

**Join us for our Zoom PlayDay
with coach Shira Kammen
Sat., Jan. 9, 9:30-11:00 a.m.**

FREE – a great membership benefit!

Multi-instrumentalist **Shira Kammen** has spent much of her life exploring the worlds of early and traditional music of all kinds. A member for many years of the early music Ensembles Alcatraz and Project Ars Nova, she has also worked with Sequentia, Hesperion XX, the Boston Camerata, storyteller/harpist Patrick Ball, singers Azam Ali and Joanna Newsom, the Balkan group Kitka, Anonymous IV, the King's Noyse, the Newberry and Folger Consorts, The Compass of the Rose, Vajra Voices, Calextone, the Oregon, California and San Francisco Shakespeare Festivals. She is the founder of Class V Music, an ensemble providing music on river rafting trips.

She has worked with students in many different settings, among them teaching summer music workshops in the woods, coaching students of early music in such schools as Yale University, Case Western, the University of Oregon at Eugene, and working at specialized seminars at the Fondazione Cini in Venice, Italy and the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis in Switzerland.

Shira conducts a chamber chorus called Gallimaufry, and co-directs WAVE, a women's vocal ensemble, and currently is music director



for the California Revels. She has played on a number of movie and television soundtracks, when weird medieval instruments are needed. Since the pandemic has set in, Shira has been tangled in musical technology that she doesn't quite understand.

The New Year's Gift

We'll start off the second week of the musical year with a smattering of compositions from the Middle Ages & the Renaissance, including some New Year's-related music by Dufay, Holborne, and Anonymous.

Music will range from two to five parts. Shira will play along with us "live" on one of the pieces that has just two parts.

Join us!

Registering for the PlayDay

Deadline: NOON, Thursday, Jan. 7

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.

Registering and getting music for our PlayDay

1. [Click here](#) to get to Pacifica's website, then log in (*easy if you've saved your Member ID and Password on the site*).
2. Once logged in, you'll be able to go to Events/PlayDay Registration to register (just enter your name and email address).
3. The Registration page will also have a link to Google Drive, where we've stored pdfs of all the scores/parts. Click on the link.
4. In Google Drive, first open and read the file called "START HERE." This will list the pieces in program order, the parts in each piece and other relevant information, including how to find and print your parts for all the pieces.
5. Once you register, Cindi, our Zoom host, will send out an email with a link to our Zoom meeting. She'll send another email reminder to registrants around 5pm the Friday before.

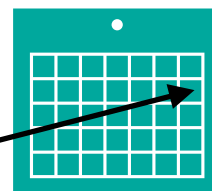
Membership is required in order to register for PlayDays— you don't want to miss them!

Alice Benedict has organized a full lineup of great coaches for our monthly PlayDays, which will be on Zoom until we can safely resume meeting in person. They will include some time for socializing at the end so we can stay in touch during this difficult time.

It bears repeating that your membership is crucial to our society; we appreciate your renewal!

HANDY TIP:

Copy and paste the Zoom link into your digital calendar as part of your entry for our PlayDay event



Need some help with Zoom?

Click [here](#) for some guides and tutorials from the Zoom Support webpage as pictured below. (Note: the videos and links below aren't 'live;' they're just screenshots.)

Quickstart Guides



Owner & Admins



Users & Participants



Top 20 Resources

Video Tutorials [Show All](#)



Live Training



Join A Meeting



Record a Meeting



Joining & Configuring Audio & Video

Note from our Prez

What a year! I'm sure I'm not alone in being VERY EAGER to kick 2020 to the curb on December 31.

Yet, the pandemic has presented us with many opportunities to develop more clarity about what is really important to us, and to strengthen our ties in unusual ways. The truth is, most of the things that human beings enjoy doing, involves other human beings. And even if we've been able to be around other folks, there's no hugging, kissing, singing, or loud laughter—not to mention sharing delicious food. Zoom just doesn't quite fill that need.

That said, our chapter has found ways to bring us together on our PlayDays. Our coaches have been very creative in developing material that will still be satisfying, and presenting it in an entertaining manner. I'm looking forward to the offerings coming up next year—to see how we are rising to the challenge of creating a good experience that is fun in itself, and not just a poor substitute for "the real thing."

Here's another realization: it seems that the viola da gamba is the puppy/kitten of the early music string-playing world—the demand for rental instruments is as high as it's ever been. I'm looking forward to meeting all of these new viol players once we can assemble in person once more!

As for me, I've been binge-watching all of the virtual, socially-distanced concerts that I can get to—I'm also a choral singer and I've been entranced by the [Live from London](#) series sponsored by [Voces8](#). I see that gamba players are now rising to the challenge, so I plan on drooling over some future performances online soon!

