

Join us at our PlayDay with coach David Miller

Sat., March 9

Hillside-An Urban Sanctuary
1422 Navellier St. El Cerrito CA

- 9-9:30 AM – Set up (bring a stand, tune), coffee, snacks and conversation.
- Be ready to play by 9:30.
- 9:30-10:45 – Group session with coach
- 11:00-12:30 – Coached consorts
- 12:30 PM – Bring a bag lunch to enjoy
- 1-2:30 PM – Uncoached DIY consort playing

David H. Miller is a musicologist and a performer, and an Assistant Professor of Practice at the University of California, Berkeley. On Baroque and modern double bass, viola da gamba, and violone, David has appeared with groups such as the Handel and Haydn Society, Arcadia Players, Trinity Wall Street, Music at Marsh Chapel, New York Baroque Incorporated, and Seven Times Salt.

David holds a Ph.D. in musicology from Cornell University, and his research has been featured in the *Journal of the American Musicological Society*, the *Journal of Musicology*, the *Indiana Theory Review*, and *Transposition*, among other publications. He writes on issues surrounding the performance and reception of modernist music and early music in the twentieth century.

www.davidhmilller.com



Compositional marvels by Parsons

Though sometimes overshadowed by later English composers, Robert Parsons (1535–1572) wrote some stunningly beautiful music for viol consort. In this session, we'll take a look at three works by Parsons that all employ special compositional devices: *A Songe Called Trumpets à 6*, *Ut re mi fa sol la à 4* (first part only), and *Ave Maria à 5* (a choral work that sounds lovely on viols). While enjoying this luscious music, we will also discuss the compositional techniques Parsons employed in crafting them.

Registering for our PlayDay

Deadline: NOON, WEDNESDAY, March 6

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.

A SFEMS special event—

La Morra

***Shaping the Invisible: Italian Music
from the Time of Leonardo***

Fri. Mar. 1, Berkeley

7:30 PM, First Congregational Church

Ivo Haun de Oliveira – *voice*

Corina Marti *harpsichord/recorders*

Michal Gondko – *lute*

David Hatcher – *viola da gamba*

with special guest

Nigel North – *lute*

La Morra's recordings on the Ramée record label have become icons for lovers of late Medieval and Renaissance music. In this special one-night-only event, the Switzerland-based sensation brings us a program full of the gorgeous harmonies of the Italian Renaissance, including pieces by Francesco Canova da Milano, Don Michele Pesenti, and even a piece by Giovanni de' Medici—or, as he was better known, Pope Leo X!

For more information and tickets*

<https://www.sfems.org/la-morra>



*** Note SFEMS' new lowered ticket prices—**

Last year, individual tickets were \$55–\$65.

For this year, we suggest a ticket price between \$30 and \$40 per ticket.

That said, anything is appreciated and if you can pay more, please do, and thank you!

Join with Singers for Pacifica's Voices & Viols PlayDay Apr. 13

Hillside-An Urban Sanctuary
1422 Navellier St. El Cerrito CA

David Morris will lead us in some wonderful
5-and 6-part music by Byrd, Ward and
Dowland.

We'll have a later start than usual:

9:30 AM Gather for coffee and snacks

10 AM Play/sing through 12:30, with a break

We'll use Allen Garvin's clear editions to
supply parts and scores.

Know any singers you'd like to invite?

We're recruiting singers through an email to
many local choirs, but if you'd like to send a
personal invitation to singer friends, please do!

Tell them to email David Morris with their
voice part e.g. soprano, alto, countertenor,
tenor, bass) at mahlsdorf@earthlink.net.

A \$20 donation to our scholarship fund is
requested of singers at the door.

Scores in PDF format will be available ahead of
time.

Singers! Come sing 5- and 6-part English
Renaissance music with viols!

"Cleare or cloudie sweet as April show'ring"
English songs for voices and viols



Join the viol players of the Pacifica Viola da Gamba
Society for a morning of Byrd, Ward, and Dowland, led by
the fabulous **David Morris!**

Barefoot Chamber Concerts presents—

Musica Pacifica

Fri. April 5, Berkeley

6:30 PM, St. Mary Magdalen Parish Hall

Admission \$25 (no one turned away for lack of
funds)

Program TBA

For more info and to sign up for their mailing
list:

[https://barefootchamberconcerts.com/
2023-2024-season/german/](https://barefootchamberconcerts.com/2023-2024-season/german/)

Registration open now!

