



October 2020

Conejo Valley

www.mtacconejovalley.org/

Newsletter of the Conejo Valley Branch of the Music Teachers Association of California

Our next meeting will be October 22 via Zoom.

The Board will meet at 8:30.

The general meeting will be at 9:00.

The codes will be the same for both meetings.

Please wait to Join General Zoom Meeting until 9 AM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85143454113?pwd=T1ZobHU0cCt2NXBvOXhOTTdVTTdIQT09>

Meeting ID: 851 4345 4113

Passcode: 663787



LOCATIONS

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
1 W. Avenida de los Arboles
Thousand Oaks 91360

United Methodist Church
1049 South Westlake Blvd.
Westlake Village 91361

T.O. Civic Arts Plaza
Scherr Forum Theatre
2100 T. O. Blvd
Thousand Oaks

LDS Church
3645 N. Moorpark Rd.
Thousand Oaks, 91360

Cal Lutheran University
60 W Olsen Rd,
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Hillcrest Center for the Arts
403 W. Hillcrest Dr.,
Thousand Oaks, 91360

Branch Officers/Board Members 2020/21

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debbiesiemer@gmail.com

First Vice-President

Caitlin Boruch

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Treasurer:

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susan.mastrolonardo@gmail.com

Ann Erwin

aeflute@gmail.com

President's Greeting

Dear MTAC Colleagues,

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our September meeting. Thank you for your patience with me as I worked through my issues with Zoom. I do so appreciate your grace. And thanks to Kyung for all her help getting us going again that morning.

I am so happy to report that our first branch online festival was a great success! Thanks to Ann Erwin, the Women Composers Festival was able to take place for its third year. Congratulations to Ann for creating and sustaining a very fine program.

Our next event will be the Early Level Contemporary Festival to be held online on October 18. Thank you to Mike Preddy for generously hosting and thank you to Mark Lybarger-Monson, for his kind assistance.

We are pleased to welcome our new members, composer Laura Steenberge and guitarist Benjamin Mathews. They are both people with many talents and we are privileged that they are joining us. I have invited each of them to introduce themselves in this month's newsletter.

As I mentioned during the September meeting, we have several new chairs and special assistants. Hospitality will be chaired by Susan Mastrolonardo with Carol Lancaster. I am pleased to let you know that Mark Lybarger-Monson is now our Online Recital Technician. With Stephania Emery and Katya Solovskaya as our Online Teaching Assistants, our branch is well-endowed with technical savvy that will lend the much support needed for the upcoming virtual recitals and online lessons. Many thanks to each of you for volunteering your time and expertise.

As you may have read online, according to the State MTAC, CM adjudicators will no longer be judging for Branch Honors. However, your Conejo Board desires to continue to give honor to our students who excel and provide them with an Honors Recital. So Branch Honors Conejo is currently a work in progress. I will let you know details as they develop.

Each month our dedicated newsletter editor, Fredric Beerstein, invites us to submit articles on various topics of value to the teaching community. One of the subjects for publication is "Teacher Tips." I would love to hear your pedagogical suggestions. Please consider writing a short article telling us what is working well in your studio and what brings joy to you as a teacher.

One of the things that delights me is seeing students develop their artistry. I love it when the students begin to see themselves as interpretive artists. Even very young students can have a say in deciding how much contrast they want between their *forte* and *piano* sections. As they mature, students have the freedom to decide what is an appropriate amount of slowing in a *ritardando* and how long they wish to hold the *fermata*. I often send my students links so they can listen to various artists who have recorded their piece. I ask the students to note the differences between the performances and then to tell me which one they prefer and why. Thus, the students learn there is often quite a bit of freedom in interpreting a piece, even while staying within stylistic period perimeters. Often, as I give students the authority to make these kind of decisions, I see a shift in their attitude from "having to practice" to "getting to create."

Our next meeting will be October 22 (see ZOOM link below). The board will meet at 8:30 and the general meeting will be at 9:00. (The same link is to be used for both meetings.) Immediately following our general meeting, Katya Solovskaya will present a thirty minute Express Program which will help us be more successful in our online lessons and recitals. Thank you, Katya for all your preparation.

