

VIOLA DA GAMBA SOCIETY PACIFICA GAMBA NEWS

Volume 34, No. 8 • April, 2019

Join us for our next Play Day with coach David Morris* Saturday, April 13th

- **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!

***Note that David's appearance is a change from our original schedule.**



David Morris is a member of Quicksilver and the Galax Quartet, playing a variety of 17th- and 18th-c. continuo instruments. He has coached at many VdGSA workshops and Conclaves, and has performed with Musica Pacifica, the Boston Early Music Festival Orchestra, NYS Baroque, Tragicomedia, Tafelmusik, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, American Bach Soloists, Musica Angelica, Seattle Baroque Orchestra, the Mark Morris Dance Group and Seattle's Pacific Musicworks. He has recorded for Harmonia Mundi, New Albion, Dorian, New World, Drag City Records, CBC/ Radio-Canada and New Line Cinema.

*I'll be curating a read-through of **Henry Purcell's Suite in G major, Z. 770**, which contains an overture in the French style followed by five dances. This work actually comes from a larger piece for chorus, vocal soloists and orchestra-- one of the great "Welcome Odes" for Charles II, which I'll address in greater detail on the 13th.*

>> Important! RSVP to Cindi by Thurs. April 11 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.



COME TO CONCLAVE!

I hope you've marked your calendar for Conclave this summer (July 21-18) to be held in Forest Grove, Oregon, on the campus of Pacific University, about 30 minutes west of Portland.

For anyone considering going, let me say **it is an amazing experience**. There are hundreds of players, special classes for beginners, and pages of class choices for everyone else. Take a look at the online brochure which lists faculty, classes, programs and fees: <https://vdgsa.org/cgi-bin/conclave-2019/2019conclave.cgi>

Online registration is opening very soon, but now's the time to read about and start to refine your choices. **Registering early is the best way to get your top choices.**

Wanted: Loaner Viols & Transportation

Many folks will be flying to Conclave from all over the US, from Canada, Australia, and other countries; this makes it difficult to bring instruments. For this reason, Kathleen Merfeld of VdGSA coordinates an **instrument lending program**; its primary purpose is to make gambas available for beginners and faculty; its second priority is loan to people who don't come with an instrument.

However, at the last Conclave there were enough loaner viols to also supply those who left their instruments with the Viol Doctor. Not having to worry about finishing a repair in time for the owner's next class makes the Viol Doctor's job easier, and makes for less stress for players as well!

But all this depends on having enough supply to meet the demand. Can you help?

- **Do you have a viol that can be lent?**
- **Can you help transport any to Forest Grove?**

Kathleen has evolved a good system for tracking the instruments and making sure they get returned. The borrower signs and is responsible for its care while they have the viol.

I have both lent and borrowed viols before, and been happy to get mine back in great condition (once with a new string!), very careful with someone else's instrument, and very grateful for opportunities to try an instrument that is not mine and see what I think of the subtle differences in size, strings, bow, etc.

So, **if you think you might be driving** to Forest Grove, Oregon for Conclave and have room to take one or more viols, or **if you have one or more viols that you are willing to lend** (or both!) please send me an email and let me know!

Thank you!

Ellen Fisher, Pacifica's VdGSA Chapter Rep
erfisher@gmail.com

Flying to Conclave?

Check out the Airplane Travel Tips on our Pacifica website:
<http://www.pacificaviols.org/guide.html#airplane>

Dying to see our April Play Day music ahead of time?

The parts and score to Purcell's Suite in G major will be provided on 4/13, but they are also free to download and print from the IMSLP (International Music Score Library Project) website, if you are inclined to take a look beforehand. Here's how:

The music is in four parts:

Treble viols could play either the Violin I or II part. Violin I goes up regularly to high A, sometimes to B but no higher; Violin II is an easier treble part— it only goes to D (same D as top D-string).

Tenors use the Viola part.

Bass viols use the Cello part.

Here's a link to it:

[https://imslp.org/wiki/Suite_for_Strings%2C_Z.770_\(Purcell%2C_Henry\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/Suite_for_Strings%2C_Z.770_(Purcell%2C_Henry))

Below shows the correct version to download. You'll want the STRING set of parts, which is listed second. You can choose to get the complete score or any part.



Early Music Open Mic Night

Wed., Apr. 24, 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 is available 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.

Upcoming Events

Antic Faces

Joyne Hands: Elizabethan entertainments for mixed consort

Fri. May 10, Palo Alto

8:00 PM, First Presbyterian Church

Sat. May 11, Berkeley

7:30 PM, St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Sun. May 12, San Francisco

4:00 PM, St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Peter Hallifax, *viol and bandora*

Julie Jeffrey, *viol and cittern*

Shira Kammen, *violin and viol*

John Lenti, *lute and viol*; David Morris, *viol*

Mindy Rosenfeld, *flute*

The exciting new Renaissance band *Antic Faces* recreates the unique sound of the English mixed consort, the iconic Elizabethan ensemble-grouping which draws from different instrument families (winds, bowed strings, plucked and strummed strings). The playful dialogue between the violin and Renaissance flute, the virtuosic flash of the lute, the lushly intertwining support of the bass viol, against the shimmering backdrop of the wire-strung bandora and cittern: this truly irresistible combination, endowed with endless possibilities of invention and variety, became a centerpiece of courtly and theatrical entertainments.

