

**Join us for a Zoom PlayDay  
with Erik Andersen and Gretchen Claassen  
Sat. May 9, 10-11:30 am**

As we aren't able to gather together to make music in our usual PlayDay format due to COVID-19, we are planning an alternative—an online session on Zoom.

Housemates and professional viol players Erik Andersen and Gretchen Claassen will co-lead our first Pacifica Zoom meeting. It will of course not be the same as our usual monthly gathering, but you won't have to drive anywhere, can play in the comfort of your own home, and enjoy seeing Pacifica friends as we learn some new music together.

**For details, see page 2**

**See page 8 for a special online workshop with Shira Kammen on May 23.**



**Erik Andersen** brings a deep sense of curiosity and attention to detail in his performing and teaching with an eclectic background in literature and education informing his engagement with audiences in interactive and intimate settings. You can see him regularly around the Bay Area as well as his native New York, and abroad in chamber music and early music ensembles. Erik Andersen is on faculty at the San Francisco Community Music Center, and recently served as viola da gamba faculty at Viols West Workshop (2018), and the Viola da Gamba Society of America's national conference, "Conclave" (2019).



**Gretchen Claassen**, a versatile chamber musician, has performed with some of the West Coast's leading baroque specialists, including American Bach Soloists, Portland Baroque Orchestra, Musica Angelica, Musica Pacifica, Agave Baroque and Ars Minerva, and is the recipient of the 2015 Jeffrey Thomas Award. She is also a founding member of MUSA and the Cello Street Quartet, which has taken her around the world participating in the American Music Abroad program through the U.S. State Department.

## Our May 9 PlayDay Plan:

### We'll sample some 3-part music for treble, tenor, and bass viol by Coperario, Lupo and Purcell.

Erik and Gretchen will rotate playing the 3 parts. Each person will hear just Erik & Gretchen (and themselves of course), but no one else. Sometimes you will be playing your line independently as they play the other two voices; at other times, you'll be doubling with one of them.

### Please click on the links below to see the scores, then print them.

[Coperario VdGS 2 Fantasia](#) (4 p.)

[Lupo VdGS 3 Pavan](#) (2 p.)

[Purcell VdGS 3 Fantasia](#) (3 p.)

### Bowings and Fingerings:

In an email to all member sent 4/20 by Ellen Fisher (check your inbox), we attached a pdf of all the scores with bowings and fingerings for the more difficult passages marked by Erik and Gretchen.

NOTE: These scanned scores may not print well, as they are fairly faded; they were emailed so that you can look at them on your screen, then copy the bowings and fingerings onto the scores you will have printed using the links above.

**Q:** Why we can't just all play together and hear the whole group?

**A:** There's a tiny **lag time** on Zoom between you speaking (or playing) and others hearing you. That's not a real problem for a group when talking together, but it is a nightmare trying to play music together.

## How will our Zoom session work?

### To sign up:

1. Send an email to Gretchen: [gmclaassen@gmail.com](mailto:gmclaassen@gmail.com). (Note the double 'aa' and double 'ss')
2. Type "Pacifica PlayDay" in the Subject line.
3. Tell her what instrument(s) you will be playing, sign your name and send it off.
4. You will then receive a confirmation email from Gretchen with a link to the Zoom meeting, along with the meeting ID and password.

*If you register but don't get a confirmation email from Gretchen, please let Ellen know at [erfisher@gmail.com](mailto:erfisher@gmail.com).*

5. Everyone who has signed up will also get a reminder email the night before the PlayDay.
6. On May 9, the "meeting space" will open about 9:45 am so you can have a few minutes to greet folks. At the end, there will be some time to socialize with each other.

### Not comfortable with Zoom?

#### Trial Zoom Session • Sat. May 2, 4:30 PM

If you are not experienced on Zoom, we strongly urge you to do a practice session before our PlayDay so you will not slow down the group with technical issues.

