



November 2020

Conejo Valley

www.mtacconejovalley.org/

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

Our next meeting will be December 3 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 until 9 AM to join the General Zoom Meeting

<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

President:

[.Debbie Siemer](mailto:debbiesiemer@gmail.com)

debbiesiemer@gmail.com

First Vice-President

Caitlin Boruch

caitlinwb@gmail.com

Second Vice-President

Gloria Hilliard

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Recording Secretary:

Emily Wu

emywu15@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Brad Gregory

begtzg@verizon.net

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Ornela Ervin

OrnelaErvin@verizon.net

Directors:

Tachell Gerbert

p88x2@verizon.net

Danna Southwell

dannasouthwell@gmail.com

Diana Ray Goodman

diana4343@gmail.com

Susan Mastrolonardo

susan.mastrolonardo@gmail.com

Ann Erwin

aeflute@gmail.com

President's Greeting

Greeting Colleagues!

It sure has felt like fall these past few foggy mornings. I am enjoying the change of seasons.

Congratulations to Kayta Solovskaya for her helpful presentation giving tips for virtual lessons and recitals. We appreciate all your time and preparation.

Congratulations to Mike Preddy for a very successful online Early Level Contemporary Festival. Thank you for all your time preparing and presenting. Thank you also to Mark Lybarger-Monson for his help with the videos.

Thanks to Tachell Gerbert for her work on the website calendar, which now contains a downloadable event list to view on your personal calendar (iCal, Google, etc.) for easier reference.

Thank you to Laura Steenberge for her introductory remarks regarding neurodivergent youths and adults. I'm sure this will generate much future discussion on this topic.

Our next meeting will be on December 3. Following our general meeting, Mike Preddy will present a program of festive music for the holidays. This day also is Mike's "round number" birthday! Thank you Mike for being willing to share your special day with us. We look forward to your musical gift to us.

Many times, people have asked me why the same people seem to carry the most responsibility. They ask why more people are not involved so the work can be better shared. I'm not sure. Maybe some members want to be more involved with the branch, but don't know the needs. Or maybe they would like to help, but don't feel equipped to be the lead person. Maybe they just need to be told that their skill set is needed and would be appreciated. If you are not currently in a leadership role, would you please consider getting more involved? Below is a survey calling for new helpers. Are you willing to serve? Along the way, you will get to know folks, learn a new skillset, and bring great benefit to our branch and the local musical community. Please take a moment to respond to the questions below. We do need you and want to get to know you better.

But, perhaps you are in a place where you are unable to serve at this time, and perhaps in need of help yourself. As a musical community, we would like to support each other. Please feel free to drop me a note sharing the kind of help you may need.

Thank you to each of our valued members. I am honored to be part of MTAC Conejo.

Entering the holiday season with a heart of gratitude,
Debbie



Survey: Please send to Debbie.

A. In what way would you be willing to help the branch?

1. Serve as Branch Honors Chair (or co-chair, or assistant)
2. Help administer our website
3. Promote MTAC Conejo Valley through social media
4. Serve as Composers Today Chair (or co-chair or assistant)
5. Come alongside one of our current program chairs to assist and learn the program
6. Write an article for the newsletter
7. Present an Express Program
8. Other

B. In what way can members of the branch help you?

Debbie Siemer

debbiesiemer@gmail.com

Note from the Editor: First page
photo, Santa Monica Mountains
National Recreation Area at Malibu
Creek State Park

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

The deadline for newsletter
submissions is on the 25th of each
month for the next edition. Please
submit to Fred Beerstein.

Corresponding Secretary:

Kyung Lee
kyunglee330@gmail.com

Website:

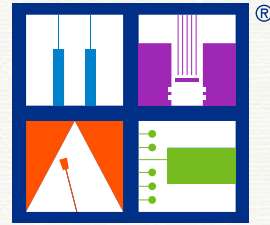
Tachell Gerbert
p88x2@verizon.net

Newsletter:

Fredric Beerstein
fbeerstein@gmail.com

Hospitality

Susan Matstrolonardo
susan.mastrolonardo@gmail.com



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CONEJO VALLEY BRANCH



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 remaining, December 3 ,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.

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 - online recital, 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!

