

VIOLA DA GAMBA SOCIETY PACIFICA GAMMA NEWS

Volume 31, No. 1, Update, Sep., 2015

Pacifica Play Day, 9-12-2015 UPDATE

Elisabeth Reed has had a serious car accident last weekend and cannot coach us at this workshop as previously announced. We wish her the best during her recovery process. David Morris has kindly stepped in to do the coaching duties for this Play Day.

Please join us for the first Play Day of our 2015-2016 season on Saturday, September 12th at Hillside Swedenborgian Community Church, 1422 Navellier Street, El Cerrito, CA 94530. The Church's website is hillsideswedenborg.org . We will meet in the Sanctuary. Please try to arrive by 9:00 am for coffee/tea and conversation until about 9:15, to be followed by morning playing events beginning at 9:30 until lunch around 12:30. After lunch, there will be an uncoached afternoon playing session until about 2:30 pm.



We are extremely pleased to have David Morris coaching us for this play day. The theme for his group coaching presentation will be as follows.

I'm looking forward to spending the morning working on the four-part Suite in D minor by Matthew Locke (1621?-1677), an oft-overlooked composer active during those tumultuous decades in the middle of the 17th century. Locke got his musical start as a choirboy at Exeter Cathedral in the southwest of England, where he studied with Gibbons' brother Edward (and left graffiti in the stonework next to the organ- twice!). A contributor to the very first English operas, Locke rode out the anti-theatrical Commonwealth period by contributing to Playford's *Dancing Master* and hanging out with Henry Lawes, Charles

Coleman, Christopher Simpson and the two Purcell brothers, Henry and Daniel. After the Restoration, Charles II awarded three royal musical posts to Locke, who continued to write chamber and theatrical music as well as works for the sacred services. Famously opinionated and abrasive, Locke was critical of the current fad for foreign music ("...outside of a few French *courantes*, I never yet saw any foreign instrumental compositions worthy of an Englishman's transcribing") and a champion of English composition.

To my mind, Locke is a kind of stylistic "missing link" between Lawes and Purcell: All three composers left us unparalleled compositions specifically for viol consort, and all three created music that is instantly recognizable because of its quirky, specifically-17th-c.-English inventiveness. Like those other two musical titans, Locke starts with preexisting forms (e.g. imitative fantasias, dance forms, instrumental airs), but he always keeps the listener surprised with odd, occasionally shocking melodic gestures and unexpected harmonic twists. He's one of my favorites, and I hope he may become one of yours as well.

Our early morning group session with David will be followed by (mostly one-on-a-part) consort playing sessions in assigned groups using Pacifica Library music selected by each group until about 12:30 pm. Coaching will be provided by David on a time-shared basis depending on how many groups we have. If you can, please plan to stay for un-coached consort playing in the afternoon after lunch, beginning about 1:00 pm until about 2:30 pm.

If you have not done so already, please respond to Dalton Cantey, if you plan to attend the morning and/or afternoon sessions. For the morning sessions, tell him what size gamba(s) you will bring. If you would prefer to double a part in our normal "one on a part" consort playing please indicate that. Please respond before Friday (September 11th) at about 4:00 PM to expedite formation of assigned groups for the following Saturday morning. Note that merely replying to this email will not deliver an email to Dalton. Use this email address – dcantey@att.net - to send him a message.

Play Day Dates and Coach Line-Up Are Completed for Pacifica’s 2015 – 2016 Season

Many thanks once again to Alexandra Saur for setting up our great play day coaching line-up for the 2015-2016 Season!! Please update your calendars now!

September 12	David Morris	.
October 10	Marie Szuts	.
November 14	Pat O’Scannell	.
December 12	Frances Blaker	.
January 9, 2016	Shira Kammen	.
February 6	Stanford Workshop with John Dornenburg and others	.
March 12	Bill Skeen	.
April 9	David Morris (Voices and Viols)	.
May 14	Peter Hallifax and Julie Jeffrey	.
June 4	Pacifica Chapter Party & Concert for Friends/Family	.
July-August	2016 VdGSA Conclave in Forest Grove, Oregon	.

Registration is Now Open for the VdGSA Southern Arizona, Early Music Workshop, “Viols in a Desert Oasis”, October 22-26, 2015 in Rio Rico, AZ

Visit <http://home.comcast.net/~cimfu/index.html> for information and registration forms online. Click on “Workshops”.

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Shira Kammen
Renaissance Reeds
Joan Kimball

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Dues for the Pacifica Chapter’s New 2015-2016 Season are due!!!!

If you have not done so already, please visit our great Pacifica Chapter web site at <http://pacificaviols.org> for instructions on how to join or renew your membership in our Chapter for the 2015-2016 Season. Click on “Join the Chapter” at the left of the first screen for instructions on how to join, renew, or update information for your membership in Pacifica for the season. Please fill out and mail in the membership form. This information is very important to us for keeping our membership records up to date. Also, please consider making a donation to VdGS/Pacifica to support viol playing in the Bay Area, to help us buy new music for us all to enjoy, to acquire and maintain rental instruments for new viol players, and to grow our scholarship fund for local viol players.

Pacifica Chapter Contacts:

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