

# VIOLA DA GAMBA SOCIETY PACIFICA GAMBA NEWS

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## Join us for our next Play Day with coach Gretchen Claassen

### Saturday, Jan. 12th

- 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



**Gretchen Claassen**, a versatile chamber musician, often performs with diverse groups around the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond. A member of American Bach Soloists, she has also recently appeared with Seattle Baroque Orchestra, Musica Angelica and Musica Pacifica. A graduate of The Juilliard School and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Gretchen is a founding member of the period ensembles MUSA and the Sylvestris Quartet, as well as the Cello Street Quartet.

***Start the new year off with some soul-soothing counterpoint for 4 to 7 viols, thanks to the sublime sacred music of Franz Tunder, Buxtehude's predecessor at the Marienkirche Lübeck. We'll talk a little bit about rhetoric, how to make a musical plan, and also technical issues related to good ensemble playing.***

### >> Important! RSVP to Cindi by Thurs. Jan. 10 to guarantee your seat

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/Self-RatingGuide.pdf>.)
5. Send this info to [cindi.olwell@gmail.com](mailto:cindi.olwell@gmail.com) (You can even copy and paste into an email from here.)

## Upcoming Events



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

**Fri., Jan. 4, El Cerrito**

6:30 PM, Hillside Community Church

Wendy Gillespie  
Peter Hallifax, Julie Jeffrey, Shira Kammen  
David Morris, Lynn Tetenbaum, viols

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 (Free admission for 18 & under)

Tickets at the door or order online (recommended) at

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

Sponsored by **Barefoot Chamber concerts**

## *Semper Phantasticus!* **Ars Lyrica Houston**

**Fri. Jan. 12, Berkeley**

7:30 PM, St. Mark's Parish Hall

Elizabeth Blumenstock, *baroque violin*  
Mary Springfels, *viola da gamba*  
Matthew Dirst, *Director, harpsichord*

*Semper Phantasticus* explores that most avant-garde mode of music-making among German composers of the 17th and early 18th centuries, with extravagant works for violin, viola da gamba, and harpsichord. All three instruments are featured individually and in combination on this program, in sonatas by Dietrich Buxtehude and Heinrich Ignaz Franz Biber, two of the best-known exponents of the "fantastical style," alongside works by August Kerzinger, Philipp Heinrich Erlebach, Johann Jakob Walther, and Johann Sebastian Bach.

For tickets and more information:  
[http://sfems.org/?page\\_id=13522](http://sfems.org/?page_id=13522)

Sponsored by **San Francisco Early Music Society**

## *Lessons and coachings* *with Wendy Gillespie*

**From Jan. 1-8 Wendy Gillespie will be available for consort coaching and individual lessons.**

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.

To schedule a lesson or coaching with Wendy, contact Julie Jeffrey at [jjeffrey@berkeley.edu](mailto:jjeffrey@berkeley.edu).

## Advanced Viol workshop with John Dornenburg

Sat. Jan. 19, El Cerrito  
Hillside Community Church

John writes that he will be leading a one-day workshop for advanced viol players on Saturday Jan. 19 at the Hillside Community Church in El Cerrito. The focus will be on Marin Marais' *Le Labyrinthe* and two pieces by Antoine Forqueray. John will be in the U.S. for performances with the group Mensa Sonora in San Luis Obispo Mission on Jan. 25 & 26. For more information on the workshop or the concerts, write to John at [bassviol@stanford.edu](mailto:bassviol@stanford.edu).

## Sunday Intro Viol Classes with Erik Andersen

Erik Andersen, a Viols West teacher this past summer, will be offering a viola da gamba class starting this January at the San Francisco Community Music Center. The class is suited for beginners, those with string experience, and also for more experienced viol players who would like supportive guided practice in a group setting.

Classes will be held Sundays from 11 to 12:30 pm. The Winter Quarter begins Jan. 6, but students may also join later. Details are on the website — links below. Rental instruments are being made available for the class through the Viola da Gamba Society of America. Email Erik with any questions [erik.christian.andersen@gmail.com](mailto:erik.christian.andersen@gmail.com).

Register online for the Introduction to Viola da Gamba class at <https://sfcmc.org/adults/group-classes-and-ensembles/classical/#viola-da-gamba>. Just follow the orange "Register Now" button at the bottom of the course description.

*Note that Community Music Center has an **extensive financial aid program** to make classes more affordable, as well as **automatic discounts for students over the age of 65**. If you would like to register and apply for financial aid or the senior discount, visit <https://sfcmc.org/enrollment/new-student-registration/> to make an appointment with a registrar.*

## Quartets for Carl Friedrich Abel Johann Christian Bach's Opus 8

Katharine Heater, *harpsichord*  
Anthony Martin, *violin*; David Morris, *viol*  
Marc Schachman, *oboe*; Stephen Schultz, *flute*

Fri., Feb. 15, El Cerrito  
6:30 PM, Hillside Community Church

Since 1764, J. C. Bach and his friend the great viol player Carl Friedrich Abel had been living in London, among a society of very collegial English (and German expatriate) musicians working for Queen Charlotte (Mrs. King George III), the grand patroness of the arts.

Among the music Bach published were an unusual set of quartets for violin, flute or oboe, viola, and continuo (many editions, starting in 1772). Recent research has revealed that the original (manuscript) scoring was for viola da gamba rather than viola, and that the later, published version featured a viola part only because of the scarcity of competent viol players at the time.

The viol player who played the part originally for the queen's musicians was, of course, Bach's friend Abel, who was (together with Ludwig Christian Hesse) the last of the great virtuosos of that instrument. One can safely assume the part was written for him. The manuscript viol parts are idiosyncratic and demanding (the published viola parts were "dumbed down" for publication). Our performance features David Morris playing the part of C. F. Abel, and Katherine Heater as Queen Charlotte, who often sat in as the harpsichordist of the group. The original violin, flute, and oboe players are unknown, but our present day substitutes are local stars you know and love. As far as we can find out, these quartets have never been performed before on the West Coast in this original form!

Wine and snacks!

\$25 (Free admission for 18 & under)  
Tickets at the door or order online (recommended)  
<https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3614342>

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**

## Bass Viol For Sale

Made by Wolfgang Uebel shortly before I bought it for my wife at a music store in Zurich during the early 1970s, the viol has 6 strings and, in addition to the maker's name, bears the number 2351. It has a decoratively carved scroll at the top, purfled edges, and a decorated rosette. Its length is 66 cm (26 in.), as measured from the nut to the bridge. The bow, which has a hard case, was recently rehaired. It also has a soft carrying case with a dozen or so extra strings. During the 1990s it was professionally appraised in Santa Fe at \$4,525. But in December my son found one (sans bow and case) by the same maker and period, almost identical in every respect to ours on a European web page with a value equivalent to \$5,668.83 in U.S. dollars.

My wife of 64 years passed away recently, and I am eager to find a new home for her gamba with a musician who would appreciate its outstanding workmanship, tone and condition. Please contact me with any questions.

Ernest D. Rose  
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## 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 21-28, 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.

## Your Pacifica Chapter Contacts 2018 - 2019

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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).