

**Join us at our PlayDay
with coach Farley Pearce**

Sat., May 9

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

Farley Pearce freelances in the San Francisco Bay Area, performing on viols, contrabass, and cellos. He has played with the baroque orchestras in San Francisco, Vancouver, Seattle, and Los Angeles as well as many local groups such as Marin Baroque, California Bach Society, and the San Francisco Bach Choir. On violone and viols he has recorded many YouTube videos for Voices of Music and Voice of the Viol.

For years he has been a regular player with the Oakland and Modesto symphony orchestras, but also enjoys playing weddings at City Hall and recitals for the Noontime concerts at Old St. Mary's. Recent projects include working towards recording late classical bass concertos by Johann Matthias Sperger.



Our Program—

Separated by half a century, the chanson by Jean de Castro and the madrigal by Heinrich Schütz share a common image: the power of a lady's hair.

Jean de Castro (ca. 1541 - ca. 1600) used sections from two popular poems by leading French poet Pierre de Ronsard for his piece "Mon dieu." His setting is among the most attractive and varied of other works composed on this poem, and captures Ronsard's new vernacular poetic style.

Heinrich Schütz (1585-1672) draws on the Song of Solomon for his piece "Ego dormio," published in 1625, which weaves together the German polyphonic style with the Italian choral style Schütz learned in Venice from Gabrieli, creating a work of almost symphonic sumptuousness.

Thanks to Michael and Edith Kimbell who prepared all our music parts!

Registering for our PlayDay

Deadline: NOON, WEDNESDAY, May 6

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 brochure online!

Registration opening **VERY SOON**
August 9-15, 2026
at UC Santa Barbara

Software guru Carol Deihl has worked hard to update her registration system for our new Viols West venue at the San Joaquin Village apartment complex of beautiful UC Santa Barbara, on the edge of Goleta, CA, along the Pacific Ocean in the foothills of the Santa Ynez Mountains, north of Los Angeles! (Whew!)

Directors Ros Morley & Lawrence Lipnik

Faculty

Malachai Bandy, Joanna Blendulf, Julie Jeffrey, Lawrence Lipnik, Eva Lymenstull, Rosamund Morley, Caroline Nicolas, Elisabeth Reed, Shanon Zusman

Our brochure including workshop information, list of class offerings, transportation info and faculty bios is [HERE](#).

Questions? Contact Melita Denny at violswestworkshop@gmail.com



- **Discounts to SFEMS members**
- **Early Bird discounts**

Baroque Workshop

July 6-12

BritBachs!

A Summer Baroque Adventure Across the Pond

Director: Lindsey Strand-Polyak

Gamba & cello faculty: Erik Andersen

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

Med/Ren Workshop

July 12-18

Songs of Love and War

Director: Adam Knight Gilbert

Viol faculty: David Morris & Malachai Bandy

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

IMPORTANT DATES

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Last date for Early Bird prices	May 31
Last date to register	July 1
Last date to Cancel with full refund	June 1
Cancel with half refund	June 2 through July 1
Cancel with no refund	No refunds after July 1
Full payment must be received by	July 5
See you at Viols West!	August 9 - 15, 2026

PlayDay SNAX

This month those with **last names O to Z** 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.

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!

BFX • June 6 - 14

Berkeley Festival & Exhibition

- Twenty-one MainStage concerts, special events, a 3-day exhibition, community workshops and dozens of Fringe concerts

For more info: <https://www.berkeleyfestival.org/>

FRINGE CONCERTS w/ Viols

Alphabet Baroque Cookies!

Tues., June 9, 11 AM

Berkeley Piano Club, Berkeley

- Maria Caswell, violin and tenor viol
- Judiyaba, treble viol
- Gwyneth Davis, bass viol
- Phebe Craig, harpsichord

The Alphabet Baroque Club is back with a concert of sweet and tasty music, accompanied by sweet and tasty homemade cookies! Our program is a confection of lovely pieces, including lesser known composers such as Wm. Young, Dietrich Becker and Solomon Eccles, as well as crowd favorites Henry Purcell, Matthew Locke and John Blow.

Bring a dozen homemade cookies to share and get in free! Or, just Pay-What-You-Can!

Hallifax & Jeffrey

Tues., June 9, 12 PM

St. Mary Magdalen Church, Berkeley

- Peter Hallifax & Julie Jeffrey, viols
- Andrew Canepa, guest organist

Music by William Lawes and Christopher Simpson. Rarely heard Fantasie-Suites by Lawes, Divisions on Ground Basses by Simpson.

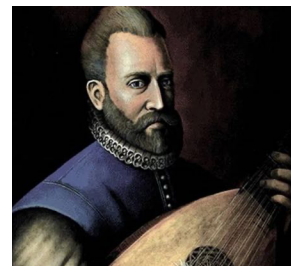
\$20 at the door (no-one turned away for lack of funds). The concert will be about 45 min.

BFX MAIN STAGE CONCERT

Voice of the Viol— Dowland 400

Tues., June 9, 7:30 PM

First Congregational Church, Berkeley



While no one captured melancholy in quite the same way as John Dowland—he himself wrote a piece called "Semper Dowland, semper dolens" (always Dowland, always sorrowful)—his oeuvre explored the highs of the human condition as well.

