

VIOLA DA GAMBA SOCIETY PACIFICA GAMBA NEWS

Volume 34, No. 7 • March, 2019

Join us for our next Play Day with coach Erik Andersen Saturday, Mar. 9th

- **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!



Erik Andersen (viola da gamba and baroque cello) brings a deep sense of curiosity and attention to detail in his performing and teaching. His eclectic background in Russian literature and education inform his engagement with audiences in interactive and intimate settings. You can see him regularly in chamber music and early music ensembles around the Bay Area as well as in his native New York and abroad. Erik has taught at the Viols West Workshop and holds a faculty position at the San Francisco Community Music Center.

Madrigals of Martinů

Three contrasting madrigals on Czech (Moravian) texts, composed by Bohuslav Martinů (1890-1959) are captivating works that deserve more attention.

We will work on approaching 20th century vocal music with an emphasis on text setting and diction *on the viol.*

>> Important! RSVP to Cindi by Thurs. Mar. 7 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.

Upcoming Events

Stylus Phantasticus

Buxtehude, Erlebach, Schmelzer & Krieger

Fri., March 22, El Cerrito

6:30 PM, Hillside Swedenborgian Community Church

David Wilson, *violin*

Lynn Tetenbaum, *viola da gamba*

Katharine Heater, *harpsichord*

This highly dramatic music is in a category all of its own; a contemporary described it thus: "The fantastic style is especially suited to instruments. It is the most free and unrestrained method of composing . . . bound . . . neither to any words nor to a melodic subject, it was instituted to display genius and to teach the hidden design of harmony and the ingenious composition of harmonic phrases and fugues."

Our program features an artisanally-curated sampling of this captivating idiom. This church has the perfect acoustic for this music!

Wine and snacks!

Cost: \$15 (Free admission for 18 & under)

Tickets at the door or order online (recommended)

<https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3614368>

Sponsored by **Barefoot Chamber concerts**

"How a Movie helped Fuel a Viola da Gamba revival"

Have you seen this 2/20 New York Times article?

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/02/20/arts/music/jordi-savall-tous-les-matins-du-monde-viola-da-gamba-music.html>

"Viol players sometimes roll their eyes at the artistic liberties the film takes with the history of Marais and Sainte-Colombe, and Mr. Depardieu's less-than-convincing miming of playing the instrument. But they recall new students signing up for their classes, new audiences showing up to their concerts, and the simple excitement of seeing their world celebrated."

Early Music Open Mic Night

Wed., Mar. 27, El Cerrito (4th Wednesday)

7 - 9 PM, Hillside Swedenborgian Church

This is your opportunity to perform early music in a friendly cabaret style setting. Soloists, groups, Instrumentalists, singers, students, youngsters—amateurs 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.
- Six time slots (max 15 min.) available per night.
- **To request a spot for a future Open Mic, email Heather Wilson at hi2dougan@gmail.com.**
- Donation of \$5 accepted to cover refreshments and venue rental.

Musicians wanted for Sun. service

From: **Hillside Community Church, El Cerrito**

*We are looking to enhance our music program for Sunday worship service. We are asking those groups we partner with if they have any members or friends who might be interested in playing for us on one or more Sundays. This usually consists of **two hymns and a short musical interlude of personal choice**; optionally, they could also play a short piece before and/or after the service, which need not be church-oriented.*

Service Time: Sunday, 10:30-11:30 am

Fee: \$40 (or we can consider an exchange of rehearsal time for Sunday playing time.)

Interested? Questions?

Contact: hillside1422@gmail.com

New SFEMS Executive Director—Derek Tam

See the announcement of this exciting news: <http://sfems.org/?p=15204>



SFEMS LECTURE SERIES:

A Survey of Early Music in North America with John Prescott

Mon.-Fri., March 4-8, Berkeley

10 am - 12:30 pm, St. Mary Magdalene (Norton Hall)

This five-day lecture series will explore the fascinating and often overlooked history of music in North America before the mid-19th century. It will focus primarily on composed art music rather than the rich history of popular and folk music in North America. **We'll discuss how the religious and cultural foundations of each settlement determined its relationship to art music.**

Five independent sessions led by John Prescott:

Day 1: Music in New England: William Billings and the beginnings of a simple American choral idiom.

