

Join us for our next PlayDay with coach Elisabeth Reed – Saturday, Sept. 14th

- 9 - 9:30 am – Set up, coffee/tea.
Be ready to play by 9:30.
- 9:30 - 12:30 – Group session with 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!

Elisabeth Reed teaches viola da gamba and Baroque cello at UC Berkeley and at the SF Conservatory of Music, where she co-directs the Baroque Orchestra. Recent teaching highlights: master classes at the Juilliard School, the Shanghai Middle School, and the Royal Academy of Music. Her playing has been described as “intense, graceful, suffused with heat and vigor” (Seattle Times). A soloist and chamber musician with Voices of Music, Archetti, and Wildcat Viols, she’s also appeared frequently with regional orchestras and music festivals. She can be heard on the Virgin Classics, Naxos, Magnatunes, Focus, and Plectra recording labels. She is a Guild-certified practitioner of the Feldenkrais Method of Awareness Through Movement, with a focus on working with musicians and performers.



Warming up with Feldenkrais/ Singing with John Ward

Our group session will be about singing with the viol, by playing the six-part *English Madrigals Apt for Viols and Voyces*, composed by John Ward and published in 1613. We'll focus on how we can bring text painting and diction to our viol playing so that the listener can almost hear the words as we play.

To get ready to make a good singing sound with our viols, we'll start with favorite Feldenkrais warm-ups. Then we'll practice some bowing techniques that will help distinguish the sounds of vowels and consonants as we play.

Register for our PlayDay on-line Deadline: noon, Thursday, Sept. 12

1. Go to **our website** and log in.* (Note: each member needs to log in and sign up separately.)
2. Under Events/ PlayDay Registration, fill out and submit the registration form. A confirmation email will follow.

*If you haven't yet activated or renewed your membership, click **here** for how-to instructions.

News from the board – Incorporation & Website Redesign

There has been a flurry of important activity in our Pacifica chapter administration over the summer! We're delighted to report that after some years of planning, we've made significant progress on two aspects that will make our organization stronger and more secure.

INCORPORATION

First, after years as an unincorporated association affiliated with the San Francisco Early Music Society (SFEMS) we have filed with the State of California as a charitable corporation. This move has two important consequences:

1. The volunteers who serve as officers and directors on our Pacifica board are **now protected from personal liability** in the unlikely case of a lawsuit: that is, the liability of the corporation, its directors and contractors is now limited to the assets of the corporation, not our own personal assets.

2. It also **sets the groundwork for us to apply to the IRS for tax-exempt status** (501.c.3). Once we receive this, it will make donations tax-deductible; this has become more important since we took over managing Viols West, which put our budget much higher than ever before. In any case, our finances have always been handled as a non-profit would; that is, none of us benefits from the income: it is all used (or kept for use) for the benefit of the group.

In order to plan for 501.c.3 status, the board **adopted a new set of bylaws** with the requisite language and structure for the IRS to understand that we are scrupulous about not profiting individually from the group's assets. Those bylaws are on our new website.

One consequence of our incorporation is that our **legal name has slightly shifted**, from "Viola da Gamba Society – Pacifica" to "Pacifica Viola da Gamba Society."

We will remain an affiliate of SFEMS and a chapter of the VdGSA (Viola da Gamba Society of America).

WEBSITE REDESIGN

The second big project, which we hope you have already seen, has been the **complete revamping** of our website onto a WordPress platform, which adds important new features and will allow us to easily modify and update it. We contracted with Allison Rolls, a web design consultant, for the professional side of the website rework, and are grateful for her hard work and inventiveness. The end result is, we think, an **effective and beautiful product**.

On the next page are more details. Check out the chart there which shows the features available to the public and to members.

A BIG THANKS

– to our incorporation team, especially Ricardo Hofer, Nick Jones, and Ellen Fisher. Barrie Cowan, a lawyer, singer, and violinist whom many of you know, very generously gave us legal advice pro bono.

– to members who did research, sent us photos, and beta-tested our website: Alice Benedict, Mary Elliott, Julie Jeffrey, Cindi Olwell, Elisabeth Reed and Heather Wilson.

– to our website team of Sue Jones, Nick Jones, and Ellen Fisher, with Allison Rolls, designer. Sue, in particular, has done a yeoman job of figuring out what needed to be updated on the website, and managing all the pieces! Sue is staying on as Newsletter Editor, and Nick will be Webmaster.

