

## Join us at our annual BASH

**Sat., June 8**

Hillside—An Urban Sanctuary  
1422 Navellier St., El Cerrito CA

- 9:30 - 10:30 AM – Arrive, tune, coffee
- 10:30 AM Performances begin
- 12:30 PM – Potluck lunch

Julie Jeffrey will be our host

**Come play for us and cheer on your friends...**

**AND take home some FREE MUSIC!**

### **NEW at BFX...Come Play!**

June 13 • 10 AM - noon

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Berkeley

Calling all Baroque instrumentalists (strings, winds, brass, recorders, pluckers, percussion)!

### **Don't just sit in the audience this BFX—let's musick together!**

Join us for a play-in and reading session led by SFEMS's Baroque Workshop Director, Lindsey Strand-Polyak, and cello/gamba faculty member, Eva Lymenstull. A=415.

\$30 – Suggested price benefits SFEMS' Workshop Scholarship Fund.

For more information click [HERE](#)

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**This is our last newsletter of the season.**

We'll resume publication and PlayDays in September.

**Happy Summer!**

## Prez Note

Our "year" has gone by so quickly! Here we are, coming up fast on our June Bash, the Berkeley Early Music Festival and Conclave.

I feel that we had an excellent year - good attendance at our Play Days, sponsoring the reception for the Spirit of Gambo conference, reviving our Voices and Viols tradition, and growing our scholarship fund. I'm so pleased to report that we have awarded three scholarships to young players who will be attending Conclave in July - and they are very excited!

I'm excited as well - the organizers have put together a splendid set of classes - and it was so hard for me to make my choices that I wished I could clone myself and take them all in! Our local professionals are well represented on the faculty. I sure hope to see a lot of you there!

And, don't let me forget - many of our beloved viol folks will be performing Main Stage and fringe concerts during the Berkeley Early Music Festival and Expo! And then, there are the SFEMS Baroque and Med/Ren workshops coming up. Yours truly will be participating in the Baroque workshop (as a singer - time to unleash the Baroque inner diva). I hope to see some of you at those events, too.

I guess there is a theme here - let's get out and enjoy our music in company with each other! COVID certainly has changed our world, but to the extent that we feel safer now, it feels good to see us gathering together again to play and listen together in person.

Here's to a harmonious summer!

Pat



## Ellen Farwell

With a sad heart we pass on news of Ellen's death on May 17 from her daughter Patty Gilbert:

*My mom, Ellen Farwell, died peacefully yesterday morning at the age of 93.*

*My dad and I and my brother, her grandchildren and great grandchildren, our spouses and a large group of friends were lucky to have had her for so long and we'll miss her terribly.*

A celebration of Ellen's life will probably be held in late June. If you'd like to be notified about it, please email Patty at [patty@gilbertbiz.com](mailto:patty@gilbertbiz.com).

*Ellen was a joyful and devoted viol player. She served as our chapter president (2004-2010) and donated a good deal of her viol music to our library.*

*Ellen's radiant face will continue to adorn our Pacifica website banner (at far left) thanks to a photo taken by Marilyn Becker in Ellen's home.*

**Thanks to four of Ellen's friends for sharing their reminiscences below. If you have memories of her for a future newsletter, please [send them on](#).**

From Mary Prout: I first saw Ellen at a recorder society meeting in Riverside, California in the early 1970s, when I was still in high school and had begun playing the recorder. She was carrying a large string instrument, and I asked someone what that thing was; she said "It's a gamba!" Ellen was the first person I ever saw play the instrument.

I later got to know her well when I joined the UC Riverside Collegium Musicum a year or two later. She was among the revered members of the previous year's crop of students. It was a tight knit group, and we were in awe of them. Ellen continued to work on her master's degree, and to play in the collegium as the older group moved on, and we moved in. In this picture from that time, Ellen is second from the right; Julie Jeffrey is at far left.



## More fond memories of Ellen Farwell–

### From Robin Easterbrook Leal:

Ellen Farwell was a mentor to all of us beginners on the VIOL. When playing in consort groups she encouraged us with her calm, kind words. She also loved to sing and play at the same time! That really impressed me!

Ellen faced serious health issues in recent years with calmness and courage. When I visited her in Chapparral House nursing home in Berkeley, she really showed her courage and acceptance. She still had that life force and courage to face adversity and a positive outlook on life. What was so important to her in the end was family. She was so happy to have many photos of her family in her room.

She left me with the thought: What is important in life? Something for all of us to think about...

