

# VIOLA DA GAMBA SOCIETY PACIFICA GAMMA NEWS

Volume 33, No. 2, October 2017

## Join us for our next Play Day

with coach **David Morris**

**Saturday, October 14<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- 2:30 pm** – Uncoached DIY consort playing

Hillside Swedenborgian Community Church

1422 Navellier Street, El Cerrito, CA 94530

**FREE – a great membership benefit!**



## >> Please RSVP to Cindi by Thurs. Oct. 12

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>)

**THE PLAN:** We'll be playing pieces from an oft-overlooked gem: short preludes by the Danish composer Carl Nielsen (1865-1931), from the collection published by PRB Productions. All of these works are arrangements of short organ pieces, averaging about 15 measures. They are quite varied in mood and meter and chromatically challenging in a way that standard consort music is not. The parts sit well in their ranges on each instrument. This is the perfect opportunity to get to know them.

**David Morris** is a member of Quicksilver and the Galax Quartet, playing a variety of 17th- and 18th-c. continuo instruments. He has coached many VdGSA workshops and Conclaves, and has performed with Musica Pacifica, the Boston Early Music Festival Orchestra, NYS Baroque, Tragicomedia, Tafelmusik, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, American Bach Soloists, Musica Angelica, Seattle Baroque Orchestra, the Mark Morris Dance Group and Seattle's Pacific Musicworks. He has recorded for Harmonia Mundi, New Albion, Dorian, New World, Drag City Records, CBC/ Radio-Canada and New Line Cinema.

## Upcoming Events

### Early Music Open Mic Night

**Wed. Oct. 25, 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, and 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 state-of-the-art Roland 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 info: <http://www.vdgs-saz.org>

## 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. date TBA: **Stanford Viol Workshop**
- Mar. 10, 2018: **Marie Szuts**
- Apr. 14, 2018: **Julie Jeffrey**
- May 12, 2018: **Yukimi Kambe**

**Mark your calendar!**

### Early music workshops for recorders & viols at Hidden Valley Music

**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, El Cerrito**

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).

## Time to Renew Membership

September 1 started our 2017-2018 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/ membership coordinator 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 Oct. 14 Play Day**

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

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

### Welcome, new members! (since fall, 2016)

Daniel Deitch  
Nick Jones  
Sue Jones  
Edith Kimbell  
Michael Kimbell  
Joseph Lescher  
Rose Miller  
Yukari Naito-Deitch  
Marti Selman  
Branson Stephens

### Thanks to members who have renewed

Peter Ballinger, Anita Barrows, \*Dalton Cantey, Melita Denny, Mary Elliott, Ellen Farwell, Diana Fischer, \*Ellen Fisher, Leslie Gold, Billie Hamilton, \*Ricardo Hofer, Glenna Houle, David Morris, Julie Morrissett, \*Cindi Olwell, Dorothy Orolin, Larry Selman, \*Linda Skory, \*Betsy St. Aubin, Helen Tyrrell.

*\*Members who have made an additional donation.*

*–Note: These reflect our records as of 9/30.  
If you think you spot an error, please contact me.*

***–Reminder to Viol Renters- you are responsible for keeping a current membership.***

*–If you no longer wish to be a member, let me know so I will no longer bug you!*

Thank you,

Ellen Fisher, membership coordinator

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

## Freebie

### One cardboard shipping box for a cello (or bass gamba)

- Outside dimensions:  
4' 7" tall (55 inches); 21" across; 15" deep
- In fine condition
- First person to contact David Morris  
<[mahlsdorf@earthlink.net](mailto:mahlsdorf@earthlink.net)> (or (510) 658-3382) about it will be the lucky winner.



- Box can be picked up from North Oakland (College/ Claremont neighborhood)

## Memorial Concert for Lee McRae

On Sept. 23, Pacifica chapter members Lynn Tetenbaum and our viol consort of six were privileged to take part in a very special concert at St. John's Presbyterian Church in Berkeley. The memorial concert, in honor of our late chapter member Lee McRae who passed away in June, 2016, was conceived, planned and organized by Eva Legene, a well-known performer on recorder who was one of Lee's many associates in early music, with help from Lee's daughter Susan McRae.