EARLY LEVEL CONTEMPORARY FESTIVAL

You can view both videos after their Premiere times by visiting:
ELCF PLAYLIST PAGE to see all:

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?
list=PL8-6jgdxYBQ_Y7bbcerEGgxwRVaVQWrX0](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8-6jgdxYBQ_Y7bbcerEGgxwRVaVQWrX0)

Mike Preddy

mikepreddymusic@gmail.com

805-427-2786

Editor's note: The directions from Mike Preddy and Emily Wu for uploading to create online recitals seem useful and worth reviewing. Please see the Newsletter archives on MTACconejovalley.org for reference if needed for future online recitals. Thank you Ms. Wu and Mr. Preddy.

In the News

Dear colleagues,

I just stumbled across this step-by-step process in how to hold an online piano recital by author/educator/church musician Ashely Danyew on her website. I thought some members who are intimidated at the prospect might find the information useful.

<https://www.ashleydanyew.com/posts/how-to-host-an-online-piano-recital>

I hope all is well with you and yours!

Lisa Wall-Urgero

lisa@musicbylisa.com

www.lisawallurgero.com

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Teachers please check and make sure that you have signed parent consent waivers on file for all of your students. This can protect our organization. Teachers need to have waivers on file for students entering branch events including online CM or other MTAC events.



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: _____

Advanced Contemporary Music Festival Review

Dear Wonderful Teachers,

Advanced Contemporary Music Festival

This year's festival was quite an adventure. I would like to thank all the participating teachers, students and parents for their support and patience throughout the online submission process. There were 172 students, representing 26 studios. Adjudication happened on Oct 24-26. Despite the unusual pandemic circumstance, students were well prepared. The judges -- Kristi Lobitz, Jason Stoll, and Steven Vanhauwaert, were very impressed with the superb quality of the students' performances; and praised the high standard of our Branch. Congratulations to all the students and their teachers! You all are a main reason for this year's success!

Winners will receive Gold Medals as always. Unfortunately, they will not perform live at the Civic Art Plaza this year. Instead, they will be featured on the Winners YouTube Playlist. Due to the unusual circumstance this year, and because the budget allows, the committee decided to present non-winners with silver medals. All performers will also receive a certificate.

Big thanks to Mark Lybarger-Monson for the technical support on YouTube. And last but not least, I would like to give a big shout out to the amazing festival committee - Kyung Lee, Mona DeCesare, Ornela Ervin and Kim Munday for their continuous support and guidance since the beginning of the planning of this year's festival. We had to reinvent the virtual event from scratch and they helped smooth out the boulders that appeared along the way. I couldn't have done it without them. Thank you, team!

It is my hope that by the same time next year (or sooner!) the pandemic will be over and we can enjoy live recitals again!

Sincerely Yours,
Emily Wu

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

PLEASE REPLY to Ornela Ervin <ornelaervin@verizon.net>

Dear MTAC Conejo Valley members,

The Contemporary Festival took place online this year. 172 students from 26 studios participated by submitting a YouTube video of their piece. Three great judges watched the videos, scored the students and wrote valuable comments about their playing.

A big thank you goes to Emily Wu for organizing the festival in an innovative way and making sure every detail was thought of.

Because the Civic Arts Plaza is not available for public performances we are presenting our gold medal students in a YouTube playlist to be shared and enjoyed with friends and family.

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8-6jgdxvBQ_J68S1hI3z6dDH_L10uxmb

Let us all keep up the good work, stay healthy and find ways to provide opportunities for our students to excel.

Ornela

VOCE

Chamber Ensembles and Vocal and Orchestral soloists.

This is an online event

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

State VOCE Audition Information

VOCE Branch Chair

[Fredric Beerstein](#)

Host Branch

Conejo Valley

Application Open

Nov. 1, 2020

Application Close

Dec. 1, 2020

Solo Application Fee

55.00

Solo Non-Competitive Application Fee

35.00

Ensemble Application Fee (per student)

25.00

Ensemble Non-Competitive Application Fee (per student)

20.00

Application Fee Payment Due Date

Dec. 10, 2020

Application Edit Close Date

Dec. 10, 2020

Schedule Publish Date

Dec. 15, 2020

Audition Date

Feb. 13, 2021

Audition Location

Online auditions for the divisions and categories are to be submitted to fbeerstein@gmail.com as a YouTube link. Details for the link recording will be emailed after the application date close.

Audition Information

Do not sign up on the State website for the non-competitive competition. Please sign up for the Branch-Only events on the branch website

www.mtacconejovalley.org/ Application for Branch VOCE is due January 15.