Erik will host a practice Zoom session on May 2. He'll answer questions and give directions on using some basic (but important!) features:

- Toggling between Speaker View & Gallery View,
- Muting and unmuting
- Audio settings

We'll send out an email to all members with the link/password to this Trial Session the night before. *Thanks to Erik for offering this!*

**We hope to see many of you May 9!**

## Workshop/Event Updates

- **Amherst Early Music Festival 2020** cancelled. See next page for online classes.
- **Barefoot Concert Series** cancelled
- **Berkeley Early Music Festival 2020** cancelled
- **Early Music America**  
Free Monday online sessions (see next page)
- **San Francisco Early Music Society**  
Instead of summer music workshops, they will offer weekend online sessions in May and June.
  - For May class descriptions, [click here](#).
  - To register, buy a gift certificate (for 1, 5, 10 or 15 classes, which can be applied to May and June classes); [click here](#) for more info.
- **Viols West 2020** - cancelled
- **VdGSA's Conclave 2020** - cancelled  
But hope to offer something online during that week, July 26- Aug. 2. [Stay tuned!](#)
- **May Early Music Open Mic**- cancelled

## On-line Lessons

These gamba teachers are offering online lessons; support them and learn new skills!

- Erik Andersen  
[Erik.Christian.Andersen@gmail.com](mailto:Erik.Christian.Andersen@gmail.com)
- Amy Brodo [continuogirl@mac.com](mailto:continuogirl@mac.com)
- John Dornenburg [jd.lac@att.net](mailto:jd.lac@att.net) (in UK)
- David Morris [mahlsdorf@earthlink.net](mailto:mahlsdorf@earthlink.net)
- Farley Pearce [farleypearce@yahoo.com](mailto:farleypearce@yahoo.com)
- Elisabeth Reed [soundbodies@gmail.com](mailto:soundbodies@gmail.com)

**Go ahead- get in touch... just do it!**

You can decide together whether to use Zoom, FaceTime or Skype.

## Help for freelance musicians

As the coronavirus pandemic wreaks an unprecedented financial toll on the world economy, our local early music freelancers have been particularly hit hard. Months of work have dried up in days, leaving many musicians on the brink of financial ruin (*from SFEMS website*).

### SFEMS Music Freelancers' Relief Fund

Grant recipients may apply for a second SFEMS grant a month after they turned in their first application.

**To donate to this fund,** [click here](#).

### EMA Relief Fund

*4/23/20 Update from Early Music America:*

Thanks to the immediate and generous response of over 310 donors, we have distributed more than 280 mini grants, but are currently out of funding.

**To make a donation,** or be placed on the wait list, [click here](#) for details.



EMA Relief Fund: Supporting Early Musicians in Need



## Looking for online music sessions?

# Amherst Early Music

[Amherst Early Music](#) is offering 90-min. weekend Zoom classes; some are participatory, some are lectures. \$25 each. Registration is open until 9am each Friday; faculty then send out their course info and Zoom link.

Each Monday, AEM posts the classes for the upcoming weekend; to receive each weekend's class info, join their [mailing list](#).



ABOUT EMA

## EMA Online Interest Sessions

An ongoing series of interest sessions covering topics of historical performance practice and early music

**Each Monday at 1pm** PDT, EMA is offering a **free** hour-long seminar.

[Click here](#) to:

- Find out how to propose a session
- Get details and register for a sessions
- View past sessions (including Nick Jones' session on English madrigals)

### Previous Sessions and Webinars



---

## From our President

Dear Pacifica members,

I am writing to announce that it is **time to choose a new President** to lead our chapter, and I'd like your help to find one.

For the past four years I have been honored to be your president. I have enjoyed my involvement in our chapter more than I can say. I look forward to continuing on as your PlayDay coordinator as well as staying on as a regular board member.

### What does the President do?

The main duty of the president is to preside over board meetings (minimum 2 per year), and to supervise the activities of the chapter. The president always plays an integral role developing and collaborating with the board on new ideas to strengthen our membership and local viol community at large. The president holds office for a term of three (3) years, plus, if willing to be re-elected, additional terms. The new term for our next President begins this September.

If you are interested in helping shape the future of our Pacifica chapter, then you might be a great candidate for president!

In addition to board positions, the chapter has committee opportunities available periodically.



