

## Join us at our PlayDay with coach Shira Kammen

**Sat., Mar. 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

Multi-instrumentalist Shira Kammen has spent much of her life exploring the worlds of early and traditional music of all kinds. A member for many years of the early music ensembles Alcatraz and Project Ars Nova, she has also worked with Sequentia, Hesperion XX, the Boston Camerata, storyteller/harpist Patrick Ball, Anonymous IV, the Newberry and Folger Consorts, the California Revels, and the Oregon, California and San Francisco Shakespeare Festivals.

Shira has worked with students in many different settings – teaching summer music workshops in the woods, coaching students of early music in such schools as Yale University, Case Western, the University of Oregon at Eugene, and working at specialized seminars at the Fondazione Cini in Venice, Italy and the Scuola Cantorum Basiliensis in Switzerland.



Shira is the founder of Class V Music, an ensemble dedicated to providing music on river rafting trips. She has also played on a number of movie and television soundtracks, when weird medieval instruments are needed.

*Our program will feature 2-7 part Medieval and Renaissance music about springtime, with music by Monteverdi, Landini, A. Gabrieli, and Clemens non Papa.*

### Registering for our PlayDay

**Deadline: NOON, WEDNESDAY, Mar. 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.

## Viols West 2026 – Update

We'd like to share an update about planning for Viols West 2026, our annual summer workshop.

For some years we have held our workshop at Cal Poly, but because Cal Poly has transitioned from a quarter to a semester system, dorm housing is no longer available for our originally scheduled August 9–15 dates. In response, we are actively exploring alternative venues that would allow us to retain those same August dates.

Two campuses — UC Santa Cruz and UC Santa Barbara — are currently under review. Both appear promising, and we are gathering additional logistical and financial details to determine the best fit for our workshop.

Our intention is to preserve the established timing of Viols West if a suitable venue can be secured. The only other time frame available at Cal Poly would be July 27 - August 1, which coincides with the 2026 VdGSA Conclave. We would be consider this only if no workable August option is available.

We are working closely with our artistic leadership as we evaluate these options and will share further news as soon as plans are confirmed.

*Pat Jennerjohn*

President, Pacifica Viola da Gamba Society

## PlayDay SNAX

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

## COFFEE pickup for PlayDay

On our registration form, **you can volunteer to pick up coffee** for our PlayDay, bringing it by 9:15 AM at the latest.

## April PlayDay – Voices & Viols

*A Mixed Bouquet: Delightfully Varied Works for Voices and Viols*

Continuing our annual tradition, we've invited David Morris to lead our April 11 PlayDay.

*This year, I've hand-chosen six works in a variety of styles (sweet and mellifluous, chewy and chromatic, etc.) and languages (English, Italian and Latin) by composers Orlando di Lasso, Luzzasco Luzzaschi and Claudio Monteverdi, not to mention a special offering by our own Michael Kimbell: Come, Sleep (text by Sir Philip Sidney 1554-86), which is tailor-made for our forces and skills.*

Here's our schedule (a little later than usual) –

9:30 AM – Setup, tune, then gather for coffee and snacks.

10:00 AM – Play / sing, with a break

12:30 PM – Bring a bag lunch and stay for conversation.

### Help us spread the word to local singers!

We'll be recruiting singers through an email to singers from past years as well as local choirs.

**We encourage you to send a personal invitation to singer friends.** Tell them to email David Morris with their voice part (soprano, alto, countertenor, tenor, bass) at [mahlsdorf@earthlink.net](mailto:mahlsdorf@earthlink.net). He'll then send them a link to the music to be downloaded.

A \$20 donation to our scholarship fund is requested of singers at the door. (No charge for Pacifica members.)

Our PlayDay Coordinator Allison will pre-order and pre-pay for it. The volunteer then picks 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!**



## Barefoot Chamber Concerts presents Bertamo

***From the North Sea to the East Bay:  
Chamber Music from 17th and 18th c.  
Germany and beyond***

Letitia Berlin – recorders  
Yuko Tanaka – harpsichord  
David Morris – viol

with Cynthia Black, violin

**Fri., March 20, Berkeley**

6:30 PM, St. Mary Magdalen Parish Hall

Virtuosic music from the German Baroque, including music by Buxtehude, Telemann, and possibly Schenck and Hacquart.

Admission \$25 (no one turned away for lack of funds). Tickets at the door only.

Reserve a seat in advance by emailing [info@barefootchamberconcerts.com](mailto:info@barefootchamberconcerts.com). We highly recommend this, since it gets you a seat in the front rows!  
<https://barefootchamberconcerts.com>

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## Early Music Open Mic Night

**Friday March 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!

## Sally Blaker

A note from Berkeley Baroque Strings –  
*Our dear friend and fellow musician Sal Blaker passed away on February 3. Sal played the Baroque cello with us since the very beginning of our orchestra, and was an enthusiastic and prodigious organizer of operas and other musical events for amateur musicians in the Bay Area. After having played her final set with Berkeley Baroque Strings in the fall of '24, Sal moved to North Carolina to be near her daughter Barbara Blaker, who cared for her this past year.*

*The family is planning a Bay Area music-filled memorial for Sal in June. We will pass on details when they're available.*

*Ed. note:*

In past years, Sal played the bass viol in many of our PlayDays. Among her other endeavors, Sal was the co-founder with Heather Wilson of Early Music Open Mic, always radiating an infectious enthusiasm.