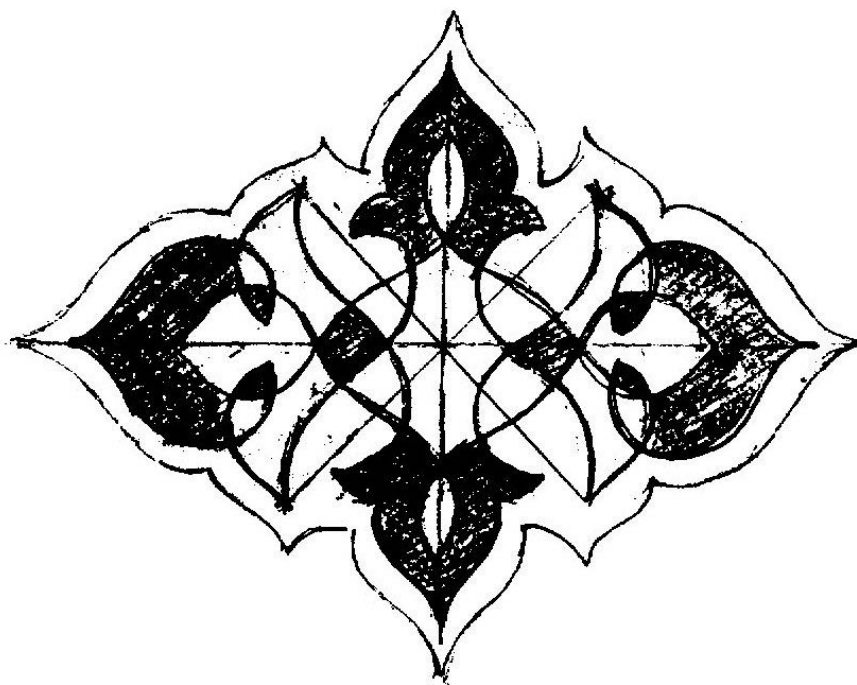
Pat

From our board

Your board of directors met (over Zoom, of course) just before Christmas. Present were President Pat Jennerjohn, Mary Elliott, Ellen Fisher (Treasurer), Julie Jeffrey, Nick Jones (Secretary), Cindi Olwell, and Elisabeth Reed.

Treasurer Ellen Fisher presented a draft financial report showing that we have weathered 2020 pretty well in terms of finances, with membership dues staying strong (thank you all!) and viol rental income doing quite well, given that we had a number of new renters learning the viol during the shutdown. The board considered several potential acquisitions for the rental program, since our stock of available instruments is quite low.

The board meets several times a year; any issues, questions, or suggestions are welcome! Send them to [Pat Jennerjohn](#) or [Nick Jones](#).



Making Music in Julie's Garage

Julie Jeffrey answered the call for 'garage band' photos. Thanks for sharing your story as well, Julie!

I have been resolutely avoiding doing any teaching or playing on Zoom, preferring instead to wait it out until I can do these things in person. So far so good!

In July Peter Hallifax and I decided to try playing duos, distanced and masked, in my garden, and the experience was very disappointing. Dead "acoustics," struggles with the elements, etc. So we gave up. In late July I proposed we try again, but this time just inside my open garage door. Much better! My garage actually has nice acoustics, and it has windows and a side door, so there's enough ventilation for it to qualify as "outdoors," while still providing some shelter from the worst of the elements. Peter and I have been meeting once a week ever since, working on a selection of English music and some Marais and Couperin duos.



**BELOW: HALLIFAX AND JEFFREY
(PETER AND JULIE)**





ABOVE, LYNN TETENBAUM; BELOW, MARY PROUT



In September I asked one of my languishing students if she'd be willing to try an in-person, distanced and masked lesson in my garage, she eagerly accepted, and that began my return to a tiny bit of in-person teaching. I've been teaching one or two lessons per week.

In October I added a little bit of recreational playing to the mix. Mary Prout and I have met a few times to play treble duos or tenor duos. And in November Lynn Tetenbaum joined us for trios. The three of us have met a few times, deep-diving into Coperario and Jenkins.

I have to stop at trios, since my garage is not big enough to safely accommodate any more than three distanced players.

The recent stricter stay-at-home order forced me to reconsider all of these activities. At first I thought I was going to have to shut it all down, but after several days of agonizing and being depressed about losing my musical lifeline, it occurred to me that I could seek guidance from officialdom. I called the Contra Costa County Health Department, and to my surprise I was immediately connected to a real person, and a really nice one at that! I explained my situation, and she told me that my outdoor teaching qualifies as a "limited service not requiring close contact," and is not specifically on the list of prohibited activities of this kind. So as long it's outdoors, distanced, and masked, it's OK to continue. I can't tell you what a relief it was to hear this!

I decided to stretch the interpretation of "teaching" to include my other garage playing activities, so Peter and Lynn and Mary in various combinations continue to come over for "lessons." The only limiting factor right now is the weather.

