

## Join us at our PlayDay with coach Julie Jeffrey

**Sat., Sept. 13**

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

**Julie Jeffrey** has been playing the viol since 1976. She has performed throughout the U.S., in Canada, Mexico, Europe and Australia, and teaches privately and at workshops in the U.S. and abroad. Ms. Jeffrey is a founding member of Sex Chordae Consort of Viols, Wildcat Viols, Antic Faces, and The Barefoot All-Stars, and she embodies half of the viol duo Hallifax & Jeffrey. Ms. Jeffrey is co-founder and co-director of Barefoot Chamber Concerts, and has served on the board of directors of the Viola da Gamba Society of America, Pacifica Viola da Gamba Society, and San Francisco Early Music Society.

### Calling all low basses!

As we continue to observe the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Orlando Gibbons' passing, let's find out just how low he can go!



### The centerpiece of our morning session will be his Fantasia no. 1 a4, featuring the “Great Dooble Base.”

The instrument Gibbons had in mind for this delightful piece was almost certainly a six-string bass tuned in A, but the part can be played on any viol that is able to go down to that really low A below the bass clef; so, A-basses, G-violones, 7-string basses, and even lower things will all be welcomed with open arms to this session.

To begin exploring the basement, we will warm up with a six-part Pavan and Galliard, both of which call for a low C in the bass part. After feasting on the “Great Dooble Base” Fantasia, there might be a little dessert: a new low-C-friendly arrangement of Gibbons' Lord Salisbury's Pavan is currently in the works. If it is ready by the time we meet, I'll bring it along for us to try out.

## Registering for our PlayDay

**Deadline: NOON, WEDNESDAY, Sept. 10**

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.

## PlayDay changes

Since 2016, **Cindi Olwell** has volunteered as our hard-working PlayDay Coordinator (and served as President for much of that time!) We think— we KNOW!— that she deserves a VERY LARGE round of applause. Not only has she tackled the job of organizing our coached ensembles each month (and reorganizing when someone hasn't shown up!), but she has also served as the welcoming voice of our chapter for new members attending their first PlayDay. AND on top of that, she's brought coffee and snacks every time!!

### But, times, they are a'changin'...

We are very pleased that **Allison Balberg** has volunteered to take over as our new PlayDay Coordinator. (Yay! More applause!)

Allison began attending our PlayDays in 2023 when she moved to the Bay Area, and has become an active part of our musical life here. She has a music degree in historical performance from Indiana University and plays all sizes of viola da gamba, violone and vielle. She likes to program concerts on environmental themes. (See her concert announcement on page 6—**Park It Here**).

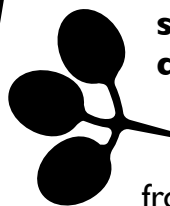
Allison enjoys musicking with her early music friends, hiking in Tilden Park, dim sum counter-crawling in Oakland's Chinatown, and wading in Ocean Beach when it exceeds 80°F.

### New! Potlucked PlayDay snacks

We will now be asking participants to periodically bring a snack for the group, **starting in September with those folks with last names A to G.**



**If that's you, please bring a snack—either savory or sweet—to share at our Sept. 13 PlayDay during our 9-9:30 and mid-morning breaks. Thanks!**



(In October, we'll call upon folks from H to N for snack duty, and in November it will be O to Z., etc.)

### What about coffee?

That's trickier... In the past, Cindi has schlepped to Peets to buy a 96 oz. carton of coffee (and sugar and creamer and stirrers and cups).



Allison doesn't have a car, so we're going to experiment with using the church's small coffeemaker to make coffee.

**Does anyone have a large coffeemaker they could donate?**  
That would make things SO MUCH EASIER!

Let Allison know: [allisonbalberg@gmail.com](mailto:allisonbalberg@gmail.com)

Thanks to Cindi for organizing our BASH program! See *pix on the next pages*—

 **Pacifica Viola Da Gamba Society - Annual Bash - June 14, 2025**   
**Hillside, an Urban Sanctuary - El Cerrito, CA**

**Group 1 - Colusa Consort: Karen Lassen (Violin), Helen Tyrrell (Treble Viol)**

**Nick Jones (Tenor Viol), Barry Hirsch (Tenor Viol), Ellen Fisher (Bass Viol)**

- Pieces: Pavan No. 2 - Alfonso Ferrabosco II; Fantasia “Credidi” (vdgsa #5) - Michael East

**Group 2 - Tenor & Bass Viol Duo: Nick Jones (Tenor Viol), Pat Jennerjohn (Bass Viol)**

- Piece: “Ce villain médisant,” in three parts - Jean de Castro (edited by Michael and Edith Kimbell)