Looking forward to "seeing" you soon.
Best regards,
Debbie

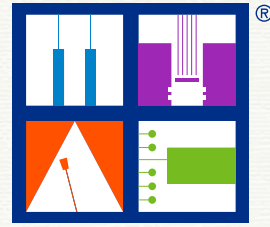


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Passcode: 663787

Note from the Editor: First page photo, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area at Circle X Ranch. Fred Beerstein,

Archives for the news letters are available in the teacher portal of our website, mtacconejovalley.org



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CONEJO VALLEY BRANCH



Advisors to the board

Corresponding Secretary:

Kyung Lee

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Website:

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Newsletter:

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Hospitality

Susan Mastrolonardo

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ASCAP Submissions: Do the Right Thing.

Did you know that US Copyright Law states that composers must receive a royalty when their work is performed? ASCAP protects the rights of its members by licensing and distributing royalties for the performances of copyrighted works.

ASCAP members make their living writing music, many of whom are also MTAC members. ASCAP exists to ensure that music creators are paid when their works are performed publicly. Rental or purchase of sheet music does not authorize its public performance.

MTAC has an ASCAP Copyright License, and covers each and every MTAC member for all branch and individual performances. However, in order for ASCAP members to receive royalties from the performances of their works, we must submit programs to the state office. This is where I need your help.

Throughout the 2020-2021 season, I'll collect TWO copies of each program and send them to the MTAC state office on June 30. As a reminder, these can be studio recitals, masterclasses, festival, and any other performances.

For the convenience of our branch members, there are several ways to submit your programs:

1. Send them to or drop them off at my home: Caitlin Boruch, 1258 Rotella Street in Newbury Park, CA 91320.
2. Give them to me if you see me in any capacity (MTAC festivals, performances, around town). It is the responsibility of the festival chairs to turn in the programs, but at the festivals where my students perform, I'm happy to arrange to pick up the two copies of every performance.
3. Collect them throughout the season and hand them to me at the MTAC luncheon and general meeting in May.
4. Email them in PDF format to caitlinwb@gmail.com

Thank you for your help in ensuring our composers collect the income they have earned.

Caitlin Boruch

MTAC Conejo Valley 2020-2021 Calendar

Branch meetings; September 24 (Zoom, see Newsletter), October 22, December 3 (Danna's), January 28, February 25, March 25, April 22, May 27

Events and branch programs. Please sign up students on our excellent website, www.mtacconejovalley.org.

Women's Composers Festival (All levels) - Ann Erwin, September 20 (Deadline September 8)
Early Level Contemporary Festival (P-5) - Michael Preddy, October 18 (Deadline October 4)
Advanced Contemporary Festival (5-10) - Emily Wu, October 24, 25 (Deadline October 2)
Contemporary Gold Medal Festival (5-10) - Ornela Ervin, November 8
Private Teacher Recitals - Brad Gregory, TBD
Prima Vista Festival - Susan Mastrolonardo, Ruth Kuo, February 28 (Deadline February 7)
Early Level Baroque/Classical Festival (P-5) Michael Preddy, February 21 (Deadline February 7)
VOCE - CLU Chapel, February 13 (Deadline Dec 1)
CM Honors Recital - TBA
CM Woodwind Honors Recital - Ann Erwin, TBA
Festimantic! (5-10) - Ornela Ervin, (Deadline April 1 for Youtube posting)
SoCal Jr. Bach Festival (5-10) - Michael West, Hillcrest, April 10 (Deadline March 16)
TO Phil - Ornela Ervin, April 16 and 18, June 25, 27
Festimantic! Honors Recital - Nina Kelly and Ornela Ervin, HTLC, April 25
Young Artist Recital/Branch Awards - Heidi Lyn Williams, HTLC, May 14
SoCal Jr. Bach Regionals - Mona DeCesare, First UMC, Ventura, May 8
Koolfest Jazz, Blues, Pop Festival (All levels) Michael Preddy, UMC, May 22 (Deadline May 9)
Planning Meeting - Ornela's home, June 3
Convention - Santa Clara, July 2-6

Abbreviations; HTLA (Holy Trinity Lutheran Church), Hillcrest (Hillcrest Center for the Performing Arts), CSUN (California State University Northridge), TOCAP (Thousand Oaks Performing Arts Center), Mormon Church (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints 3645 N Moorpark Rd, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360), UMC (United Methodist Church, 1049 South Westlake Blvd. Westlake Village 91361), TBD (to be determined).

Please contact the chair or go to our mtacconejovalley.org website to enter students in the programs and events.

