

VIOLA DA GAMBA SOCIETY PACIFICA GAMMA NEWS

Volume 33, No. 4, December 2017

Join us for our next Play Day with coach Frances Blaker Saturday, December 9th



- 9- 9:30 am – Set up, coffee/tea & conversation- **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!

Start the morning with works by two sublime composers: the Renaissance master, Heinrich Isaac, and that pillar of music, J. S. Bach.

Isaac divided his time between Florence, Italy and Maximilian I's court in Vienna. He was a prolific composer of sacred and secular music, vocal and instrumental works. We'll play the opening movement from his *Missa Carminum*. This Kyrie combines long flowing lines and beautiful counterpoint among the voices. It will sound wonderful on viols!

J. S. Bach pulled together musical trends from both Italian and French music to create his own unique style. His *Art of the Fugue* is one of the greatest musical monuments of all time. Bach explores all manner of contrapuntal devices within the 14 fugues and 4 canons in that collection. We will uncover and savor the musical architecture and expressive possibilities of *Contrapunctus no. 3*, the third piece in the set. It is known for its chromatic twists and turns and its exuberantly menacing bass part.

– Many of us will have worked before with **Frances Blaker**, that viol player in recorder player's clothing.

*Loving the music written for viols and its variety of heavenly tonal possibilities, Frances began taking viol lessons while at music conservatory. However, after carrying the viol with heavy case up and down 5 flights of stairs to her teacher's apartment, she would arrive with truly quivering arms. **Otherwise she might have become a viol pro!***

The recorder is much easier to carry about (oh, and is also a magnificent instrument.) Frances studied recorder at the Royal Danish Academy of Music in Copenhagen, earning both Music Pedagogical and Performance degrees. She has taught recorder and early music subjects all over the U. S. and performs with Ensemble Vermillion, Farallon Recorder Quartet, and Calextone. She is conductor of the Bay Area Baroque Orchestra and the North Carolina Baroque Orchestra, and director of Amherst Early Music Festival.

*Frances has led the VdGS-Pacifica's Play Days several times, and looks forward to discussing the finer points of these two lovely compositions with the whole group. Coaching small viol consorts is also right up her alley. **Known for her vibrant and inspiring way with musicians of all levels, Frances will bring all of her musical experience to VdGS-Pacifica players.***

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

Meet our new Webmaster– Rose Miller

I grew up in Sonoma where my mom sang with us as kids (mostly folksongs); my dad had a ‘bit of a collection’ of guitars. I played the violin through middle school, and played the oboe in our middle school band. I have now lived in the Bay Area for about 13 years, but have not been involved in the area’s musical community until this summer, when I developed a real renewed interest in playing music.

I have begun playing Scandinavian fiddle music, and while exploring my interest in European historical and folk instruments and music, I discovered *Timbrefolk*, a new shop in Berkeley that sells a variety of folk and Baroque instruments. Fascinating! (See photo)



I love the variety of music you can find on the Internet. Recently I came across the ‘Ernst Stoltz Early Music’ channel on *YouTube*. He has collected many different types of music you can hear there, including medieval, Celtic and other styles, played on the Cajun fiddle, bagpipe, harpsichord, and viol. I first heard the viol when I was in my teens, and was intrigued by its unique sound. I fell in love again thanks to *YouTube*, so, nearly twenty years after last playing the violin, I have taken up the viol.

It was only lately that I realized how vibrant the viola da gamba community is in the Bay Area. When I discovered the Pacifica website, I was excited to read about your rental program; as of this fall, I am a happy renter of a bass viol! I have started to take a few lessons and look forward to joining Pacifica Viols Play Days in the future as I advance as a viol player.

I am enthusiastic to begin my new role as your webmaster. My goal in this position will be to help Pacifica Viols maintain a presence on the web that is informative for both current and prospective viol players in the Bay Area. My career is in online advertising and marketing, currently at *Yelp*. While I do not design websites as part of my job, I have experience in website-building tools (such as *html* and *css*) in both the

context of my work and through personal development of these skills through online courses. I aim to share my knowledge of online technology to expand and update the Chapter’s website.

<< Trying out the nyckelharpa –“keyed fiddle”– a traditional Swedish instrument.

Be on the lookout for a survey about our Pacifica website in a future issue of this newsletter. We’d love to have your input on our website’s content so that it is useful for you as a Chapter member and a viol player.

In preparation for the survey, please spend a bit of time exploring our website www.Pacificaviols.org in the next month or so and jot down any ideas about:

- ***aspects you would like to see improved or expanded upon***
- ***things you like and don't like about the website***
- ***new information to include on the site that you believe would benefit members***

Thanks in advance for your thoughts!

Upcoming Events

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.