**Group 3 - Viol Consort a 3: Phoebe McMillan (Treble Viol), Mara McMillan (Bass Viol)**

**Allison Balberg (Bass Viol)**

- Pieces: Canon - Thomas Tallis; Rounds: Heigh ho, nobody home / Ah, poor bird / Rose, rose, rose red - Thomas Ravenscroft

**Group 4 - Treble and Bass Viol Duo: Alice Benedict (Treble Viol), Cathy Allen-Aird (Bass Viol)**

- Pieces: Fantasie La Caccia - Thomas Morley; Se l'aura spira tutta vezzosa - Girolamo Frescobaldi; Almaine (on Lachrymae) - John Jenkins; Fantasie La Torello - Thomas Morley; Mentre che la mia Donna - Jhan Gero; Novae aliquot...cantiones suavissimae, Untitled no. 13 - Orlando de Lassus

**~ Intermission & Music Giveaway ~**

**Group 5 - Bass Viol Duo: Oliver Iberien (Bass), Melita Denny (Bass)**

- Piece: Prelude from Suite No. 1 in A Minor - M. Morel

**Group 6 - Voice & Viol Duo: Nick Jones (Voice - Tenor), Sue Jones (Bass Viol)**

- Piece: “Ah! How sweet it is to love” - Henry Purcell

**Group 7 - Treble and Bass Viol Duo: Alice Benedict (Treble Viol), Linda Quan (Bass Viol)**

- Pieces: Grays Inn the First - John Coperario; Aire no. 75 - John Jenkins; Aire no. 64 - John Jenkins; Fantasia a 2 VdGs no. 1 - John Coperario; Aire no. 97 - John Jenkins

**Group 8 - Viol Consort a 5: Alice Benedict (Treble Viol), Allison Balberg (Treble Viol), Cindi Olwell (Tenor Viol), Heather Wilson (Tenor Viol), Sue Jones (Bass Viol)**

- Pieces: Pavan no.9 - Alfonso Ferrabosco; Cor Mio - John Ward; Fantasia no. 8 - John Ward; Fantasia no. 5 - John Jenkins

## PLAYDAY PIX



From left: Helen Tyrrell, Karen Lassen, Ellen Fisher, Nick Jones, Barry Hirsch



Pat Jennerjohn, Nick Jones



Allison Balberg, Phoebe McMillan, Mara McMillan



Cathy Allen-Ayrd, Alice Benedict



Melita Denny, Oliver Iberian



Sue Jones, Nick Jones



From left: Sue Jones, Cindi Olwell, Heather Wilson, Alice Benedict, Allison Balberg

## Fire & Ice presents

### Park It Here

An old-and-new music concert on the theme of **Our Public Lands**



### Sunday, Sept. 14, Oakland

3:15 PM, East Bay Community Space, 507 55th St.

Music by Will Ayton, Sarah Mead, Thomas Morley, Thomas Weelkes and others.

Featuring:

- Allison Balberg
- Caroline Armitage
- Branson Stephens
- Cindi Olwell
- Daniel Deitch
- Randy Matamoros

In addition to viols and voices, we'll be joined by a harp quartet: Cheryl Ann Fulton's *The White Horse Harpers*

Reception to follow.

Tickets: \$20 and/or a follow-up civic action (e.g. attend a town meeting, call your representative, talk to a friend about what you care about, attend a peaceful protest.)

No one will be turned away for lack of funds.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1444640480197380/>

## Barefoot Chamber Concerts presents

### Fair is the Rose: English & Italian Songs for Voice & Viols

Friday, Oct. 17, Berkeley

6:30 PM, Saint Mary Magdalen Church

Rita Lilly, soprano

Erik Andersen, Marie Dalby Szuts, David Miller, and Tobi Szuts, viols



The Elizabethans invented the consort song form, and the Jacobean and some foreigners took it further, until, like all great English chamber music, it was killed off by the civil war (the English one).

Join us for a program of delightful and heart-rending songs for soprano and viol from classic consort songs by Byrd and Gibbons, to Monteverdi's gorgeous Lamento della Ninfa. We'll explore the interplay of text and melody in these glorious pieces.

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

You can reserve a seat in advance (and sit in the front rows) by emailing [info@barefootchamberconcerts.com](mailto:info@barefootchamberconcerts.com), and then paying at the door.

## President's Note

It's hard to believe we've already reached August! Kids are back in school, the evenings are arriving earlier, and even the sycamores seem a little weary. Here in the Bay Area, it's been the coldest summer since 1982—so instead of heat, we've had fog, chill, and sweaters! For us, that means our own “back to school” is just around the corner—our first PlayDay is coming up very soon!

One of my summer highlights was attending Viols West—truly one of the best I've ever experienced. The classes were inspiring, the faculty extraordinary, and everyone in attendance brought such joy and energy. The weather cooperated perfectly, Princess Lucky's tea provided the ideal afternoon pause, and while the week was thoroughly exhausting, it was in the very best way.