Facebook Group

MTACconejovalley Online

Teaching Support Group

WHAT WE DO:

- Assist in setting up technology for online teaching,
- Provide advice on what platforms to use and how to set them up,
- Exchange tips and ideas,
- Facilitate friendly communication on matters of distance learning/teaching,
- Create supportive virtual environment and sense of teaching community in unusual circumstances.

HOW TO GET HELP:

- Please get in touch with Stephanie Emery for advice on technology and set up at stephanieemerymusic@gmail.com,
- Join us on Facebook – find MTAC Conejo Valley Online Teaching Support Group, click “join” and wait 24 hours to be accepted. As soon as you are accepted, please start posting your questions and/or comments!
- Email Katya Solovskaya with general questions on how to get further advice or how to join Facebook support group at pianowithkatya@gmail.com.



We are here to help and support all of you during these difficult times!

The express program for the October 22 general meeting.

I am honored to present an express program "Practical tips for successful virtual lessons and recitals!" The program is designed to provide helpful tips and suggestions, with emphasis on technology/apps and ways to make both lessons and recitals more dynamic and engaging for students. Topics to be covered are:

- Purpose of virtual studio recitals
- Live vs prerecorded recitals
- Technology and set up
- Creative ideas for student engagement
- Short video clips of my prior recitals for demonstration
- Ideas on how to use technology in online lessons

The program is prepared with students in mind who are potentially overwhelmed and distracted with long-term virtual learning and are getting weary of the day-to-day grind of monotonous online instruction. I will try to keep technology limited to user-friendly and easy to set up options.

I am looking forward to presenting on this topic to our esteemed branch members!

Respectfully,
Katya Solovskaya

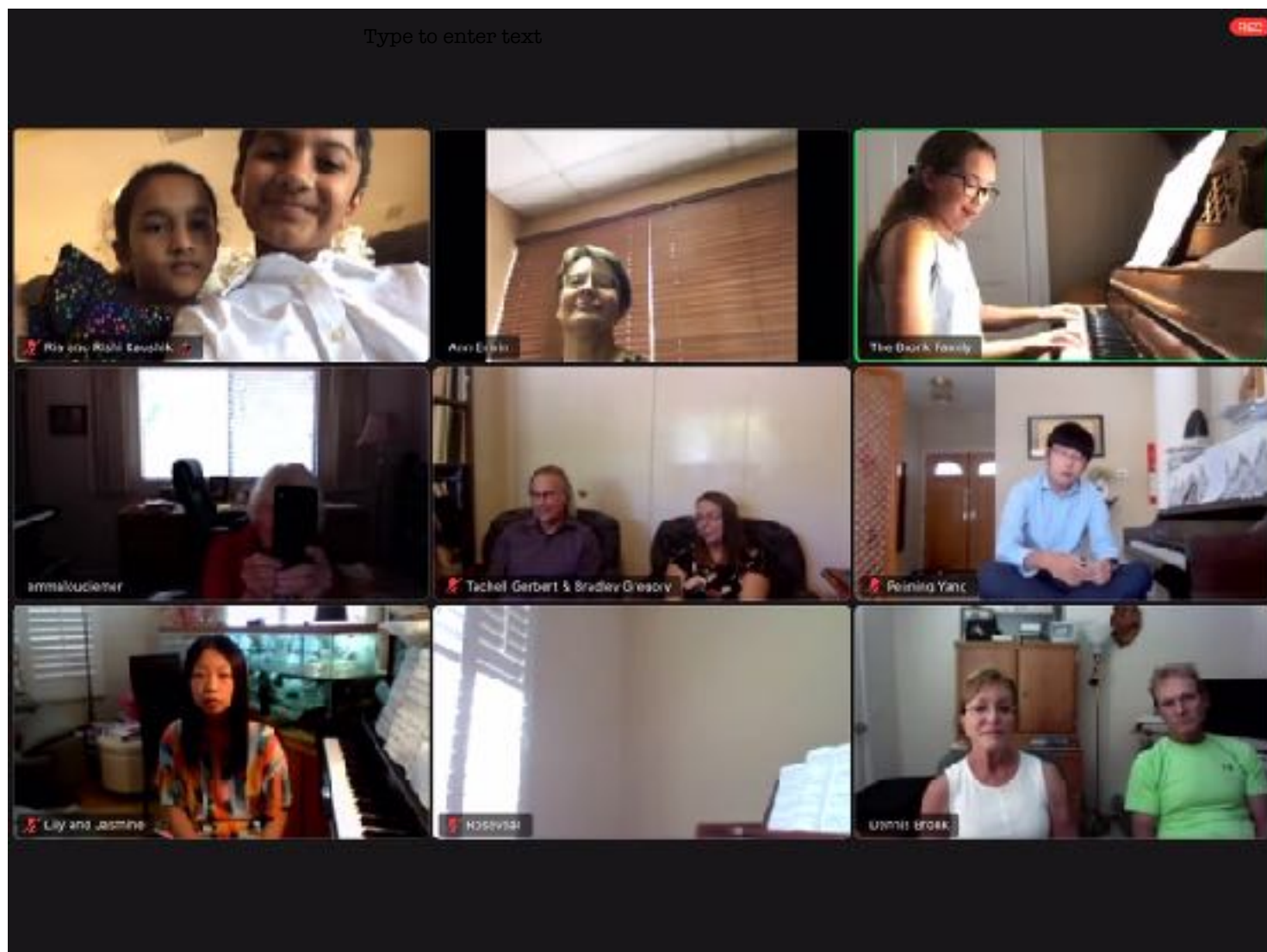
Ekaterina Solovskaya
pianowithkatya@gmail.com>

