

# VIOLA DA GAMBA SOCIETY PACIFICA GAMMA NEWS

Volume 33, No. 1, September 2017

## Join us for our first Play Day of the season

with coach **Adaiha MacAdam-Somer**

**Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>**

- 9- 9:30 am- Set up, coffee/tea & conversation  
***Please be ready to play by 9:30.***
- 9:30- 12:30– coached group work, then one-on-a-part coached consorts
- 12:30– Bring a bag lunch to enjoy with us
- 1:00 to 2:30pm– uncoached afternoon playing

Hillside Swedenborgian Community Church

1422 Navellier Street, El Cerrito, CA 94530

***FREE – a great membership benefit!***



## >> Please RSVP to Cindi by Thurs. Sept. 7

Send her the info below so that she has time to copy sufficient music and to organize consort groups.

1. Will you attend the 9:30 am group session?
2. Will you attend the late- morning consort session? If so, would you prefer to play double on a part?
3. Viol sizes you will bring \_\_\_\_\_
4. If you are new to our Play Days, please include your playing level (Refer to the self-rating guide at <https://vdgsa.org/pgs/selfrate.html>)

**Adaiha MacAdam-Somer**, viola da gamba and cello, is based in San Francisco and freelances all over the Bay Area and the Pacific Northwest, including performances with Voices of Music, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, and Portland Baroque Orchestra. As an active chamber musician Adaiha (*rhymes with papaya- her tip!*) has performed with Jean-Michel Fonteneau, Paul Hersh, Kim Kashkashian, Jodi Levitz, Robert Mann, Yoshikazu Nagai, Axel Strauss, Ian Swensen, Joseph Swensen, and Uri Vardi. Her previous teachers include Anthony Elliott, Laszlo Varga and Uri Vardi.

Miss MacAdam-Somer has received scholarships to attend some of the top U.S.

summer music festivals including The American Bach Soloists Academy, Interlochen Arts Academy, Encore, and Musicorda. She has performed in master classes with Janos Starker, Steven Isserlis, Gary Hoffman, Colin Carr, Alban Gerhardt, Desmond Hoebig, Bonnie Hampton, Joel Krosnick, Wieland Kuijken, Aldo Parisot, Menahem Pressler and the Miami String Quartet.

Adaiha holds a Master of Music degree in chamber music and a Professional Studies Diploma in cello performance from the SF Conservatory of Music, where she was a student of Jean-Michel Fonteneau. Her baroque studies have been with Elisabeth Reed, Tanya Tomkins, and William Skeen.

## Upcoming Events

### SFEMS Annual Meeting

Wed. Sept. 13, 7 - 8:15 p.m.  
The Musical Offering, 2430 Bancroft Way,  
Berkeley

### Lee McRae Memorial Concert

Sat. September 23, 2 - 5 p.m.  
St. John's Presbyterian Church  
2727 College Ave., Berkeley.  
A celebration and commemoration of Lee  
McRae's pioneering work in many areas of  
education, music, and social activism, including  
the development of SFEMS and the Berkeley  
Festival; her work helping establish Philharmonia  
Baroque Orchestra; her founding of the Singers'  
Retreat and SFEMS Music Discovery Workshop;  
her projects with the Viola da Gamba Society  
and Early Music America.

All are welcome. Admission is free. For more  
info: <http://sfems.org/?p=11703>

### Early Music Open Mic Night

Wed. Sept. 27, 7 - 9 pm  
*(usually 4th Wednesday of each month exc. summer)*

Hillside Community Church  
1422 Navellier Street, El Cerrito

This is your opportunity to perform early  
music in a friendly cabaret style setting. Soloists,  
groups, Instrumentalists, singers, students,  
youngsters, professionals — all are welcome!

So, come on! Polish up your piece! Get it out  
there to share with all of us!

- Bring your own music stand and a stand light if you need it. A Roland state-of-the-art harpsichord/organ will be available on site as well as a regular piano.
- Time slots will be up to 15 minutes, with six time slots per night.
- To request a spot, send an email to Heather Wilson at [hi2dougan@gmail.com](mailto:hi2dougan@gmail.com)
- Food and drinks are provided; a donations basket covers the cost of the venue rental and refreshments.

