



CONTRA COSTA
BRANCH



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February Newsletter 2023



Dear Members,

The picture above is a happy accident. On the right is the picture into the lovely sanctuary of OCC during the Baroque Festival. On the left, somehow, I flipped the picture, resulting in a book-matched picture of the Baroque Festival. Interesting.

We have much going on behind the scenes at this time of the year. Teachers and students are in preparation for CM exams. The state is busy working on the exams, the 2024 hybrid exams and the upcoming State Festival. Decisions are being made for the 2023 Sonata Contest. The Board has been working on the acquisition of a second piano for OCC for which we have many people to thank. Our MSSL students are continuing to work on selling our boxes of music. (picture of Peter, MSSL president, below).

We must hold our Board elections this May for the new term 2023-2025. Now is the time to contact me if you are interested in being on the Board. New/newish members, it's YOUR time. Come get involved with a great group of action-oriented teachers. In the words of Scoup Nisker, "If you don't like the news, go out and make some of your own!!" See what you could do for next term below.

Information on CCMTAC's piano(s):

- 1.) Finally, the broken ivory on the Steinway piano in OCC sanctuary will be repaired. It requires removal of the key assembly to glue and clamp the replacement ivory. You should see the repaired and cleaned result by the March Monthly Recital.*



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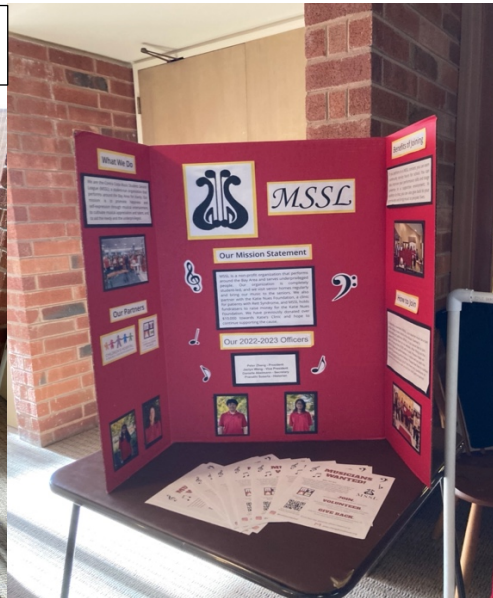
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2.) We are actively working on acquisition of a second piano for OCC. If this happens, you will see the following: an increase in fees to repay money we must borrow; we will ask your help for donations from parents; we will hold recitals as fund-raisers. What is the benefit in a second piano to our members? We will no longer have rental charges for Sonata Contest and Baroque Festivals AND there will be twice the amount of recital space for studio recitals at OCC. Maybe, we will have concrete news on this by the March newsletter.

A few things from the State:

- 1.) As you know, our 2023 Convention is in Santa Clara this year from June 30th to July 3rd. Volunteers are needed from the Northern California branches. You can have your convention fees paid for through volunteer hours in the following way: Shifts for volunteers are 2 hours long. If a volunteer has two shifts, for a total of 4 hours, they will earn a free Convention day of their choosing. Should a volunteer take on four shifts, for a total of 8 hours, they will earn full Convention.
- 2.) Look for the new syllabus coming out in 2024. It will be free and you will find it on the State website.
- 3.) Good news for composers: A scholarship is being set up for composers. Keep your eye out for this in future State communications.

MSSL music sale at Orinda Community Church



Warmly, Norma

MEETINGS, PROGRAMS AND RECITALS

GENERAL MEETINGS:

Thursday May 18, 2023, we will have a brief business meeting, which will include the vote for the next CCMTAC board, roll out of 2023 Sonata Contest then following we will have some social time and box lunch.



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FROM OUR PROGRAMS DIRECTORS:

Thank you everyone to those who came to our last program event with Dr. Betty Woo! Hopefully you all had a fun time learning about pieces composed by ethnic minorities in the US.

The next and final program we have for this year will be on March 16, 2023 at 10 AM on Zoom. Our guest lecturer will be Grant Kondo from the Santa Clara Branch who will discuss the differences between various music exams such as RCM, ABRSM, and CM.

We are aware that some teachers have been wanting to leave the CM program for other exams to which hopefully this informational program would help before teachers decide on doing. A Zoom RSVP link will be sent out closer to the time of the event so please look out for that in March.

Cynthia Ley and Amy Zheng
Co-Program Directors

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Good luck to teachers and students alike!! If you don't know this, you can upload any repertoire performance files now. Check the website for the opening for technical exercises, sightreading and theory test. The deadline for Contra Costa Branch is March 7 for ALL uploads.

