

## Join us for our next PlayDay with coach **David Morris – Saturday, Dec. 14**

- 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!**

**David Morris** plays a variety of 17th- and 18th-c. continuo instruments. He is a member of Quicksilver, the Bertamo Trio and the Galax Quartet. He has performed with the Boston Early Music Festival Orchestra, NYS Baroque, Tragicomedia, Tafelmusik, the Boston Symphony 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. David has taught viol at many workshops, including Viols West, Amherst Early Music, SFEMS and VdGSA Conclaves.

**The Plan:** I'll present some orchestral music by Georg Muffat, that eminently cosmopolitan composer from the Savoy who went to France and Italy and absorbed everything he could about other national styles before assembling a pair of utterly gorgeous and influential collections for five-part strings under the title "Florilegium".



We'll be looking at some music from the fifth suite of Muffat's "Florilegium Primum" collection (1695), entitled "Sollicitudo", in A minor. After we put our notes in place, I'll focus on how we can give this music a bit of lift, verve and accent— even though we're playing the "wrong" instruments! I think this music is just stunning on viols.

I think the music is sight-readable, but **if you'd like to have music ahead of time, the score and parts are on IMSLP [HERE](#).**

Under "Sheet Music/ Parts" (the second tab), find the **Violin I** part and then click on "**7 more**" below it to find the other parts, which are hiding right there.

- Treble I: print out the Violin I part, pp. 13-14
- Treble II: print out the Violin II part, pp. 13-14
- Tenor I: print out the Viola I part, pp. 13-14
- Tenor II: print out the Viola II part, pp. 13-14
- Bass: print out "Cellos & Basses" part, pp. 13-14

We'll work on the following from Suite 5:

1. Overture, 2. Allemande, 3. Air, 4. Gavotte

## Register for the PlayDay on-line

**Deadline: NOON, Thursday, Dec. 12**

1. Go to [our website](#) and log in.\* (Note: each member logs in and signs up separately.)
  2. Under Events/ PlayDay Registration, fill out and submit the form. A confirmation email will follow.
- \* If you haven't yet activated or renewed your membership, click [HERE](#) for how-to instructions.

## Early Music Open Mic Night

**Wed., Dec. 18, El Cerrito**

(an exception to the 4th Wednesday rule)

7 - 9 PM, Hillside Community Church

A \$5 donation is accepted to cover refreshments and venue rental.

This friendly monthly event is your opportunity to perform early music in a friendly cabaret style setting. Sign up ahead of time as a soloist or group, instrumentalist or singer. Amateurs and professionals, students, youngsters—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](mailto:hi2dougan@gmail.com).

## The Barefoot All-Stars Byrd on the Third

### 3-, 4-, 5- and 6-Part Consort Music

**Fri. Jan. 3, El Cerrito**

6:30 PM, Hillside Community Church

Peter Hallifax, Julie Jeffrey, Shira Kammen,  
David Morris and Lynn Tetenbaum, viols  
*With special guest Wendy Gillespie, treble viol*

To Barefoot's eternal surprise and delight, the mid-winter viol consort music program has become hugely popular with the Barefoot audience. This year's composer of choice is William Byrd, surely the best known Elizabethan/Jacobean composer as well as one of the most prolific.

Byrd wrote music in all genres, secular, sacred, for court and chapel. He had the great fortune to be as greatly admired and loved during his life as he has been, consistently, in succeeding centuries.

We are delighted to have been able to import, once again, the world's most sought-after treble viol player (not to mention the world's most-travelled treble viol player), the legendary Wendy Gillespie.

Tickets \$25 general (unitary pricing)

18 and under admitted free and welcome.

Tickets at the door or order online here.





**SFEMS presents**  
**Les Voix humaines'**  
**Lachrimae**

**Fri. Jan. 10, Palo Alto**

8:00 PM, First Presbyterian Church

**Sat. Jan. 11, Berkeley**

7:30 PM, St. John's Presbyterian Church

**Sun. Jan. 12, San Francisco**

4:00 PM, Church of the Advent

Mélisande Corriveau, Margaret Little, Felix Deak,  
Marie-Laurence Primeau and Susie Napper, viols

Nigel North, lute

Dowland's Lachrimae has become canon in the annals of consort music! "Unfit guests in these joyful times," these seven tears of extreme beauty are cried out by five viols and lute, Dowland's instrument. This performance is significantly different from most in that the music is ornamented in a style appropriate to the period and in defiance of a certain modern Puritanism that demands total adherence to the written page. The embellishment adds expressive elegance and musical freedom that we hope enhances the audience's "joy and gladness"!

Les Voix humaines, the viol duo [Susie Napper](#) and [Margaret Little](#), has thrilled audiences worldwide with dashing performances of early and contemporary music for three decades.

Their musical complicity has been compared to the skill of two trapeze artists or the telepathic communion of a pair of jazz saxophonists!

Over the past three decades the duo has toured the world (North America, Europe, the Baltic, Far East, Australia and New Zealand), and made over forty recordings on the ATMA Classique label (Diapason d'Or, Choc du Monde de la Musique, Repertoire-Classica 10, Goldberg 5, Classics Today 10/10).