Results Available

Feb. 24, 2020

VOCE

Voice, Orchestral instruments, Chamber Ensembles

(Prize money for student state winners) This is an online event.

The state VOCE program had another banner year, featuring many promising ensemble and solo performances. This year, many branches also held their own non-competitive VOCE events, giving students who were not ready to compete a chance to perform and introduce them to the VOCE program.

If you are interested in a non-competitive VOCE event, contact your VOCE Branch Chair, Fred Beerstein fbeerstein@gmail.com

What's new for 2020- 2021 year?

The application period for the state VOCE auditions will be open from November 1, 2020 through December 1, 2020. All applications need to be created by December 1. Teachers can edit unpaid applications through December 15, 2020. Branch VOCE is open until January 15, 2021.

The student's age does need to be verified before a payment can be made. Parents will have until December 15, 2020 to submit a payment. Edits to applications cannot be made after the payment has been made.

State VOCE Age Calculation Date - November 1, 2020 VOCE Applications Open - November 1, 2020
VOCE Applications Close - December 1, 2020 VOCE Application Edit Date - December 15, 2020
VOCE Application Fee Due - December 15, 2020 VOCE State Finals Applications Open - February 1, 2021
VOCE State Finals Applications Close - March ?,

Helpful Tips!

Did you know that your student only needs to submit their age verification documents once? As the VOCE competition relies on age divisions, all applicants must have their ages verified by the MTAC State Office by December 15, 2020 for the 2021 auditions. No late submissions will be accepted.

2021 VOCE State Finals -TBD

MTAC Annual Convention winner performance - July 4 weekend, 2021

Not sure how to have your student's age verified? [Check the MTAC state website](#). Please note, that the age verification documents must be submitted by the student's parents. Documents submitted by teachers will not be accepted.

If you have any questions contact VOCE State Chair, Northern California, [Kathy You Wilson](#) or VOCE State Chair, Southern California, [Tina Yoo](#).

VOCE update —

branch audition performance February 13, 2021 online at 3PM (Fred Beerstein) Chamber Music including Voice Orchestral Instruments (and pianists!)

Dear Teachers,

Sign up online for the state. <https://new.mtac.org/app/program/VOCE/>

This year, the application period dates have changed, so please review the

deadlines below. You can add a student to your Student Roster at this time. Once the student is added to your roster, you can create the VOCE application.,

Enrollment Period for Branch VOCE:

The branch VOCE enrollment period is from **November 1 to January 15, 2019**. This is fee payment location on the teacher portal of the branch website at <https://www.mtacconejovalley.org/product/voce-festival/>

This is the the Branch VOCE soloist or ensemble application link. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc-kvsWbLqbyUJTfnvty9KkEQdu3gnm88QfCPKhtABcyx6bTA/viewform?usp=sf_link

Payment Period:

Parents are able to make a payment once the application is created and the age has been verified. The deadline to make the payment is **January 15. (*Don't make the payment until the application is complete*)**

A Note about Arias:

Please note that Arias will not be permitted in the Intermediate Age Division for Solo Voice performers. Review the VOCE guidelines to see the full Solo Voice repertoire requirements.

For additional help please contact your VOCE Branch Chair or Branch President.

Sincerely,

programs@mtac.org

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

Application Fee Payment Due Date

Nov. 5, 2020

Application Edit Close Date

Jan. 15, 2021



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

Please find CM information on the state website.

Dear teachers,

Please make sure that all parents have paid the fees. Thanks for checking on the portal.



Is your organization sponsoring an
online Christmas or holiday event?

Please advertise in our December
newsletter!



Book and DVD reviews

Dear Teachers!

I have missed you all and hope you are all well. I have been asked by Debbie Siemer to prepare a book and DVD review for your pleasure.....these are my favorites and have kept me inspired and entertained especially at night. Here goes:

Books first:

The Piano Shop on the Left Bank by Thad Carhart All about rediscovering one's love of music and the piano in particular. Story takes place in Paris.....a local piano shop reveals the mysteries and magic of treasured instruments.

The Children of Willesdon Lane by Mona Golabek All about her mother Lisa Jura who at 16 came to England during WW II to escape the horrors of war. This is a true story all about the power of one's dedication to music.

The Lost Pianos of Siberia by Sophy Roberts Acclaimed journalist Sophy Roberts makes a sweeping journey through one of the harshest landscapes on earth where pianos reveal the deep humanity and rich history of Siberia. Many wonderful photographs included.

