



CONTRA COSTA
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March Newsletter 2023

We have our new piano!!! A 2002 Steinway Model B.



On February 7, 2023, a small committee of music teachers/board members went to Alamo to meet a Steinway Model B piano built in 2002. This piano came highly recommended and was the brainchild of Justin Levitt of Steinway.

This 6'11" Steinway grand was just what we have been looking for as a second piano for the Fellowship Hall at Orinda Community Church! Its appraised value is \$87,000.

Retired radiologist, James Branscom (in the picture) sold the piano for \$30,000 to CCMTAC and will receive a tax-deductible donation form for the remaining value from the MTAC Foundation. Thank you, James, for selling us your beloved musical companion!!

Our branch had enough reserves to pay \$15,000 and for the other \$15,000, we have entered into a loan agreement with Jean Koliha, mother-in-law of Nadia Koliha.

By February 14, the piano was in situ in the Fellowship Hall with a quilted, locked cover on it. Thank you, Patti Lim, for your prompt action in ordering the cover.

We will let you know when it is available to be used for recitals. We will hold our May Membership/Sonata Contest roll-out/lunch/election meeting in the fellowship hall and you can see it up on the stage area.

To repay our loan, the following things may occur: raise prices on membership/festival/contest/recital fees, hold fund raising dinners at restaurants, hold benefit concerts and arrange an 88-key fundraiser. Additionally, we'd like to do a "Thank You Justin Recital". Our first fund raiser is already in the works. See below!!!

We have many people to thank for this acquisition: Justin Levitt, James Branscom, Jean Koliha, Nadia & Bruce Koliha-Blank, Patti Lim, Anna Gregory and the Orinda Community Church, and Rhonda Williams and the MTAC Foundation!!

Read about more moving parts below.

Warmly, Norma

OUR FIRST FUNDRAISER:

MENDOCINO FARMS DONATING 20% OF SALES ON MONDAY, MARCH 20!

Teachers, please tell your students, friends, and your own families to join us in supporting Mendocino Farms at City Center in San Ramon by simply ordering lunch or dinner on Monday, March 20.

It will be a Digital Give Back event where all meals ordered online at <https://order.mendocinofarms.com> with our promo code (to come) will benefit CCMTAC. The proceeds for this event will be designated for the loan payback for our beautiful and recently-acquired Steinway B at OCC's Fellowship Hall, funded by a generous interest-free loan by Jean Koliha, mother-in-law of Nadia Blank-Koliha. We need everyone's participation. A \$250 order minimum of is required. Keep an eye out for the MailChimp for the promo code and Please, PLEASE pass the word around!



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Thank You Justin Concert! HUSH HUSH!

Why should we do this? Justin not only steered us to the piano, but also arranged for the appraisal and the cartage for the piano from the Branscom home to OCC. The most meaningful gesture of thanks for his long-standing dedication to our professional group would be to hold a concert of his music sometime in late, late May. Many of us already have his books but if you don't, you can go to his website. I have already chosen my piece to play and I envision **students AND teachers playing** at the recital. If you choose a piece, please email me what you/your student would like to play to ncbristol@gmail.com. I will compile the recital program. Here is the link to Justin's website: <https://www.justinlevitt.com/>. Happy Practicing, Norma

MEETINGS, PROGRAMS AND RECITALS

GENERAL MEETINGS:

Thursday May 18, 2023 @ 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall at OCC: Put this on your calendar and plan to attend!! Our meeting will include the vote for the next CCMTAC board, roll out of 2023 Sonata Contest and introduction to our new piano. Following the meeting, we will share some social time and box lunch.

FROM OUR PROGRAMS DIRECTORS:

Happy Spring but not quite Spring, everyone! Hope everyone's been staying warm despite the cold weather. That said, fear not, our last program of the year doesn't require being outside. Our last program will be on Zoom on March 16 (Thursday) at 10 AM. Our guest lecturer will be Grant Kondo who will be discussing the differences between various music exams such as RCM, ABRSM, and CM. Below is a description of the session followed by a biography of Grant Kondo.

A zoom RSVP link is included here and will also be sent out about a week prior to the event:

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.

When: March 16, 2023 10:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYkf-mhrzssHtAGaF9V6Tnkoo2-VHFdXUIm>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Session Title

Music Testing Overview & Comparisons: MTAC, CAPMT/MTNA, RCM, ABRSM, and more!

Session Description

This session will explore various music testing options for your students. Using MTAC's familiar Certificate of Merit program as a baseline, we will compare and contrast other opportunities offered by MTAC, as well as other organizations such as CAPMT/MTNA, RCM, Piano Guild, NFMC, ABRSM, and others.

Bio

Grant Kondo, NCTM, is a piano teacher passionate about Creativity and Inclusion in music. He is an active speaker and performer in these areas, using various platforms including conventions, meetings, and his YouTube channel to help others explore the powerful combination of musical freedom with improv and arranging in various genres, combined with the physical and musical technique of Western Classical training.

Grant is a former Certificate of Merit Branch Chair for Piano at the Santa Clara Branch, the largest MTAC Branch in California, and has given presentations at the MTAC Convention. He is currently the President for Santa Clara Valley Chapter of California Association of Professional Music Teachers (CAPMT) as well as State VP Student Programs. He is also on various



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committees and task forces for Music Teachers National Association (MTNA). He is an Advanced Certified Teacher in Piano for the Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM). He has had students complete and receive honors for the highest levels of various exam boards, including CM Level 10/Advanced, RCM Level 10, CAPMT Piano Festival Level 10, and ABRSM Grade 8. His students have published sheet music, written tracks for streaming platforms, started non-profit organizations, and more.

Grant received his Master's in Music Education from San Jose State University and Bachelor's in Psychobiology from UCLA. He has also worked in Nara, Japan for three years. He maintains a Creative studio in San Jose and enjoys time with his wife and two young kids.

Disclaimer: While we are aware of the controversies with MTAC and the Certificate of Merit, Grant in no way represents the views of his branch, the Santa Clara County Branch and neither does he represent the MTAC Office. This is an informational session only. The session will be 50 min and any extra time will be left for a Q&A session. Hope to see you all there!

Cynthia Ley and Amy Zheng, CCMTAC Co-Program Directors

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Good luck finishing and uploading the CM elements. The absolute deadline is March 7 at 11:59PM.

MONTHLY STUDENT RECITALS

The next Monthly Recital will be held on Sunday March 5 at 2 PM. Registrations are closed. Waiver signature deadline is Friday, March 3rd at 10 PM. Any registered students who do 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 Friday @ 10:00 PM, 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 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: 4/2/23 and 5/7/23 (student and adult).

Anne Russell, Recital Chair

TEACHERS' PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP – We need a new venue for this workshop.

The March 9 Teacher Performance Workshop is canceled. I am so sorry. My house will be under renovation. There will probably be a different venue for the April meeting. Watch for details in the April Newsletter. Director, Barbara Anderson

HONOR OUR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS RECITAL DATE IS SET

Our HOHSS recital is scheduled for Sunday, May 7, 2023 at 7PM. It will be held at Grace Presbyterian Church in Walnut Creek. Please look for details and registration information in the next newsletter.



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CONTESTS AND FESTIVALS

SONATA CONTEST

The new repertoire list will be released in early May and presented at the May 18th. meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Uncle Wolfgang and Aunt Cécile need you!

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, but it adds a new dimension to your professional life. Please contact Norma Bristol: ncbristol@gmail.com

Upcoming opportunities at the 2023 Convention: Communication from the state:

As you know, our 2023 Convention is in Santa Clara this year from June 30th to July 3rd, and so begins our search for volunteers! 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.

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