### Workshop: Viol Sphere 2- Viols in a Desert Oasis

Oct. 19- 23, Oracle AZ  
Alison Crum, Artistic Director.  
Presented by the Southern Arizona VdGS chapter.  
For more information: <http://www.vdgs-saz.org>

### Hidden Valley Music early music workshops for recorders and viols

Oct. 29- Nov. 4. and Nov. 5- 11.  
Presented by Road Scholar in the Carmel Valley.  
For more information:

[https://www.hiddenvalleymusic.org/event-road-scholar-early-music-workshop-week-1\\_134.htm](https://www.hiddenvalleymusic.org/event-road-scholar-early-music-workshop-week-1_134.htm)

### Mary Springfels available for lessons/ coachings, Nov. 12/13

Want a lesson or a group coaching from Mary Springfels? She is coming to town for our Nov. 11 Play Day, and expects to be available for coaching/lessons on Sun and Mon, Nov. 12 and 13. An accomplished viol player and coach, Mary founded the Newberry Consort and Second City Musik and recently taught at Viols West.

Contact Mary if you are interested at  
[mvspring@gmail.com](mailto:mvspring@gmail.com).

### Pacifica Viols 2017-18 Play Days

- Sept. 9, 2017: **Adiaha MacAdam-Somer**
- Oct. 14, 2017: **David Morris**
- Nov. 11, 2017: **Mary Springfels**
- Dec. 9, 2017: **Frances Blaker**
- Jan. 13, 2018: **Shira Kammen**
- Feb.: **TBA**
- Mar. 10, 2018: **Marie Szuts**
- Apr. 14, 2018: **Julie Jeffrey**
- May 12, 2018: **Yukimi Kambe**

**Mark your calendar!**

## Time to Renew Membership

September 1 starts our new membership year at VdGS -Pacifica. We hope you will join or renew to enjoy our amazing benefits for a really reasonable price. It's easy... fill out the form online and then print it out.

*(Note- Please fill out the form even if your information has not changed since last year; it helps our treasurer Ellen Fisher record your renewal correctly.)*

1. Go online to [Pacifcaviols.org](http://Pacifcaviols.org); click on "Join the Chapter" at the left to get to the membership form.
2. Fill out the form and print it.
3. Make out your check, payable to "VdGS - Pacifica"
4. **Bring the form and check to Ellen at our Sept. 9 Play Day**

**OR** Mail the form and your check to Ellen at her new address:

Ellen Fisher, 5507 Uniform Ct, Fairfield, CA 94533.

**THANK YOU!**

## Greetings from your new Editor—

All my adult life had been spent in Oberlin, OH, when –poof! – in January I found myself in Berkeley with my husband Nick, who had just retired from teaching English literature at Oberlin College after 40 years. I grew up in the Bay Area and am really happy to be living here, rejoining my mother, sister, niece, aunt and 6 first cousins!

I have had several careers, including technical illustrator, computer programmer and non-profit gallery director. After 15 years as a resident fiber artist at Ginko Gallery in Oberlin (see my work at [www.suecopelandjones.com](http://www.suecopelandjones.com)), I have retired.

For 18 years Nick and I were part owners of Point CounterPoint Chamber Music Camp in Vermont for teenage string and piano players. After selling it to new owners in 2008, we were thrilled to discover the variety of summer opportunities for amateur adult musicians. Off we went— first to Pinewoods Early Music Camp (learning English Country Dancing, which definitely helps when playing dance tunes!). That was also my introduction to playing the viol; unfortunately, the super-humid Massachusetts weather meant lots of time spent tuning... but it did inspire the 4-part round I composed there: "Viol Weather."

I had learned the cello as a child, but hadn't played for much of my adult life. I started up again when we attended Oberlin's Baroque Performance Institute for a few years, then the Amherst Early Music Festival in CT, both its

summer and winter weekend programs. I 'baroquified' my cello with gut strings and bought a baroque bow, but couldn't quite lose the endpin.

Four years ago, Nick surprised me with a bass viol for a major birthday, and then bought himself a tenor. We took a few lessons here and there, but found only a tiny amateur viol community near Oberlin, so we weren't playing much.