In this celebration of the 400th anniversary of Dowland's death, Voice of the Viol (a project of the Bay Area's beloved Voices of Music featuring voice, lute and a viol consort) presents an intimate survey of the intricate and ever-compelling work of the master of grief.

- Danielle Reutter-Harrah, soprano
- David Tayler & Hanneke van Proosdij, directors
- Elisabeth Reed, Voice of the Viol director

Tickets: <https://sfems.app.getcuebox.com/o/Q84D69WB/shows/I7BL5DQ4>

Ensemble Garibaldi

16-18th c. Music for viols & theorbo

Sat., June 6, 1:30 PM

Berkeley Piano Club, Berkeley

- Jason Schulterbrandt & Branson Stephens, bass viols
- Kevin Kishimoto, theorbo

Works by Marin Marais, St. Colombe, Diego Ortiz, Robert de Visée, and Michel Corrette. Pieces for the complete trio, a beautiful solo theorbo collection and a lush viol duet.

Recommended donation: \$15

Coming soon—

June 13 – Pacifica’s BASH

We will be celebrating the end of our PlayDay season with a party/potluck/play-in/recital.

Come with your viol to perform a prepared piece as a solo or with a group. Send info about your group and your music to Allison Balberg at allisonbalberg@gmail.com.

OR — just come to join a group sight-reading session afterwards.

For the last 2 years we’ve had a **Sheet Music give-away**; this year we have *some* music, but would **welcome more donations**. If you have some music you no longer want, bring it so it can find a new home!

Volunteers needed:

- Set up help
- Clean up help
- Large tablecloths
- Plates, utensils, napkins, cups,

If you can help, please email Allison: allisonbalberg@gmail.com.

Thank you!

Last of the season:

Early Music Open Mic Night

Friday, May 15, El Cerrito

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

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)
- Four music stands available; BYO stand light.

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

Then...summer break – see you in August!

\$\$\$ GRANTS \$\$\$

Pacifica chapter grants for Viols West and Conclave

Look for an email soon to Pacifica members about these!

VdGSA grants for Conclave

Pacifica Viola da Gamba Society members planning to attend Conclave this year (in Radford, Virginia) may apply for part of VdGSA’s Chapter Grant that they offer each year. The total available is \$300 and it can go to one person or be split by two.

Please contact Ellen Fisher for more info: erfisher@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 in Radford, Virginia, about a 45-minute drive from the Roanoke, VA airport.

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 don’t need to register to view the livestream.**

Tributes to Lynn Lipetsky

Lynn, who was an active member of our Pacifica chapter for years, passed away early this spring; a celebration of her life was held on April 25 at her home.



We asked her viol friends for some memories—

From Alice Benedict—

It was such a delight to get to know Lynn Lipetsky after she moved from southern California to the Purple Door, her new home in El Cerrito. From the moment she moved in, she made it a hub for gatherings of musicians of all levels. All were welcome. As a recorder and viol player, she was a collaborator who brought a sense of lightness to any group. Her weekly Purple Door Viol Collective quickly became a constant in my life. You didn't know who would be there, or what music would be brought out, but you did know it would be fun.

And likely you'd hear about Lynn's many other projects and activities – travels with her beloved family, how the backyard bantam hens were doing, paintings from her latest watercolor class, hiking adventures, and more. Above it all, her great talent for enjoying what life had to offer.



From Ellen Fisher—

I first met Lynn at Viols West. She lived in Alpine (east of San Diego) then. When she saw on my name tag that I was from El Cerrito (where we lived then), she said she was coming there to visit her daughter who was a real estate agent. We had had a fantastic agent for a house we bought and sold in Kensington and another house we bought in El Cerrito (and later sold), and it turned out our fantastic agent was Lynn's daughter!

After her husband died, her daughter found a house for her, so Lynn moved to El Cerrito and we started playing together every week, often with Helen Tyrrell, Alice Benedict, Anita Barrows, Betsy St. Aubin, Sally Blaker, and Heather Willson, as schedules allowed. We always played at her house, and she labeled the music that was good for our group with the name "The Purple Door," to match her entrance. We called our group by that name.

Lynn was gentle, kind, generous, patient, knowledgeable about viols, and fun to play with. As the years went on, though, she became more and more frustrated with her hearing loss and finally just found learning Spanish and how to paint to be more fun than not hearing well enough to play. But while we played with her, she shared with us her sweet nature, fresh eggs from the hens she kept in her back yard, crackers & cheese or cookies and tea when we had time after playing, and the use of her extensive music library, most of which I bought after she stopped playing.

She also served as Pacifica's rental coordinator prior to Carolyn d'Almeida. And she participated in an ironman event in her early 80s (before she moved to El Cerrito) if my memory is right, though it may have been modified for seniors. She continued to swim at the El Cerrito Community Center, which is close to her house, for quite a while after she stopped playing viols. Sally Blaker was a frequent visitor until she moved to North Carolina.

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*

**BE AN ANGEL – donate to
Pacifica’s scholarship fund**



Pacifica Viola da Gamba Society

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patricia@focusedfinances.com

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allisonbalberg@gmail.com

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branson.c.stephens@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
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