



CONTRA COSTA
BRANCH

December 2023 Newsletter



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Dear Members,

Congratulations to Nadia and Cynthia for a successful and well-organized Sonata Contest. It was a smooth-running day. Sonata Contest has been an institution in CCMTAC for nearly 30 years. I am sincerely appreciative of this dynamic duo and their 'side-kick' Ethan for taking charge of this annual event.

Please read below about the day and important information about Baroque Festival.

In this holiday season, may you be surrounded by the warmth of family and friends and enjoy the lights of the season.

Best, Norma





PROGRAMS

Thursday, January 18, 2024.

Fellowship Hall, OCC

Baroque Dances with Marina Nikiforov

A new date has been scheduled for the Baroque Dances and it will be on Thursday, January 18, 2024 at OCC. We will look forward to getting our toes tapping just in time for the Baroque Festival!

In teaching our students pieces with titles such as Minuet, Contradance, Allemande, Courante, Bourrée, Waltz, etc. have you ever wished you knew how to do the dance or knew more about the history of these dances?

Marina Nikiforov has been a music teacher and a dance enthusiast for over twenty years. She has been giving workshops and conducting cultural events that inspire audiences to move with music in a rhythmical and harmonious way known as dance! Marina is looking forward to sharing her passion for Historical Dance at this presentation.

Thursday, February 29, 2024 @ 10:00 a.m.

Fellowship Hall, OCC

BENITA ROSE, Concert pianist/organist, teacher

We are fortunate to have pianist, Benita Rose, come and give a lecture recital on the music of South American composer M. Fernandez-Barrero. Ms. Rose is an accomplished pianist who has toured extensively and also happens to be a personal friend of our very own Norma Bristol!

Sunday, April 14, 2024

Piano Masterclass with Natuski Fukasawa

Sunday, April 14, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. Location to be determined. Open to CM levels 6 and above



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MONTHLY RECITALS

There will be no Monthly Recital in December. The next Monthly Recitals are scheduled for January 7, February 4, March 3, April 7, and May 5.

Thank you, Anne Russell and Sara Harris, co-chair.

TEACHER PERFORMANCE and SHARING WORKSHOP

No meeting for Teachers' Performance in December. Plan on January 17.

Barbara Anderson

SONATA CONTEST

Thank you to all teachers and students who participated in this year's Sonata Contest. We had a total of 156 students participate from 33 different studios. There were 20 First Place winners, 20 Second Place winners, 18 Third Place winners, and 47 Honorable Mentions for a total of 105 prizes given out.

Congratulations to all participants!!!

It has come to our attention that there was some inappropriate conduct between teachers and judges. Please bear in mind, and for the spirit of a competition, judges should not be made aware which students belong to which teachers. This creates a conflict of interest and in turn creates an unfair environment.

Any contact between teachers and judges which includes discussing students' performances, asking judges to change their decision, or criticizing their decisions to their face is unethical. Additionally, it is damaging to our reputation as a branch.

A new rule will henceforth be implemented: Any teacher found tampering with teacher/student anonymity or having any contact with the judges regarding students' performances or competition results will be banned from further participation in the Sonata Contest.

Nadia Koliha, Cynthia Ley -Co-chairs



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BAROQUE FESTIVAL

Registration for our annual Baroque Festival is now open and will close on December 20th. The Festival will take place on January 26-27th, 2024 with recitals happening on Friday evening, Saturday morning and Saturday afternoon.

Event and registration details can be found on the flyer located on the CCMTAC website under Branch Events then Baroque Festival.

If you need a refresher on signing up your students, there is also a Step By Step Instruction page located next to the flyer. Students may perform any Baroque piece of their choice following the same guidelines used for Certificate of Merit. Our slate of evaluators this year are Richard Cionco, Natsuki Fukasawa, JungHae Kim, Victoria Neve, Omri Shimron and Kavita Baliga.

Baroque Festival Committee: Jeanette Dreifuerst, Patti Lim, Angela Prickett, Kirsten West and Amy Zheng.

HONOR OUR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS
TBA in the new year.

MSSL UPDATE



Hello MTAC!

We would like to thank all of our volunteers who helped sell books at the book sale earlier this month. We were selling used piano and music books and we made over one hundred dollars! We will be using this money to fund our organization. Also, we would like to thank our performers for joining us at The Reutlinger Senior Home at the Schiff Center for Life on November 26th. It was a very successful performance, including many different piano players, the cello, the violin, and even a flute! We also had a variety of music, including classical music, fast music, and even a Beatles song! The senior citizens seemed to enjoy the variety of music. We are still accepting new members and if you are interested you can sign up through our website!



NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Would you like to augment your teaching income? Come join our music school!

Lynda McManus Piano Company in San Ramon has an opening for a part time piano instructor and is currently seeking to fill the position which would start January 2024.

