

VIOLA DA GAMBA SOCIETY PACIFICA GAMMA NEWS

Volume 33, No. 7, March 2018

Join us for our next Play Day with coach Loren Ludwig Saturday, March 10th

- 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!



Loren Ludwig is a scholar/performer based in Baltimore, MD. As a scholar of early modern musical culture, he researches what he terms “polyphonic intimacy,” the idea that music in the Western tradition is constructed to foster social relationships among its performers and listeners.

Hailed as “outstanding” for his treble viol playing by the Washington Post, Loren performs widely as a soloist and chamber musician on all sizes of viol. He is a co-founder of LeStrange Viols and performs with ACRONYM, the Oberlin Consort of Viols, the Folger Consort, Hesperus, and numerous other ensembles and can be heard on Rattle Records, Naxos, and New Focus. He has served as musicology faculty at Peabody, Grinnell, and the New Zealand School of Music and teaches chamber music and performance practice at residencies and festivals across several continents.

Canzonas, Ricercars, & Dances (oh, my!): Italian polyphony for viols

From roughly 1540-1640, dozens (perhaps hundreds) of collections of polyphony for strings were published in Italy. Strangely, during the early music revival of recent decades this repertory has been comparatively neglected compared to consort music from England, even though the Italian repertory seems to have been much better known (even in England!) during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Musicologist and consort enthusiast Loren Ludwig will lead an exploration of this rich and distinctive repertory of Italian polyphony for strings.

>> Please RSVP to Cindi by Thurs. Mar. 8

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.)

Wanted: Viol Rental Coordinator

Did you know: One reason we can have FREE monthly Play Days is the rental income from our chapter's collection of 22 viols.

Lynn Lipetzky has been our Rental Coordinator since 2014 (pause for APPLAUSE!), but is ready to pass on this responsibility to someone willing to serve our chapter in this important way!

Why do we have a viol rental program?

- To encourage and support new players with low-cost student rental viols. Currently 13 of them are rented out.
Folks play the viol for many reasons: they love the sound; they love the consort music available; they want to compose for the instrument; some even find playing the viol an aid to their own recovery from a health problem.
- To raise funds to pay professional coaches at our monthly Play Days and annual Viols West workshop.

What does the coordinator do?

- Record-keeping– Ensures that each rental contract includes info about the renter as well as the viol and bow being rented. Collects rental fees; keeps accounts for them for our Treasurer. Sends out Payment Due reminder emails at the end of each rental period (most rent for 3 months at a time; some longer.)
- Maintenance– Replaces broken strings as needed for any viols in storage. At the start and end of each rental, checks the viol for any damage (i.e. open seams). Keeps notes on maintenance needs; arranges for repairs. Submits bills for any string and repair expenses to Treasurer.



Storage: Viols not currently rented out need to be stored in a secure location in an environment with consistent temperature and humidity. Currently the Rental Coordinator has been housing the viols.

If you have questions about this volunteer position, or would like to recommend someone, please contact Cindi at cindi.olwell@gmail.com.



Back in the spring of 2016 I was on tour with Radical Face in Europe where we luckily had a couple days off in Paris. We were staying in the Belleville district, which is home to a vibrant North African and Asian community with a restaurant scene to match. These signs were on the doors of Restaurant Guo Xin, a fantastic Chinese dumpling house that was barely big enough to hold its seven tables. My band mates and the owners of the establishment gave me some serious looks as I stood at the door snapping photos and giggling to myself, but I'm sure you all understand!

–Josh Lee

At the end of the day faculty and students gathered for a grand play-in.





Wonderful music, good folks, inspiring teaching, and lots of fun!

*Thanks to director John Dornenburg
and faculty Julie Jeffrey, David Morris and Shira Kammen!*



– Photos by Penny Hanna and Nick Jones

Upcoming Events

Les Délices *Age of Indulgence*

Debra Nagy, *baroque oboe*
Julie Andrijeski & Adriane Post, *baroque violin*
Emily Walhout, *viola da gamba*
Mark Edwards, *harpsichord*

On the eve of an aesthetic revolution, the daring, experimental works of the French Rococo mix together the humor and wit of early Haydn and Gluck, a little of C.P.E. Bach's *Sturm und Drang*, and characteristically lush French harmonies. We will sample works by François-André Philidor, Jean-Philippe Rameau, and more.

Fri. Mar. 2, Palo Alto

8:00 PM, First Presbyterian Church

Sat. Mar. 3, Berkeley

7:30 PM, St. Mary Magdalene Church

Sun. Mar. 4, San Francisco

4:00 PM, Church of the Advent

Presented by **SFEMS**

For more info: [Les Delices concert](#)

Voices of Music *Leonardo da Vinci: A Musical Odyssey*

Lawrence Rosenwald, *poet/story teller*; Stefanie True, *soprano*; Deborah Rentz-Moore, *mezzo*; Shira Kammen, *lira da braccia*, and many others.

