

Join us at our PlayDay with coach Erik Andersen

Sat., Feb. 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

Erik Andersen performs on all sizes of viola da gamba, as well as on baroque and modern cello. His musical approach works to uncover articulations and colors not so readily found on the single-instrument path. Erik strives to find the voice of each instrument, each composer, and each musical work, sharing the discoveries of those interactions with his audiences.

He teaches at home in San Francisco and at workshops and events around the country – SFEMS Baroque Workshop 2025-2026, Zephyr Chamber Music Camp 2025, VdGSA Conclave 2025, Viols West 2025, SoCal Viols 2026, PNW viols 2026.

Recent and upcoming performances: Ensemble Affect (2025-26), Cygneus Argenteus Viol Consort (November 2025), One Found Sound Orchestra (2025-26), Beethoven clarinet trios on period instruments (February 2026), Santa Cruz Chorale (May 2026).



Join us this St. Valentine's Day for some musical ruminating on love – or more precisely the archetypal pastoral lovers, Amyntas and Phyllis, as they are portrayed in some accessible and charming madrigals by Morley, Pilkington and Ward from 16th and 17th century England.

We will get to play through love's full array in the tale of the shepherd and his beloved nymph – from cheeky peek-a-boos and joyful joining to mourning as dark as the sable night.

Registering for our PlayDay

Deadline: NOON, WEDNESDAY, Feb. 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.



Viol players take note: two of the San Francisco Early Music Society's summer workshops will be of interest to you—

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 at First Church, Berkeley.

Baroque Workshop – July 6-12

Lindsey Strand-Polyak, Director

Erik Andersen, viol faculty

For more info:

<https://www.sfems.org/baroque-workshop>

Medieval/Renaissance Workshop – July 12-18

Adam Knight Gilbert, Director

David Morris & Malachai Bandy, viol faculty

For more info:

<https://www.sfems.org/medren-workshop>

PlayDay SNAX

This month those with **last names O to Z** are asked to please bring a snack – either savory or sweet – to share at our Feb. 14 PlayDay during our 9-9:30 and mid-morning breaks. Thanks!

COFFEE pickup for PlayDay

In the last few months we've started using a new plan for coffee at our Playdays. On our registration form, you'll see a check box

VIOL MUSIC COLLECTION on IMSLP

A friend recently called our attention to the online FOLOP collection of viol music freely available on IMSLP (International Music Score Library Project).

https://imslp.org/wiki/Category:Folop_Viol_Music_Collection

To browse the collection and sort by work types, instrumentation, featured instruments, languages, periods and composers, click on the "Category Walker."

https://imslp.org/wiki/Special:CategoryWalker/Folop_Viol_Music_Collection/

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TikTok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@imslp.official>

where **we ask for a volunteer to pick up coffee** the morning of the PlayDay and bring it by 9:15 AM at the latest.

Our PlayDay Coordinator Allison will pre-order and pre-pay for it. The 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 to our VdGSA Chapter Rep Ellen Fisher who reminds us to continue to call our attention to the benefits VdGSA members receive—



Viola da Gamba Society of America

VdGSA Member Benefits

In addition to joining a large and friendly community of viol players, you'll gain access to the Members' Area of our website, which has even more sheet music, our music-minus-one offerings, and the digital archive of the VdGSA News. Members also receive our biennial Journal and quarterly News in the mail.

The Society offers a variety of grants and programs to support members including Grants-in-Aid, the Circuit Rider Program, Private Lesson Subsidies, Consort Loan Program, Workshop Grants, Chapter Start-up Grants, and the Chapter Conclave Voucher Program. These grants and programs are made possible by your generosity, please consider making a [donation](#).

Not a member of the VdGSA yet? Learn about the [benefits of membership](#).

Already a member? Read more about these grants and programs and apply in the [Members' Area](#).

— Just one of the member benefits:

PRIVATE LESSON SUBSIDY PROGRAM

The Private Lesson Subsidy subsidizes private viol lessons for VdGSA members who need financial assistance to be able to afford them. **It reimburses students \$40 per lesson for up to nine private lessons in a 12-month period.**

For more information, go to vdgsa.org and click on Programs, then scroll down to Private Lesson Subsidy Program.

From the VdGSA's home page—

<https://www.vdgsa.org/>

The Viola da Gamba Society of America is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the support, in the United States and abroad, of activities and resources relating to the viola da gamba, other early bowed string instruments, and their music.

We are a Society of players, builders, publishers, composers, scholars, restorers, and others sharing a serious interest in these beautiful instruments, their history, and their music, both old and new.

We hold an annual, week-long [Conclave](#) in mid-summer at educational institutions around the country with a faculty of internationally recognized performers and scholars.

To learn more about the viola da gamba, we suggest you visit [About the Viol](#).

[Join the VdGSA](#) and experience the music, scholarship, and camaraderie!

New time slot – **Third Fridays**
Early Music Open Mic Night

Fri. Feb. 20, El Cerrito

7-8:30 PM, Hillside – An Urban Refuge
1422 Navellier St., El Cerrito CA 94530

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.

Next month: Fri., March 20

To reserve your slot, contact Heather Wilson
hi2dougan@gmail.com.

MORE VIOL PLAYERS!

Thank you to Elisabeth Reed who sent us this photo of a performance by a viol class she and David Miller taught at UC Berkeley this past fall.

SAVE THE DATES **Viols West workshop**

Aug. 9-15

**California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo, CA**

Viols West is a week-long summer workshop for viola da gamba players of all levels. In four classes each day, our excellent faculty provides instruction in technique, consort and solo literature. Evenings are filled with musical activities, including ad hoc consorts, mini-classes or presentations, and a faculty concert, providing both formal and informal opportunities for participants to play, listen, and learn. The week begins with a welcome playing session on Sunday evening. Classes run Monday through Friday, ending with a festive student concert on Friday night.

The workshop is on the campus of California Polytechnic State University, on the edge of San Luis Obispo, a peaceful town in the beautiful rolling hills of California's central coast, midway between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Music Directors Lawrence Lipnik and Rosamund Morley will announce their faculty in the spring.

<https://www.violswest.org/>



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*



**Decorated Gaspar
gamba**

Pacifica Viola da Gamba Society

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allisonbalberg@gmail.com

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erfisher@gmail.com

Viol Rental Coordinator:
Carolyn d'Almeida
dalmeida.carolyn@gmail.com

PlayDay Coach Liaison: Alice Benedict
rozeta@adianta.com

PlayDay Coordinator: Allison Balberg
allisonbalberg@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://pacificaviols.org)

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