

Two Renaissance string instruments given to UCSD Music Dept

January 17, 1973

Love of fine instruments and support of classical music has led the owner of the Vitali Import Company of Los Angeles to give two beautiful Renaissance string instruments, a lute and a viola da gamba, to the University of California, San Diego Music Department.

"They are a welcome addition to the music department's collection of early instruments," John Silber, chairman of the department, said. "They will be used in conjunction with the department's studies in Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque music traditions."

Other old and rare instruments in the collection include recorders, several lutes, two harpsichords, a portative organ, and a family of sackbuts. (ancient bass wind instruments resembling trombones).

The music department has on its staff musicians who specialize in the lute and one other who specializes in the viola da gamba. Among them is Alan Merian, lutenist and classical guitarist, who is completing his Ph.D. in performance problems in early music at UCSD.

Graduate student Pleas Sublette, who also specializes in classical guitar and lute, will also find the Renaissance lute useful. Sublette studied in Italy at the Accademia Chigiana and in Cervera, Spain, in master classes with Amíllo Pujol. He is presently working on his M.A. in music composition at UCSD.

Professor Peter Farrell, who joined the music department faculty early in the fall of 1972, has an international reputation as soloist and teacher of the 'cello and viola da gamba.

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