**If you have questions about any of this, or are interested in getting more involved in our chapter by**

- **nominating yourself or someone else for President**
- **finding out more about other ways to serve**

**... please email or call me at your earliest convenience.**

**Let's keep our chapter strong!**

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Cindi Olwell, President  
cindi.olwell@gmail.com  
415-999-5242

## From Crisis to Comedy:

### Gamba News 2001-02

In an ongoing series of reports, your secretary is delving into the files of Gamba News from the past. All of the extant files have been scanned and uploaded on our website, under [Newsletter Archive](#). ***If you have a stash of old newsletters, please cross-check the archive (see above) to see if you might have some of the missing ones. We especially need 2011-2014 issues.***

The 2001-02 season began normally enough. In the [September](#) issue, Lyle York, Gamba News editor, reported on Viols West (66 attending!). Julie Jeffrey was president.

But in the [October](#) issue, we find a sudden shift to a now-familiar tone: "In these sad and fearful times." The crisis that began on Sept. 11, 2001—like our present pandemic—affected everyone, but Pacifica kept going. Lyle wrote urging members to renew their memberships: "You will be supporting both the U.S. economy and the VdGS/Pacifica treasury. And you will be giving yourself a reason to keep both feet on the floor."

In [December](#), we had articles about flying with viols in light of the new (pre-TSA) flight restrictions; Wendy Gillespie wrote that all the viols had to be checked and her nail-clippers were confiscated.

On a brighter note, the [November](#) Gamba News reported that viols were welcome at the new SFEMS Wednesday-night "collegium evenings," at St. Alban's – focusing on one or two pieces with a professional coach. (Did these evenings continue? Were they the harbingers of Sal Blaker's Early Music Open Mic?)

In [May](#), Gamba News featured Peter Ballinger's review of a recital by Paolo Pandolfo at First Church, Berkeley.

In [June](#), Ellen Farwell wrote previewing the extensive viol events at the 2002 Berkeley Festival.

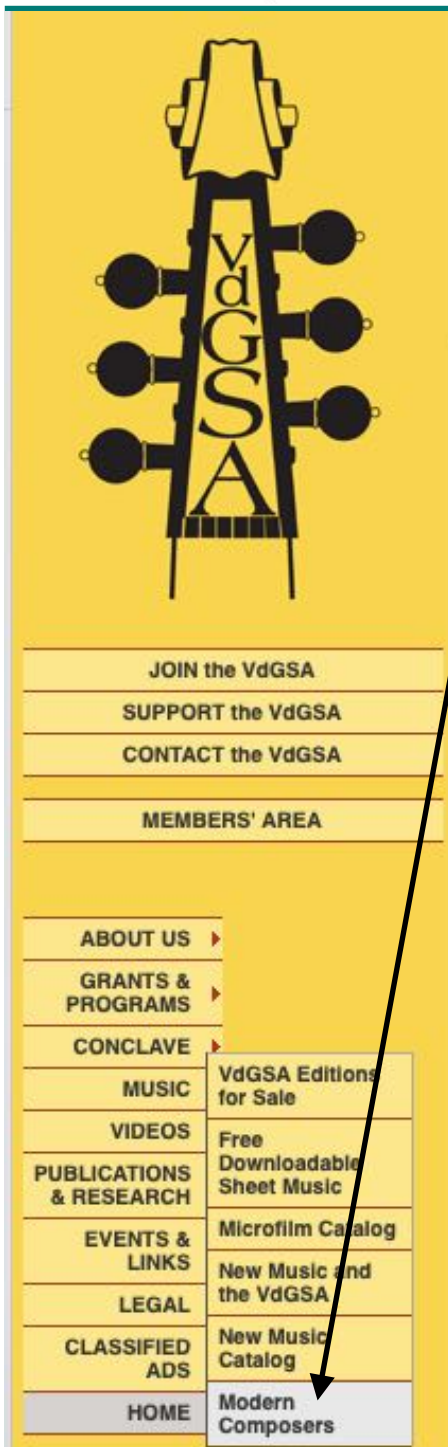
And [in April](#), a journalistic coup!: the inside story about how Barbie came to play the violone (chosen for her because of course her knees don't bend) and ended up marrying harpsichord Ken. (Reminder: the date of the issue was April 1, 2002). Here's Barbie on tour with Sex Chordae (she says she wasn't holding a bow because "my nails weren't dry").



# Viola da Gamba Society of America

Editor's Note:

*This is part of a series of useful info on VdGSA's website.*



## Music by Modern Composers

Interested to find some different, perhaps more contemporary music to play? VdGSA has an extensive list of composers of new music to be found under Music/Modern Composers.