But here in the Bay Area, what an amazingly rich music scene! We soon joined the Pacifica chapter, Berkeley Baroque Strings and now Shira Kammen's Gallimaufry Chamber Chorus. Nick is writing online concert reviews for *San Francisco Classical Voice* and our calendar is wonderfully crammed full of concerts we can't bear to miss.

Nick and I enjoyed Viols West enormously and look forward to getting to know more Pacifica folks in the coming year.

—Sue Jones





## Viols West 2017

This was the year I could finally come to Viols West, the grand week of music making in San Luis Obispo on the beautiful campus of Cal Poly, led by a fabulous group of world-class viol players. When I attended for the first time several years ago, it had been a delight, and I confidently expected nothing less this time around. And so it turned out!

---

*At right: a wonderful big salt-water pool right below our dorm*

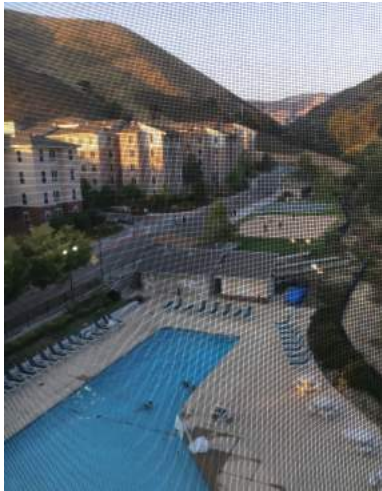
On arrival, I found that I'd been assigned to the daily classes I wanted: a selection heavily focused on playing 6-part English music.

There had been so many other great options and coaches that I'm sure that every year one could work on a completely different aspect of viol playing with a different set of coaches.

It didn't take long to get into the routine. There were the daily classes with the wonderful coaches **David Morris**, **Julie Jeffrey**, and **John Dornenburg**, and mass Voices & Viols playing led by **Larry Lipnik**. This all liberally sprinkled with chatting with friends old and new and of course playing all day and most nights. That's just one of the nice things about the viol: I can keep on playing for hours. This is of course ideal when there are so many other players about, all dying to try this or that music.

Among other late night manifestations, it was fun to sit in on sessions organized by the indefatigable **Kim Shrier** and **Carol Diehl**. One evening I sat in with **Barbara Logen** and a few others to play Barbara's sets of songs and dances that were published some time ago by **PRB Music**. It was great to hear what she had to say about the pieces and then try to bring that to life.

Other evenings saw people pulling out fantasias of **Coperario**, **Gibbons**, **Lupo**, and **Jenkins**. The last evening there was a lovely song by



**Renabosco** that made me want to explore that composer's music further.

I loved the chance to sign up for an evening side-by-side playing session with our excellent coaches. I chose to sit in on an exhilarating Lawes session, with **Joanna Blendulf** anchoring our part. The next day there were still a few spots open for Holborne dances, this time sharing my part with **Shira Kammen**. Pure fun!

The faculty concert on Thursday evening was amazing. Billed as more or less a reading session, it was a romp through music from the early Renaissance to modern times. Among the many standouts: the Lawes Pavan from the first Set a 6 in g minor: a lovely piece of music played with great sensitivity, and "The Rain Puzzle" by contemporary composer (and treble viol player) **Brooke Green**. In that piece, each instrument played one of the notes in a series of long arpeggiated figures, which seemed to rise in a single breath from the semicircle of trebles, tenors, and basses. It was quite a feat of coordination and listening.

By the time the student concert rolled around on Saturday, I was in just the right state of slight giddiness (brought on by late hours and immersion in viol music) to revel in every minute of it, whether playing or listening.

Next morning, as **Robin Easterbrook** and I piled our viols, music stands, satchels heavy with 3-, 4-, 5- and 6- part music, suitcases and the like into the back of her car for the drive home, I could look back on the entire week as success well beyond even my high expectations.

We're so lucky that there is such a dedicated core of artists and organizers who keep Viols West so alive and vibrant:

**Many thanks and kudos to Ros Morley, Larry Lipnik, and Melita Denny for Viols West 2017... and onward!**

**-Alice Benedict**





## SAVE THE DATES -- Aug. 5 – 11, 2018 • Viols West workshop

*Editor's note:* This year's Viols West workshop at the beautiful Cal Poly campus attracted a record number of 60 gamba players! Our Pacifica chapter loaned viols and provided scholarship money for several grateful students to attend.