SFEMS summer workshops

Baroque: June 24-30

Medieval/Renaissance: July 14-20

Both held at First Congregational Church,
Berkeley

For more info, or to register:

<https://www.sfems.org/workshops>

Note:

SFEMS members get a discount!

Amherst Early Music

Online Class with Frances Blaker

March 2

10:00 - 11:30 AM PST

The Art of Music Appreciation

...or how to recognize and enjoy what you are hearing when you listen to music. Enjoying music can happen on many levels, from the unlearned listener who just likes the mysterious sounds floating past, to the astute listener who can hear and perceive all the lines of a composition at once, savoring the harmony, following every aspect of a piece. Most of us fall somewhere between these two extremes. My own experience has been that, the more I perceive and understand, the deeper my enjoyment and satisfaction become.

Now I want to help you get a grasp of some of the various elements that make up the river of music as it flows by: melody-accompaniment, rhythms, imitation, phrasing, tone colors and recognizing various instruments and voice, texture from simple to complex.

This is a listening class rather than a playing class. We will listen to recordings, follow along in scores, and discuss features of each piece. And in the process, you can enjoy hearing many pieces of many types – what a joy!

Open to all

Pitch: A= 440, but mostly listening

Fee: \$25

To register:

<https://www.amherstearlymusic.org/online/aem-online-classes-march-2-3>

Register now for the 2024 Amherst Early Music Festival

Held on the campus of Union College in
Schenectady, NY

Week 1: June 30 - July 7

Week 2: July 7-14

<https://www.amherstearlymusic.org/form/festival-2024-registration>



(OK, it's cubist, but what instrument is this anyway?)

Hope to see you here!

**The Spirit of Gambo—
the state of viol research**

March 15–17, 2024

University of California, Berkeley

To the members of the Pacifica chapter of VDGSA:

You are all heartily invited to *The Spirit of Gambo: the state of viol research*, a three-day conference covering all manner of viol-related musicological topics. The conference is named after a beloved work by Tobias Hume of the same name, and seeks to take stock of the most recent and cutting-edge research on the viol, viol-related instruments, and related repertoires.

Our **keynote address will be given by Kate van Orden**, Professor of Music at Harvard University, on Friday afternoon, March 15, followed by a **concert that evening at 7:30 PM** at the Berkeley Piano Club, featuring Elisabeth Reed and other Bay Area players.

On Saturday and Sunday a number of research talks will be given by local and visiting scholars, and from 4:30-6pm Saturday afternoon we will host an **open playing session** at Morrison Hall on the Berkeley campus.

A full schedule can be found [here](#) (or on the following page). **All events are free and open to the public, except for the concert, whose tickets will be \$20**, which can be reserved in advance by emailing spiritofgambo24@gmail.com (where you can also direct any questions you might have).

For information on parking, see [this website](#); since the conference takes place on the weekend, there should also be plenty of options for street parking.

We hope to see you there!

—David H. Miller, co-organizing with Zoe Weiss

Conference volunteers needed

The opening concert for The Spirit of Gambo conference will be held Friday, March 15, 7:30 pm, at the Berkeley Piano Club.

David Miller and Zoe Weiss, co-organizers, have invited the Pacifica Viola da Gamba Society to assist at this concert: selling / taking tickets and coordinating a post-concert reception.

We also need someone to speak briefly about our chapter at the concert (which will probably be me, but a volunteer would be welcome as well).

Our chapter will pay for refreshments; I will take care of getting the food, but we'll need folks to help set up and clean up. The Piano Club is a very small venue so it won't be a difficult task.

I'm excited about this conference as there are so many folks I've come to know who are presenting.

Please contact me at patricia@focusedfinances.com if you would like to volunteer for any of this. You'll get free admission to the concert and of course you can also help eat the goodies.