You may know the name Will Ayton, a prolific composer for viols; below is just the beginning of the list of his 36 works for viols.

### Works by Will Ayton (b. 1948)

Title	Year	Inst
<a href="#">A Reliquary for William Blake</a>	c. 2004	
<a href="#">Ave Maria—Fantasia for voice and 2 viols</a>	1995	t, b
<a href="#">Coventry Carol Fantasia, for 3 viols and voice</a>	1991	tr, t, b
<a href="#">Duets for Bea</a>	2002	t, b or tr, t
<a href="#">Fanfare for the 50th Anniversary of the VdGSA</a>	2012	tr, tr, t, t, b,
<a href="#">Fantasia a3</a>		tr, t, b
<a href="#">Fantasia a3, for viol trio</a>	1990	tr, t, b
<a href="#">Fantasia a4 (in Homage to H.P.)</a>	1988	tr, tr, t, b
<a href="#">Fantasia a4 on a Theme of Henry Purcell</a>	1995	tr, tr/t, t, b
<a href="#">Fantasia on "When Jesus Wept"</a>	1995	tr, t, b
<a href="#">Four by Four</a>		tr, t, t, b
<a href="#">Fragments from Fitzwilliam</a>	2000	tr, b

On their website, click on a work to see more information, like this:

### "Fantasia a4 (in Homage to H.P.)" Will Ayton (b. 1948)

Year	1988
Number of viols	4
Type of viols	tr, tr, t, b
Movements	1
Duration (minutes)	4
Difficulty	medium difficulty
Premier performance	1989, Burlington, VT. (Traynor Competition), NYCV
Prizes	Audience Prize, 1989 Traynor Comp.
Publisher	PRB Productions
Recordings	MHS 513235M, 1993: "Illicita Cosa", NYCV
Comments	Styled after Purcell.

## 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

~~Cancelled: Mar. 14, 2020: Amy Brodo~~

~~Cancelled: Apr. 11, 2020: Gail Ann  
Schroeder~~

**New/Online: May 9, 2020: Erik  
Andersen & Gretchen Claassen**

**New: May 23, 2020:  
Shira Kammen**

**?? Stay tuned: June 27, 2020:  
Pacifica BASH**

## Pacifica Viola da Gamba Society 2019 - 2020

### Board of Directors:

President: Cindi Olwell  
[cindi.olwell@gmail.com](mailto:cindi.olwell@gmail.com)

Vice President: Ricardo Hofer  
[hofer52@gmail.com](mailto:hofer52@gmail.com)

Secretary: Nick Jones  
[nrjones360@gmail.com](mailto:nrjones360@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Ellen Fisher  
[erfisher@gmail.com](mailto:erfisher@gmail.com)

Membership: Ellen Fisher  
[erfisher@gmail.com](mailto:erfisher@gmail.com)

Board members at large:  
Mary Elliott, Ellen Farwell, Julie Jeffrey,  
Elisabeth Reed

Viol Rental Coordinator: Carolyn D'Almeida  
[dalmeida.carolyn@gmail.com](mailto:dalmeida.carolyn@gmail.com)

PlayDay Coach Liaison: Alice Benedict  
[rozeta@adianta.com](mailto:rozeta@adianta.com)

PlayDay Coordinator: Cindi Olwell  
[cindi.olwell@gmail.com](mailto:cindi.olwell@gmail.com)

Newsletter Editor: Sue Jones  
[scjones360@gmail.com](mailto:scjones360@gmail.com)

Webmaster: Nick Jones  
[nrjones360@gmail.com](mailto:nrjones360@gmail.com)

VdGSA Chapter Representative:  
Ellen Fisher [erfisher@gmail.com](mailto:erfisher@gmail.com)

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

## Special ZOOM Workshop

with Shira Kammen

Sat. May 23, 10-11:30 am

Topic: **La Spagna settings, with some  
improvisation**

We will explore settings of La Spagna, the popular basse-danse tune, with compositions by Isaac, Festa, Ortiz, (and more), including experimenting with making some of our own diminutions.

Shira will be making some recordings for the class that we can each play against, so we can do 2, 3 & 4 part music!

**We will send out a special email to  
members with details about this and  
info on how to sign up! Watch for it  
in early May...**

**Pacifica Viola da Gamba Society**  
is a Chapter of the  
**Viola da Gamba Society of America**