EARLY LEVEL CONTEMPORARY FESTIVAL

Michael Preddy invites everyone to watch the Early Level Contemporary Festival programs on October 18 beginning at 2:00 p.m. Zoom links will be made available to you via email and hopefully posted on our MTACCV Website as well with information regarding recital times and programs. I look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you,
Mike Preddy

Women Composers Festival Success. Thank you Ann Erwin!



Advanced Contemporary Music Festival

Dear Wonderful Teachers,

On behalf of the ACMF committee, I would like to thank all of those who are supporting this festival. As of today, we have close to 130 entries! Please keep them coming!

Below are some reminders:

- Oct 2 - Registration deadline. The Google Form link will stop working at 11:59 pm.
- Oct 5 - A student list will be emailed to each teacher. Please double check for typo of names; and if there are any missing participating students.
- Oct 9 - Payment deadline. After confirming the student list is correct, one payment by the teacher should be made through the branch website.
- Oct 21 - Video upload deadline. Videos must be uploaded by 11:59 pm (videos will be time-stamped on YouTube.) No late submission will be accepted. Please refer to the Guidelines for Video Recording attached below.
- Oct 22 by noon - teachers should email me an information list of their participating students, including these 3 items - YouTube link, Student's name and level.
- And here are some updates:
- The branch board clarified that the Parent Consent and Liability Waiver Form is to be kept by teachers only. It is not necessary to send it to festival chairs.
- Music scores, with first measure of each line numbered, are required for the judges. A Google Drive link will be created and emailed to all participating teachers soon. I recommend teachers to forward the link to their students, so that each student can upload images of their own music. (Kids these days are tech savvy, they probably know very well how to work with Google Drive. If any teacher needs help, please contact me for further assistance.) Deadline of scores submission is the same date as Information List submission (Oct 22).
- I commend all of you for being courageous, adventurous and patient in learning all these technologies outside our musician comfort zone. Your participation and effort is going to make this virtual festival amazing! Please feel free to contact me should there be any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Emily Wu, ACMF Chair
emywu15@gmail.com
805-300-3645 (text is preferred)

2020 Advanced Contemporary Music Festival

Guidelines for Video Recording

- Performers are required to dress in formal recital attire to show respect to the occasion and the judges.
- Camera should provide a clear view of the performer. For pianists, show their hands on the keyboard, and their body from head to toe. It is important for the judges to see pedal techniques of pianists. For instrumentalists, full view of the instrument should be included.
- No editing is allowed. Video must be of one single take from start to finish of the music piece(s).

Instructions for Video Submission

1) YouTube upload (Students' responsibility)

- Students/Teachers are responsible to upload the finished videos onto YouTube on or before the deadline (Oct 21, 2020 at 11:59 pm). No late submission will be accepted.
- Description of video: please include ONLY the name of the music piece and the name of composer. DO NOT include student's name.
- Make sure the recording is audible and the video is clear on YouTube.
- Once a link is created for the video, student should forward the link to his/her teacher.

2) Information submission to Emily Wu at emywu15@gmail.com (Teachers' responsibility)

- Once the teacher has collected video links from ALL participating students, please send Emily Wu the students' information, including:
 - Student's name
 - Student's level
 - YouTube link
 - Music scores, with first measure of each line numbered, are required. A link for upload will be provided soon.
- Deadline for Information and scores Submission: Oct 22, 2020 at noon.