Now for the DVD reviews:

Leonard Bernstein's Young Peoples Concerts 77 episodes featuring master teacher Bernstein and the New York Philharmonic teaching on many varied musical subjects. He is brilliant, engaging, every episode so well prepared. Most in black and white (60's 70's) some in color. Some 5000 children and adults attended these events over a 20 year period. Very suitable to share with your students.....wide range of subjects. Vol. 1...2....3.

Gustavo Dudamel and L.A. Philharmonic at Hollywood Bowl.....Tango Under the Stars.....a concert featuring music of Piazzolla, Ginastera and Lalo Schiffrin's new guitar concerto performed by Angel Romero. Fantastic!

Gustavo Dudamel and L.A. Philharmonic at Disney Hall with Juan Diego Flores singing Rossini arias and several fabulous numbers by latin composers. Fabulous!

The Cleveland Orchestra Centennial Celebration featuring Lang Lang playing playing the Mozart Piano Concerto No. 24 so exquisitely.....he gets a wild stand ovation. Orchestra performs Richard Strauss, Johann Strauss and Ravel. The hall in Cleveland is gorgeous.

Lang Lang at Royal Albert Hall in England performing all solo piano for some 5000 spectators.....3 Mozart Sonatas and Chopin 4 Ballades and 7 fantastic encores. The audience wanted him to keep going. He played twice that weekend. Amazing talent and energy. Note perfect too!

Here's more!!!

Jonas Kaufman An Evening with Puccini at La Scala Opera House This concert is spectacular.....it made national news in Italy and all over the world. He sings 5 encores and the audience applauds another half hour still wanting more. Orchestra and conductor superb. This is amazing.....Kaufman narrates at the beginning with photographs.

Brahms 4 Symphonies with Paavo Jarvi and the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie of Bremen.....a music documentary by Christian Berger. The 4 Symphonies are painstakingly and lovingly rehearsed and performed.

Verbier Festival 20th Anniversary Concert.....featuring many European artists performing various chamber music ensembles.....some duo piano of Prokofieff and the 24 Preludes of Chopin arranged for various string instruments accompanied by piano. Monty Alexander does a wild piano improve of Happy Birthday. Terrific.....

Verbier Festival 25th Anniversary Concert.....this time with large ensembles and many high profile performers.
Outstanding.....

Vienna Johann Strauss Orchestra A Musical Journey Across Austria.....music and great photography.....gorgeous views of the Austrian landscape and many important monuments as we listen to music of the Strauss dynasty.

Now for some Dance DVD's

The Best of Riverdance narrated by Jean Butler the original female star who with Michael Flatly brought the thrill of Irish Dance to the whole world. This is a compilation of performances from various touring companies.

A new version of Riverdance has been produced and I ordered it from PBS....can't wait to see it.

La Bayadere Ballet.....at the Royal Opera House.....danced by a spectacular cast.....production by Natalia Makarova who danced the title role as a young ballerina. Music by Ludwig Minkus was very beautiful. Costumes and scenery fabulous.

Sleeping Beauty also danced at the Royal Opera House with another spectacular cast..... choreography by Marius Petipa.

First Position a ballet documentary detailing the progress of 6 young dancers preparing to audition for the Young America Grand Prix.....these kids are so young and so serious and hard on themselves.....this is a thrilling and moving portrait of the most gifted ballet stars of tomorrow.

There's so much more I can share but I think its enough for today!! I love Rick Steve's documentaries of his European Travels.....Andre Rieu's mega concerts from Maastricht.....and we never got to movies. See the Red Violin!!

Sending all my very best wishes for hours of happy viewing.....
Carol Lancaster



Carol Lancaster Piano
carol@lancasterpiano.net(805) 527-8787
3124 Peoria Ave., Simi Valley, 93063

President 2014-2018 Vice president 2012-2014... all levels beginners to advanced with instruction in theory. Certificate of Merit and other performance events. Occasional workshops teaching music history/appreciation and performance....a class addressing general music education. Bachelor of Music Piano Performance.... California Life Teaching Credential. 13 years with L.A. Unified Schools and former faculty Moorpark and Pasadena City College. Church musician. 30 years performance experience in solo and ensemble settings.

Katya Solovskaya presented at our October meeting and was asked to provide her materials for us here.