Are you a music instructor looking to pick up a few hours weekly in your teaching schedule? Or, have you recently downsized your private music studio, maybe you're partially retired but are interested in pursuing a path that includes teaching alongside other instructors in a full service music school? If so, I'd love to talk with you! We are a great group of professional teachers with award winning students. Please feel free to contact me with any questions. Best number: 925-998-4707 Call or Text

***Thank you!
Lynda McManus***



**Sonor Music School, located in Lafayette, CA, is holding their
Annual Themed Solo Festival in November and their
Piano Competition in January.**

We would love to showcase your talented students' hard work and share their music by encouraging them to perform as much as possible!



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Sonor Music and Ayush Bolor would like to ask for your help in spreading the news about our events. Posters for each event can be found online. Details are below to share them with your students. Thank you!!

1. Annual Themed Solo Festival

1. About: Welcome to Sonor Music School's annual themed music festival! This year's theme is "The Sound of Nature", highlighting pieces that let the audience hear the music in flora and fauna. We invite participants of all levels and talents to join us in this celebration of music and talent. The themed music festival offers young musicians a platform to perform and experience friendly competition, developing confidence in their potential. Our aim is to find performers with a strong artistic personality and stage presence. The emphasis is therefore not on the purely technical aspect of the performance, but also on the artistic charisma of the performer.
2. Online and In-person options. ONLINE: November 10th, 2023 and IN-PERSON: November 18th, 2023 at Creekside Commons, Lafayette, CA
3. Open to all levels, no age limit; 6 levels
All participants will receive judges' comments, certificates and a medal. 3 Winners for each level!

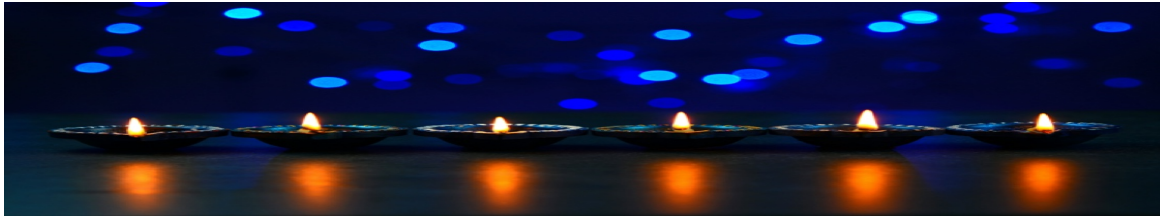
2. Sonor Piano Competition

1. About: Welcome to Sonor Music School's first-ever Piano Competition! We aim to promote Mongolian Classical Piano Music through young talented musicians who can explore new sounds, experience the power of creativity, and develop their musical diversity and versatility through their performances. Aside from just competing, we hope our participants use this opportunity to challenge themselves and grow further as musicians and artists. It is a journey of dedication, practice, and self-discovery. We encourage those residing in the Bay Area to attend the in-person competition.
2. 2 platforms. ONLINE: January 20th, 2024 and IN-PERSON: January 27th, 2024 at Creekside Commons, Lafayette, CA
3. Open to all levels, ages 5-18 and 6 levels
4. Awards: 36 laureates, \$5000 monetary prizes in total and winners concert~

For more information about us and/or our events, feel free to visit our [website](#). We are also on Facebook: Sonor Music School and Instagram @sonormusicschool.

Thank you for your support! I hope to hear back from you soon.

Best Regards, Bolor



Peninsula Symphony is proud to announce the 2024 Marilyn Mindell Piano Competition.

Featuring skilled performances by the Bay Area's finest young pianists, many of our award recipients have continued their musical pursuits in prestigious conservatories and have also been awarded top prizes in major national and international competitions. The competition will take place in the **Campbell Recital Hall in the Braun Music Center at Stanford University**, and will be open for the public to spectate for free.

The first prize winner of the Senior Level will receive \$1000 and a solo performance with the Peninsula Symphony. Three winners will be chosen in the Junior Level, each receiving \$100 as well as a solo performance at the Peninsula Symphony's Family Concert on **April 7, 2024**.

The Junior and Senior Level competitions are open to participation by young pianists residing in the Santa Clara, San Mateo, San Francisco, Contra Costa and Alameda Counties. The application forms and competition guidelines for both the Senior and Junior Levels can be found at

<https://peninsulasymphony.org/marilyn-mindell-piano-competition>

Please contact Heidi Hau at mmpc@peninsulasymphony.org or Diego Ramil at mmpcassistant@gmail.com with any questions. We look forward to having many of your students perform in the upcoming Marilyn Mindell Piano Competition!



**STILL AVAILABLE GREAT
PIANO OFFER FOR STUDENTS
OR TEACHERS!!!
PASS IT ON.**

Need foster home or buyer for Baldwin baby grand!

Our mother Doreen MacDonald was President of CCMTAC in 1979. She passed in 2006 and left us her beloved 1979 BALDWIN 5' 2" baby grand. We recently had it appraised and it was found to be in excellent condition. If you or any of your students are interested, please contact Cheryl at: cheryl@cmacd.com or 510-421-0102. The piano is currently in East Lafayette and needs to be moved in the next month or so. Picture available upon request.

That's All Folks!!