MONTHLY STUDENT RECITALS

The next Monthly Recital will be held on Sunday February 5 at 2 PM. Registrations are closed. Waiver signature deadline is Friday, February 3rd at 10 PM. Any registered student who does not have the waiver signed by this deadline will not be allowed to perform in the recital.

As you know, student waiver forms are a requirement for participation in all events held by CCMTAC.

To avoid undue stress and paperwork in running the monthly recitals, we have instituted a NEW POLICY: **Electronic signatures are mandatory to be signed by the Friday @ 10:00PM, 2 days before the recital. If this is not completed, the student will not be allowed to play in the Recital. There will be no signing of waiver forms at the recitals.**

We strongly recommend the wearing of masks during the recitals as well as the use of hand sanitizer. Students may remove their mask during the performance. We are continuing to clean the keys between performances to reduce any chance of transmission of colds or flu or you-know-what.

Upcoming Monthly Recital Dates: 3/5/23, 4/2/23, and 5/7/23 (student & adult).

Anne Russell, Recital Chair

TEACHERS' PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP

The February meeting for the Teachers' Performance /workshop is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 9 at 10:00 a.m.

Please let me know if you plan to attend.

Barbara Anderson

CONTESTS AND FESTIVALS

BAROQUE FESTIVAL:

CCMTAC's 24th Baroque Festival was successfully held as a dual venue event at Orinda Community Church and Grace Presbyterian Church this past weekend on January 27-28. A total of 167 students from 30 studios registered for the event. Students performed in a total of 10 recitals and each received evaluations from three judges who included Jed Gallant, Olya Katsman, Jung Hae Kim, Elizabeth Swarthout, Kavita Baliga, and William Wellborn. The Committee wishes to thank Lino Rivera who graciously stepped in at the eleventh hour to judge OCC's Friday evening recital when one of the judges had an emergency cancelation.

The Committee also wishes to extend heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers and teachers who helped with various tasks. Your help and support make this event possible!

The Baroque Festival Committee

Jeanette Dreifuerst, Patti Lim, Angela Prickett, Kirsten West, & Amy Zheng





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SONATA CONTEST:

Information will be available in May.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REGARDING THE 2023-2025 BOARD:

The 2021-2023 Board is ending in July 2023 and a new board must be elected. It is time for YOU to step up. Yes, it takes some time and attention AND it adds a new dimension to your professional life.

Open Offices are:

President or Co-President with Norma Bristol

Programs Coordinator: decide the 3 programs for the next year

(Possible) Teacher Performance Coordinator: hold workshop in your home, less than 8 people attend.

(Possible) Membership secretary: a great entry level position

Contact Norma to be on the nominating committee or find out about the offices

ROSSMOOR CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

Carol Greenley would like to draw your attention to the Rossmoor Chamber Music Society chamber music series. The last concert featured the Horszowski Trio who wowed the audience to a standing ovation. For the 2023-2024 season, there will be six programs and if you buy a season ticket (on sale starting in March), the 6th program is free. For information see <https://rossmoorchambermusic.org/>

BERKELEY PIANO CLUB
announces
The 2023 Dorothy Van Waynen
Competition for Piano
\$3500 First Prize
\$2500 Second Prize
\$1000 Doris Marliave Award
and
A Recital at Berkeley Piano Club

General Requirements:

Age: Age 17-25 as of April 1, 2023

Residence: Resident of or attending school in one of the following counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara

Repertoire: Candidates will perform one work selected from **EACH** of the following periods:
1) Baroque OR Classical 2) Romantic OR Impressionistic, AND
3) 21st Century/Contemporary, 20th Century, OR Own Composition
(Repertoire should be chosen to demonstrate three distinct styles and periods.)

Fee: \$50 - nonrefundable.

Deadline: Applications must be submitted by mail or delivery service and be post-marked no later than **MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2023**. Berkeley Piano Club reserves the right to limit the number of entrants to a total of 20. Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Auditions: Saturday, April 1 (Preliminaries) and Sunday, April 2, 2023 (Finals) at Berkeley Piano Club, 2724 Haste St., Berkeley

Recital: Sunday, May 7, 2023, at 2:30 pm at Berkeley Piano Club.

Complete competition rules and applications: berkeleypianoclub.org or contact
Competition Coordinator
vanwaynen@comcast.net
(510) 893-7266 or (650) 787-1044

Current CCMTAC COVID policy: Everywhere, mask mandates are lightening up. OCC does not have any mask mandate but recommends the use of them indoors. CCMTAC recommends masking indoors and requires all students to use the provided hand sanitizer immediately prior to playing piano. Students may unmask for the duration of their performance. Additionally, each CCMTAC event may vary requirements depending on the wishes/needs of the organizer or presenter. Please ask parents to comply with these requirements. Thank you.