



CONTRA COSTA
BRANCH

May 2024 Newsletter



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Happy May!!!

We had fun painting the Night Sky piano on April 21. There are 10 painted pianos around Walnut Creek. Take a look when you have a chance. Encourage your students to play a piece in the great outdoors just for the fun of it!!



Night Sky Piano outside of Macy's and Starbuck's



On Thursday, May 16, at 10:00 a.m. at OCC Fellowship Hall, our branch will be privileged to have as our guest, Mr. Jon Nakamatsu. He will be dialoguing with us about competitions, how our students can get the most of them, how to help them process and benefit from "losing" or receiving negative comments, and how we as teachers can better work with both our parents and students.

There will be time after his presentation for Q & A so if you would like to ask a question please submit it to **Kirsten West- 88keywest@gmail.com** - by May 15, and we will have as many questions raised as time allows. More info follows.
Best, Norma

Monthly Recitals: Final Recital for 2023-2024 season

The final Monthly Recital for this season will be presented this Sunday on May 5th at 2 PM. The Monthly Recital schedule for 2024-2025 will be decided in August.

Anne Russell and Sara Harris, Co-Chairs.

Teachers' Performance and Sharing Meeting
The final meeting of the Teachers' Performance and Sharing Workshop for this school year is Thursday, May 9, at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Anne Russell. Her address is 2335 Chesterton Dr., W.C. It will be great to see you all. Please let us know if you plan to attend.

Barbara Anderson, chair

Programs, Kirsten West, Director

1.) MASTERCLASS WITH NATSUKI FUKASAWA



We had a wonderful masterclass at Steinway with Natsuki Fukusawa. We were all enhanced by her energetic and skilled coaching of the students. Thank you, Kirsten, for arranging for Natsuki to come to our branch.

2.) HONOR OUR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Our annual HOHSS celebration will take place on Sunday, May 5, at 7:00 p.m. at Orinda Community Church. We look forward to our Senior's performances this Sunday.

3.) MAY 16 FINAL BRANCH MEETING; Bring your questions for Jon; bring your lunch.

Our final meeting of the year will take place at OCC in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. There will be final reports given and refreshments offered. Bring your lunch to socialize afterward. If that were not enough to entice you to come, we will also have as our guest, **Jon Nakamatsu**, who has graciously agreed to come and speak to our organization about

competitions, student anxiety, parental expectations and other issues surrounding working with students in a competitive environment. You won't want to miss this opportunity to hear Mr. Nakamatsu's perspective on his pathway to a concert career, and his work with teaching students at the SF conservatory and also being a father to a young student taking music lessons. After his presentation there will be time for questions.

SONATA CONTEST

The next Sonata Contest is scheduled for November 16, 2024 at Orinda Community Church. The new repertoire list will be uploaded onto the CCMTAC Sonata Contest page on May 7, 2024. There will be new information and changes to the General Information page. Please make sure to check out these changes once it is uploaded on May 7.

BAROQUE FESTIVAL TBA

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1.) **Teaching Opportunity:** My name is Julia Neyshloss and I run a full-time private piano studio in Lafayette.

I am looking for a teacher to continue teaching my piano students during my maternity leave. There will also be potential opportunity to continue permanently teaching through my studio. I have 6-18 year old students on Mondays-Fridays with private lessons ranging from 30-45 mins. Repertoire includes classical, pop, and the Piano Adventure method books. Some of my students participate in Certificate of Merit, Sonata Contest, and Baroque Festival. My maternity leave will begin in September and last through at least December, or possibly January.

I currently teach out of my home, but during my maternity leave, this location will not be available, so this position will require your own teaching location in the Lamorinda area or driving to students' homes (students live in Lamorinda and Walnut Creek/Danville areas).

If you have any questions or would like to set up an interview, you can reach me at [\(925\)878-1941](tel:9258781941) or j.neyshloss@gmail.com.

Warmly,
Julia

2.) *Looking for a piano tuner for you or your students?*
Jeff Reber works all around the Walnut Creek, Contra Costa area. Contact info: 925-788-3160/ jeff.reber@icloud.com

- 3.) 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

- 4.) Remember Orinda Community Church for all your recital needs. Contact Anna Gregory at office@orindachurch.org or 925-254-4906.

