqual and the Planet Ranch: The cut called "Drive Away" is a songwriter-ballad accompanied by piano, organ and viola da gamba. Julie Jeffrey says: "You've got to hear this! When pop artists want to add bowed strings to their sound they often use cellos, which to my ears, always sound a bit out of place. The viol has just the right laid-back sound and texture for many kinds of pop music. I am eager to hear more of this kind of collaboration."

Stop Press Announcement

Saturday, September 28: East Bay Chapter, ARS announces A Workshop for Recorders and Viols, with opportunities for early reeds and brass, "Music of Philippe Verdelot and Friends", led by Marilyn Boenau, Skyline Community Church, Oakland. Time: 9 AM to 4:30 PM. For registration contact Britt Ascher, 510/283-7134 or mascher@holonet.net