



CONTRA COSTA
BRANCH

March 2024 Newsletter



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March Newsletter Updates & corrections:

Teacher Performance and Sharing workshop location listed incorrectly:

Here is the correct location of the March 14 @ 10 a.m. workshop:

Marcia Berryman
1001 Camino Verde Cir
Walnut Creek 94597



YOU MUST come to the March 17 piano duo benefit concert. I went to the March 3rd concert at the beautiful Berkeley Piano Club.

It was a spectacular performance!!

Nadia and Dale, here's all our best for another brilliantly successful concert!!!

Masterclass with Natsuki Fukusawa.

Registration for this has now closed. Teachers will be notified by March 15 of those students who will be playing.

Kirsten West, Program's Director

Monthly Recitals Update:

The Monthly Recital Date for April 7th will be cancelled due to Spring Break. The next and final recital of the Spring Date will be May 5th. Adult students may be included. Registration page will open Monday April 8th. Let's make this day filled with music with hopefully two recitals at 2 and 3:30.

Reminders: Registration will close Friday April 26 at 10 PM and Waiver closes Friday May 3 at 10 PM.



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LAST CHANCE – DON'T MISS THIS ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY!

Walnut Creek Downtown is once again preparing for our Painted Pianos Program. These 9 pianos are located in highly visible downtown locations, will be on-site from April through October. We thought it would be a great idea to provide piano teachers/email address/phone numbers directly on the piano – so that while people are playing them, they have an instant resource for lessons.

For \$50.00 your name/email/phone will be displayed, which helps pay for the materials for this program. We hope that you will consider advertising with us. The payment link

is: <https://heartland.hyfin.app/E97KCPWH7KHE/paymentLink>

For more information, please see our website at: <https://walnutcreekdowntown.com/local-walnut-creek-arts/painted-pianos/>

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me directly.

Thank you for your consideration!

Connie Ammatuna
Accounting/Administrative Assistant
Walnut Creek Downtown

O: 925 933-6778
C: 916-342-6716
www.walnutcreekdowntown.com

Dear Members,

March 3, 2024

I am saddened to inform you of the passing of two of our members. We will miss both of these active, creative, gifted women who gave so much to our branch and the world of music.

CHARLENE REEVES, passed away January 29, 2024 (listed in our February newsletter)

Cards can be sent to:

Bruce Reeves and family
1025 Hacienda Dr.
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

BARBARA BECKER, passed away February 24, 2024. Obituary listed on pg. 3 of this newsletter.

Her daughter, Julie Boe, will inform us of the date of the celebration of life happening sometime in April. We are invited to play music at this memorial service.

Cards can be sent to:

Julie Boe
6222 Merriewood Drive
Oakland, CA 94611



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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 17, 2024, 3:30 P.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
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Tickets: \$20 adults, \$10 students



The program includes the beautiful, exciting and dramatic Piano Suite No.2 by Rachmaninov; a graceful, songful, elegant and virtuosic Piano Sonata by Mozart; Saint-Saens's musical depiction of Death's frenzied dance - Danse Macabre; and one of the most popular pieces by Milhaud - Scaramouche, with its bold polytonal and polyrhythmic clashes and Latin-American rhythms of samba.

Sunday, April 14, 2024

Piano Masterclass with Natsuki 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 Natsuki 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.



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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, 2024/10a.m. @ OCC
Social time; lunch; general meeting; roundtable discussion, annual reports. More info to come.

CONDOLENCES TO THE BECKER FAMILY

The following is the obituary for Barbara Becker:

Barbara Becker (Née Stein) of Walnut Creek, CA, passed away on February 24th 2024. Born in Chicago, Il, Barbara was the daughter of Elva and Alfred Stein, and youngest sister to Georgann Gutman and Rosemary Pokrass. Barbara was an accomplished pianist, teacher, and award-winning, commissioned composer. She was composer-in-residence in 1993 at the University of Wisconsin (Madison) where her musical narrative, "I Am Not Virginia Woolf," was performed by faculty. She had been the on-going composer-in-residence for the Contra Costa Chapter of the Music Teachers' Association of California (MTAC) and for many years was the columnist on improvisation for MTAC's state magazine. Additionally, she was listed in Maurice Hinson's Guide to the Pianist's Repertoire as a composer of 20th and 21st-century piano music. Barbara Becker and music have been synonymous since childhood. By age the four she had spontaneously begun playing by ear and arranging nursery rhymes on the piano. It was discovered she had been born with perfect pitch. Private lessons continued throughout high school and summers were spent at the prestigious National Music Camp in Interlochen, Michigan. Admission to the Conservatory at Oberlin College in Ohio started her college career which ended at Roosevelt University in Chicago. Her teaching career began in the Chicago area public schools and continued in South San Francisco as a music specialist where, in addition to teaching classroom music, she wrote and arranged music for choral groups and created imaginative programs for holidays and school events. Upon moving to the San Francisco East Bay, Barbara saw a need in the community for a preschool music program. She created within Walnut Creek Civic Arts, the Stepping Stones program. It was the first pre-music program of its kind in Northern California, and it had a waiting list of over 500 children. It flourished for 16 years until she left to open her own private piano studio. She continued to maintain an active piano studio in the Walnut Creek area, passing on her love for music and piano to her students. She also continued to give back to the community by hosting workshops on improvisation to teacher groups and performing for clubs, organizations, senior residences and other social events.

Barbara is survived by her daughter Julie Boe (Jonathan), her beloved granddaughter Sarah Boe (with whom she was so proud), nephews Tom (Joan) Gutman, Andrew (Sharon) Pokrass, and niece Ellen Wagner. She was treasured by her family, friends, and students.

Donations in Barbara's memory may be made to Alzheimer's Association, Southern Poverty Law Center, The Simon Wiesenthal Center, or



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a charity of your choosing.

CONDOLENCES TO THE REEVES FAMILY

Carlene Reeves passed away on Monday, January 29, 2024. She was a long time member of CCMTAC (President- 1995-1997) and active in MusicSources in Berkeley and worked alongside 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:

Please look in the February newsletter to read this fascinating account of Cynthia's and her students' experiences at CM.

Orinda Community Church (OCC), our go-to-place for programs and studio recitals.

CCMTAC has an agreement with OCC for recitals for our members. To schedule a recital, contact Anna Gregory, office manager, at office@orindachurch.org; 925-254-4906.

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



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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 LYNDA 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

That's All Folks!!