

Join us at our PlayDay with coach David Miller

Sat., Dec. 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

David H. Miller is a musicologist and a performer, and an Assistant Professor of Practice at the UC Berkeley, where he teaches in the Department of Music and the American Studies program and serves as director of the University Baroque Ensemble.

On Baroque double bass, viola da gamba, and violone, David has appeared with groups such as the Handel and Haydn Society, Voices of Music, Arcadia Players, Trinity Wall Street, New York Baroque Incorporated, Albany Consort, and Seven Times Salt.

A Ph.D. in musicology from Cornell University, his research has been featured in the *Journal of the American Musicological Society*, the *Journal of Musicology*, the *Indiana Theory Review*, and *Twentieth-Century Music*, among several other publications.



David writes on issues surrounding the performance and reception of modernist music and early music in the twentieth century, with a special focus on the music of Anton Webern.

Polyphonic music for Advent:

At this month's PlayDay, we will consider two works of polyphonic music from the late 16th and early 17th centuries composed for Advent, the liturgical season preceding Christmas. First will be *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* by Michael Praetorius (published in 1607), a brilliantly composed meditation on a familiar tune, followed by *Hierusalem surge* by Ludovico Balbi (published in 1578), a lesser-known but no less talented composer from Venice. We will focus on how to coordinate phrasing across all four parts, even when those parts are moving independently from one another, as well as various other musical factors to be considered when playing textured music on instruments.

Registering for our PlayDay

Deadline: NOON, WEDNESDAY, Dec. 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.



Magnificent Marais

Dec. 13, 7:30 PM – Doors open at 7.
Fifth Street Farms, 1517 5th St., Berkeley

David Miller, Frederic Rousselet – violas da gamba

Derek Tam – harpsichord

Three of the Bay Area's outstanding early music performers play 17th- and 18th-century trios from one of early music's stellar French composers. These musicians bring outstanding technical mastery and sensitive interpretation to the exquisite acoustics of the Fifth Street upstairs performance space.

Audience is invited to bring food or drink to share outside on the deck.

Tickets \$30

<https://fifthstfarms.com/reservations/>

NEW–

COFFEE pickup for PlayDay

We've started a new plan for coffee at our Playday. On our registration form, you'll see a check box – **we're asking for a volunteer to pick up coffee** the morning of the PlayDay and bring it by 9:15 AM latest.

Our PlayDay Coordinator Allison will pre-order and pre-pay for it. Our volunteer would then pick up the box of brewed coffee (and the cups, sugar, creamer & stirrers that come with) that morning from a local coffee shop.

If more than one person volunteers, Allison will choose one, and email them the receipt.

If no one volunteers... no coffee!

Thanks for your help!

WAVE Winter Concert –

Green Grow'th the Holly– A Winter Celebration in Song

Sat. Dec. 13, 2 PM

St. Mary Magdalen Church, Berkeley

Susan Swerdlow, Artistic Director

Join the singers of the Women's Antique Vocal Ensemble for our beloved holiday concert, featuring selections from medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque times, beautiful modern pieces, and world music for winter.

Composers include Bassano, des Prez, Dufay, Leonarda, and Zumaya among others.

Featuring instrumentalists Tobi Szuts on viola da gamba, Howard Kadis on lute, and the early brass quartet Mane Musica.

For discounted advance tickets:

<https://ticketstripe.com/greengrowth>

Tickets at the door:

\$30 general; \$25 seniors/students

PlayDay SNAX

This month those with **last names A to G** are asked to please bring a snack – either savory or sweet – to share at our Dec. 13 PlayDay during our 9-9:30 and mid-morning breaks. Thanks!



Barefoot Chamber Concerts
presents the Barefoot All-Stars –
The Consort Music of Orlando
Gibbons

Fri. Jan. 9, Berkeley

6:30 PM, Saint Mary Magdalen Church Parish Hall
 2005 Berryman St., Berkeley

Wendy Gillespie, Peter Hallifax, Julie Jeffrey,
 Shira Kammen, David Morris and Lynn
 Tetenbaum – viols

This year's midwinter viol consort concert features a return to the music of the great Orlando Gibbons 400 years (and a few days) after his passing in 1625. We'll play his amazing six-part consorts and the rarely-heard consorts that call for the "great dooble bass" viol.