Their marathon recording of the complete [Concerts a deux violes égales](#) by Sieur de Ste Colombes is a world première.

They are joined in this concert by colleagues who share their profound joy of experimentation.

\$50 general | \$45 seniors | \$15 students  
(under age 30 with ID, available only at SFEMS box office)

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If you might be interested in a lesson, consort coaching or a talk by **Les Voix humaines** while they are in town, please contact Cindi Olwell: [cindi.olwell@gmail.com](mailto:cindi.olwell@gmail.com)





## Feb. 20-24 Santa Fe Viol Workshop

For Ye Violls 2020 presents an intimate four-day weekend workshop for viol players at all levels featuring five-part consort repertoire from England, Germany and Italy. Each class will be limited to five players with at least two classes each day one-to-a-part. There will be free time each afternoon for an extra class, siesta or sightseeing, and after-dinner playing welcome to all. [It's a four-day program this year](#): arrive Thursday afternoon and depart Monday after lunch!

The workshop's three instructors—Larry Lipnik, Sarah Mead, and Mary Springfels—are among the most outstanding coaches in the field. There will be nine formal sessions, plus a final reading in the Retreat Center's marvelous chapel. Ensembles will change from class to class as appropriate to players' levels; every player will work with every instructor.

The workshop venue is the Immaculate Heart of Mary Retreat Center on Santa Fe's scenic Museum Hill. This pastoral site features modern amenities with comfortable rooms. The double rooms are especially spacious, some with partitions. Several single rooms will be available. Each room has a private bath. The food is to die for—Seriously!

"We welcome players of all levels, including those new to the instrument; however there will only be 5 beginner slots available.

"Use this [self-rating guide](#) from the VdGSA to assess your level. If you fall into the B or B+ category and wish to participate we encourage you to register as early as possible due to a limited number of slots available for players at this level."



### MARY SPRINGFELS

Amaryllis: Madrigals by Wert, Marenzio, and Monteverdi with texts from Il Pastor Fido.



### SARAH MEAD

Something borrowed: Renaissance music of all kinds based on preexisting melodies.



### LARRY LIPNIK

Venus' garland: Music from Johann Schein's Venus Krantzlein and Banchetto Musicale..

To request a registration form, or ask questions, contact manager [Susan Meredith](#).



# EMA

## EARLY MUSIC AMERICA

### Early Music Month- coming again in MARCH

But it's not too soon to talk to friends and start thinking how you might contribute to spreading the joy of early music.

Stay tuned for more information in future issues about this celebration spearheaded by [Early Music America](#).

### Free Improv Webinar

Adam Knight Gilbert, dynamic teacher at USC's Thornton School of Music, will help musicians improve their improvisation with a simple technique. The webinar will be held online via Zoom on Sun. Dec. 8 at 6pm PST.

Sponsored by Early Music America. Sign up [HERE](#).



### Review of Fretwork concert

[Nick Jones](#) is a reviewer for the online magazine [San Francisco Classical Voice](#). His writeup for Cal Performances' November 3 concert by the British viol quintet Fretwork with countertenor Iestyn Davies can be found [HERE](#).



**Fretwork** viol consort

# Viola da Gamba Society of America

Editor's Note: *This is the first in a series of useful tidbits I've discovered on the VdGSA website.*



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CLASSIFIED ADS

On their website, this is where you'll find the videos.

## Teaching Videos

The [VdGSA](#) has some great resources on their website to improve one's viol playing, including videos by beloved professional viol teachers.

Here's a list of just a few of these videos:

- Finger Exercises Away from your Instrument
- Choosing a Bow
- Shifting
- Safe and Accurate String Crossing
- Consort Tuning
- Finding your Optimum Bow Speed and Arm Weight for each String
- Fret Tying Made Easy
- String Replacement
- Micro Memory as a Key to Effective Practicing
- Expressing Song Text and Meter
- Basics of Continuo
- Feldenkrais

The videos are free to download if you want to keep them to watch over and over. They generally range from 5 to 20 minutes. Click [HERE](#) and have a go.

## Bow For Sale:

Consort bass or tenor bow; boxwood and ebony, 29" long. Made in 2013 by H.F. Grabenstein. It's smooth on the string but a little light for my 7-string bass viol. \$1500.

To see the bow, contact [Sal Blaker](#).



## 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**

**We now register online: [log in](#).  
Registration deadline is **NOON**  
on the Thursday before.**

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### Lessons/coachings available with our January PlayDay coach Pat O'Scannell

During her visit to the Bay Area, our January coach Pat O'Scannell would like to help you improve your viol playing.

Pat's website is [HERE](#). If you would like more information about lessons or coaching, call her ahead at (541) 601-9820.

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## Pacifica Viola da Gamba Society 2019 - 2020

### Board of Directors:

President: Cindi Olwell  
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<https://pacificaviols.org>

### Pacifica Viola da Gamba Society

is a Chapter of the

**Viola da Gamba Society of America**

and an Affiliate of **SFEMS**

**(San Francisco Early Music Society)**