"The Most Famous Man in All the World" – Fantasies and Dances by Alfonso Ferrabosco II

Sat., Jan. 5, 6:30 pm

The Barefoot All-Stars

Peter Hallifax, Julie Jeffrey, Adaiha McAdam-Somer, David Morris, Lynn Tetenbaum, *viols*

Ferrabosco straddled the Elizabethan, Jacobean, and Caroline courts and created unequalled works. His amazing (and *fully* chromatic) hexachord fantasies are simply way ahead of their time, and his many gorgeous 5 part pavans, including the famous "Dovehouse Pavan," "Sharp Pavan" and "Four Note Pavan," set the standard for harmonic richness that only Lawes came to equal. This concert will feature all these iconic works, together with other fantasies and dances. 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.

Stanford Faculty Recital – John Dornenberg

Wed., Jan. 10, 7:30 pm

John Dornenburg, *viola da gamba*

Yuko Tanaka, *harpsichord*

Music by Marin Marais from his Second Book, including Suites in D minor, E Minor, and E Major. Notable program pieces such as Cloches ou Carillon, Fugue in E minor, and the great Tombeaus for Lully and St. Colombe will be featured alongside gorgeous preludes and dances.

Stanford University Memorial Church Chapel
450 Serra Mall, Stanford, CA 94305

Ticket info not available at press time.

Check online a month before online at:

<https://music.stanford.edu/events/upcoming-events>

Wheelchair accessible.

An English Country Garden – The Alphabet Baroque Club

Sun. Jan. 21, 4:30 pm

The Alphabet Baroque Club

Maria Caswell, *Baroque violin*; Judiyaba, *treble viol*; Gwyneth Davis, *viola da gamba*; Phebe

Craig, *harpsichord*

The Alphabet Baroque Club is a light-hearted group that plays seriously beautiful music. This concert will feature (mostly) British composers, with some commentary on British music and composers and their relation to the English country house of the 16th-18th centuries. Composers include Tobias Hume, Orlando Gibbons, Thomas Arne, and John Jenkins. The group has performed at the Galway Early Music Festival in Ireland, the Berkeley Fringe Festival, and various venues around the North Bay Area.

Early Music Sundays – a SFEMS Series at

California Jazz Conservatory

2087 Addison Street, Berkeley

\$20 general admission; tickets on sale approx. 1 month in advance

For more info, 510-845-5373

or www.cjc.edu/concerts

Road Scholar's Recorder/Early Music Hidden Valley Workshop



Recorder player Suzanne Siebert wrote a report of this workshop for the East Bay Recorder Society newsletter and offered it to us (along with a photo) since viols were also in residence. We are including some excerpts here, along with memories from Pacifica member Dorothy Orolin. Thanks to both of them.

For at least the last 10 years, I have been attending this workshop in bucolic Carmel Valley. There are two sessions, each lasting five+ days in late October-early November; almost all students are housed on the lovely Hidden Valley "campus." Tish Berlin has been directing and teaching here for about 19 years. Frances Blaker leads the workshop orchestra and teaches workshop classes. This year's additional second session teachers were Larry Lipnik (viola da gamba and mixed consort), Joan Kimball (recorder and early winds), Shira Kammen (strings).

In the second session, we were 35 students from Canada, Kansas, New Mexico, Utah, Oregon, Washington and Connecticut, as well as California. The final concert included 8 dulcians, many recorders, about 5 or 6 viola da gamba players and Nina Bailey on harpsichord.

– Suzanne Siebert

Six of us viol players from our Pacifica Chapter attended the second week of the workshop. The setting was ideal: good weather, food, conversation and music making, and opportunity to connect with friends who play other than viol. True, they do exist.

Larry Lipnik taught us viol technique, master class and early morning singing. Viols played together in consort and in combination with baroque oboe, recorders, shawms, dulcians and rackets. Joan Kimball taught the double reeds and they were fantastic. Every year there are more double reed players to add to the variety of sound. It was such a loaded fun week full of diversity of sound and ending with an open mic party. Billie and I engaged everyone to sing (along with the Raging Grannies– us) an environmental song, complete with a recycled costume. Viol players were grateful to have some newfound energy to play after hours with no time limit to stop, and we didn't, and may we never.

– Dorothy Orolin



Hidden Valley workshop concert, November 10, 2017
Orchestra playing Ave Regina coelorum by Giovanni Bassano

Special 1/2 PRICE offer! *celloGard* \$20 thru Dec. 31

Have you ever worried that your bass viol/cello might be accidentally knocked over when you set it down to take a break during rehearsal or performance intermission, or even just at home in the same room with a cat or a dog?

Berkeley resident, cellist Bob Ng, was worried, too. So he invented the ***celloGard***. It's made of industrial grade nylon- flexible, durable and tough- and fits a 5" width instrument. It comes with a pair of soft neoprene sleeves in various colors (Black, White, Blue, Light Blue, Red, Dark Red, Yello and Purple, *shown*).



The ***celloGard*** is commercially available, but in the spirit of the holidays, Bob has made a very generous offer:

"Anyone who contacts me and says that they are a friend of Sue Jones can buy a CelloGard for \$20. That is 50% off the normal price of \$40."

*The offer is good through
Dec. 31, 2017.*

Email cellogardllc@gmail.com.

More info at www.celloGard.com, including an informative 4-minute video.