A sampling of website improvements—

We can now **join and renew easily online**, so our Treasurer and Membership Coordinator, Ellen Fisher, can much more easily track memberships. A new **Donate! button** makes it simple to donate to the organization. We now have easy **online PlayDay registration**. We can keep in touch with each other better using our online **Member Roster**, sorted by last name or zip code. All of our rental instruments are now catalogued at the back end of the site; our Rental Coordinator Carolyn d’Almeida will be able to **track rentals and repairs** there as well as handle the paperwork and payments. We’ve added **photo galleries** and a **newsletter archive**, and we have completely **updated** our **Travel Tips** and list of **Teachers and Workshops**.

Our website address (URL) is the same as it’s been, with the addition of the “https” prefix that marks it as **“secure”**:

<https://pacificaviols.org>.

Who sees what on our website—

The public has access to certain areas, but logged-in members have access to much more. Below are the menus under each heading on

If you haven’t yet activated your Pacifica online account or renewed your membership, click **this link** for a 2-page illustrated instruction sheet. Print it out and it will be easy to follow along.

Please don’t hesitate to [contact our webmaster](#) if you have any difficulties accessing your account or renewing.

Our new Home Page... a new face to the world



About the Chapter

The **Pacifica Viola da Gamba Society** (PvdGS; also known as “Pacifica Viols”) is an association of viol enthusiasts in the broader San Francisco Bay Area, one of the most active early music centers in the U.S. Members include players (from novice to advanced), instrument makers, teachers and performers. If you love the music of the viola da gamba, or want to learn more about it, consider joining the Pacifica Viola da Gamba Society. Member benefits include:

	About Us	Events	Resources	Membership
Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact Us Viol Rental FAQ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PlayDays this year Viols West Conclave Workshops Past Chapter PlayDays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newsletter Archive About the Viol Early Music Links Travel Tips 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member Login/LogOut Lost/Change Password Join Pacifica Viols
Logged-in Members <i>All above plus:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current Newsletter Photo Galleries Bylaws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PlayDay Registration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For Players: Teachers, Student Viols/Bows, Strings, Repairs, Bow Rehairing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your Membership Profile Member Roster (list by last name or zipcode)

Upcoming Events

Concerto delle Donne

The secret choir of women virtuoso singers at the court of Ferrara

Music of Luzzaschi, Marenzio, Monteverdi and Barbara Strozzi

Fri. Oct. 11, Palo Alto

8:00 PM, First Presbyterian Church

Sat. Oct. 12, San Francisco

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

Sun. Oct. 13, Berkeley

7:30 PM, St. Mary Magdalen Church

Sophie Junker and Stefanie True, *soprano*

Elizabeth Blumenstock and Alana Youssefian, *baroque violin*

Elisabeth Reed, *viola da gamba*

Hanneke van Proosdij, *recorder, harpsichord, organ*

David Tayler, *archlute and baroque guitar*

Join us for a concert of virtuoso Italian vocal Music of the Late Renaissance and Early Baroque. Award winning Belgian soprano Sophie Junker makes her debut with Voices of Music.

The *Concerto delle Donne* was created as part of the *musica secreta* (private court music) of Ferrara in the years just following the marriage of Alfonso II d'Este and Margherita Gonzaga in 1579. Many prominent composers in Italy—among them Luzzasco Luzzaschi, and Luca Marenzio—wrote works for these Ferrarese concerts. Duke Alfonso engaged notable poets to write the texts, including Torquato Tasso. Word of the incredible virtuosity and secret repertory sung by the *Concerto delle Donne* spread rapidly across Europe, and soon other female ensembles were created in Mantua and Florence.

This concert is part of our *Women in Music* project.

FULL- check back next year!

Viol Sphere 2 Workshop: Viols in a Desert Oasis

Alison Crum & Larry Lipnik,
Artistic Directors
with Julie Elhard, Julie Jeffrey, Roy Marks,
and David Morris

Oct. 17 - 21, 2019

Biosphere 2 Conference Center, Oracle, AZ

We are pleased to invite you to our 21st viol workshop in Southern Arizona. An outstanding faculty will provide instruction and coaching in a beautiful conference setting.

For more information: <http://vdgs-saz.org>

Early Music Open Mic Night

Wed., Sept. 25, 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).
- Six time slots (max 15 min.) available per night.
- To request a spot for a future Open Mic, email Heather Wilson: hi2dougan@gmail.com.
- Donation of \$5 is accepted to cover refreshments and venue rental.

