



CONTRA COSTA
BRANCH



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January Newsletter 2023

Dear Members,

*As our latest storm is arriving, I am reminded of my favorite Pablo Neruda poem: Horses, 1958
Stay safe and warm and inspired!!*

Horses

*From the window I saw the horses.
I was in Berlin, in winter. The light
Was without light, the sky without sky.*

*The air white like wet bread.
And from my window a vacant arena,
Bitten by the teeth of winter.*

*Suddenly, led by a man,
Ten horses stepped out into the mist.*

*Hardly had they surged forth, like flame,
Than to my eyes they filled the whole world,
Empty till then. Perfect, ablaze,
They were like ten gods with wide pure hoofs,
With manes like a dream of salt.*

*Their rumps were worlds and oranges.
Their color was honey, amber, fire.*

*Their necks were towers
Cut from the stone of pride,
And behind their transparent eyes
Energy raged, like a prisoner.*

*And there, in the silence, in the middle
Of the day, of the dark, slovenly winter,
The intense horses were blood
And rhythm, the animating treasure of life.*

*I looked, I looked and was reborn, without knowing it,
There, was the fountain, the dance of gold, the sky,
The fire that revived in beauty.*

*I have forgotten that dark Berlin winter.
I will not forget the light of the horses.*

Wowsers!! Just like a great piece of music, an entire world of feeling, emotions and imagery exists in these words!!!



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HOLIDAY GET-TOGETHER IN DECEMBER: We missed those of you who could not attend the December Holiday get-together. We had a warm and convivial time at the Concord Hilton. There was ample room to spread out, a yummy country breakfast buffet, some music and a lovely time was had by all. Here are a couple of pictures of the event. We had about 30 attendees.



Teachers of students performing in Monthly Students Recitals. HEADS UP AND PAY ATTENTION!!!



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WAIVER FORMS must be completed by parents online by Friday, January 8th. @ 10 PM. You have received the link (in an email from Anne Russell) to send to your parents. Please do this ASAP. In addition to this, please tell parents to be 10 minutes early for the performance.

Warmly, Norma

MEETINGS, PROGRAMS AND RECITALS

GENERAL MEETINGS:

Thursday January 19, 2023, we will have a brief business meeting prior to our January program with Dr. Betty Woo. Please come to this at OCC sanctuary. Even though we are in another surge of COVID variations, we have plenty of room to socially distance and stay safe.

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.

FROM OUR PROGRAMS DIRECTORS:

I hope everyone had a fun time during the holidays. To start off the new year, on January 19th, following the General Membership meeting at OCC, we will have Dr. Betty Woo as our next presenter. Her lecture recital will be on compositions by minorities in America.

In recent years, there has been a growing interest in composers of the minorities, especially of living composers. The aim of this lecture/recital is to introduce pieces by such composers that can be attractive to students. The degree of difficulty of these pieces range from intermediate to advanced. During the talk and performance, Betty Woo will introduce the composers, background about the pieces and their pedagogical value, and will play the complete pieces and movements. There will be handouts in how to buy the various pieces, the price, the publishers, and online accessibility.

For those who would like some information on Dr. Betty Woo, she is a Hong Kong-born pianist who received her D.M.A. degree in performance practice from Stanford University and the Artist Diploma from the Royal Academy of Music in London. At the start of her performing career, she received a special prize for the best performance of a 20th century piece in the Gina Bachauer International Competition and a special award in the Carnegie Hall International American Music Competition. She has made major solo appearances in London and New York, conducted masterclasses, gave lectures at conservatories in Hong Kong and Shanghai, and appeared in such festivals as The Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Olympics in Washington, Yachats in Oregon and Music in the Mountain in California. In December 2019, she collaborated with other pianists to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Cultural Center in Hong Kong. She has also collaborated with many diverse groups and performers, such as the contemporary music groups Earplay and the San Francisco Contemporary Chamber Players, the dance companies Oakland Ballet, Morphoses/The Wheeldon Company Group and the Paul Taylor Dance Company. A very successful teacher, she was on the faculty of Holy Names University and San Francisco Conservatory for many years.

At present, Ms. Woo teaches piano at UC Berkeley, and frequently gives talks to various music teacher groups in the Bay Area. She is also a board member of the MTAC Alameda County Branch and has judged in numerous competitions, most recently CCMTAC's Sonata Contest.

So please join us after the General Membership meeting to hear some music performed by Dr. Betty Woo.

Cynthia Ley and Amy Zheng
CCMTAC Co-Program Directors



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CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Deadlines are coming up. Check your MTAC portal to find out.

MONTHLY STUDENT RECITALS

The January Student and Adult recitals will be held on January 8, 2023 starting at 2 P.M. at Orinda Community Church. Please arrive 10 minutes early.

Note: Waiver forms must be completed by parents online by 10 PM on Friday January 6, 2023.

If you have a student playing in this recital you should have received an email from Anne Russell with the WAIVER FORM LINK. Pass this one to parents ASAP. Students WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PLAY on January 8.

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

Anne Russell, Recital Chair

TEACHERS' PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP

The next meeting is Thursday, Jan. 12 at my house at 10:00 a.m. Hope to see you then. Barbara

CONTESTS AND FESTIVALS

BAROQUE FESTIVAL:

Thank you to those of you who registered your students for the Baroque Festival! We have 167 participants this year. Teachers with students participating should watch for an email with your students' recital dates, times and **location-remember 2 locations this year** - as well as an email with a link to the **online waiver** for parents to sign.

Please send requests for the teacher work schedule to Kirsten West at 88keywest@gmail.com. If you are unable to work, you must find a parent or high school student to substitute in your place.

Come and hear the students of our wonderful branch perform at the Baroque Festival on January 27th and 28th at Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda and Grace Presbyterian Church, 2100 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. Recital times are Friday evening at 7:00 p.m., Saturday 9:00 and 10:30 a.m., and 1:00 and 2:45 p.m. at both locations. The Baroque Festival Committee, Patti Lim, Angela Prickett, Amy Zheng, Kirsten West and Jeanette Dreifuerst.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

HELP DECIDE THE NEW 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.

Please help by joining the nominating committee or stepping up to the board.

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 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.