Conejo Valley Branch
Affiliated with the
Music Teachers' Association of California

**PARENT CONSENT, WAIVER OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT
FOR MTAC AND MTAC BRANCH PROGRAMS**

This form must be completed, signed, and submitted first in order for the student to participate in MTAC and MTAC Branch programs.

STUDENT INFORMATION

Student's Name (First, Middle Initial, Last): _____ Birth Date (MM/DD/YY) _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____ Gender: ☐ M ☐ F Age: _____

PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN INFORMATION (for students under age 19)

Name: _____ Home Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____ Work: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT PERSON(S)

Name	Address	Phone	Relationship to Child

AGREEMENT

IN CONSIDERATION of my child's participation in any way in the activities and programs provided by the Music Teachers' Association of California (MTAC) and/or its affiliated Branches (MTAC Branches), I hereby agree to the following:

- Parent Consent.** As Parent/Legal Guardian of my child, I give my full consent and approval for my child to participate in the programs and activities of the MTAC and MTAC Branches ("MTAC /Branch Program(s)").
- Rules and Regulations.** As Parent/Legal Guardian of my child, I have informed myself and my child of the nature of MTAC/Branch Programs, and the applicable rules and regulations. I understand that any violation of the rules and regulations may result in dismissal and/or restriction from participation in future MTAC/Branch Programs.
- No Representation or Warranty.** MTAC and MTAC Branches make no warranty or representation regarding any of the MTAC/Branch Programs provided to Participants, including parents, students, and teachers. MTAC and MTAC Branches are not responsible or liable for the success or results of any Participant in any MTAC/Branch Program.
- RELEASE; WAIVER OF LIABILITY; INDEMNITY.** MTAC and MTAC Branches are non-profit organizations primarily administered by volunteers. I fully understand that my child's participation in MTAC/Branch Programs may involve inherent risks of accident, damage, or injury, and I fully accept and assume all such risks and responsibility that I or my child may incur as a result of participation. TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, I HEREBY WAIVE, RELEASE, DISCHARGE, AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE THE MTAC OR MTAC BRANCHES, THEIR RESPECTIVE DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, AGENTS, MEMBERS, VOLUNTEERS, AND EMPLOYEES (EACH OF THEM, "RELEASEES") FROM ANY AND ALL LIABILITY, CLAIMS, DEMANDS, LOSSES, OR DAMAGES ARISING OUT OF OR RELATED TO MY OR MY CHILD'S, PARTICIPATION IN MTAC/BRANCH PROGRAMS, WHETHER BASED IN CONTRACT OR TORT, INCLUDING ACTUAL, COMENSATORY, INCIDENTAL, SPECIAL, CONSEQUENTIAL, PUNITIVE, OR EXEMPLARY DAMAGES. If, despite the Release and Waiver, anyone makes a claim against any of the Releasees, I agree to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Releasees from any and all claims, demands, losses, attorneys' fees, costs, liabilities or damages against MTAC and MTAC Branches arising out of my or my child's participation in MTAC/Branch Programs.
- Arbitration; Limitation of Monetary Damages.** In the event of a claim or disagreement ("Dispute") arising from this Agreement or my child's participation in MTAC/Branch Programs, the parties shall use their best efforts to settle the Dispute. If they do not reach such solution within sixty days, then upon notice by either party to the other, all Disputes shall be finally settled by arbitration administered by the American Arbitration Association in accordance with the provisions of its Commercial Arbitration Rules, and judgment on the award rendered by the arbitrator(s) may be entered in any court jurisdiction thereof. I fully understand and agree that as a condition of my or my child's participation in MTAC/Branch Programs, I shall not be entitled to recover any monetary damages against Releasees in tort or contract, except to a maximum amount determined by an arbitrator which shall not exceed the amount of the applicable participation fee.
- No Child Care.** I understand that MTAC and MTAC Branches do not provide child care or supervision before or after MTAC/Branch Programs. I understand that is my sole responsibility to drop-off and pick-up my child in a timely manner, and/or to arrange such transportation with a designee that I have authorized.
- Media Consent.** I consent and authorize MTAC and MTAC Branches to capture, use, reproduce, and distribute images, video, and audio recordings my child, including his/her musical performance or quoted statements, for promotional and educational purposes. I agree that use of such images and recordings may personally identify my child by name, unless I notify MTAC or MTAC Branches otherwise in writing, and are without any compensation to me or my child. I agree to waive and release any and all claims related to the use of these images and recordings. MTAC owns the sole copyright to the images and recordings taken by MTAC.

