

## Report on the Pan-Pacific Gamba Gathering 2007 in Hawaii

### \* The beginning, a summary of the Pan-Pacific Gamba Gathering 2007 in Hawaii

The impetus to materialize our design for the Pan-Pacific Gamba Gathering in Hawaii was our performance at Honolulu in the Spring 2004 during our American Tour. The day after our concert, Ms. Esha Neogy who lives in Honolulu told us of a proposal by Prof. Brent Wissick, president of VdGSA at that time. Kambe thought it would not be Pan-Pacific, if Japan did not join. So I said we would cooperate with you as Japanese. Through all our vicissitudes, we were able to participate in this first Meeting.

The term was from 31 July to 5 August 2007. Sponsored by the Viola da Gamba Society of America, the Viola da Gamba Society of Japan and the Australia Viola da Gamba Society. The location was the University of Hawaii Manoa, Honolulu.

Diamondhead from the window of the dormitory of the University of Hawaii Manoa.



Participants were a big family comprising 90 persons. About one third of them were presenters such as lecturer and performers. Participating nations were USA (45 persons including 10 from Hawaii), Japan (18), Australia (8), Canada (8), England (7), New Zealand, Malaysia, Switzerland, France, Sweden one each. There were many various Pan-Pacific Nations. This Gathering was the first international gathering for viols and had many dimensions for cultural exchange, including series of concerts, consort teaching program, lecture demonstrations, presentations, banquets, exhibition for amateurs and professionals. The theme was not only viol traditional music and research, but also wide aspects of contemporary composition and ethnic research, which are famous strengths of the University of Hawaii Manoa, which we could use. The most special and rare thing in this gathering was that the 35 presenters paid their airfares themselves and came as the result to try to know each other, to recognize their differences and to study for their own futures. It seemed to us that there was time for everyone to think together about the future of viols and our time within the framework of the Pan-Pacific rim.

### \* Overall events:

First, there was a lecture and a demonstration as academic exchange. We needed basic information of Pan-Pacific nations to know each other. So histories of viols were introduced by the board members of Japan, New Zealand and Australia. Then Ethnic approaches: kucho of Ryukyu Islands, rebab of Indonesia, erhu of China and kokyu of Japan were presented, considering them as parallel to the viol as the bowed string instruments of Europe. The next main event was the consort with people from other countries, which we can not experience in our daily lives. That was an exchange corner with all attendees. There were many themes on free demonstrations: contemporary, improvisation, and educational sessions by teachers from countries in question and answer style: Hawaiian music, electronic viol etc.

Highlights were the concert series held every night. On the first evening, a sample concert had ten groups each playing for ten minutes. Every group had an original color of their country, so we could know the whole impression of the Gathering.

Everyday concerts consisted of two groups. The Rose Consort from England searched persistent authenticity, Hesperus from USA specialized in improvisation, A Merry Conceit=American Seats from USA played European traditional music and American contemporary music printed in USA, Convivio+one from Australia and New Zealand played European traditional music, Backgammon Gamba from Australia played only contemporary music including the melodie of the Aboriginies by young players, Les Voix Humaine from Canada arranged freely the music of Saint Colombe and Marais for two viols, Catherina Meints from USA played three Bach's sonates on her wonderful instrument in magnificent style, YKVC was from Japan.



Wonderful Thielke viol



With Mr. Kazuya Sato



PPGG executive members: Finished! Relieved!



Toast!

**\*On YKVC 's activities:**

We were the final players on the Sample concert on the first night. We set a tasting program, *Etenraku*, *J'ay pris amour* by Heinrich Isaak, *Catz* by Tsutom Mizuno and asked the audience to vote for their favorite pieces for our request concert on the last day of series "A Popularity Vote - As You Like It", For encore, we played Blue Hawaii. Sakurai complacently like Presley, Kambe holding her treble horizontally like a ukelele, Noguchi played pizzicato like a bass in Hawaiian style. We could heap the opening in Japanese and festive merrymaking style as a trigger group after serious performances by professionals from other nations.



Anyway our attention led to cats:

One concept of the Pan-Pacific Gamba Gathering was the session of contemporary music. We premiered the *Nature of things-Water-* by Prof. Donald Womack of University of Hawaii. This was composed after our concert and workshop in Hawaii during our Tour 2004, and premiered in Japan at *Exhibition of Viol Consort Music XIX* at Tokyo in 2004. It express dolphins swimming like birds, whale in the deep ocean, crab, school of small fishes, "Jaws". The full audience in the classroom enjoyed how we communicate with each other and with composer and player and found contemporary music quite interesting. We could fill one of the intents of the Gathering. Dr. D.Womack has a sabbatical now and is staying in Japan until 2008. We will premier the instrumental version of his "*O Magnam misterioso*" at the *Exhibition of Viol Consort Music XXII* in Winter 2007. Enjoy it!