I'm looking forward to carrying that inspiration into the season ahead with all of you.

Pat

## At the BASH: LOTS of music for the taking

We had several boxes of viol music to give away—solos, duets, consorts, methodology...

THANK YOU to former Pacifica member/newsletter editor **Peter Brodigan** for all of this music! Several years ago Peter moved to Yorkville, too far to easily find fellow gamba players for consorts, so he has generously donated all of his viol music to us!



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## Scholarships for Viols West— Hoping for more donations!

This summer, our Pacifica chapter donated \$1400 in scholarship money to enable several students to attend Viols West.

A couple months after giving away Peter Brodigan's music donations at our Bash (see above), our chapter received a large donation of viol music and pedagogical books from the estate of Hazelle Miloradovich of Menlo Park.

After Julie Jeffrey and David Morris sorted through it, Melita Denny delivered the boxes of music to Viols West, where a give-away was organized, and participants took home some wonderful music.

We asked for voluntary donations.

So far we've received donations from nine folks; **we're hoping that more checks** will still be arriving to add to next year's scholarship fund.

If you would like to say “thank you” for the music you got, please mail a check to our Treasurer:

Nick Jones

1532 Spruce St., Berkeley CA 94709

## AND WE THANK YOU!

# Amherst Early Music

An online class of interest to gambists:

## **Making Connections: Bow-strokes, phrasing, speech, and song**

Noon-1:30 PM PT, Oct. 4

Sarah Mead, viol



Translating bow-strokes into phrases by examining how we connect syllables in speech and song.

\$30.

[Register HERE](#)

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## **Private Lesson Subsidy Grants offered by VdGSA**

Greetings!

I am the administrator of the VdGSA Private Lesson Subsidy program.

VdGSA members in self-defined financial need may apply for a subsidy to take private lessons. They are eligible for reimbursement of up to \$40 per lesson, and up to nine lessons per year. The students, who must be members, apply on the Members' area of [our website](#).

Applications are taken on a rolling basis throughout the year.

After being accepted, the students arrange for and pay their teachers the going rate, and then submit a receipt for reimbursement via the website. They may choose anyone listed as a teaching member in the directory and the lessons may be in-person or online.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Ann Barclay Rovner

Administrator, Private Lesson Subsidy Program

[abarclayrovner@yahoo.com](mailto:abarclayrovner@yahoo.com)

## **Send us your concert / recital announcements!**

This is our annual plea for professional and amateur musicians to tell us about any upcoming recitals/concerts that include gambas.

This is the info we'd like—

Program title, description

- Date, time, place
- Performers' names
- Photos or graphics, if available
- Ticket info / link

Please send it at least by the 15th of the month prior to the event. Better yet, send it by the 15th of the month TWO months ahead, so we can include it in two issues of GambaNews.

Thanks,

Sue Jones, Editor

[scjones360@gmail.com](mailto:scjones360@gmail.com)

## **Submitting news to Early Music America**



Do you have an early music event you'd like to publicize? EMA's online *Early Music News & Reviews* will display your info free.

Deadlines:

- November 1 (for January EMAG)
- March 1 (for May EMAG)
- July 1 (for September EMAG)

Find the guidelines here:

<https://www.earlymusicamerica.org/news/news-release-submissions/>

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## **Early Music Open Mic**

Happy to be back! We're on for our usual 4th Wednesdays: Sept. 24, Oct. 22 and Nov. 26...

- To reserve your slot, to be added to the mailing list, or for more info, please contact Heather Wilson: [hi2dougan@gmail.com](mailto:hi2dougan@gmail.com).

**Thank you to Alice Benedict for recruiting great coaches for our new season!**

## **Pacifica Viols PlayDays 2025-2026**

**Sept. 13: Julie Jeffrey**  
**Oct. 11: Elisabeth Reed**  
**Nov. 8: Melita Denny**  
**Dec. 13: David Miller**  
**Jan. 10: Wendy Gillespie**  
**Feb. 14: Erik Andersen**  
**Mar. 14: Shira Kammen**  
**Apr. 11: David Morris\***  
**May 9: Farley Pearce**  
**June 14: Pacifica BASH**

*\*Voices and Viols*



**Join Us!**



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

## **Pacifica Viola da Gamba Society**

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[branson.c.stephens@gmail.com](mailto:branson.c.stephens@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Nick Jones  
[nrjones360@gmail.com](mailto:nrjones360@gmail.com)

### **Board members at large:**

Mary Elliott, Ellen Fisher, Julie Jeffrey,  
Cindi Olwell, Elisabeth Reed

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<https://pacificaviols.org>

**Pacifica Viola da Gamba Society**  
is a Chapter of the  
[\*\*Viola da Gamba Society of America\*\*](#)