A journey through Leonardo's musical world, illustrating the synergy between science and art. Frottole, sung poetry, music from the Medici and Sforza courts, Isabella d'Este's circle, and Parisian chansons from da Vinci's final years in France.

Fri. Mar. 2, Palo Alto

8:00 PM, All Saints Episcopal Church

Sat. Mar. 3, San Francisco

8:00 PM, St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Sun. Mar. 4, Berkeley

7:30 PM, St. Mary Magdalene Church

20% OFF for Pacifica members!

For tickets and more info: [Leonardo concert](#)

Just before you checkout, ("Review Your Order")
enter this code: **sfcvdavinci**

RARE APPEARANCE Paolo Pandolfo and ensemble *Paris 1689: A Revolution*

Paolo Pandolfo, *viol*
with Amélie Chemin, *viol*
Thomas Boysen, *theorbo*
Markus Hünninger, *harpsichord*

Hear the greatest modern master of viol (the favorite instrument of Louis XIV "The Sun King") in an ensemble that matches his extraordinary talents. The program features music by Marin Marais, as well as works by François Couperin and Robert de Visée.

Fri. Mar. 9, Berkeley

8:00 PM, St. Mary Magdalene Church

**Presented by Barefoot Chamber Concerts
in conjunction with MusicSources**

Tickets \$40

Advance ticket purchase is highly recommended.
This is a full-length concert, with wine reception to follow.

For more info: [Pandolfo concert](#)

Quaver! *Sounds of a Decade*

Marie Szuts, Brady Lanier,
Tobi Szuts, Loren Ludwig, *viols*

Quaver turns 10! And no, they haven't stopped pushing the limits of what viols will play. Their lush sound will grace pinnacles of the consort tradition, contemporary sonorities, and miniature gems of the Renaissance. There will surely be a surprise or two, so come prepared for a wild ride.

Fri. Mar. 16, Berkeley

6:00 PM, St. Mark's Episcopal Church Parish Hall

Tickets \$15 (18 & under Free)

Presented by **Barefoot Chamber Concerts**
For more info: [Quaver! concert](#)

Upcoming Events, *continued*

Early Music Open Mic Night

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

- 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.

Wed. Mar. 28, El Cerrito

7 - 9 PM, Hillside Swedenborgian Church

Wildcat Viols

The Magnifick Consort of Four Parts— Fantasies, Suites & Sonatas for viol quartet

Joanna Blendulf, Julie Jeffrey,
Annalisa Pappano, Elisabeth Reed— *viols*

The viol consort's increasing rarity in the second half of the 17th century seemed to invite the special attentions of some of the era's finest composers, whose most daring and unusual musical ideas would find perfect expression in the intimately passionate sound-world of the viol ensemble. Masterworks on our program: the exquisite "Fantazias of four parts" by Henry Purcell, Matthew Locke's "Magnifick consort of 4 parts," and Giovanni Legrenzi's lively and intense "Sonate à quatro viole da gamba."

Sat. Apr. 7, Berkeley

7:30 PM. St. John's Presbyterian Church

Presented by **SFEMS**

For more info: [Wildcat Viols concert](#)

Les Violettes

Corey Carleton, *soprano*; Colin Shipman, *viol*
Violet Grgich, *harpsichord*

Program TBA

Sun., Apr. 15, Berkeley

4:30 PM, California Jazz Conservatory

\$20, general admission

Box office: 510/845-5373

SFEMS' Early Music Sundays at JCC

For more info: [Les Violettes](#)

Berkeley Early Music Festival

Eight days of concerts on the Main Stage, master classes, lectures, conclaves, competitions, films, festivities, and the Fringe Festival.

June 3 – 10 Festival

June 7 – 9 Exhibition & Marketplace

Various Berkeley venues

Tickets are currently On Sale for all [Main Stage Events](#). Order securely on-line or call the box office at 510-528-1725.

- **SFEMS Members Automatically Save 10%**
Pick Four and Save 15%

For more information and updates:

[Berkeley Festival](#)

Friends—

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

Email to scjones360@gmail.com

April newsletter deadline: Mar. 15

Thanks, Sue Jones, editor

Viol Master Classes & Lessons offered by Paolo Pandolfo



*World-acclaimed gamba soloist and educator Paolo Pandolfo will be in town for a concert March 9.
(See **Upcoming Events**).*

He is also offering a master class on March 14th.

All levels of playing are welcome and encouraged to apply!

**Wed. March 14th
10 AM –
2954 Shasta Road Berkeley CA 94708**

Prices (to be paid **in cash** on the same day)

- Individual lesson (1 hour) \$100
- Small ensemble (1 hour) \$120
- Auditors (all day) \$30

Please email pandolfochemin@gmx.ch to arrange to work with him and his assistant Amélie Chemin or to be an auditor.