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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 welcome to help cover the venue cost.

**Next month: Friday April 17**

To reserve your slot, contact Heather Wilson  
[hi2dougan@gmail.com](mailto:hi2dougan@gmail.com).

# Conclave!



Registration for VdGSA's 64th Conclave will open this month.

**July 26- August 2, 2026**

**Radford University in Radford, VA**

**Sarah Mead, Music Director**

Here are the basics—

Four class sessions daily, with over five dozen offerings to choose from, including fourth-period "freebie" classes

Note: **one 4th period class will be live-streamed for free to all VdGSA members**, but no other online classes will be offered this year

Programs for Beginners, Seasoned Players, Advanced Projects, Consort Cooperative, and—of course—the full regular curriculum.

## FACULTY

Brent Wissick

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Patty Halverson

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Sarah Poon

Tina Chancey

Wendy Gillespie

Amy Domingues

Julie Jeffrey

## A heads-up...

### Pacifica's BASH

On June 13 we will be celebrating the end of our PlayDay season with a party/potluck/play-in/recital.

We invite our members to come with their viol to perform a prepared piece as a solo or with a group.

**OR — just come join the whole group for a sight-reading play-in afterwards.**

More later...

## VdGSA Membership Directory

This annual publication sent to all members not only lists all paid members alphabetically, but also by state, so you can find others nearby to connect with.

**There are 103 VdGSA members in the state of California** – whoa!

Also included in the directory – a full page listing institutional members and organizations as well as eleven pages of self-identified viol teaching members in the US and abroad.



”The aim of Early Music Sources is to simplify the access to the vast amount of online early music sources. The sources database as well as the iconography database enable quick search and gateway to sources according to various categories. For further research you may refer to RISM (sources) and RIDIM (iconography).

In addition to the databases, Early Music Sources also features a [youtube series](#) dealing with various topics relating to early music and [Early Music Sources PIE](#) (=Please In English), that supports the translations and online free publication of sources that were never translated or published in our times.

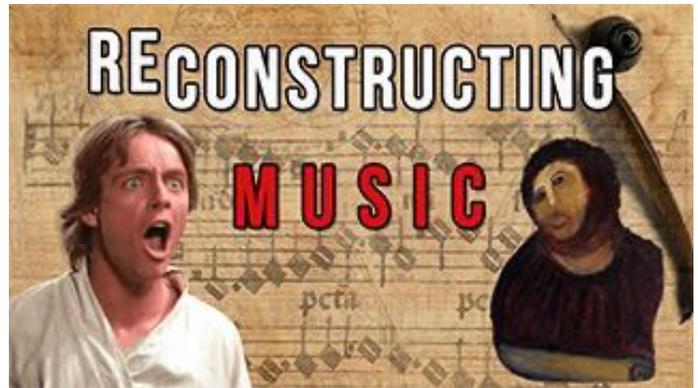
**Please help us to enrich this website;** any suggestions/corrections and even subtitles translations for our videos are welcome at: [early.music.sources@gmail.com](mailto:early.music.sources@gmail.com).



Creator and editor [Elam Rotem](#)

**Take a look at one of many instructive and amusing videos on this site—**

<https://www.earlymusicsources.com/youtube/>



“Very often, music from older times survives only partially, with some part or parts missing. In order to examine such incomplete music one has to first reconstruct the missing parts. In this episode we discuss this issue and see how the inner logic of 16th-century counterpoint may help a reconstructor bring lost music back to life.”

## BFX

### Berkeley Festival & Exhibition

June 6 - 14

**Subscriptions are now open including Golden Tickets and Mix & Match options.**

- 21 MainStage concerts as well as special events, a 3-day exhibition, community workshops and dozens of Fringe presentations.
- The MainStage concerts will continue to be pay-what-you-can; patrons are encouraged to “pay it forward.”

Including—

#### **Voices of Music: Voice of the Viol - Dowland 400**

June 9, 7:30 PM

First Church Berkeley

Marking 400 years since John Dowland’s death, this intimate program explores his unmatched eloquence—from aching melancholy to radiant beauty—featuring voice, lute, and viol consort.

**For full BFX info,**  
<https://www.berkeleyfestival.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*

## Pacifica Viola da Gamba Society

### Board of Directors:

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<https://pacificaviols.org>

**Pacifica Viola da Gamba Society**

is a Chapter of the

[Viola da Gamba Society of America](https://www.violasociety.org/)



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