A musical insider at the court of James I, Orlando Gibbons, the most famous scion of a well-employed family of musicians, was best known in his time for his skill as a keyboard player, and best remembered today as a composer of highly regarded and widely circulated sacred vocal music. But his position in the Prince of Wales' musical household, a lesser-celebrated aspect of his career, has won him a special place in the hearts of today's viol players. In this intimate setting, working within a small, musically-stimulating circle of England's best and brightest viol players, Gibbons created ensemble masterpieces of rare beauty, variety, and range of expression.

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

As this mid-winter viol concert has been extremely popular in the past, we recommend reserving seats.

Email info@barefootchamberconcerts.com, then pay at the door.

Pacifica Viols **GambaNews**

Winterlude with Shira Kammen

Wed. Dec. 19, El Cerrito

7-8:30 PM, Hillside – An Urban Refuge
 1422 Navalier St., El Cerrito

In lieu of the regular December Early Music Open Mic we are offering a special event – an informal program of seasonal medieval/Renaissance pieces by local singers and instrumentalists directed by Shira Kammen.

With snacks!

Come join the fun!

PREZ NOTE

As we wrap up the year, I want to send a quick note of thanks to everyone who has played, listened, organized, and generally kept the gambas humming in 2025. One of the delights of this community is that no matter how busy life gets, we can always count on a room full of viols to restore our spirits—and occasionally remind us that tuning is a lifelong journey.

It's been a pleasure to welcome new players and reconnect with familiar faces. Our PlayDay meetings continue to prove that good music and good humor pair well together, especially when half the room is sight-reading and the other half is pretending not to.

As we head into the holidays, may your strings stay in tune, your pegs behave, and your repertoire choices be fun enough to play and forgiving enough to count as a holiday activity.

Pat Jennerjohn, Pacifica President

Early Music Open Mic- PERMANENT DATE CHANGE

*Starting in January, EMOM's regular monthly date will be the **third Friday** of each month.*

7-9 PM. Jan. 16, 2026

Hillside – An Urban Refuge
1422 Navalier St., El Cerrito

Severall Friends

EARLY MUSIC IN THE HIGH DESERT

Registration OPEN—

Severall Friends workshop "For Ye Violls on the Pecos"

An intensive long weekend workshop for players at all levels in historic northern New Mexico—

Thu. Feb. 12 to Sun. Feb. 15

Benedictine Abbey
Pecos, New Mexico
(~20 mi. East of Santa Fe)

Faculty Mary Springfels, Larry Lipnick and David Morris

Full information can be found on their website SeverallFriends.org. Fill out the workshop registration form and either mail it or scan and email it back to establish your priority with deposit to follow.

"Last year we filled up our workshop in under a week."



Amherst Early Music

An online class for viol players:

Three's Company—

Viol trios from the Tudor & Stuart Eras

10:00 - 11:30 AM PT, Dec. 6

Rosamund Morley and Lawrence Lipnik, viols

Explore a century of viol trios from Henry VIII's Songbook – music by Byrd, Edward and Orlando Gibbons, Bevan, Holborne, Lupo and Coprario. Each piece will be played three times, each time with a different part left out, so everyone can enjoy playing a trio with us.

Geared to intermediate - advanced viol players, but all are welcome. Pitch: A= 415.

Each class is \$30. For more info, and to register, click [HERE](#).

SAVE THE DATES!

SFEMS Announces Summer Workshops

Two of the San Francisco Early Music Society's summer workshops will be of interest to viol players—

Baroque Workshop— July 6-12

Medieval/Renaissance Workshop – July 12-18

Each workshop has unique features, annual themes, wonderful faculty, many opportunities to play, to make friends and to learn more about historical music performance.

All workshops will be held in Berkeley.

Check back later for details –

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

Thank you to Alice Benedict for recruiting great coaches for this 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 13: Pacifica BASH

**Voices and Viols*



At VdGSA's Conclave

Pacifica Viola da Gamba Society

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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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