

VIOLA DA GAMBA SOCIETY PACIFICA

GAMBA NEWS

Volume 33, No. 3, November 2017

Join us for our next Play Day

with coach **Mary Springfels**

Saturday, November 11th

- **9- 9:30 am** – Set up, coffee/tea & conversation
Please be ready to play by 9:30.
- **9:30- 12:30** – Coached groups, 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!



Mary Springfels has been active in the American early music movement for all of her adult life. Her early career was spent as a member of the New York Pro Musica, and as a freelancer in New York. For 25 years, she directed the Newberry Consort, whose recordings still set a high standard of performance. During her time in Chicago, Mary was a Senior Lecturer at The University of Chicago and Northwestern University, and active in the Chicago baroque music scene. 10 years ago, she moved to New Mexico, and has been teaching and playing in California and the Southwest.

Mary has been a stalwart faculty member of the VdGSA Conclave since 1976, and taught at SFEMS workshops for at least 30 years. This summer, Mary will appear with Christine Brandes and Elizabeth Blumenstock at the 2018 Berkeley Early Music Festival.

Mary's Plan: I'll be offering two motets: the **Josquin Ave Maria**, and the **Senfl Ave Maria** based on Josquin's model, plus some of their instrumental music if time allows.

>> Please RSVP to Cindi by Thurs. Nov. 9

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>)
5. Send this info to cindi.olwell@gmail.com (You can even copy and paste into an email from here.)

Introducing Pacifica Chapter's New Secretary– Nick Jones

I'm honored to become secretary of the board of Pacifica Viols. I'm new in the group, so I have particularly appreciated the friendliness of all (at our Saturday Play Days and at Viols West) and the acceptance of my (more than occasional) wrong notes!

Last year, I retired as Professor of English at Oberlin College (Ohio) where I taught for over 40 years, specializing in British Literature of the 16th and 17th centuries, as well as Romantic literature. I loved working with many creative people there, including musicians at Oberlin Conservatory and curators in the art museum. In retirement, I have begun to explore opportunities for offering lectures to adult audiences.

Sometime this winter, I will be publishing a book of my translations of the Italian madrigal poet Guarini (whose work Monteverdi loved)-- I'll let you know when that appears.

Since settling into the Bay Area in January with my wife Sue, I've enjoyed retirement by working on our house and yard in Berkeley, and by jumping into this wonderful music scene.

We both play in Kati Kyme's Berkeley Baroque Strings and sing in Shira Kammen's chamber chorus, Gallimaufry; I also play recorder in Frances Blaker's Bay Area Baroque Orchestra and with the East Bay Recorder Society.



I recently joined the board of *Early Music America*, and am writing for *San Francisco Classical Voice* (www.sfcv.org). And I try to find time for a retirement nap as well!

I love the ensemble playing that is so central to the viol world; I see musical cooperation as a fitting avenue towards much-needed cooperation in our vexed world. I look forward to working with the Pacifica board and membership towards our common goals.

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. 24, 2018: **Stanford Viol Workshop**
- Mar. 10, 2018: **Marie Szuts**
- Apr. 14, 2018: **Julie Jeffrey**
- May 12, 2018: **Yukimi Kambe**

Sign-up Info is published in this newsletter each month.

Stanford Viol Workshop Sat. Feb 24, 2018 - *Save the Date!*

Our Pacifica Chapter will host a day-long viol workshop for all levels at Stanford University's Braun Music Center (the Music Department).

**Faculty: John Dornenburg, director;
Julie Jeffrey, Shira Kammen, David Morris**

- 9 am- 4 pm. Free Parking
- Three class periods w/ topic choices
- Registration fee: \$75 (\$25 is a non-refundable deposit).

Class descriptions and registration form are on our website:

<http://www.pacificaviols.org/StanfordViolWorkshop2018.pdf>

Upcoming Events

Magnolia Viols

Sun., Nov. 5, 4:30 pm

Amy Brodo, treble and bass viol
Hallie Pridham, treble and bass viol
Farley Pearce, tenor and bass viol
Roy Whelden, bass viol

Renaissance and baroque music for a consort of viols from throughout Europe, including compositions by Charpentier, Susato, Ward, Locke, Boismortier, Jenkins, and Salmone Rossi, heavenly and earthly.

Presented by SFEMS at
California Jazz Conservatory
2087 Addison St., Berkeley

Tickets \$20. For more info:
http://sfems.org/?page_id=9165

Early music workshop for recorders & viols at Hidden Valley Music

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

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.

Early Music Open Mic Night

Wed. Nov. 29, 7 - 9 pm

(usually 4th Wednesday of each month exc. summer)

This is your opportunity to perform early music in a friendly cabaret style setting. Soloists, groups, Instrumentalists, singers, students, youngsters, and professionals — all 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 piano.
- 6 time slots (max 15 min.) available per night
- To request a spot, email Heather Wilson at hi2dougan@gmail.com
- Food & drinks provided; donations accepted to cover refreshments and venue rental.

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We've Got Your Bach: Celebrating the Past, Present and Future of *Musica Pacifica*

Sat., Dec. 16, 6 pm

Judith Linsenberg, *recorders*
Elizabeth Blumenstock, *violin*
David Morris, *viol*; Katherine Heater, *harpsichord*

Works by JS Bach and his contemporaries, incl. Telemann, Handel, Pachelbel and Purcell. Enjoy gorgeous music, delicious snacks, and an incredible view!

Presented by Barefoot Chamber Concerts
Hillside Swedenborgian Church
1422 Navellier Street, El Cerrito, CA 94530

\$25. Tickets at the door or online. Free for 18 or younger.

String Talk

Let's have a string discussion. We buy lots of these but don't often share resources and information about types of strings for different viol sizes. I would like to dig deeper into the subject and would like to hear what insights you have, and your experiences with different strings.

Let's begin with a listing of some of the makers:

Aquila, Boston Catlines, Dlugolecki, La Bella, Gamut, Kurschner, Pirastro, Pure Corde, Savarez, Sencore, Super-Sensitive and Toro. More details coming in December, such as prices and types of strings they offer and contact information..

Please send thoughts on this subject to me at hi2dougan@gmail.com, by the 20th of the month.

String Talk will add new information as it becomes available.

- Heather Wilson

Your 2017-2018 Pacific Chapter Contacts

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

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

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

Friends—

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

Email to scjones360@gmail.com

Thanks, Sue Jones, editor