

**Join us at our Voices & Viols
PlayDay w/ coach David Morris
Sat., April 11**

Hillside—An Urban Sanctuary

1422 Navellier St., El Cerrito CA 94530

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.

DAVID MORRIS has performed across the U.S., Canada, and Europe on Baroque violoncello, viola da gamba, lirone, and bass violin. He has performed with Tafelmusik, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Seattle's Pacific MusicWorks and the Mark Morris Dance Group. He's been playing continuo for the Boston Early Music Festival's opera productions since 2013. David is a member of Quicksilver, the Galax Quartet and the Bertamo Trio.

He has produced operas for the Berkeley Early Music Festival and the SFEMS series and has been a guest instructor in early music performance practice at many institutions.

David has been a choral singer and director for decades, working with many local church-affiliated and amateur choirs around the Bay Area, and as a Voices-and-Viols director at many VdGSA workshops and Conclaves.



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

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. In addition, we have 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.

Help us spread the word to local singers! We are contacting singers from past years as well as recruiting from 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. 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.)

Registering for our PlayDay

Deadline: NOON, WEDNESDAY, April 8

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 is moving to UC Santa Barbara!

August 9-15, 2026 (no date change)

As we mentioned in our March issue, we were notified recently that we would no longer be able to use the CalPoly facilities for Viols West since they have changed from a quarter system to a semester system, meaning that dorm housing is no longer available for our scheduled August 9-15 dates.

While we are sad to leave CalPoly, we're pleased to announce that we've secured a very nice alternative on the same dates – at the San Joaquin Village apartment complex at beautiful UC Santa Barbara.

For a description of the apartment set-up see the link below. (Note: we will have a catered meal service, not at the dining commons. Or you can choose to make your own meals in your apartment kitchen.) And yes, there's a pool!

<https://conferences.ucsb.edu/accommodations/visitors/campus-accommodations-sjv>

Thanks to our ViolsWest administrator Melita Denny for spear-heading the work to make this happen!

Fun note from Julie Jeffrey:

Before our time at Cal Poly, Viols West was in Santa Barbara for years – not at the UC campus, but in monasteries up in the hills, where I first attended as a student in 1978 – my first ever viol workshop!

PlayDay SNAX

This month those with **last names H to N** 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.

And of course there's scenic Santa Barbara to explore: <https://santabarbaraca.com/>



Directors

Rosamund Morley & Lawrence Lipnik

Faculty

Malachai Bandy

Eva Lymenstull

Joanna Blendulf

Caroline Nicolas

Julie Jeffrey

Elisabeth Reed

Rosamund Morley

Shanon Zusman

Lawrence Lipnik

Watch for more details on our website – www.ViolsWest.org

Or contact Melita Denny at violswestworkshop@gmail.com

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 Halifax & Jeffrey**

**The King's Chamber:
French Music by Sainte-Colombe, Marais,
de Visée, and more**

Peter Hallifax, Julie Jeffrey, viols
with John Lenti, theorbo

Fri., April 10, Berkeley

6:30 PM, St. Mary Magdalen Parish Hall

Marin Marais and Robert de Visée both spent their lives in the service of King Louis XIV (and his successors), creating – together with François Couperin – the distinctive style of chamber music that became popular in Paris until the revolution.

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.

For more info: <https://barefootchamberconcerts.com>

BFX • June 6 - 14

Berkeley Festival & Exhibition

Subscriptions are now available

- Golden Tickets and Mix & Match options.
- Twenty-one MainStage concerts, special events, a 3-day exhibition, community workshops and dozens of Fringe concerts
- The MainStage concerts will continue to be pay-what-you-can; patrons are encouraged to “pay it forward.”

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

**Voices of Music
presents**

The Secret Garden

Medieval, renaissance,
baroque music and the world
premiere of a new work.

Molly Netter, soprano

with

Cheryl Ann Fulton, harps

Shira Kammen, strings

Peter Maund, percussion

Hanneke van Proosdij, recorders & harpsichord

Elisabeth Reed, viols

David Tayler, lauta, lute & archlute



Fri., Apr. 17, Palo Alto

7:00 PM, First Congregational Church of Palo Alto

Sat., Apr. 18, San Francisco

7:30 PM, Old First Presbyterian Church

Sun. Apr. 19, Berkeley

7:30 PM, First Congregational Church

Secret gardens, often enclosed and carefully designed, were built for relaxation and escape from urban life and reflected a rich tapestry of horticultural practices and cultural influences through the ages.

