



Hurray, California is having
a real winter!



Chuckle from Friday Night @ 7:30 Baroque Festival

Norma asks, "What time period is the Baroque era?"
Student answer, "7:30 to 8:45. Maybe 8:50."
(and Jim Gardner pointed out, "And he would be right!")

Norma asks, "Does anyone know what year Bach was born?"
Answer (after pondering), "1975?"
Norma, "1975, that was a long time ago wasn't it."
Same student, "Yea!"

BAROQUE Festival: a tremendous success!



The Baroque Festival took place January 27-27 at Orinda Community Church. There were 143 students participating from 31 studios. Six evaluators judged piano and voice students in 10 recitals. Out of all awards given, 28% were plaques, 39% were blue ribbons, and 33% were red ribbons. Congratulations to all of the students who challenged themselves to prepare for Baroque Festival and share their musicianship with a larger audience. Thank you to all of the teachers and helpers who worked together to make this day a success. We also want to give an appreciative shout-out to Art West (Kirsten West's husband) who single-handedly set up Fellowship Hall with over 50 chairs for audience seating and to the teachers and parents who helped stack the chairs after the final Fellowship Hall Recital!
Baroque Festival Committee

**Programs for you.....
put these in your schedules!**

**FEBRUARY 29, 2024
BENITA ROSE, LECTURE/CONCERT
MUSIC OF
MARCOS FERNANDEZ-BARRERO.
10 A.M. @ OCC**

One of the joys we teachers have is in introducing our students to great composers. But sometimes we may inadvertently give them the impression that all composers are dead. We have the opportunity at our next program to learn more about a living composer, only 39 years old, currently living in Spain. I had not heard of Marcos Fernandez-Barrero before, but in doing a little research I learned that he is an up-and-coming composer with many awards and commissions already accomplished. He was recently



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commissioned by the Barcelona Symphony to write a symphonic work in homage to Leonard Bernstein and you can listen to an interview with Fernandez-Barrero here- <https://www.marcos-fernandez.es/america/>

His music is exciting and rhythmic, using many of the folk idioms of Spain, but still accessible. Our presenter, **Benita Rose**, has been studying his music in depth and will be presenting some of his piano works and making a comparison with more traditional composers, such as Chopin. Programs like these are our continuing education and you won't want to miss out on this opportunity!

Benefit Concert: March 3 & 17 Nadia Koliha & Dale Tsang, Duo Pianists

Please help us raise funds to pay off the loan on our new piano!

As you know, last spring our branch purchased a new piano to be used for the branch students' events (Sonata Contest, Baroque Festival) and teachers' studio recitals. We still have \$12,000. on the loan to pay off. Please come to one of our recitals, bring your friends, students and their families.

Sunday, March 3, 2024, 4 P.M., Berkeley Piano Club, 2724 Haste Street, Berkeley

Sunday, March 17, 2024, 4P.M., Grace Presbyterian Church, 2100 Tice Valley Blvd, Walnut Creek.

This program includes beautiful and fun music for two pianos by Mozart, Rachmaninov, Saint-Saens, Milhaud.

The recitals are presented by Nadia Koliha and Dale Tsang. Flyer follows:

CCMTAC Benefit Concert

"Music for Two Pianos"



Dale Tsang and Nadia Koliha – piano duo

Program Includes:
Two-Piano Music by
Mozart,
Rachmaninov,
Saint-Saens, and
Milhaud

Sunday, March 3, 2024 at 3:30 P.M
Berkeley Piano Club
2724 Haste St.
Berkeley, CA 94704

Sunday, March 17, 2024 at 3:30 P.M
Grace Presbyterian Church
2100 Tice Valley Blvd.
Walnut Creek, CA 94595

Tickets: \$20 adults, \$10 students





CONTRA COSTA
BRANCH

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BRANCH

Sunday, April 14, 2024

Piano Masterclass with Natuski Fukasawa

Sunday, April 14, 2024 at 3:00 PM

Steinway and Sons Gallery, Walnut Creek.

Open to CM Levels 6 and above.