I HAVE READ THIS AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, AND UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS FOR MYSELF AND MY CHILD BY SIGNING IT. I HAVE SIGNED IT FREELY AND WITHOUT INDUCEMENT OR ASSURANCE OF ANY NATURE, AND INTEND IT TO BE A COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF ALL LIABILITY TO THE GREATEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW. I FURTHER AGREE THAT IF ANY PORTION OF THIS AGREEMENT IS HELD TO BE INVALID, THEN THE REMAINING PORTIONS SHALL CONTINUE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT.

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Parent/Legal Guardian Name: _____

Certificate of Merit News. All CM information is being sent directly from the state office.

Application Registration Open

Oct. 1, 2020

Application Registration Close

Oct. 31, 2020

Application Fee Payment Due Date

Nov. 5, 2020

Application Edit Close Date

Jan. 15, 2021

Evaluation Information

October 20 - last day for teachers to take the online test.

Teachers must take and pass this test to be unblocked to enter CM students on the state website. CM Questions? Contact Danna Southwell, branch CM chair.

<https://new.mtac.org/app/program/CM/>

Please find CM information on the state website.

Did you pass your online test?

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf2PyKarWtSozqwVdTr2qMLBCzKRgYJJ98L4stINkMo-R-GQw/viewform)

[1FAIpQLSf2PyKarWtSozqwVdTr2qMLBCzKRgYJJ98L4stINkMo-R-GQw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf2PyKarWtSozqwVdTr2qMLBCzKRgYJJ98L4stINkMo-R-GQw/viewform)

Introducing!

Laura Steenberge -

Hello all, thank you for such a warm welcome! I am a composer and performer with a background in



music and linguistics. In a nutshell, I am fascinated by the myriad connections between music and language including vocal composition, songwriting, folk music, music in mythology, ritual performance and medieval chant. I also love to work with harmony, the harmonic series and the acoustics of unique performance spaces. I don't specialize in a particular instrument but enjoy playing piano, viola da gamba, contrabass, guitar and trumpet.

As a teacher, I believe that composition is a deeply personal practice and that the

path to excellence is unique for each individual. I enjoy working with students to develop their skills with traditional notation and orchestration as well as with text scores, recordings, songwriting and improvisation. My ultimate goal is to help each student develop the theoretical, analytical, emotional and perceptual skills that will help them realize their creative visions at the highest level.

I bring 3 years of experience teaching private composition lessons at the undergrad and graduate level, as well as 15+ years of practical experience as an active performer and composer in the Southland and beyond. My post-secondary education took place at USC (BA Music and BA Linguistics), CalArts (MFA Composer/Performer and Integrated Media) and Stanford University (DMA composition)

Introducing!

Hello, MTAC Conejo!

I'm excited to be affiliated with all of you, and I hope that my unique skill set and somewhat non-traditional path will benefit the association and all of our students.

My wife Rochelle and I have five boys (yikes!), and we enjoy camping, hiking, and generally anything outdoors. We currently live in Simi Valley. Rochelle has a BS in Recreation Management and has worked as a guide at multiple high ropes challenge courses and zipline facilities. We love living in a place with so much to explore outside year-round!



I grew up here in Thousand Oaks, and as I mentioned in our meeting, studied piano for a short period with Danna Southwell. I'm sure I was not a great student, but the formative experiences of my first formal lessons, first accountability to a strong teacher, and first recital have stayed with me through the years.

I have a BA in Music from BYU-Idaho and an MM in Jazz Studies from Indiana University. I have studied Classical and Jazz Guitar, and have recorded and toured with numerous jazz, pop, and classical ensembles through the years. Currently I'm in the final

stages of a DMA in Studio Guitar at USC. My academic focus areas include Music Teaching and Learning, Music Technology, and Pop Songwriting.

I have taught privately for about 17 years, and have taught music courses at Indiana University, BYU-Idaho, Utah State University, College of Southern Idaho, and University of Southern California.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if I can do anything for you and your students! I'm fairly comfortable with most modern music technologies. I have extensive experience in music production and MIDI programming.

I look forward to working with you and supporting your students!

Ben Mathews

(805)208-6498

www.benmathewsmusic.com



Thousand Oaks pumpkins. Happy October.