Reflections on CONCLAVE • July, 2019 in Forest Grove, Oregon

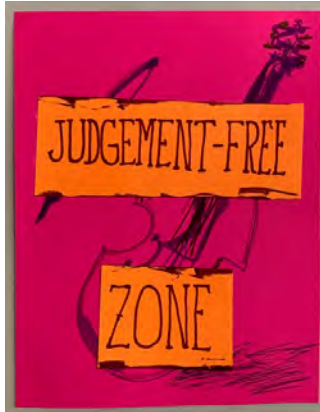
From Pat Jennerjohn–

My favorite first impression of the Conclave was the sign in the lobby of Burlingham Hall – “Judgement- Free Zone.” How many musicians (myself included) have a nasty, perfectionist inner judge in their head? We all love a skilled performance (especially if we are the performer) but what a change to simply be encouraged to jump in and try anything one wished to attempt without anyone barring the way! I just turned off that voice, plunged in, laughed at my mess-ups, and allowed myself to have a good time.

My best informal consort experience was a joyful evening of music-making– After a picnic (with food from the wonderful farmer’s market and some very good wine) on our free afternoon/evening, I played through beautiful consort music with some of our younger participants (with a break for pie). It took me back to my college music major days. And, playing in the dorm’s laundry room, we surprised a few folks strolling in to pick up their laundry!

Some of my most heartfelt and amazing conversations were with the young musicians – I got teary-eyed a few times. Music is so important, just as much as those “normal” skills of life like science and math. With so many forces trying to drive us apart these days, we need music to keep us coming back together. These young folks will bring that to us!

As a singer, my instrument is eminently portable – I just show up (well, carrying a music folder, perhaps). As a newish viol player, I now appreciate what instrumental musicians must do; in addition to playing well (I knew about that) we must constantly pack and unpack, set up and take down, and let’s not even talk about the tuning! I now understand why there are so many jokes about gamba players and tuning – they are all true!



I get the same good feeling when playing in a consort that I get when I sing one on a part with my choral friends. It builds connection, communication, trust, and it’s fun (and it even sounds pretty).

As a veteran choral singer, I know the joy of the fellowship that comes from making music together. And now I know the joy of fellowship with gamba players too, who might even be slightly more gregarious than choral singers (and that’s saying a lot). Since I know only a few players (from the SF Bay Area) I tried to make a point of sitting with different groups of folks at meals, and I was welcomed every time. And the conversations were wide-ranging and fascinating.

I loved how Conclave was set up to encourage all of this interaction, especially that first night’s “Play it Forward” experience—a bit like social dancing: you need to learn the signals!

So how did I feel at the end? Inspired, immersed, and exhausted! And, after returning home, it feels like my playing has taken a leap forward. And I already have my calendar marked for next year’s Conclave!

**Next summer–
Conclave in Miami, OH
July 26- Aug. 2, 2020**



From Ellen Fisher—

Conclave—WOW! How to summarize such an intense experience in a few words? Think of the best PlayDay you've been to, add to that the best concert and the best lecture you've heard, and imagine that happening all day every day for a week! That was my experience at this summer's Conclave in Forest Grove, Oregon.

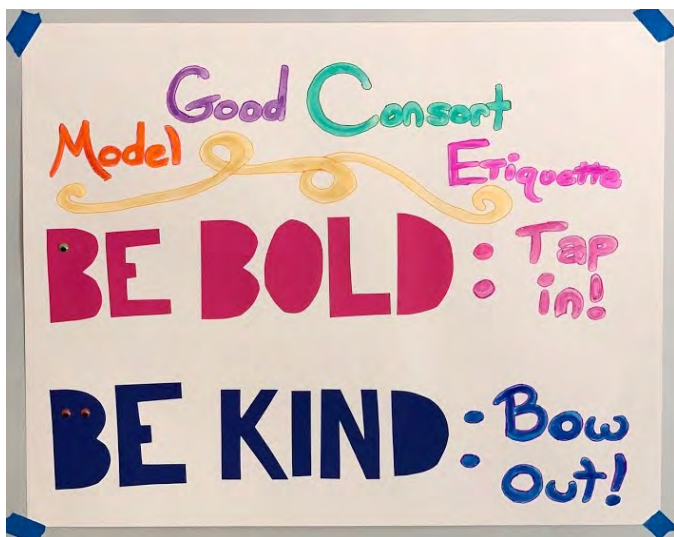
Highlights for me were learning of and playing the music of a composer I'd never heard of before, a contemporary of Josquin named Marbrianus de Orto; learning to play 4 part music all on tenor viols, stretching the upper and lower limits of the instrument; hearing a stellar lecture on Byrd and an amazing concert with a singer, a lute, and a lirone, the bass member of the lira family of instruments, by a group named Atalante, who were also there as teachers. The faculty concert was equally outstanding. The whole week was energizing and inspiring for me, not to mention FUN!