We are fortunate to have Natuski Fukasawa conduct a Masterclass on Sunday, April 14, 2024. Students at CM Level 6 or above may enter and submission of entries will close on March 1, 2024. After registration has closed, all entries will be sent to Ms. Fukasawa and she will determine which pieces will be selected. Teachers will be notified by March 15 whether or not their student has been selected. There will be a \$60 fee for each student selected to participate. Please send your entries listing the student's name, age and the name of the piece to be performed to Kirsten West- 88keywest@gmail.com

Bio for Natsuki Fukasawa:

Steinway Artist, Natsuki Fukasawa, has performed in Australia, Brazil, China, Denmark, England, Hong Kong, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and the U.S. She is a recipient of the Best Chamber Music Recording of the Year from the Danish Music Awards.

Dr. Fukasawa teaches at both University of the Pacific Conservatory of Music and at UC Davis, and serves on the artist faculty for the Talis Festival and Academy in Bosnia and Orfeo Music Festival in the Italian Alps. She also enjoys nurturing young talents in her own private studio, where her students' accomplishments include appearances in the NPR show From the Top, winning top prizes in Chopin National Competition, MTAC Young Artist Guild, Philadelphia International Competition, and go on to pursue music in college.

Honor Our High School Seniors Program

May 5, 2024 @ 7PM

Orinda Community Church Fellowship Hall

Here is the link to the program information and application. Please look over this and send on to your Seniors. <https://forms.gle/DLrS67QtDYmNoTUf6>

May Meeting: Thursday May 16 @ OCC

Social time; lunch; general meeting; roundtable discussion, annual reports. More info to come.



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Monthly Recitals: March 3, April 7 & May 5

The last recital was held on January 7th. In the future, January recitals will be moved to the second or third Sunday of the month to avoid the Holiday Season school vacation schedule.

The next two recitals will be held this Sunday, February 4th at 2 PM and 3:30 PM.

Teachers are now required to help open and close the church, set up, clean up or check in students at recitals. We need to have two volunteer teachers for each recital. Teachers will be contacted for the recitals in March, April and May.

Anne Russell and Sara Harris, Co-Chairs

TEACHER PERFORMANCE and SHARING WORKSHOP

Our next meeting is Thursday, Feb. 8 at 10:00 am at my house. I especially like to invite new members to join us and share music they are using in the studio and for CM. We have time for some discussion before playing.

Barbara Anderson, chair

CONDOLENCES TO THE REEVES FAMILY

Carlene Reeves passed away on Monday, January 29, 2024. She was a long time member of CCMTAC (President - 1995-7) and active in MusicSources in Berkeley and worked along side Loretta Goldberg. As an advocate of Early Music, she was involved in our annual Baroque Festival. Her husband, Bruce, told me she taught at home all but the last 3 of the 67 years of their marriage. He would come home from work to the wonderful sounds of music filling their home.

FREE MUSIC AND INSTRUMENTS FOR THE TAKING: Carlene has an extensive library of Baroque music, Urtexts and sheet music. In the home is also a Cable-Nelson Baby Grand and a PianoForte (replica of a Mozart piano). Per Bruce, both the music and these two instruments are free for the taking/hauling away. Please contact Bruce Reeves at 925-286-0140.



Cynthia Ley speaks about CM:

Greetings everyone,

For those interested in the current state of affairs with in-person CM testing, I figured I would put together a report on what I've noticed as a teacher. First off, these are solely my opinions and do not represent CCMTAC nor MTAC for that matter.

This year, I had 3 CM students who decided to all do the in-person testing. One elected to go to Sacramento, while another two decided on going to San Jose. These are just pertaining to my observations for Sacramento.

First off, I know everyone's main contention point about the in-person CM is the cost. At \$230+, it's pricey. But given what I saw at Sacramento, I can see why it's needed. Assuming MTAC is following their rules of that all workers on site are considered employees (as opposed to volunteers), they had (if I remember correctly), 3 people at the check in desk. They were outside the waiting room in the cold in which, props to them for being able to stand the rain and cold.

Then, students were instructed to join parents and visitors in the waiting room. I know the instruction was given out that students should show up 40 min in person for warm up. However, it was odd that students really only needed to be there at best 20 minutes before. (That said, do show up 40 min prior according to the instructions.) In the waiting room, there were a couple of people attending to the waiting room. One was more acting as a monitor, another to guide checked in students to the locations they needed to be at such as the warm up room, evaluation room, and theory test room.