About fifty performers and speakers from the early music scene took part, often expressing deep appreciation to Lee for touching their lives in significant ways and for making a huge impact on the early music revival in this area and beyond. We were amazed at the number of people she mentored and helped in their careers, and marveled at all the first-rate early music performers she introduced to the Bay Area as their agent, including Frans Bruggen, the Kuijken brothers, Anner Bylsma, Gustav Leonhardt, Eva Legene and many others.

Equally impressive was the myriad of organizations represented on the program that Lee took part in launching, and continued to support enthusiastically for many years, including our Pacifica Chapter, which she co-founded with Julie Jeffrey in 1987. There were performances by children from the Music Discovery (Renaissance) Workshop; Lisa Grodin on violin with Hanneke van Prosdij on harpsichord from the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra; a group from the Singers' Retreat; singers from Coro Ciconia; and children from the Walden School (co-founded by Lee) singing a piece for Lee composed by Frances Blaker. Speakers Harvey Malloy of the San Francisco Early Music Society and Robert Cole of the Berkeley Early Music Festival acknowledged Lee's role in starting and supporting those organizations.



Our Pacifica Chapter was represented by Lynn Tetenbaum doing a magnificent job on a Christopher Simpson prelude for solo viol, and by our viol consort (Alice Benedict, Robin Easterbrook, Mary Elliott, Ellen Farwell, Ellen Fisher and Cindi Olwell) with a Lupo fantasy and a Byrd pavan. We struggled with the unfamiliar acoustic which made it hard for us to hear each other, and we came close to falling apart a couple of times, but were proud and grateful that all of us reached the final cadence at the same time.

Several performers for whom Lee had been a musical agent represented the "Lee and Management" section of the program: Kathleen Kraft on baroque flute, Eva Legene and Astrid Anderson (Eva's daughter) on recorders; also, Lynn again on viol in a Boismortier trio sonata with Astrid Anderson on recorder and Yoko Tanaka on harpsichord. Lee's four daughters sang a Mozart "Allelulia" round (a favorite in their family) with performers and audience joining in, and then the concert ended with a round dance led by members of Lee's folk dance class from the Albany Senior Center, along with audience participation, progressing in a chain through the sanctuary, accompanied by Eva and Astrid playing a beautiful folk tune on their recorders.

It was actually a joyous ending; I'm sure that Lee would have wanted it that way.

- Ellen Farwell





### Are you a member of Early Music America?

If so, thank you!

If not, please consider joining. Membership has great direct benefits for you:

- access to **Grove Music Online (a \$295 value)**. Look up the biography of John Jenkins or remind yourself of what the mixolydian mode actually is!

- access to **Naxos Music Library (a \$315 value)**

- a subscription to the wonderful **EMAg**, the *Magazine of Early Music America*. (Ask me at a Play Day for a free copy of a recent issue).

- access to our **membership directory**, a great networking tool. Post, promote and connect with others in the early music community.

- access to our **concert calendar** and **music library** on the EMA website. **Post your concerts and recordings for instant, widespread and cost-free promotion.**

- Instrument insurance** and many other benefits

Membership is \$60 for an individual (\$50 for over 65's) and \$95 for two household members. Can you beat that? Well... yes!

**New members get a 50% discount for the first year.** Ask me for membership materials -- or, even simpler, join online at [earlymusicamerica.org](http://earlymusicamerica.org) (use the discount code EMANJ50).

For thirty years, EMA has advocated for early music as a vital part of musical culture, promoting performers, groups and institutions that play and present early music. It's a national organization for both amateurs and professionals, for individuals and for organizations. The **membership of active early music players like you is vital.** To see more about EMA's broad vision of the field, check out the EMA website: <https://www.earlymusicamerica.org>.

Thanks for supporting early music through EMA as well as VdGSA and our Pacifica Chapter!

**Nick Jones**

Board member, Early Music America

## 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: **Position open**

Treasurer and Membership List Coordinator:  
Ellen Fisher [erfisher@gmail.com](mailto:erfisher@gmail.com)

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

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

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

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### Members—

**Send us any original articles, photographs, suggestions, or reviews that you think may be of interest to other members.**

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