

VIOLA DA GAMBA SOCIETY PACIFICA GAMBA NEWS

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Join us for our next Play Day with coach Julie Jeffrey Saturday, Nov. 10th

- **9- 9:30 am** – Set up, coffee/tea. **Be ready to play by 9:30.**
- **9:30- 12:30** – Group session w/ coach, then 1-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!

Julie Jeffrey has been playing the viol since 1976. She has performed throughout the U.S., in Canada, Mexico, Europe and Australia, and teaches privately and at workshops in the U.S. and abroad. Ms. Jeffrey is the founder of Wildcat Viols, a member of Sex Chordae Consort of Viols and the Antic Faces broken consort, and embodies half of the viol duo Hallifax & Jeffrey. She is co-founder and co-director of Barefoot Chamber Concerts, has served on the board of directors of the Viola da Gamba Society of America and the San Francisco Early Music Society, and is a co-founder and active member of the Viola da Gamba Society, Pacifica Chapter.



Departing from my usual 17th-century English fare, I am inspired to bring to our larger group a topic I have begun exploring in smaller class formats: PRB's newly released *Sonetti Spirituali*, Pietro Vinci's madrigal settings of fourteen sacred sonnets by Italy's first published woman poet, Vittoria Colonna. Printed in 1580, these gorgeous pieces display the perfect marriage of music and text, each a microcosm of intimate, intense, sometimes shocking devotional expression. The musical style is quite unlike that of our usual English viol fantasias and the English and later Italian madrigals to which we have become accustomed – so be prepared for something different!

I will give a little background on Vittoria Colonna's interesting life, her place in the history of Italian women poets, and what led Pietro Vinci to set her poetry to music, after which we will play through a few pieces from this lovely collection.

NB: This is low-lying music. **If you can, please err on the side of choosing a tenor or a bass for this part of the day.** But never fear, trebles, there will be a part for you too.

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

Report from the Road – Ellen Fisher

I recently went on a trip to Raleigh/Durham, North Carolina, a part of the country I've neither visited nor have any familiarity with, but where I would have 2 days of free time. After studying a map so I knew what other towns were close by, I looked up in the *Directory of Members* of the **Viola da Gamba Society of America's** geographic index. Finding the names of some viol players in that area, I emailed them 3 weeks ahead **to see if anyone would like to set up a playing session**. I mentioned my playing level, where I live, that I am active in the Pacifica chapter, that I would have a rental car and could come to wherever worked for them, and waited to see whether anything would happen.

I got a response from one of the people in the email and she set up a playing session for the afternoon of one of the days I was free. I easily carried my treble viol on the Alaska Air plane and actually had **quite an audience** when asked whether it was a violin as I hauled it from the overhead compartment. Same at the rental car place, where the attendant was also a musician.

What fun to play with these folks! There were six of us altogether; they all knew each other, but were happy to welcome someone new. We started with fairly simple music and worked our way through **spiral-bound part books with copies of music for 6 parts from the IMSLP website**. By the time we were getting to the music that was really challenging for me, we were all pretty tired out, so the timing was good from that point of view.

Many of the pieces chosen for inclusion in this collection were previously unknown to me, though some were old favorites, like the Gibbons 6-part Fantasia I think of as "Breaking Dawn" that I have played often during the Play Day afternoons here—it was a favorite of Dalton Cantey's. But it was lovely to have a new group to play with and new music to read through—very energizing.

What a brilliant idea to assemble those part books from a lot of music printed from the online IMSLP! That made it **so easy to play all afternoon by just turning to the right page, rather than hauling out folder after folder or book after book, and figuring out each time what composer or book to do next**. The part book I used was about an inch thick, had **tabs showing where the music was** for different combinations of instruments (though the majority was for ttTTBB), and was a very eclectic mix of **fantasias, various dances, madrigals, chansons, In Nomines, movements from Masses**, and so on.

They were clearly familiar with it, but most of it was new to me.

The hostess for the afternoon has a son who lives in San Francisco, so I encouraged her to get in touch with me when she plans a visit here if she will have free time and might want to play. Maybe I can arrange a playing session that will be as much fun for her as she was able to provide for me. Alas, I did not remember to take any pictures of my enjoyable afternoon—we were too busy having fun!

Wendy's coming to town!

The legendary Wendy Gillespie is coming to the Bay Area in January (joining the Barefoot All-Stars for an all-Gibbons concert on January 3.)



From January 1 to 8 Wendy will be available for consort coaching and individual lessons.

If you're looking to take your viol consort or duo to the next level, delving deeply into your favorite

viol fantasy instead of merely turning the page, or embarking on your own viol self-improvement program, Wendy will be here to help. For more information, contact Julie Jeffrey at jjeffrey@library.berkeley.edu.

Wendy Gillespie taught early bowed strings, historical performance and early notation at Indiana University for more than 30 years. As a member of the viol consorts Fretwork and Phantasm, she shared three Gramophone awards. She has participated in 100 recordings for Linn, Harmonia Mundi, EMI and Virgin Classics. She received Early Music America's Thomas Binkley Award in 2011, and is past President of the Viola da Gamba Society of America.

