

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

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December Meeting

The next meeting will be held at Zion Church, 5201 Park Boulevard, Oakland, on Saturday December 7 beginning at 9:30 AM. Bring your music stand and be ready to start tuning and playing by10, when there will be a short session of large group playing. Please send in your reply cards as soon as possible.

Large Group Playing

At the beginning of the November meeting, your editor was momentarily mystified by the reluctance of members to proceed to the appointed rooms to play in small groups. In fact they resolutely congregated in the main room with a look of calm expectancy on their faces. It appeared that the large group playing experience of the October meeting had made a profound impact, and that it was now expected to occur at every meeting. So we shall try to provide this activity at the December and at most future meetings.

New Members

We welcome two new members to the Chapter: Darvyn Spagnolly of Oakland, a playing member who is a beginner on treble viol; and Newsletter member Wesley Brandt, who has been building guitars for a number of years, and more recently has begun making viols in Portland, Oregon. We look forward to seeing our new treble violist at meetings, and to meeting Wesley on some future occasion, perhaps at Stanford in February, together with some of his new instruments.

New Viols, Familiar Owners

Earlier this year, we captured this unusual combination of Pacific Coast players and teachers with their newly minted bass viols by Peter Hütmannsberger; the only visual difference in the instruments is in the facial expressions of the figureheads. The sounds are also distinct, but fortunately both owners prefer the viol that was delivered to them.



Julie Jeffrey and Margriet Tindemans, with their new viols (photo by PRB, 1996)

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