—Pat Jennerjohn



Full conference schedule—

The Spirit of Gamba: the state of viol research

March 15–17, 2024, University of California, Berkeley
Conference Schedule

Friday 3/15:

- 2:30pm–4pm: Session I (hybrid session: Morrison Hall 128 and Zoom)
 - Ben Hebbert: “Reframing the Viol”
 - Samantha Owens: “Lessons by Correspondence: Nathalie Dolmetsch, Mona Castle and the Viola da Gamba in 1940s New Zealand”
- 4:30pm: Keynote Address: Kate van Orden, Dwight P. Robinson, Jr. Professor of Music at Harvard University (Morrison Hall 128 and Zoom)—reception to follow
- 7:30pm: Concert (Berkeley Piano Club) — reception to follow

Saturday 3/16:

- 9am–10am: Session II (Morrison Hall 250)
 - Molly Barnes: “Ben and Flora Stad and the American Society of the Ancient Instruments”
 - Zoe Weiss: “The Viola da Gamba Society of America and the Cultivation of Expertise”
- Coffee Break
- 10:30am–11:30am: Session III (Morrison Hall 250)
 - Shanon Zusman: “Tracing the early history of the double bass: Depictions of the violone in the visual arts, c.1560–1760”
 - Loren Ludwig: “A New England Viol Consort c.1820: New England Viols In Historical and Musical Context”
- Lunch Break
- 1pm–2pm: Session IV (Morrison Hall 250)
 - John Romey: “An Instrument ‘with which Gentlemen, Merchants, and Other Men of Virtue Pass their Time’: the Viola da Gamba in Sixteenth-Century France”
 - Stuart Cheney: “The Voyages of André Maugars: New Biographical Data”
- 2:10pm–3:30pm: Session V (Morrison Hall 250)
 - Malachai Bandy: “Instruments of ‘Torture’: Viols, Dismemberment, and Transfiguration in German Baroque Passion Meditations”
 - Eric Tinkerhess: “Gardens, Modulations and Sacred Architecture in Marin Marais’s ‘Le Labyrinthe’”
- Coffee Break
- 4pm–4:30pm: Session VI (Morrison Hall 250)
 - Sarah Mead “Viol Tunings, the Left Hand, and the Gamut”
- 4:30pm–6:00pm: Playing Session (Morrison Hall 250)
- 7pm: Conference Dinner (location TBA)

Sunday 3/17:

- 9am–10am: Session VII (Morrison Hall 250)
 - Michael and Edith Kimbell: “Jean de Castro’s Sonets, Chansons: Bicinia for Domestic Entertainment”
 - Roy Whelden “Carl Friedrich Abel, the viola da gamba and the string quartet”
- 10am–11am: Session VIII (Morrison Hall 250)
 - Brooke Green: “New Music for Viols by Brooke Green”
 - David Miller: “Purcell’s *Fantasia Upon One Note* as an object of modernist fascination”

Scholarship Challenge Grant

Conclave, VdGSA's annual viol extravaganza, will be on the west coast (Oregon) this July, and we're thrilled to announce that the Pacifica chapter will be awarding scholarships to students, as part of our commitment to sparking the love of the viol in young people.

We would love to help young students of the viol to get more involved with our fabulous community of players. It was wonderful to see the joy and excitement in the eyes of the scholarship students who attended Viols West last year.

To this end, **one of our members has pledged to match the first \$750 of donations made for this fund.** What would you like to contribute?

You can make a donation through our website www.pacificaviols.com, but since we can't identify specific purposes for a donation made there, please also drop an email to our Treasurer, Nick Jones (nrjones360@gmail.com), so that we can acknowledge your participation (and make sure that your donation gets matched).



Prez Note

As I prepare for the next session with my little consort group, or for my lessons, I reflect on how much music has meant to me throughout my life. I stumbled into music (and ways of making music) through a strange, unplanned set of circumstances, and it seems like life keeps tossing me into situations and encounters that have led to experiences, teachers, and friendships that I never expected.

I love how music (played and sung) can create a sense of unity, if only for a few hours, among an otherwise very diverse group of people. I consider playing, whether rehearsing or performing or just goofing around, to be an uplifting experience, and the spaces where we play and sing as sanctuaries where we can all drop the "real world" and make those spaces into magical environments where all is well.

This is why I love our monthly PlayDays, where we come together as a community united by the love of music. Hope to see you at the next one!

— Pat

Local viol students Ignacio and Lalita—



Gambas and Climate Change

SFEMS's weekly newsletter's *Early Music Corner* explores a different facet of the early music world each week. They recently linked to a recent issue on *Arts, Artists and Activism* in *Early Music America's* magazine with two articles about gambas and climate change—