For tickets:

<https://voicesofmusic.org/Concerts.html>

**Viol Petting Zoo locale needed
during BFX!**

Erik Andersen writes—

Last June in the Boston Early Music Festival I ran the “Gamba Gamut” as a viol petting zoo plus concert at a local library.

The instrument petting zoo portion went very well, and I wanted to try to put one on in Berkeley this year around the BFX.

I’m looking for a Berkeley venue – do you have venue ideas?

Can you help? Contact Erik at

erik.christian.andersen@gmail.com

Conclave Registration is open!

Sign up for VdGSA's 64th Conclave—

July 26- August 2, 2026

Radford University in Radford, VA

Sarah Mead, Music Director

We are excited to be at a new location this summer – Radford University – a beautiful campus located in Radford, Virginia, about a 45-minute drive from the Roanoke, VA airport, and easily accessible from Route I-81.

Before you register, check out the [Conclave Webpage](#) on the VdGSA website, where you'll find information about this summer's workshop.

To help make Conclave more affordable, our Work-Study program offers **scholarships** to cover tuition, and we have a limited number of housing subsidies as well.

NOTE: This year we will not be offering an Online Conclave option. Instead, **we will livestream our special events including our Monday night lecture, and Thursday and Friday nights' concerts.** This will be made available to the public; you do not need to register to view the livestream.

Don't forget!

June 13 – Pacifica's BASH

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...

Early Music Open Mic Night

Friday April 17, El Cerrito

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

This friendly event is your chance 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!

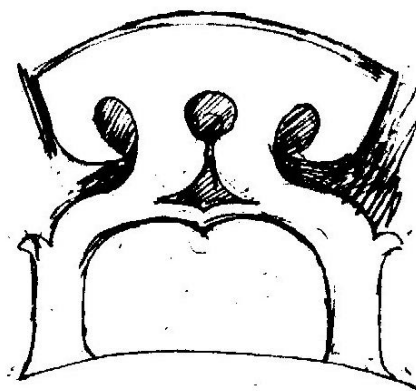
Join us for light snax and wine!

- Five time slots available (max 15 minutes)
- 4 music stands are available; BYO stand light.

Donations by performers and audience are welcome to help cover the venue cost.

Next month: Friday May 25

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



Viol playing @ BFX?

Friends: I'd like to publish a listing of any Berkeley Festival concerts involving viols – either as the main focus or as accompaniment.

Please send me info by April 20 so I can include it in our GambaNews for May and June.

Thanks, Sue

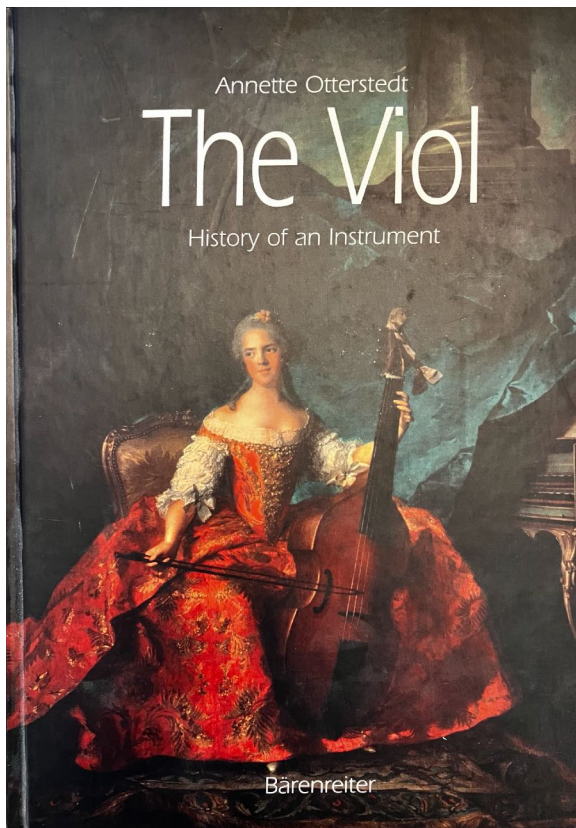
scjones360@gmail.com

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*



By Annette Otterstedt • Bärenreiter, publ.

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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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