Temperatures in the 50's are still possible, with some bundling up. Not so sure about the 40's, and I haven't tried the garage in rainy weather yet, but I can't wait to see what that will be like. It's all a grand experiment!

There you go, the whole story.

Julie

Who else has pix or a story?

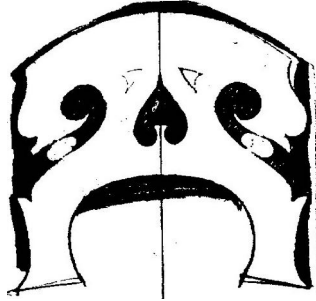
Send to Sue at scjones360@gmail.com

Looking to buy viols in disrepair

A relatively new member, Tyler Thackray, has expressed a strong interest in buying broken viols (or violins) for repair. He is new to viols, having just started this year, but has experience with the repair and maintenance of violins and cellos.

If you need repairs on an instrument that you do NOT wish to sell, he will consider it as well.

Please reach out to him via email at



tyler.thackray@gmail.com.

Wanted: bass viols for our rental program

We hear from our Rental Viol Coordinator Carolyn D'Almeida—

“There’s been a recent uptick in interest in renting bass viols, but we’ve rented out all our basses. I’ve already got 2 on the waiting list for a bass. Also one request from a current renter of a bass who wants to play 7 string.”

Do you know someone who has a bass they are not playing, and might be willing to donate or sell to our rental program?

If you do, please contact [Carolyn](#) or President [Pat Jennerjohn](#).



Amherst Early Music

January Online Classes

AEM continues to offer 90-minute [weekend online classes](#) at \$25 per class. To automatically receive each weekend’s class info, join their [mailing list](#).

Registration opens each Monday for the following weekend’s classes. Below are some classes specifically of interest to viol players.

JamKazam tutorial with Gwyn Roberts

Sat. Jan. 9, noon PST

Hume! with Martha McGaughey, viol

Sun. Jan. 10, noon PST

Division Viol as a Technique Primer with Lisa Terry

Sun. Jan. 24, 10 a.m. PST

Ogni Sorte Seconda Volta with Martha Bishop, viol

Sun. Jan. 31, noon, PST

In addition, Amherst is offering their annual **Winter Weekend Workshop** online Jan. 16-17 with multiple choices for 7 class periods.

Check out all of Amherst’s offerings [here](#).

VIOLS AND BOWS FOR SALE

Treble viol by Wesley Brandt (after 1620 Jaye) with decorative purfling. Includes hard case. Asking \$6,500.

Treble bow by Emmanuel Begin.
Asking \$1,000.
(Not pictured)

Interested?

Please contact Cindi Olwell
cindi.olwell@gmail.com



Tenor viol by Wesley Brandt (after H. Jaye) with carved ram's head. Includes Kingham hard case. Asking \$7,000.

Tenor bow by Christopher English.
Asking \$1,000.



Pacifica Viols PlayDays 2020-2021

Sept. 12: Alexa Haynes-Pilon

Oct. 10: Amy Brodo

Nov. 14: Wendy Gillespie

Dec. 12: Gail Ann Schroeder

Jan. 9: Shira Kammen

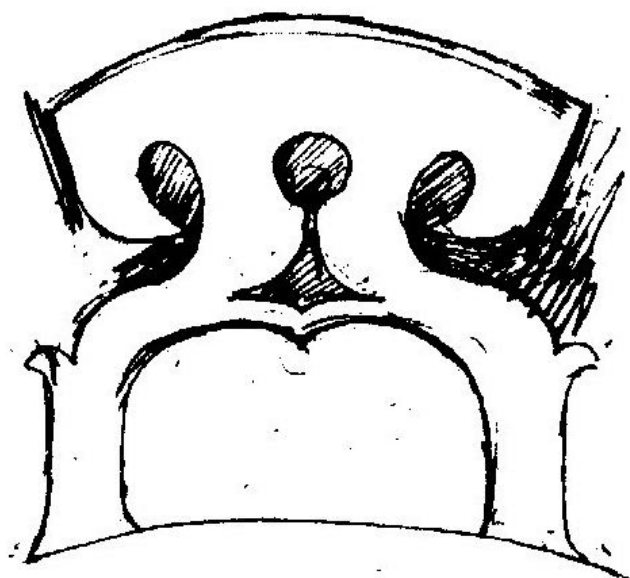
Feb. 13: Elisabeth Reed

Mar. 13: Erik Andersen

Apr. 10: Julie Jeffrey

May 8: David Morris

Date TBD: Pacifica BASH



Do you have idea for a story for our newsletter? Let me know!

Sue, GambaNews editor

Pacifica Viola da Gamba Society *as of September, 2020*

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Pacifica Viols Chapter Website

<https://pacificaviols.org>

Pacifica Viola da Gamba Society
is a Chapter of the

Viola da Gamba Society of America

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