Upcoming Events

Early Music Open Mic Night

Wed., Nov. 28, El Cerrito (4th Wednesday)

7 - 9 PM, Hillside Community Church

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.

Membership Renewal- Last Call!

Our new membership year started September 1. To those who have paid their dues for our 2018-19 season, Thank You! Extra Special Thanks to those who included a donation with your dues!

Those who are renting instruments need to pay dues, too, as it says in your contract.

Thank you!

Ellen Fisher, Treasurer and Membership Coordinator

Hidden Valley Road Scholar

Early Music workshop

November 4-10

Carmel Valley

Explore the music of Italy, England, and Spain from the 13th - 18th centuries, with some modern composers as well!

Come study viol with Alexa Haynes-Pilon at the Hidden Valley Early Music Road Scholar in Carmel Valley! After completing her BM and MM in cello performance at Brandon University, Alexa earned a performance certificate from the University of Toronto in connection with the Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, studying cello with Christina Mahler and viola da gamba with Jöelle Morton. Alexa recently finished her doctoral studies at the U. of S. CA, where she studied baroque cello and viola da gamba with William Skeen, and baroque bassoon and dulcian with Charlie Koster. Alexa's passion is to create music and connect with members of the community. We are very excited to be welcoming Alexa to the Hidden Valley family!

This program welcomes all viol and recorder players who play at an intermediate level or higher. Classes include viol consort, workshop orchestra, and a choice of repertoire classes.

Other faculty in this second week include Tish Berlin, Frances Blaker, Cléa Galhano, and Joan Kimball for recorder; Joan will also teach shawm and dulcian. Nina Bailey is on hand to play harpsichord continuo for all.

Please note that viol enrollment for our first week (October 28- Nov. 3) with viol teacher David Morris is currently closed.

To register or learn more, visit https://www.hiddenvalleymusic.org/event-road-scholar-early-music-workshop-week-2_207.htm

To be placed on a waiting list, or for any other questions, please contact:

Tish Berlin, Director
tishberlin@gmail.com



Halifax & Jeffrey
with Andy Canepa
Before the Deluge: French Music from Marais to Rameau via Forqueray

Fri. Nov. 9, Berkeley

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

Explore the music of Italy, England, and Spain from the 13th - 18th centuries, with some modern composers as well! They're Back! Barefoot's House Band, with the fabulous addition of Andy Canepa, harpsichord, bring you the fruits of their latest foraging in the sun-kissed fields of French Musical Elegance. In addition to Marais and Forqueray, they have found some rare arrangements of Rameau, and even some amazingly doleful Couperin. In a year (2018-19 season) when none of the Bay Area soi-disant early music organizations is presenting any French baroque music at all, Barefoot's November concert is your home-grown island of overwhelming French elegance.

Wine and snacks!

\$15; 18 & under free admission

Tickets at the door or reserve online (recommended) at

<https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3614324>

Sponsored by **Barefoot Chamber concerts**



Barefoot All-Stars with Wendy Gillespie
The Silver Swan: Music for 3,4,5, and 6 viols
by Orlando Gibbons

Fri., Jan. 4, El Cerrito

6:30PM, Hillside Community Church

Last season's all-Ferrabosco program was so successful, we have been encouraged to repeat the experiment, this time with the music of the great Orlando Gibbons. Music historians regard him as a vital link between the music of Byrd and what came next. We don't understand that really, but that's what they say. All we know is, he wrote the most amazing music, in 3, 4, 5, and 6 parts. To make this truly delicious program possible, we are delighted to have been able to import the world's most sought-after treble viol player (not to mention the world's most-travelled treble viol player), the legendary Wendy Gillespie, who will help us to make this project an evening to remember.

Wine and snacks!

\$25; 18 & under free admission

Tickets at the door or order online (recommended) at

<https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3614334>

Sponsored by **Barefoot Chamber concerts**

Pacifica Viols 2018-19 Play Days / Coaches

Sept. 8, 2018: **Farley Pearce**
Oct. 13, 2018: **Frances Blaker**
Nov. 10, 2018: **Julie Jeffrey**
Dec. 8, 2018: **Roy Whelden**
Jan. 12, 2019: **Gretchen Claassen**
Feb. 9, 2019: **Amy Brodo**
Mar. 9, 2019: **Erik Andersen**
Apr. 13, 2019: **Shira Kammen**
May 11, 2019: **David Morris**
Jun. 8, 2019: **Members' BASH**

SAVE THE DATES

• Conclave: July, 2019

The next **Conclave** (annual conference of the Viola da Gamba Society of America) will be held in Forest Grove, Oregon (outside Portland) July 21-29, 2019.

• Viols West: Summer, 2020

Our next **Viols West** gathering will be in 2020, since it is not scheduled on years when Conclave is held on the west coast.

Are you taking your viol to a conference or workshop?

Send us a report– we'd love to hear what goes on and how you liked it...

Your 2018-2019 Pacifica Chapter Contacts

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<http://vdgsa.org>

The VdGS Pacifica Chapter is an Affiliate of the
San Francisco Early Music Society (SFEMS).