

Join us at our PlayDay with coach Elisabeth Reed

Sat., Feb. 1

Morrison Hall on UC Berkeley campus

- 9-9:30 AM – Set up (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
- Uncoached consorts after lunch

Music stands will be provided.

Elisabeth Reed teaches Baroque cello and viola da gamba at the University of California at Berkeley and at the SF Conservatory of Music, where she is co-director of the Baroque Ensemble. Recent teaching highlights include master classes at the Juilliard School, the Shanghai Conservatory and Middle School, and the Royal Academy of Music.

A soloist and chamber musician with Voices of Music, Pacific Musicworks, Archetti, and Wildcat Viols, she has also appeared with the Smithsonian Chamber Players, Cantata Collective, the American Bach Soloists and the Seattle, Portland, Pacific, and Philharmonia Baroque Orchestras. Elisabeth directs "Voice of the Viol," the renaissance viola da gamba ensemble of Voices of Music. She is a Guild-certified practitioner of the Feldenkrais Method™ of Awareness Through Movement™ with a particular interest in working with musicians and performers.



Our program:

**“O Fortuna”: Italian madrigals by
Marenzio, Ferrabosco the Elder, Vecchi
& others**

*Several students of UC Berkeley
viol teachers Elisabeth Reed and
David Miller will join us for the first
time.*

*We hope you can come join us for
a special PlayDay experiment on
campus.*

Registering for our PlayDay

Deadline: 5 PM, WEDNESDAY, Jan. 29

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.



One-Day Play-In & Preview of SFEMS Medieval & Renaissance Workshop

Sat. Feb. 8, Berkeley

9 AM–4 PM, First Congregational Church (Loper Chapel), 2345 Channing Way, (enter on Dana St.)

Spend a day with SFEMS Med/Ren Workshop Co-Director Adam Gilbert and get a preview of the musical magic we'll be making at the Medieval Renaissance Workshop this summer! We've got a playlist you can dance to—while no one is watching, of course.

For all instruments and voices A=440

Tuition: \$65 Full Day; \$40 Half Day

For more info:

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

Questions? Email workshops@sfems.org

Concert with David Miller and Zoe Weiss

Play This "Pashenat": Duets for Viols

Sun. Feb, 23, Berkeley

3 PM, St. Mark's Episcopal Church

David H. Miller and Zoe Tall Weiss perform a program of duets for bass viols that pair Baroque and Renaissance works with works from the 20th and 21st centuries, including music by Abel, Bartók, Dolmetsch, East, Herron, Ives, Joubert, Monk, Schaffrath and Sainte-Colombe.

Free admission

The program will last about an hour.



A young consort group at Conclave (Melita Denny at center back) (from the [website](#) of the Viola da Gamba Society)

Barefoot Chamber Concerts presents

Music of Bitter Enemies: Dowland and Hume

Peter Hallifax, Julie Jeffrey, viols
John Lenti, lute

Fri. Feb. 21, Berkeley

6:30 PM, St. Mary Magdalen Parish Hall

Tobias Hume, a Scot brought to England with the court of James I, was a viol player, a composer of music for solo viol, of consorts involving viols, and songs with viol accompaniments. He seems to have been an autodidact, and ignored many of the rules of music theorists. His music is idiosyncratic, hilarious, passionate, and whimsical.

Dowland, an Englishman, a fabulous and storied lutenist, was also a consummate (and published) theorist, highly skilled at complex counterpoint, and as a composer, elegant to a fault.

Both complained of the other man's pretensions, and scorned each other, publicly and in writing. It can fairly be said that neither man had the success they deserved in their lifetimes, but both are regarded today as



pioneers of their instruments and compositional geniuses.

This concert features Hume's music for viols, Dowland's music for lute, and some of each man's music played on viols with a lute. A fascinating window into early 17th century musical life and strife.

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

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

Early Music Open Mic Night

Wed. Feb. 26, El Cerrito

*7-8:30 PM, Hillside – An Urban Refuge
1422 Navellier St.*

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. Join us for light snax and wine—amateurs and professionals, students, all welcome!

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, Mar. 26, Apr. 23... the 4th Wednesday of the month.