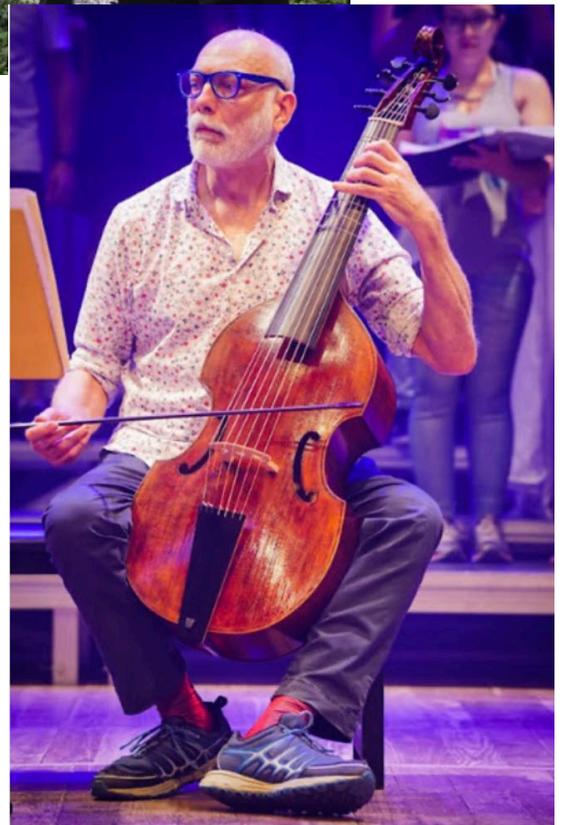
[The Earthquake Lady](#) features Dr. Lucy Jones, a Los-Angeles based gambist and seismologist who is exploring musical ways to depict the science of climate change to raise awareness.

Another article, from gambist John Mark Rozendaal, [muses on the value of disrupting a performance](#) to raise awareness of climate change. In his article he also refers to an EMA article from June 2023: *Community & Climate Change & Early Music*:

<https://www.earlymusicamerica.org/emag-feature/community-climate-change-early-music/>

Subscribe to SFEMS' free weekly e-newsletter:

Your name and email address is all that's needed: <https://mailchi.mp/sfems/subscribe>



Submit your event to SFEMS' weekly Early Music Calendar:

<https://www.sfems.org/calendar-of-early-music>

A step-by-step guide to submitting your event:

<https://www.sfems.org/submit-event>

Looking for a performance opportunity (and a little extra cash)?

The Hillside Swedenborgian Church in El Cerrito offers \$60 for live music at one of their Sunday services: a prelude, a meditative piece and a postlude as well as accompaniment to 2 hymns.

Interested? Contact Rev. Thom Muller at tmuller@ses.psr.edu for more information.

<http://www.hillsideswedenborg.org/>

NOTE: You need not be a professional musician. Nick and I have performed for them a number of times; we have found it to be a casual, welcoming environment.

Sue Jones



Early Music Open Mic Night

Wed. April 24, El Cerrito

7-9 pm, Hillside – An Urban Refuge

This friendly event is your opportunity to perform early music (before 1750) in a casual cabaret-style setting. Sign up ahead of time as a soloist or group, instrumentalist or singer. Amateurs and professionals, students—all welcome! Join us for light snax and wine!

- Five time slots available (max 15 minutes).
- 4 music stands are available; BYO stand light.
- Donations by performers and audience members are appreciated to help cover the cost of the venue.
- Upcoming dates: May 22, June 26 — as always, the 4th Wed. of each month.
- For more information and to reserve your slot please contact Heather Wilson: hi2dougan@gmail.com.

Registration opening soon—

Fretting Pashenat



The 62nd VdGSA Conclave

July 21-28, 2024

Pacific University, Forest Grove OR

Julie Elhard, Music Director

- A full week of in-person classes
- Programs for Beginners, Seasoned Players, Consort Co-op, Advanced Projects
- Special events, including Lectures, Concerts, Faculty Spotlight Concert
- Daily ad hoc playing sessions
- Ice Cream Social, Live Auction
- Emporium for makers, vendors, and publishers
- Viol and Bow Doctors
- Student concert
- Festive closing Banquet

For more info:

<https://www.vdgsa.org/conclave-2024>

Pacifica Viols PlayDays 2023-2024

Sept. 9: Frances Blaker
Oct. 14: Josh Lee
Nov. 11: Lisa Terry
Dec. 9: Shira Kammen
Jan. 13: Alexa Haynes-Pilon
Feb. 10: Shanon Zusman
Mar. 9: David Miller
Apr. 13: David Morris*
May 11: Julie Jeffrey
June 8: Pacifica BASH

**Voices and Viols*



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Pacifica Viola da Gamba Society
is a Chapter of the
[Viola da Gamba Society of America](https://www.violasociety.org)

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