

Join us at our PlayDay with coach Shira Kammen

Sat., Nov. 9

Hillside—An Urban Sanctuary
1422 Navellier St., El Cerrito CA 94530

- 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 AM – 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

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 dedicated to providing music on river rafting trips. Shira 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 Scuola Cantorum Basiliensis in Switzerland.

Shira conducts a chamber chorus called Gallimaufry in the Bay Area, and in the English Country Dance world, she is a member of the band Roguery and is always delighted to play music for dancing. She has played on a number of movie and television soundtracks, when weird medieval instruments are needed.

One of my favorite pieces of early music is the glorious 6-part Ave Maria by Ludwig Senfl, based on the 4-part Ave Maria by Josquin. Senfl's setting expands on and reworks Josquin's musical themes, and results in a beautiful 10+ minute composition.

Registering for our PlayDay

Deadline: 5 PM, WEDNESDAY, Nov. 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.

Notes from Viol Sphere 2–

From Sue Jones–

Last month I joined three other Pacifica chapter members at the annual Viol Sphere 2 workshop near Oracle, AZ: Allison Balberg, Ellen Fisher and Branson Stephens; we were all first-timers. A larger group than in the past, it totaled 38 attendees from AZ, CA, CO, MI, NM, OR, TX, WA, WI and Nova Scotia.

I arrived early to take tours of [Biosphere 2](#), where in 1991-92 eight people lived entirely enclosed inside for 2 years and 20 minutes – enlightening and impressive! It is now used for various research projects.

This year Larry Lipnik shared the workshop's Artistic Director position with Alison Crum; other faculty were Wendy Gillespie, Julie Jeffrey, Roy Marks and Sarah Mead.

The classes were focussed on music by composers who had a 450-year anniversary in 2024: John Wilbye (b. 1574), and Robert White and Domenico Ferrabosco (d. 1574).

In other viols workshops I've attended (e.g. Viols West and Conclave), we're assigned classes that run the whole week based on our level and our preferences. Here we were assigned the same consort for two morning classes, but with different coaches; our afternoon class was with a different group and coach. No day was the same; the goal was to give each student a chance to learn from all of the coaches. I liked that, tho it must have made for a scheduling headache!

On two evenings, we could sign up to play in a consort with a faculty member. Sarah Mead had participated in a pandemic challenge to compose the 2 top parts missing from a 6-part "Miserere" set of six short pieces by Robert Stevenson (fl. 1570-1600). The challenge was set up by the LeStrange Viols consort, who promised to record the winning music; 3 of Sarah's were chosen out of 6! We played 4 of the 6, some a real challenge!

The faculty concert used a unusual set-up, players facing each other in a circle in the

middle of the large room. We the audience sat surrounding them in a circle, and were encouraged between sets to change seats in order to see the different players better. Ellen Seibert's daughter Molly added her beautiful soprano voice to several of the pieces.

We enjoyed comfortable living quarters in the casitas, each with 3-5 bedrooms and multiple bathrooms; all classes were in the roomy living rooms. The weather was cooperative so we a outside for most meals—yummy and generous.

I enjoyed talking with Ellen Seibert and Lyle York (a past GambaNews editor), who send greetings to old friends here!

I met Warren Shingleton, who helped me deal with a cranky G string on the bass I borrowed. I also talked quite a bit with the renowned editor Allan Garvin, a prolific producer of viol editions who makes them freely available on IMSLP.org. So many good folks!

Some tidbits I picked up about the history of this workshop, which celebrated its 25th year in 2024–

After the founder of this Arizona summer viol workshop decided to retire, Scott Mason volunteered to take on the leadership, but hit a big snag very soon. He was abroad when he got a call— "Sorry, the venue you reserved for your workshop is closing." After a frantic search, Scott's partner Barbara Cone suggested the Conference Center at Biosphere 2, run by the University of Arizona, where she worked. Voila! Where formerly their housing had been in a trailer park and a hotel, now there were roomy casitas with space for classes in the living rooms and lovely surroundings.

There was no food service on site, but a local caterer was engaged to bring lunch and dinner, and Scott's daughter Lisa was recruited to provide breakfast and supervise the meals.

Still there was a lot to do: buying plates, cups, tables and chairs, and much more, including a trailer for off-season storage.

–Someone ought to write up the whole history of this venture!



Above: research on coral reefs
Dinner at sunset





*Faculty playing a Deering fantasia as part of a lecture by Sarah Mead– “Elements of Fantasy.”
From left: Alison Crum, Wendy Gillespie, Roy Marks, Larry Lipnik, Julie Jeffrey*



Faculty concert set-up in the round (Molly Seibert at left in the circle)



From left: Lee Talner, Roma Sprung, Allen Garvin



From left: Branson Stephens, Sue Jones



Comet A3 sighted above Biosphere 2



SFEMS' Weekly Early Music Calendar

Although this handy calendar doesn't show any concerts that include viols in the coming weeks, it always shows an amazing number of early music events worth checking out.