Don't miss this opportunity!

1) **Viola da Gamba players:** (VdG solo repertoire from late Renaissance to late Baroque: interpretation and instrumental technique)

2) **Small ensembles:** (for viol duo, consort or other small ensemble) wishing to work on pre-rehearsed music.

3) **Cello players:** (Baroque as well as modern cello players interested in working on Bach Cello Suites)

For over two decades, Paolo Pandolfo has been one of the world's most appreciated viola da gamba players. His career started in the 80's playing worldwide in Jordi Savall's prestigious group. In 1990 he started teaching at the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis; since then he has dedicated himself mainly to recording and performing the rich solo viol repertoire. Most of his recordings have received awards by the most relevant musical magazines worldwide and his interpretation of the viola da gamba of Bach's six cello Suites are a "must" in every complete Bach discography. His last releases for Glossa have been: Marais 1689: pieces for one and two viols from the first book of M. Marais, including pieces for one viol and two viols and G.P. Telemann Fantasias for viola da gamba. He is also a composer, as well as one of the few early music specialists working on historical improvisation (Cds Travel Notes, Improvisando, Kind of Satie).

"...one of the most brilliant and poetic of the instrument's current exponents..." (Gramophone UK)

".. So virtuos wie Paganini" (...As great a virtuoso as Paganini.) (Basellandschaftliche Zeitung 2016)

"The freedom and the expressive flexibility of his playing are wonderful; his virtuosity we can take for granted; the depth and warmth of the viol sound itself is a major part of the enjoyment: this is a masterwork" (BBC Radio review of Telemann Fantasias)

String Talk

Two experts who have a lot to say about strings are Dan Larson and Sarah Peck—

Dan Larson (Gamut Strings), has an excellent website <https://www.gamutmusic.com> where he describes all types of strings, including how they are made, and recommendations for specific sizes of viol.

Here are a few tips from **Sarah Peck**, a luthier from New York who may have done some repair work for some of you during one of her visits to the Bay Area.

How often to change your strings:

On average, twice a year depending on frequency of playing and also the weather. Humidity can wreak havoc on string life. If you play three times a week on average, your strings may be good for one year. (gut only)

Always **buy a second set** of strings and bring them up to pitch for a few days. Then put them away as spares.

Frayed strings can still be played, snipping off the little hairs - but if your string looks like a hairy caterpillar - time to change that string!

Installation:

Always use a HB (soft) lead pencil to lubricate the groove on the bridge and the nut every time you install a string, and sometimes more frequently. The string will then slide more easily over these points, making tuning easier.

Record Keeping

Viol players should keep a log of length and diameter for each string on each viol they play. This makes it easier to compare and contrast different string types and makers.



Viol string sources, in the USA and elsewhere

Take a look at the sites below and check prices. Note that gut strings come mainly from cows, elephants and sheep; the type of gut you use is a personal choice.

- Amazon.com (Pirastro)
- Aquila USA, Inc.
- Boulder Early Music Shop (strings from various makers)
- Boston Catlines
- Damian Dlugolecki
- George Stoppani
- Honeysuckle Music (strings from various makers)

String brands (a selection)

- La Bella
- Pirastro
- Pure Corde
- Savarez Strings
- Sencicore
- Toro

Also have a look at the website for **Gabriella's Baroque** (New York)—lots of information there and quick service when ordering strings.

Taking the time and effort to do some experimenting with string types and brands is well worth it. There are so many possibilities for both gut and wound strings. If you're not happy with the way a string is sounding, try changing the brand, string diameter, or material.

-Submitted by Pacifica member **Heather Wilson**

March is *Early Music Month*

... and Pacifica Viols is registered as a partner with hundreds of other individuals and organizations across the country!

Early Music Month is a project of **Early Music America**, the national support and advocacy organization, which will be featuring **pictures, videos, and reports from partners** about their early music activities during March. Check out “News from the Early Music Community” on the front page of EMA website:

[Early Music America.](#)

I plan to take photos of our March Play Day to send to EMA as part of this project. You are also encouraged to register yourself as an individual (I am a partner) and **send in reports and /or photos on what your ensemble is doing or what you are practicing, listening to, reading about...** We can be part of the buzz about early music!

Nick Jones

Board Member, *Early Music America*

Member, Pacifica Viols chapter

nrjones360@gmail.com

P.S. Great benefits to EMA membership:

- *Discounted instrument insurance*
- *Eligibility for grants and scholarships*
- *Access to Grove Music Online and Naxos Music Library*
- *Technical support and resources*
- *Discounts on mailing list rentals, and more.*



Your 2017-2018 Pacific Chapter Contacts

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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: **Loren Ludwig**
- Apr. 14, 2018: **Julie Jeffrey**
- May 12, 2018: **Yukimi Kambe**
- Jun. 9, 2018: **Members' Annual Bash**

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.