Laboratory for contemporary music



With Dr. Donald Womack

In the Lecture by Kambe "*Viols in Japan - Edo era to Today-*", she presented the continuation of her previous research on the "*Viols in Japan in the Sixteenth and Early Seventeenth Centuries*". Information included which came from abroad, such as Portugal, Netherlands, Russia, England, Germany and USA during the Edo National Isolation period and after Taisho era going through War II to today filled another intention of this Gathering. Thanks to the good reviews from the floor. You can find the paper at [www.vdgsa.org/ppgg](http://www.vdgsa.org/ppgg)



Kambe at the talk early in the morning

Ozawa and Noguchi jumped into the session on "Do some unusual thing on the viol". They performed Etenraku together with Mrs. Mari Kano, Musicologist of Japanese music. Especially, they stressed how to learn the traditional Japanese music without notation. They demonstrated at first singing Shoga (solfege of gagaku), then they transcribed the melody to their instrument, this time it was not the gagaku instrument but viol. Somehow, the audience liked this Etenraku, it ranked in the second place at "A Popularity Vote - As You Like It" !



Coffee break at courtyard

Favorite ! Request Concert "A Popularity Vote - As You Like It". The last concert at this Gathering. We prepared 33 pieces from many nations as possible from early time to today adjusting for this Gathering. The audience voted for six pieces from the list which were calculated just before the concert. YKVC did not know what was voted until just before we played.

The result of the vote . . .

- 1st place Ryouhei Hirose: "Suite for Noble Cats"
- 2 *Etenraku*
- 3 Antonio Carlos Jobin: "A Girl from Ipanema"
- 4 Dietrich Buxtehude: *Prelude Bux WV148* from Organ music
- 5 Henry Purcell: *Fantasia no.7*
- 6 Petr Iyech Tchaikovsky: *Arabian Dance (Coffee)*
- 7 Ludwig Senfl: *Ich stuehd an einem Morgen*

Two fans of the YKVC flew from Japan for this concert and tabulated the vote sheets. Suzanne Ferguson, president of VdGSA is carrying the result in the big treble case to the announcer Ken Perlow, treasurer of VdGSA on the stage. See the picture below. Like the Emmy Awards! We began to play from the 7th place to the first. As a surprise encore, we presented a *Canzon* by Giovanni Salvatore after the request of Kathy Spencer, editor of News of VdGSA, who just had her birthday.

The review of the floor was "the vote concert is good idea". There were some who understood how much work and said to us it might be hard to prepare so much repertory for more than one concert. Uhhh... In the other hand we could know the taste of the special audience of the Pan-Pacific Gamba Gathering through this event. After all, well-known music and upbeat music were loved regardless of whether one plays viol oneself or not. Buxtehude was loved because 2007 was the 300th anniversary of his death. Sakurai did a good job in place of Kaori Hashizume, who could not attend for health reasons. During the Gathering we displayed and sold our CDs: Buffet delle Quattro Viole da Gamba, Foglia d'olivo, Ja, doch BACH and YKVC Music series.



Heavy Result

After the Gathering, we moved from Oahu to Kona on Hawaii Island, the so-called Big Island, we played the Buffet program as a first viol concert there. This was organized by Early Music Hawaii and was an adjunct concert of the Gathering. The Christ Church Episcopal Community at Kealahou was full with an audience of 70 and gave a wonderful standing ovation to the performance to our satisfaction. We hope we could help for the future of the early music and viol on the island. We were very excited because the island was source of our favorite Kona Coffee, beautiful birds flying into our rehearsal church, mango, lychee, avocado and of course banana grew here and there alongside roads. We looked around restlessly.



With president of Early Music Hawaii Mr. and Mrs. Garrete Webb



Mango, Lychee, Banana and coffee

The Next day, Noguchi and Ozawa left the Big Island very early in the morning, 6:30! They could not have had time to sleep. The Airport was familiar like a bus stop and with only bench and roof. Sakurai and Kambe left 2 hours later and went back to Japan through Honolulu.



Airport in the dawn. Lobby and gates are open air

On this occasion, we were asked to visit USA, Canada, New Zealand and France in the future. We hope to honor these invitations. With a thousand thanks to The Asahi Shimbun Foundation and to all who helped us. YKVC

(Assistance with the English translation: David Loeb)