### Music Discovery Workshop a Success

In mid-June, the San Francisco Early Music Society put on the **Music Discovery Workshop and Youth Collegium**, a week-long summer program in Berkeley for elementary through middle school-aged children. The focus of the workshop was to use hands-on activities like songs, theater, and crafts to introduce and immerse children in early music from the Middle Ages to the Classical period. The event was founded in 1994 by Lee McRae, a lifelong education supporter who believed a great way to teach kids history was through early music and dance. I got to know Lee in her last few years and think that she would be thrilled at how the Music Discovery Workshop and Youth Collegium are thriving. *(Note the memorial concert for Lee in **Upcoming Events**)*

When Yuko Tanaka, the Music Discovery Workshop Director, called this spring asking if the Pacifica Chapter might sponsor this summer's program, I was eager to get involved. They were planning three 40-minute classes to 12 students (ages 7-16) each for 4 days. The Pacifica chapter loaned six viols from our collection, as well as helping to pay for two viol instructors. I put Yuko in touch with the VdGSA who generously provided a grant to help support the viol classes.

I had the pleasure of attending two of the viol

classes taught by Farley Pearce and David Sego. They focused on basic posture and playing mechanics while teaching the 12th century tune "Song of the ass" from Martha Bishop's beginning viol book. A smile was plastered on my face as I watched the kids learn how to hold the bow and viol and get coached on left hand technique; I was amazed at how quickly the kids were able to get a good tone out of the instruments. For most of the kids, it was the first time they had ever played any stringed instrument. At least three of the kids in the class were interested enough to inquire about private lessons after the workshop.

Everyone felt very positive about how the kids responded to the gamba classes, so I expect they will probably be offered again next summer!

**-Cindi Olwell**



- At left: Pacifica members attending (minus a few who missed the photo shoot.) I (Sue) am at far left; Nick is behind Cindi on the right.
- Special thanks to Melita, Cindi, Ellen Fisher and other Pacifica chapter members for their hard work to make this workshop happen!
- Thanks to Scott Mason and Richard Milner for sending pix.



## Your 2017-2018 Pacific Chapter Contacts

President: Cindi Olwell [cindi.olwell@gmail.com](mailto:cindi.olwell@gmail.com)

Vice President: Ricardo Hofer [hofer52@gmail.com](mailto:hofer52@gmail.com)

Secretary: Lynn Tetenbaum [lynnt@gambagirl.com](mailto:lynnt@gambagirl.com)

Treasurer and Membership List Coordinator:

Ellen Fisher [erfisher@gmail.com](mailto:erfisher@gmail.com)

Viol Rental Coordinator: Lynn Lipetzky [lynnlipetzky@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lynnlipetzky@sbcglobal.net)

Play day Coach Liaison: Alice Benedict [rozeta@adiana.com](mailto:rozeta@adiana.com)

Newsletter Editor: Sue Jones [scjones360@gmail.com](mailto:scjones360@gmail.com)

**Webmaster: Position open**

Pacifica Chapter Website: <http://pacificaviols.org>

VdGSA Chapter Representatives: Ellen Fisher [erfisher@gmail.com](mailto:erfisher@gmail.com)  
and Carolyn Butler [sparkyb@sonic.net](mailto:sparkyb@sonic.net)

Viola da Gamba Society of America: <http://vdgsa.org>

We strongly encourage members to send us any original articles, photographs, suggestions, or reviews that you think may be of interest to our members.

Email to  
[scjones360@gmail.com](mailto:scjones360@gmail.com)

---

*The VdGS Pacifica Chapter is an Affiliate of the San Francisco Early Music Society, and "Gamba News- Pacifica" is our official newsletter.*

---



Viols West Faculty concert







Above:  
The whole Viols West gang



Left:  
Evening Lawes reading session

Did you see this guy at the  
Thursday Farmers' Market in San Luis Obispo?  
"THE (reverbed & looped) **LORD OF THE CELLO**"!  
Blonde locks flowing, his rugged face to the sun, loving every  
minute of it! What do you think could we convert him?

