

# VIOLA DA GAMBA SOCIETY PACIFICA GAMMA NEWS

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## Pacifica Play Day, 12-12-2015

Please join us for the fourth Play Day of our 2015-2016 season on Saturday, December 12th at Hillside Swedenborgian Community Church, 1422 Navellier Street, El Cerrito, CA 94530. The Church's website is <http://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 uncoached afternoon playing sessions from about 1:30 pm until about 3:00 pm.



We are extremely pleased to once again have Frances Blaker coaching us for this play day. The theme for her group coaching presentation will be as follows. What can be found on the internet? It is amazing how much music is available on the internet, both recordings and sheet music, much of it for free. We will focus on just two pieces from the vast number available: Thomas Weelke's Pavan no. 1 for five viols, also called "Mr. Weelkes his Lachrymae", and "Fortuna ad voces musicales", a 4-voice composition from the early 16<sup>th</sup> century by Ludwig Senfl. See below to find out where you can find recordings and score on the internet so that you can get to know the pieces before we play them together. These two pieces are absolute gems, filled with beautiful melody and imaginative counterpoint. During our session we will take a closer look at how to bring out various details in the music, using your viol skills

to their fullest. I can't wait to work with you on these two pieces!

Many of you will have worked before with Frances Blaker, that viol player in recorder player's clothing. Loving the music written for viols, and the heavenly variety of tonal possibilities of that instrument, she even went so far as to take viol lessons while at music conservatory. If it hadn't been for the fact that, after carrying the heavy conservatory viol case down 5 flights of stairs in one building and then up another 5 flights to her teacher's apartment in Copenhagen, she would always arrive for lessons with truly quivering arms, she might have become a viol pro! The recorder is much easier to carry about town (oh, and is also a magnificent instrument).

Frances Blaker studied recorder at the Royal Danish Academy of Music in Copenhagen, where she worked with Eva Legene, Marion Verbruggen and many other masters of the recorder, and

earned Music Pedagogical and Performance degrees. She has taught recorder and early music subjects all of the U. S. and performs with Ensemble Vermillian, Farallon Recorder Quartet, Calextone and other groups. She is currently the director of the Amherst Early Music Festival. She is conductor of the Bay Area Baroque Orchestra and the North Carolina Baroque Orchestra.

Here is the information you will need to listen to the two pieces to be featured on December 12<sup>th</sup>, and to find score so you can follow along as you listen.

Weelkes: Pavan no. 1 (a 5) "Mr. Weelkes his Lachrymae". Sheet music on <http://imslp.org>. Listen on the Fretwork website <http://www.fretwork.co.uk/listen/>

Senfl: Fortuna ad voces musicales (a 4). Sheet music on <http://imslp.org>. Listen to Sex Chordae on youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mcEapVQC-ks>

Our early morning group session with Frances will be followed by a coffee/tea break at about 10:30 am. After the break, consort playing sessions (mostly one-on-a-part) in assigned groups using Pacifica Library music selected by each group will continue until the lunch break at about 12:30 pm. Coaching will be provided by Francis on a time-shared basis depending on how many groups we have. You may go out for lunch or bring a lunch to eat in the beautiful Hillside Church Sanctuary view. If you can, please plan to stay for un-coached consort playing in the afternoon after lunch, beginning about 1:30 pm until about 3:00 pm.

Please respond to our consort coordinator, 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. The uncoached consort sessions in the afternoon will include a group in the Sanctuary where part doubling is encouraged. Sign-up sheets will be provided in the morning for those who would prefer to organize one-on-a-part consorts on their own in the two downstairs playing spaces for the afternoon. Please respond before the end of the day on Thursday (December 10th) 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 – <mailto:dcantey@att.net>- to send him a message. If the hyperlink in this file does not work on your system, please email Dalton using your own email procedure at the email address above.

**Here is an Updated List of Pacifica's 2015 – 2016 Season Play Day Dates and Coaches!  
Coaches for the February 6<sup>th</sup> Workshop and Dates for the July VdGSA Conclave Have Been Identified!**

If you have not already done so, please update your calendars now!

September 12	David Morris	.
October 10	Marie Szuts	.
November 14	David Morris (Voices and Viols)	.
December 12	Frances Blaker	.
January 9, 2016	Shira Kammen	.
February 6	Stanford Workshop: Director John Dornenburg, Mary Springfels, Julie Jeffrey and David Morris	.
March 12	Bill Skeen	.
April 9	Pat O'Scannell	.
May 14	Peter Hallifax and Julie Jeffrey	.
June 4	Pacifica Chapter Party & Concert for Friends/Family	.
July 24-31	2016 VdGSA Conclave at Pacific University, Forest Grove, Oregon	.