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

Click on "Monthly" (at far right) to view it in the calendar format; click on an event to see more details.

search

November 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
28 7pm-8:45pm American Bach — Baroque Extravagance	29	30	31		1 4pm-6pm Tactus SF presents Spanish Music for the Day of the Dead	2 4pm-6pm Tactus SF presents Spanish Music for the Day of the Dead 5pm-6:30pm MusicSources presents Kathryn Cok : The Grand Tour
4 7pm-9pm Mid-Peninsula Recorder Orchestra meeting	5	6 7:30pm Berkeley Baroque Strings Presents Music from the Dresden Court	7 7:30pm-9:30pm Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra & Chorale: Vivaldi, Venice, and The Four Seasons	8 7:30pm-9:30pm Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra & Chorale: Vivaldi, Venice, and The Four Seasons	9 2:30pm-4:30pm Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra & Chorale: Vivaldi, Venice, and The Four Seasons 7:30pm Berkeley Baroque Strings Presents Music from the Dresden Court	10
11	12 7:30pm-9pm Les Talens Lyriques — The Sound of Music in Versailles	13	14	15 6:30pm-7:30pm Elizabeth Blumenstock and Corey Jamason play J. S. Bach: music for violin and harpichord 7:30pm-9:30pm Ars Minerva presents La Flora	16 Nov 16th-17th Heinrich Schütz: Orpheus of the 17th Century 2:30pm-4:30pm Ars Minerva presents La Flora	17 7:30pm-10pm

Submit your event to SFEMS' weekly Early Music Calendar:

Here's a step-by-step guide:
<https://www.sfems.org/submit-event>

Amherst Early Music

AEM Online Classes

Hidden Virtuosa

How Music and Literacy empowered women and girls in Baroque Venice's Social Welfare Institutions

FREE LECTURE with **Gwyn Roberts!**

Sat. Nov. 2, 2 PM PDT

Villancicos for Viols (and more) with Amy Domingues

Sun. Nov. 3, Noon-1:30 PM PST

\$30.

Practical Musicianship and Music Theory for Early Musicians with Shira Kammen

4 Mondays, Nov. 11-Dec. 2, 2:30-3:45 PM PST

\$100

For more info on these classes, and to sign up:

<https://www.amherstearlymusic.org/online-classes>

Announcing AEMF 2025!

The 2025 Amherst Early Music Festival will be held at Muhlenberg College, PA, June 29 - July 6, and July 6 - 13. Save the dates!



This [website](#) has an amazing range of services:

- Inexpensive professional listings provide a great way to connect with your constituents in the music community..
- Create your musical profile. It's easy and FREE for anyone who wants to tell the community about themselves and their musical interests.
- Add listings for concerts, recitals, workshops.

AMN Encore

Catch up on past workshops on [A400.live](#). Unlock single workshops for \$3! Or subscribe for just \$12 and get unlimited views. We're always adding to the channel, so check back often to see what's been posted.

Musicians looking for chamber music or other playing partners are finding one another on our site.

Great for organizations like orchestras and choruses who want to find new members, for schools and private teachers, and for music event presenters.

Note: **NOT** on WED. in NOV. or DEC.

Early Music Open Mic Night

Tues. Nov. 19, 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 snack 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:

Thursday, Dec. 19 • Wednesday, Jan. 22

(Note: due to the holidays, the Dec. date is not the usual 4th Wednesday of each month.)

For more information and to reserve your slot, please contact Heather Wilson:

hi2dougan@gmail.com.

We miss Sal Blaker, a founder of EMOM, but send a fond hello to her in her new home in North Carolina.



For Sale- Jane Julier 7-String Bass & travel case



Currently in England, owned by a professional player, this Colichon model was made in 2011 (no. 146) and is in superb condition with a fabulous carved head.

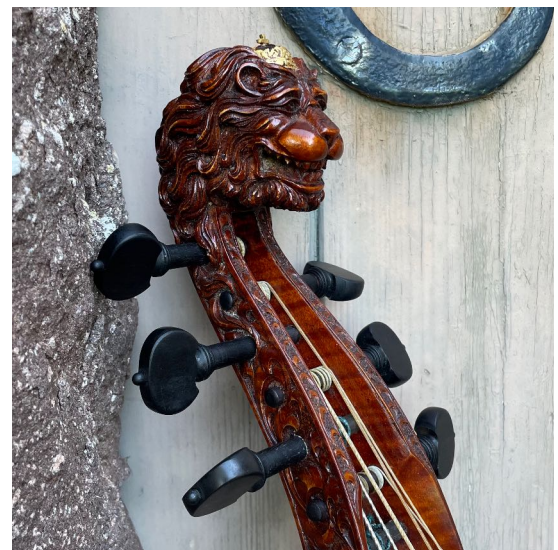
Recently serviced. String length 71cm.

The £15,000 price includes a Stevenson carbon fibre flight case, which enables a player to travel with it safely.

Here's a link to a video of it being played—

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TFuhVapkesU>

Contact Jane at janejulier@gmail.com.



Pacifica Viols PlayDays 2024-2025

Sept. 14: Erik Andersen

Oct. 19: Roy Wheldon

Nov. 9: Shira Kammen

Dec. 14: Mary Springfels

Jan. 11: Amy Brodo

Feb. 1: Elisabeth Reed @ UC Berkeley

Mar. 8: David Miller

Apr. 12: David Morris*

May 10: Julie Jeffrey

June 14: Pacifica BASH

**Voices and Viols*



Send us your concert/recital announcements!

This editor would love to publish your news of upcoming concerts /recitals that include viols.

Send them to GambaNews editor
scjones360@gmail.com

Deadline for upcoming month's issue is the 20th of the prior month. Better still, send it 2 months ahead! Thanks!

Pacifica Viola da Gamba Society is a not-for-profit corporation, tax-exempt under IRS regulation 501(c)(3). To donate, click [here](#).

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