

**Join us at our PlayDay with
coach Mary Springfels**
Sat., Dec. 14

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

Mary Springfels is a veteran of the American Early Music Movement, and has been given Lifelong Achievement awards by Early Music America as well as The Viola da Gamba Society of America.

She is a native of Los Angeles, but moved to New York at the age of 21 to join the New York Pro Musica as their viola da gambist.

From that time on, Mary has been an active participant in prominent early music ensembles, including the Waverly Consort, Concert Royal, the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, The Folger Consort (Washington, DC), Ars Lyrica Houston, and the Texas Early Music Project (Austin).

Mary directed the Newberry Consort in Chicago for 20 years, during which time the



group made a number of critically acclaimed recordings.

She has also been a continuo player for the Chicago Opera Theater, Central City Opera, and the New York City Opera. Currently, she is a co-director of Severall Friends, an early music ensemble based in Santa Fe.

Mary and James Keller have collaborated on a lecture course, *Orpheus in Music*, for Renesan Institute for Lifelong Learning. Mary has also spoken on The Medieval Tristan for the Santa Fe Opera Guild.

*We'll be exploring some Tudor consorts:
Two pieces by Robert Parsons - an Ave Maria
and "A Songe Called Trumpets" - as well as
"Dum Transisset Sabbatum" by Thomas Tallis.*

Registering for our PlayDay

Deadline: 5 PM, WEDNESDAY, Dec. 11

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.



Women's Antique Vocal Ensemble

In Winter Cold

Sat. Dec. 7, Berkeley

2 PM, St. Mary Magdalen Church

An ensemble of 14 singers presents beautiful seasonal music spanning 500 years from England, France, Germany, Italy, and the Americas. Come be enchanted by Byrd, Dufay, Leonarda, Praetorius and others, including Anonymous!

Bass gambist Tobi Szuts accompanies many of the vocal pieces in this concert. Also featured will be recorder, cornetto, dulcian and sackbut.



Susan Swerdlow, Artistic Director

Tickets at door: \$30 general; \$20 srs./students

Save with advance tickets:

<https://ticketstripe.com/WAVEWINTER2024>



Barefoot Chamber Concerts presents

The Consort Music Wars: Jenkins vs. Lawes

with

The Barefoot All-Stars

Peter Hallifax, Julie Jeffrey, David Morris,
Marie Szuts, Lynn Tetenbaum, viols

Special guests—Wendy Gillespie, treble viol and
Andrew Canepa, organ

Fri. Jan 10, Berkeley

6:30 PM, St. Mary Magdalen Parish Hall

In the 1620s through the early 1640s, two great composer-viol players- John Jenkins and William Lawes were well-paid colleagues with radically different styles. Lawes was forever experimenting, and Jenkins was content to perfect what he did. As both were virtuosic viol players, their music is challenging to the players, although in different ways.

“Jenkins or Lawes?” has become somewhat of a thing, as in “Beatles or Stones?,” “Blue Collar or Dog Collar?,” “Mescal or Scotch?,” “Taylor Swift or Beyoncé?.” So we are presenting an entire concert with just these two apex composers; you can choose your composer, or choose to stay on the fence, as you like.

In any event, we are sure you will agree on this: that Jenkins’ and Lawes’ six part consorts are clearly some of the finest music ever written for a consort of viols; this is really the music that dreams are made on.

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

Reserve a seat in advance for this popular concert by emailing: info@barefootchamberconcerts.com, then pay at the door. This gets you a seat in the front!

Amherst Early Music

AEM Online Classes

Composer as Artisan:

Baroque Composition and Modeling for Early Musicians

Sun. Dec. 8, 10:00 AM PDT

With Nicola Canzano, keyboards & composition

How on earth did Handel write an opera in two weeks? How was it possible for Bach to produce a cantata every week? For that matter, did Telemann ever sleep or eat? These composers wouldn't have been able to complete works of such high quality so quickly by broodingly awaiting inspiration for the right notes — they had to use their craft! In this class, a simple method to understand the grammar and available “ingredients” of baroque repertoire will be presented.

We will try to understand the basic logic by which a phrase is constructed, and then we will then use this to model our own compositions after pieces in the repertoire.

An overview of a curriculum for further study will also be given.

Open to: all interested musicians and composers.

Class will be recorded and available for 7 days after class for your review.

Fee: \$30

For more info on this class, 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!

Note: THUR. not WED. in DEC.

Early Music Open Mic Night

Thur. Dec. 19, El Cerrito

7-8:30 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:

Wednesday, Jan. 22, Feb. 26...

(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.

for ye Violls

2025

For Ye Violls Workshop

An intensive workshop for viol players at all levels in Albuquerque NM

Feb. 5 – 8, 2025

Albuquerque, NM

- Faculty, Larry Lipnik, David Morris and Mary Springfels

For Ye Violls presents an intimate four-day workshop for viol players at all levels featuring six-part consort repertoire from England, Italy, and the low countries. Each class will be limited to six players with three classes each day, one-to-a-part. There will be free time each afternoon with an optional “siesta class,” sightseeing, or a real siesta, and after-dinner playing welcome to all.

The workshop’s three instructors, Wendy Gillespie, Larry Lipnik, and Mary Springfels are among the most outstanding coaches in the field. Each tutor has chosen a repertoire, with play-in and faculty concert on the final afternoon of the workshop. While the instrumental ensembles may be fixed for the weekend, every player will work with every instructor.

Enrollment limited to 18.

Registration deadline: Sat., Dec. 21

For more info—

- <https://www.severalfriends.org/event/for-ye-violls-2/>

EMA

EARLY MUSIC AMERICA

EMA Turns 40 - What Comes Next?

‘The revolution of the next 40 years will likely be more about what constitutes early music and who is invited to play’

David McCormick, Executive Director of EMA, begins his article:

“In 2025, Early Music America will celebrate 40 years of serving the historical performance community of the Americas. Over the course of the next year, we will no doubt publish reflections on where we were four decades ago and how much has changed since then.

In fact, **we’re hoping our longtime members will send us reflections and photos** in the coming months. Please reach out if you have something to share.”

To read the full article:

<https://www.earlymusicamerica.org/emag-feature/ema-turns-40-what-comes-next/>



David McCormick, EMA Executive Director

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!

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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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