**Tenor Viol Crafted by Lyn Elder for Sale:**



Large Jaye model tenor viol made by Lyn Elder in 1997. Curly maple with purfling around the front and back edges; dark rosewood fingerboard and pegs; open scroll. Excellent instrument with even sound throughout its range. Price with Kingham MTM hard case: \$5000. Email [mary.elliott@pineground.com](mailto:mary.elliott@pineground.com).

### **Viol Concert in January, 2016**

John Dornenburg, viola da gamba, and Yuko Tanaka, harpsichord

January 14, 2016, 7:30pm

Memorial Church Chapel, Stanford University

Music includes Marin Marais' Suite in G Major (Prelude, Sarabande *La Désolée*, *La Guitare*, *Le Jeu du volant*, and Chaconne) and the monumental *Couplets de Folie*, H.I.F. Biber's recently discovered *Toccata* for viola da gamba and b.c., and G.Ph. Telemann's Sonata in E minor.

Tickets: \$15

### **Opportunity for Viol Playing in Ashland Oregon:**

Pat O'Scannell, gambist and former Early Music director at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, will, together with the *Rogue Consort of Viols*, sponsor a monthly Play Day for gambists on the final Saturday of each month, beginning in January. You are cordially invited to attend if you are coming through Ashland, or to schedule your theatre-going to align with the "Salon du Viol" event. Each month will highlight renaissance music from a different country, and each session will begin with a half-hour coaching session before the group forms consorts and reads. There will be a morning and afternoon reading session with luncheon served in between. The cost is \$20 per 'Salon', lunch included. Contact Pat for more information, or to reserve your space. All levels are welcome, with guided sessions for beginners. Music will be provided, but your additions are welcome! Add this new event to your calendar. All sessions will be held at a private home in the scenic hills of Ashland, Oregon. Contact: (541) 482-9757 / [pato@opendoor.com](mailto:pato@opendoor.com). For more information on Ms. O'Scannell, visit [patoscannell.weebly.com](http://patoscannell.weebly.com). See Flyer below:



# Salon du Viol 2016

Hosted by Pat O'Scannell and the *Rogue Consort of Viols*  
A structured Play Day on the last Saturday in each month.

Music provided, or bring something to share!

All levels welcome. Guided session for beginners.  
Intermediate & advanced players form consorts and read.

All events in Ashland, Oregon \$20 per session  
10:00am-1pm and 2-5pm Luncheon included

January 30: England February 27: France March 26: Spain

April 30: Germany May 28: Italy June 25: Wildcard!

for reservations contact: [pato@opendoor.com](mailto:pato@opendoor.com) (541) 482-9757

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### **Deadline for Payment of Dues for the Pacifica Chapter's 2015-2016 Season!**

December 31, 2015 is the deadline for payment of dues for the Pacifica Chapter's 2015-2016 season which runs from September 1, 2015 thru August 31, 2016. We are in the process of finalizing our membership list for the current season and hope to complete it by early January 2016. If you have not paid your Chapter dues by December 31, 2015 you will be dropped from our current membership lists and will no longer receive our Chapter email distributions. If you are uncertain about if you have already paid your Chapter dues for this season, please contact Ellen Fisher, our Treasurer at [erfisher@gmail.com](mailto:erfisher@gmail.com) to find out. 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 current 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:**

Pacifica Chapter Website: <http://pacificaviols.org>, President, Play Day Consort Coordinator and "Gamba News" Editor: Dalton Cantey <mailto:dcantey@att.net>, Vice President and Stanford Workshop Coordinator: Ricardo Hofer <mailto:hofer52@gmail.com>, Secretaries: Carolyn Butler <mailto:sparkyb@sonic.net>, and Betsy St. Aubin <mailto:betsy.st.aubin@gmail.com>, Treasurer and Membership List Coordinator: Ellen Fisher <mailto:erfisher@gmail.com>, President Emerita: Ellen Farwell <mailto:Leonardfarwell@comcast.net>, Rental Viol Coordinator: Lynn Lipetzky <mailto:lynnlipetzky@sbcglobal.net>, VdGSA Chapter Representatives: Ellen Fisher <mailto:erfisher@gmail.com> and Carolyn Butler <mailto:sparkyb@sonic.net>, Webmaster and Play Day Coaching Coordinator: Alexandra Saur <mailto:alexandra@alexandrasaur.com>.