For more information and to reserve your slot, please contact Heather Wilson: hi2dougan@gmail.com.

Coming in March—

(Details in next month's newsletter)

March 9

Historical Performance Faculty Concert

Elisabeth Reed, viol, Elizabeth Blumenstock,
violin and Corey Jamason, harpsichord
Erlebach, Kerll, Telemann, Bach
San Francisco Conservatory

March 21

Cantata Collective St. Matthew Passion

Nicholas McGegan, conductor
With Elisabeth Reed and Bill Skeen, viol
First Congregational Church, Berkeley

March 24

SFEMS presents Quicksilver

Early Moderns: Extravagant and inventive
new music of the 17th century
First Congregational Church, Berkeley

March 28-30

Voices of Music presents Voice of the Viol

L'Amorosa Ero: The Hero of Love
Monteverdi, Marenzio, Ferrabosco the Elder,
Dowland, Byrd, Ward, Ferrabosco the Younger,
Coperario

Palo Alto / San Francisco / Berkeley

One-Day Play-in & Summer Preview for SFEMS Baroque Workshop

Let's chase away those late winter blues and
get musicking together!

Sat. Mar. 8, 10:30 AM–3:30 PM
St. Mary Magdalen Church, Berkeley

Come join SFEMS Baroque Workshop
Director Lindsey Strand-Polyak for a day
celebrating March's most famous baroque
birthday besties: Johann Sebastian Bach (March
31) and Georg Philip Telemann (March 24).
We'll be throwing them a joint birthday party
in our afternoon play-in, complete with cake!

This event is open to all instrumentalists
playing at A=415: violin family, gambas,
recorders, flutes, oboes, bassoons, harp, guitars,
harpsichord, bass sackbuts, and beyond. If you
can read the music, you can play the parts!



Two sessions:

10:30 - 12:00 – String Clinic – Spring 'String
Training' to prepare for summer

1:00 - 3:30 – TUTTI Bday Party Playing–
winds and other Baroque players also
welcome!

BYO: Music stands and brown bag lunch

SFEMS provides waters, coffee, sweets

Tuition: \$65 Full Day; \$40 Half Day

Questions? Email workshops@sfems.org

Amherst Early Music



**Registration open for
Amherst Early Music Festival!**

Music of the German Lands

Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA

Frances Blaker, Festival Director

2 weeks offered:

June 29 - July 6 & July 6 - 13, 2025

The Central Program is the heart of the Festival — classes are available for most early music instruments, with music ranging from Medieval to Baroque. Choose the combination

of classes that works for you – perfect if you sing or dance and play an instrument or two. Play in consorts of like or mixed instruments, investigate a new repertory, take a dance class, or begin a new instrument.

Week 1 classes include expanded offerings for Baroque instruments. Week 2 classes include offerings for Medieval instruments. We also offer a unique program in early notation for all levels starting with absolute beginner.

Pitch is A=440, unless otherwise stated.

For more information:

https://www.amherstearlymusic.org/festival_2025_registration



Left: A 2-inch viol etched onto a 17c. steel shield, part of a suit of armor.

Photographed by Michael Kimbell at the recent Pavia tapestry exhibition at the de Young Museum in San Francisco.

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*

Pacifica Viola da Gamba Society

Board of Directors:

President: Pat Jennerjohn

patricia@focusedfinances.com

Vice President: Cindi Olwell

cindi.olwell@gmail.com

Secretary: Branson Stephens

branson.c.stephens@gmail.com

Treasurer: Nick Jones

nrjones360@gmail.com

Board members at large:

Mary Elliott, Ellen Fisher, Julie Jeffrey,
Elisabeth Reed

Membership: Ellen Fisher

erfisher@gmail.com

Viol Rental Coordinator: Carolyn
d'Almeida

dalmeida.carolyn@gmail.com

PlayDay Coach Liaison: Alice Benedict

rozeta@adianta.com

PlayDay Coordinator: Cindi Olwell

cindi.olwell@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Sue Jones

scjones360@gmail.com

Webmaster: Nick Jones

nrjones360@gmail.com

VdGSA Chapter Rep: Ellen Fisher

erfisher@gmail.com

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/)



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](#).