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## Join in for Cantata Night at SFEMS' Baroque workshop

7 - 9 PM. Tues/Wed. June 25/26

First Congregational Church, Berkeley

From Director Lindsey Strand-Polyak–

*This year at the workshop we're doing something new...a two-night event that is **open to all singers and instrumentalists** who might not be able to attend the full workshop, but still want some summer baroque fun.*

*On Tuesday night, June 25 we'll split up into Singers and Instrumentalists, coached by Vocal Faculty Rita Lilly and myself for a 'pre-hearsal' to get to know the music. A = 415.*

*On Wednesday night June 26 we'll put both bands together and SFEMS Executive Director Derek Tam will guest lead an evening of fun and musicking, followed by reception and silent auction.*

\$45 fee. For more information:

[https://sfems.vbotickets.com/event/2024\\_sfems\\_baroque\\_workshop\\_cantata\\_night/127073](https://sfems.vbotickets.com/event/2024_sfems_baroque_workshop_cantata_night/127073)

### From Mary Elliott:

Ellen has been a dear friend for several decades. When I told her I was married to a vegan recluse and needed a cheeseburger, she drove me to it. Whenever there was a crisis in the Pacifica VdGS, Ellen, as its calm leader, resolved it. She saw a way through any problem with this masterful way of seeing what solution would be most resolute and fair. She delighted in her groups--and any group she was part of--short story studies, novel studies, aspects of her family group as it developed. She always turned discussions to "What's happening with you?" or quietly asked, "What do we see here?" She offered a warm welcome and warm ear to everyone crossing her path. There is no one like her, and I will miss her profoundly.

### From Marilyn Becker:

I miss Ellen greatly; my heart is full of gratitude for having known her in consorts and in life these twenty years.

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## Early Music Open Mic Night

**Wed. June 26, 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: July 24, August 21— as always, the 4th Wed. of each month.
- For more information and to reserve your slot please contact Heather Wilson: [hi2dougan@gmail.com](mailto:hi2dougan@gmail.com).



### Coming VERY soon! The 18th Biennial Berkeley Early Music Festival & Exhibition (BFX)

**June 9 – 16**

*Nineteen Main Stage concerts, as well as special events, a three-day exhibition, community workshops, and dozens of Fringe presentations*

**For full information on the festival:**  
<https://www.berkeleyfestival.org/>

#### **Main Stage concerts including viols:**

- June 11 - Voice of the Viol (Farley Pearce, Elisabeth Reed, William Skeen)
- June 12 - Philharmonica Baroque Chamber Players (David Morris)
- June 15 - Parthenia Viol Consort (Beverly Au, Lawrence Lipnik, Rosamund Morley, Lisa Terry)
- June 16 - Parthenia Viol Consort with Farallon Recorder Quartet

#### **Fringe concerts including viols:**

- June 10 - Couperin: Pieces de Violes (Peter Hallifax, Julie Jeffrey)
- June 10 - Bertamo Trio (David Morris)
- June 11 - Tea with Telemann (Gwyneth Davis)
- June 12 - Laudami Ensemble: Bach, Buxtehude and Tunder (David Miller)
- June 13 - The Changing Climate (Allison Balberg, Cindi Olwell)

#### **For up-to-date Fringe schedule:**

<https://www.berkeleyfestival.org/2024-fringe-calendar>

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#### **NEW!! PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN Main Stage Tickets**

For the first time in Festival history, BFX Main Stage concerts will introduce this new policy to remove income as a barrier to arts accessibility.

We again invite patrons to consider "paying-it-forward" by purchasing a paid subscription, which not only ensures premium seat(s), but will serve as an investment in our groundbreaking initiative.

#### **BFX Exhibition & Marketplace**

St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
2300 Bancroft Way

*FREE, open to the public*

Thu. – Sat. June 13 - 15

Meet instrument makers, publishers, retailers, performing and service organizations, and others who provide materials, information, and support for the early music community.

**Don't wait any longer- Register now!**

# CONCLAVE!

*Fretting Pashenat*



To see the class listings and to register:

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

## **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

### **Program options:**

- Regular curriculum (full or part-time)
- Beginning viol
- Seasoned players and advanced projects
- Consort Cooperative
- **On-line Conclave Curriculum**  
-enroll in 1 or 2 classes (1st & 4th periods)

## **CAN YOU HELP?**

### **Scholarship Challenge Grant**

Our Pacifica chapter is awarding scholarships so deserving students can attend Conclave 2024; this comes as part of our commitment to sparking the love of the viol in young people.

**One of our members gave us a \$750 Challenge Grant; we're not quite there---**

### **Can you help reach our goal?**

Make a donation through our website [www.pacificaviols.org](http://www.pacificaviols.org). (The yellow DONATE button is at the bottom of each page.)

But since our website doesn't identify a specific purpose for any donations made there, please also email our Treasurer, Nick Jones ([nrjones360@gmail.com](mailto:nrjones360@gmail.com)), so that we can acknowledge your participation (and make sure that your donation gets matched).



### **EMA offers 1-year Free Student membership**

EMA is a fine organization with many resources for practicing musicians and other interested in early music.

Student memberships in EMA are normally \$35/year. Did you know that students may redeem a one-year complimentary Student membership once during their course of study? For more info see this link:

<https://www.earlymusicamerica.org/membership/join-today/>

**A very good year!**

**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*

**Hillside needs music!**

**Looking for a performance  
opportunity...& some 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](mailto:tmuller@ses.psr.edu) for more information.

*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*

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

**Pacifica  
Viola da Gamba Society**

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Mary Elliott, Ellen Fisher, Julie Jeffrey,  
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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](https://www.violasociety.org/)

Pacifica Viola da Gamba Society is a not-for-profit corporation,  
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