Day 2: Williamsburg: Recreating London's music scene.

Day 3: The Moravian communities of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania and Salem, North Carolina: High art music in the service of Protestant devotion.

Day 4: New Orleans: The New World center of French opera.

Day 5: The California missions: The glories of Spanish cathedral music given New World vigor.

Cost: \$125 for the full course or \$30/day

SFEMS members: \$110 for full course or \$25/day

To register in advance, send an email **before March 1st** to suzannesiebert@gmail.com.

Indicate whether you are reserving for the full course, or else specify the particular days you plan to attend; also note if you are a SFEMS member. **On or after March 1st, please register and pay at the door.**



Proceeds from this course will go to benefit the SFEMS Music Discovery Workshop, a day camp that introduces children to early music and Renaissance social history through music instruction and theater projects.

John Prescott earned a PhD in musicology from UC Berkeley. He has written extensively on the music of Handel, and was the musicologist for the SF Elderhostel Arts and Humanities Program. He gives pre-performance lectures for Berkeley West Edge Opera, Livermore Valley Opera and the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra. John is an Affiliate of the San Francisco Early Music Society.

NEW COURSE:

Five-Chord Fretboard Geometry Made Simple

Saturdays, Mar. 23- Apr. 13, St. Helena

10- 12, Napa Valley College's Upper Campus Library

Explore and expand your playing of nearly any fretted instrument, including **viola da gamba**, guitar, mandolin, banjo, violin, cello or bass in this informative hands-on class. Noted cellist and published music educator Jeffrey McFarland-Johnson will share **the key to unlocking any popular song that you wish to play on your fretted instrument.** By learning five basic chord forms (C-A-G-E-D) and their corresponding pentatonic scales in major and minor, students will quickly and easily learn to play these songs.

McFarland-Johnson holds an MA in composition from UC San Diego and studied cello at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, Finland. Trained in musical instruments tuned in fourths as well as fifths, he performs throughout the Bay Area with pianist Terry Winn as the Napa Valley Duo, as a soloist and in ensembles.

The required text can be purchased at the first class: \$10 (eBook) or \$20 (textbook).

Bring your own instrument to each class meeting.

Cost: \$110

Lifelong Learning Class #74752

To register call 1-707/967-2901

Mon.-Fri. 9-5 or Sat. 8:30-1 and 2-5pm.

Want to carpool with me from Berkeley?

Contact Sue Jones: scjones360@gmail.com

Thinking ahead to our BASH—

Now is not too early to begin to talk with other members, gather music and start practicing for our Pacifica's annual **Members' Bash on Sat. June 8.** We'd like to hear you! Sign-up details will come in our April newsletter.

**Thanks to Robin Easterbrook for
coordinating this event.
reasterbrook@mac.com**

Pacifica Viols 2018-19

Play Days / Coaches

(*note changes to April and May 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: **David Morris***

May 11, 2019: **Alexa Haynes-Pilon***

Jun. 8, 2019: **Members' BASH**

Celebrate Early Music Month

March is Early Music Month — the fourth annual nationwide venture of Early Music America (EMA), a chance for all—professionals, amateurs, scholars, fans—to show their solidarity with the thousands of others across the country who find the music of the Medieval/Renaissance/Baroque eras to be exciting and fulfilling. EMA encourages all kinds of events: **pop-ups, outreach gigs, special concerts, or just a few words about Early Music at your regular practice session, play-in, rehearsal...** (for example, our March Pacifica PlayDay!) Maybe some of us would like to organize a little viol music somewhere unusual?

Take a look at the [Early Music Month page](#) which will include a daily blog, calendar, pix, etc. from across the country. While you're at it, browse through the [EMA website](#). If you haven't been there in a while, you may be surprised by rich offerings of news, reviews, resources, opportunities, and so forth. —Nick Jones

Editor's Note: Send me a note to share March Early Music Month activities.

SAVE THE DATES

• Conclave: July, 2019

The next **Conclave** (annual conference of the Viola da Gamba Society of America) will be held July 21-28, 2019 in Forest Grove, Oregon (~30 miles west of Portland).

• Viols West: Summer, 2020

Our next **Viols West** gathering will be in summer, 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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President: Cindi Olwell cindi.olwell@gmail.com

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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).