FREE!

Viol consort music from Dalton

Former Pacifica President Dalton Cantey has graciously donated a lot of fabulous gamba consort sheet music to our chapter. Much of it will be incorporated into the Pacifica library over the coming months. But there is more.!

On December 9th, during our Play Day, we will make available lots of extra music to chapter members. There is **bound music as well as very nice copies available of all kinds of wonderful music for different combinations for viols.**

Q: When will this music be available to look through and claim?

A: Dec. 9, 12:30 - 2:30 pm at our Play Day

Thank you, Dalton!!



White- colored celloGard in place

*Full disclosure: Bob (a friend of a friend) gave me a **celloGard** to show to my cello and viol friends. Some of you have seen me demonstrate it at our Play Days recently.*

-Sue Jones

Stanford Viol Workshop

Sat. Feb 24, 2018 – *Registration Open!*

Our Pacifica Chapter will host a daylong 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).

Registration form with full class descriptions is on the following pages as well as on our website.

Your 2017-2018 Pacific Chapter Contacts

President: Cindi Olwell cindi.olwell@gmail.com

Vice President: Ricardo Hofer
hofer52@gmail.com

Secretary: Nick Jones nrjones360@gmail.com

Treasurer and Membership List Coordinator:
Ellen Fisher erfisher@gmail.com

Viol Rental Coordinator: Lynn Lipetzky
lynnlipetzky@sbcglobal.net

Play Day Coach Liaison: Alice Benedict
rozeta@adianta.com

Newsletter Editor: Sue Jones
scjones360@gmail.com

Webmaster: Rose Miller
oceanarose@gmail.com

VdGSA Chapter Representatives: Ellen Fisher
erfisher@gmail.com and Carolyn Butler
sparkyb@sonic.net

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

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

Mark your calendar!

*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

Stanford Viol Workshop
Saturday, February 24, 2018

The VdGS Pacifica Chapter will host a day-long viol workshop for all levels at Stanford University's Braun Music Center (the Music Department). **Parking is free** on Saturdays in the nearby lot off Mayfield Ave. (and in all University lots). The Music Department is located very near Tresidder Union and Dinkelspiel Auditorium. For a map: <https://campus-map.stanford.edu/>

Faculty

John Dornenburg, director, Julie Jeffrey, Shira Kamen, David Morris

Schedule

9:00-9:30am Meet at the Rehearsal Hall in Braun Music Center (i.e. the Music Department)

9:30-10:45 First class

11:00-12:15 Second class

12:15-1:30 Lunch

Participants may bring a lunch, or purchase lunch in the nearby Student Union Cafe, Mexican restaurant, Axe and Palm, etc. (all about 100 yards from Braun). The bookstore also has sandwiches and coffee upstairs. **The Starbucks in the Tresidder Union opens at 7am.**

1:30-2:45 Third class

3:00-4:00 Grand Consort with all faculty playing along.

Class Topics

Please indicate a **1st and 2nd** choice of class in each period. **Most classes will have some doubling.**

Class 1

- ___ Bowing clinic. How do you improve your sound? We have ways! (All levels and sizes) John
- ___ Coordinating bow with fingers at speed – let's work on this together. (All levels and sizes) Julie
- ___ *La Spagna*: popular basse-danse settings by Isaac, Festa, & more, including possibly US!
(all sizes MI-UI) Shira
- ___ Matthew Locke: *Consort of Fower Parts* and other gems from this extraordinary composer.
(TrTT/BB A) David

Class 2

- ___ Meet the Beatles. New arrangements of Lennon-McCartney for 4 viols by JD. (TrTBB A) John
- ___ Tablature for newbies – you know who you are! Time to become a woman/man of letters!
(T B all levels) Julie
- ___ Early Medieval music. A MOST EXCELLENT adventure from chant to polyphony.
(all levels and sizes) Shira
- ___ Post-Renaissance polyphony – 19th & 20th centuries if you can believe it! Good fun too!
(MI-UI, all sizes) David

Class 3

- ___ Advanced Solo: Marais' Book II fun-but-challenging program music: *Cloches ou Carillon*. (B A) John
- ___ *Sonetti Spirituali*: 5-part madrigals by Italy's 1st published female poet. New PRB edition!
(TrTTBB MI-UI) Julie
- ___ Music at Maximilian's amazing court, with a focus on the great Ludwig Senfl – he's huge!
(all levels and sizes) Shira
- ___ Charpentier Suite for 4 Viols. Close to Purcell in time period, but definitely French in style.
(TrTrTB) UI David

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Instruments you will bring, and your approximate standard on each (Beg, LI, MI, UI, A):

Registration fee: \$75.00. \$25 of this amount is a non-refundable deposit.
Make check payable to VdGS, Pacifica. Deadline is February 19, 2018.

Send this form and payment to:

Ricardo Hofer

370 63rd St. Oakland, CA 94618

OR email: hofer52@gmail.com

Contact John Dornenburg at bassviol@stanford.edu with any class questions.