From grateful Pacifica scholarship recipients—



Left to right: Mitso Floor, Alyssa Wright and Stephanie Li (not pictured: Yukei Murakami)

“Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to participate in this awesome festival! I would have not been able to come if it wasn't for [Pacifica's] generous scholarship. I have learned and improved so much in just one week and I am so grateful for that. Thank you!”...“It was a life-changing event. I will continue to viol!!”...“Being able to share the gamba passion and enthusiasm with everyone has been so inspiring! This week has been eye-opening in so many ways.”...“The energy & passion for music here is incredible, & I feel my gamba playing has improved a huge amount for such a short time. This week has been an enlightening experience, & I'm so thankful I was able to come!”



Auction item won by Ellen Fisher—
A chance to play with these experts (from left):
Elisabeth Reed, Wendy Gillespie,
Julie Jeffrey, Joanna Blendulf, Lisa Terry





Some of the Bay Area teachers and students attending Conclave



Banquet entertainment including a baryton (at left)



The Consort Co-op



“Gamba Legs”– a hilarious fast-paced spoken word piece performed at the banquet

VdGSA Chapter Reps (Pacifica’s rep, Ellen Fisher, is second from right in the front row)



BASS VIOL BOW FOR SALE

Coen Engelhard Renaissance-style bass viol bow for sale. It's his bow #298 and weighs 70 grams. The bows are made from Acacia growing on Coen's own property in France, and the hair is from his own horse!

You can see a picture of the bow and also read about him and his bows at <https://renaissanceviolbows.com>.

These bows have recently become very popular in the Bay Area.

Price: 800 Euros, plus 40 Euros postage (\$955.68 as of August 14, 2019).

Contact Mary Elliott if you're interested: mary.elliott@pineground.com -- 510-295-8878.

30% off new! celloGard Foldable Special sale for Pacifica members

(Also fits bass and tenor viols)

From local inventor & cello teacher Bob Ng

I would like to offer all Pacifica members a 33% discount off the normal price of the new celloGard Foldable in celebration of its arrival.

Pacifica Special Offer: Only \$19.95
(Normal price \$29.95 including carrying case)

Free pickup at my studio in Berkeley, or \$5 shipping to anywhere in US.

Some players like to leave it on the floor at home, and then keep the Foldable in their case for when they play away from home. Sort of like music stands – with fixed vs. collapsible types for different venues and occasions.

The original Model One, which is not collapsible, is also available and sells at its new price of \$19.95. There is no special offer for this model, but members can order it as well if they are interested.

I wish you many happy, and safe, hours playing your viol!

Bob Ng

Cello teacher, inventor

bing4505@gmail.com

510-590-8860

For every cellist on the go . . .

... the celloGard Foldable.

Protecting against dangerous knockover accidents wherever you and your cello may go.

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Be safe. Not sorry.

For more info:
<http://www.cellogard.com>

SAVE THE DATES!

Pacifica Viols PlayDays 2019-2020

Sept. 14, 2019: Elisabeth Reed

Oct. 12, 2019: Julie Jeffrey

Nov. 9, 2019: Erik Andersen

Dec. 14, 2019: David Morris

Jan. 11, 2020: Pat O'Scannell

Feb. 8, 2020: Mary Springfels

Mar. 14, 2020: Amy Brodo

Apr. 11, 2020: Gail Ann Schroeder

May 9, 2020: Frances Blaker

June 27, 2020: Pacifica BASH

Pacifica Chapter Contacts 2019 - 2020

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Secretary: Nick Jones
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Ellen Fisher erfisher@gmail.com

Pacifica Viols Chapter Website:
<https://pacificaviols.org>

Viola da Gamba Society of America:
<https://vdgsa.org>

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

In Memoriam- **Todd Wetherwax**

From Ellen Farwell:

I received a sad message from Margriet Wetherwax that her former husband, Todd Wetherwax, died in June. Todd was a founding member of our Pacifica Chapter and was acquainted with many of our members. Several of us also knew Todd from the UC Riverside Collegium Musicum back in the 1970's – that would include Margriet, Julie Jeffrey, Mary Prout, Pat O'Scannell, Jeff DeMarco, and myself. In recent years he was an occasional participant in our "Sunday Viols" group at my house.

The address I have for Todd and his wife Kay is 26358 Gold Ridge Drive, Castro Valley CA 94552.

There will not be a funeral or memorial service for Todd. If there is to be a celebration of any kind, we will let you know in a future newsletter.