The program will feature the best of the English mixed consort repertoire, based on songs and dances of the day, running the gamut in mood from rollicking to refined, including music of Dowland, Byrd, Morley, Phillips, Allison and Coprario. Selections for the big band will be mixed with moments showcasing the artistry of individual soloists. For textural contrast, the string consort (violin and viols) will intersperse a selection of Orlando Gibbon's sonorous and sophisticated proto-sonatas, the Great Dooble Bass Fantasies.

For tickets and more information:

http://sfems.org/?page_id=13495

Sponsored by **San Francisco Early Music Society**

Come play!
Pacifica Annual Bash • Sat. June 8
Music / Potluck/ Party

Pacifica members— gather some of your viol friends and prepare some music to play for our annual Bash.

Where? At our usual Play Day location: Hillside Swedenborgian Community Church in El Cerrito.

>> Sign up to play by June 1

Even if you are not performing, please come, bring friends and a potluck lunch contribution.

9am-10:15 Set-up, coffee/tea & conversation in the Sanctuary.
(At this time, performing groups may rehearse downstairs in the classrooms.)

10:30 Performances begin in the Sanctuary. During performance time, please feel free to dine on our always wonderful potluck lunch. (Wine is allowed but please take home your bottles.)

After lunch consort playing using music from our Pacifica Library. Even if you are not part of a pre-formed group, please join us. We can continue playing until 2:15.

2:15 Cleanup. We must be out of the church by 3:00 pm.

Sign up to perform- DEADLINE JUNE 1

Email the following info to coordinator Robin Easterbrook at reasterbrook@mac.com:

- Names of group's players & instruments
- Title of music your group will perform

Marin Headlands workshop
welcomes viol players

The East Bay Recorder Society has an annual workshop for intermediate and advanced players of recorders and other related instruments at the beautiful Marin Headlands; this year they particularly want to encourage viol players to come; all classes are open to viols as well as recorders. Since the brochure was prepared, they have hired gambist Amy Brodo, who will be offering two classes on Saturday afternoon, one on dances of Holborne, the other a Charpentier suite.



Dates: Friday May 17- Sunday May 19, 2019

Note: players can choose which days to attend.

Faculty includes Frances Blaker, who has been a coach at Pacifica Play Days.

Cost: Ranges from \$120 for Saturday only (includes meals) to \$280 for the full weekend, with 5 options altogether.

Location: Point Bonita YMCA at Marin Headlands, a beautiful location with short walks to views of the bay, ocean, and beaches.

Details are in the brochure at this link:

<http://www.symbolicsolutions.com/ebrs-web2015/pdf-items/19-Headlands-flyer-final.pdf>
(Note that the brochure doesn't include info about viols.)

To see options, costs, and to register:

<http://www.symbolicsolutions.com/ebrs-web2015/headlands2019.html>

If you have questions specific to viols, email Linda Skory travisskory@gmail.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**

Updating our Website

We are planning to update our Pacifica website. If you have any suggestions or comments, please email Sue Jones at scjones360@gmail.com.

Ensemble Sibling-ia

When Early Music America urged musicians to find ways to celebrate Early Music Month in March, I convinced my husband Nick and my two sisters (one local, one planning to visit from FL) to plan a recital at our mother's retirement center in Oakland. After an intense couple of rehearsal days, we presented our program of solos, duets and trios: Landini, Morley, Corelli, Bach & Handel. As it was St. Patrick's Day, we signed off with an Irish medley.

We brought a carload of instruments: violin, cello, bass viol, 4 recorders and a bowed psaltery. The viol generated quite a lot of interest; I was glad I also had my cello at hand so I could easily show their differences. We had never done anything like this before, so it was a challenge to organize and play that much music, switching instruments, and dealing with the inevitable performance nerves as well as an overheated room. But the audience was appreciative and we had fun in the end!

Sue Jones

Your Pacifica Chapter Contacts 2018 - 2019

Board of Directors:

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

Board members at large:

Peter Ballinger, Robin Easterbrook, Mary Elliott,
Julie Jeffrey, Elisabeth Reed

Viol Rental Coordinator: Carolyn D'Almeida
dalmeida.carolyn@juno.com

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

Newsletter Editor: Sue Jones
scjones360@gmail.com

Webmaster: Rose Miller oceannarose@gmail.com

VdGSA Chapter Representative:
Ellen Fisher erfisher@gmail.com

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).



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