Now mind you, as a teacher, I couldn't see much. So, a lot of this is based on my student's experience after asking them how it was like. My student assumed that after checking in, she could warm up. However, she found out it was locked. Instead, someone told her that the warmup room would be open to her 10 minutes prior to her exam. (So, I'm not sure why 40 min. prior would be needed). The warmup room apparently did have an actual piano (so not a keyboard + headphones setup). That said, it seems the piano was just an upright piano. Tuning may have been not up to standard as my student said the sound was pretty different than my grand piano. So, this may be the practice pianos that colleges generally have as opposed to tuned baby or full grand pianos.

After she was taken into the evaluation room, apparently there were another two people. One was the evaluator while another was a helper of sorts. I don't know how many rooms were around for evaluations, but given within 20 minutes of time, I had seen 3-4 students return, I'd assume there were minimum 4 rooms functioning at the same time.

After my student returned from her evaluations, the same lady in charge of bringing students to rooms asked for the check in voucher. Apparently, the evaluator had taken it though and forgot to return it. So, my suggestion is to make sure to print 2 copies of the check in voucher in case needed. The lady in charge, however, was able to return to the evaluation room to retrieve my student's check in voucher.

Just before she guided my student to the theory room, she did ask whether my student brought her own headphones (which she did given the instructions). My student said yes, but then it seems that the theory room did have a few headphones of their own. The lady said it was my student's choice whether she wanted to use her own or to borrow one that was available. So I suppose, it's not game over if you forget the headphones, but I'm not sure if this would necessarily translate to other venues. My student also noted that the devices for the test were laptops. (So take that cost into consideration of the current in person cost). I don't know how many laptops were available at one time, but technology isn't cheap.

My student otherwise had a positive experience. She quite enjoyed the process too.

My one complaint I guess (aside from price), is that I do wish there was more signage and notice. Parking instructions were given extremely late for this first batch of Sacramento students. So in turn, when I arrived at the venue, I parked



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at the wrong parking lot/at the wrong side of campus. There were no signs to guide so I just had to figure my way around after texting the mother of my student.

Parking instructions are out already for the San Jose location so if you are going to join your student on site, definitely check that out.

Otherwise, the entire process was pretty smooth for my student.

If anyone has more specific questions pertaining to the in-person CM, feel free to email me at ley100@mail.chapman.edu.

Good luck to all CM students and teachers!

Reminder: Emergency contact for OCC events has reverted back to Anna Gregory. Only contact her cellphone number during your event for emergencies only.

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SONATA CONTEST

The next Sonata Contest is scheduled for November 16, 2024 at Orinda Community Church. Please stay tuned for more information.

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Composition Teaching Studio: Synthase Music
Nate May is the director of this online program. I met him in Oakland over the holidays. That is to say, he is*

Local to the Bay Area, but teaches online.

*Check out his website.
Link: <https://synthase.cc/lessons/>
email: nate@synthase.cc
call/txt: 650-429-8975*

TEACHERS ARE STILL NEEDED IN the LYNDIA MCMANUS PIANO COMPANY. She has an immediate need for a part time piano

instructor. If you are interested or know of a possible candidate, please contact with Lynda at 925-998-4707 Call or Text.

Scholarships are offered through the Contra Costa Performing Arts Society (CCPAS) and the Stone Student Scholarship.

Registration for the **CCPAS High School Voice Scholarship Competition** is due March 17; Winners' Concert on April 27, 2024.

Registration for the **Stone Student Scholarship**, for high school students learning repertoire by CCPAS composers, is due May 31st, video submissions due Aug.1st; Winners' Concert August 17, 2024. We look forward to your participation!

Please forward, post, and help promote these offerings and events.

[Voice Student Scholarship](#)

[Stone Student Scholarship](#)

Thank you. Good Luck!

Dwight Stone

stonemusique.com

[Steinway Piano for Sale:](#)

Owners are moving & need to find a new home for this beautiful, gently used 1996 Steinway M. Contact Vicky at 925-389-6762 for more info. Asking \$20K obo.



That's All Folks!!