Thank you Katya Solovskaya! (editor)

ONLINE TEACHING Presentation: MTACconejovalley branch

x10/22/2020



TIPS FOR ENGAGING ONLINE LESSONS AND RECITALS

Helping overwhelmed students tired of monotony of online lessons , Katya Solovskaya

TECHNOLOGY FOR ONLINE TEACHING

- • Overhead camera
- • Classroom Maestro: www.timewarptech.com
- • Sight Reading Factory: www.sightreadingfactory.com
- • MuseScore: <https://musescore.org>
- • Internet Midi: www.timewarptech.com

ONLINE LESSONS CALL FOR

- New technology, ideas, and activities
- Teaching in short bursts
- Switching activities often
- Working on foundational skills

1. INTERNET MIDI REQUIRES

- Midi-compatible keyboards
- Fast internet

OTHER GREAT RESOURCES

- •Tonara: www.tonara.com
- •MyMusicStaff: www.mymusicstaff.com
- •Virtual Escape Rooms by Lila Viss: <https://www.leilaviss.com/games>
- •Online games by Nicola Cantan: <https://vibrantmusicteaching.com/>
- •Carol Matz Interactive Piano Method: <https://carolmatzpiano.com>

ONLINE STUDIO RECITALS

REASONS FOR HAVING ONLINE RECITALS

- •Serve as a performance goal for the students
- •Promote a sense of musical community
- •Make learning new music relevant
- •Provide a sense of “closure”



2 3 TYPES OF ONLINE RECITALS

- • Pre-recorded: YouTube playlist
- • Pre-recorded live: YouTube list, movie, or video files shared over Zoom
- • Live recital: Students perform in real time on Zoom

LIVE RECITALS

- Generate more excitement vs.

RECORDED RECITALS

- • Allow for better sound quality
- • Reduce chances of technical difficulties
- • Give everyone a chance to listen at their leisure
- • Reduce potential scheduling conflicts

TIP: SHARE COMPUTER SOUND ON ZOOM!

LIVE: STEP BY STEP

1. Decide on a theme, pick and assign repertoire
 2. Choose the date and announce it
 3. Create a program and send it out
 4. Schedule a meeting in zoom
 5. Ask students to log in at least 5 minutes prior to the recital
 6. Send a reminder
- Require better preparation from students, but less work for the teacher
 - Give more opportunities for interaction
 - “Force” everyone to stay and listen

3 LIVE RECITAL, CONT'D PRERECORDED LIVE: STEP BY STEP

- • ▪Make introductory comments and announcements
- • ▪State the protocol
- • ▪Announce students
- • ▪Make closing remarks
- • ▪Stay on until everyone signs off

1. Decide on a theme, pick and assign repertoire
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COLLECTING VIDEOS

- • ▪Set a deadline (at least 2 weeks prior)
- • ▪Decide on a format:
 - YouTube link (tell parents NOT to select “made for kids”) – you can add their videos to your playlist
 - Video file (mp4 recommended)
- • ▪Decide how you want videos transferred to you:
 - Wetransfer.com
 - Google drive
- • ▪Tell parents how you want videos labeled (name, title)
- • ▪Specify dress code, portrait or landscape orientation and introduction

SHARING VIDEOS:

- On Zoom:
 - Make introductory remarks
 - Share screen with videos
 - Wrap up the recital
- On YouTube: Create a playlist and schedule a YouTube Premier or Create a playlist and simply send out a link for parents to watch at their leisure

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4 RECITAL IDEA #1: ENGAGING STUDENTS AND ENCOURAGING INTERACTION

- • ▪Students send their recital videos ahead of time
- • ▪Teacher prepares PowerPoint presentation with questions for students during recital
- • ▪Students type their responses in the chat box
- • ▪Teacher reads answers after each performer

INTERACTIVE SUMMER RECITAL

RECITAL IDEA #2: COMPOSITION AND INDEPENDENT PROJECT

- • ▪Teacher creates groups of 3-4 students who take turns working on various steps of a composition project during lessons
- • ▪Teacher publishes all scores as a pdf booklet and emails it out to the parents
- • ▪Compositions are played by MuseScore during the recital
- • ▪Students also play a piece they worked mostly by themselves over a 3-week period

COMPOSITION & INDEPENDENT PROJECT SHARE

RECITAL IDEA #3: RECORDED SOCIALLY DISTANT ENSEMBLES



RECITAL IDEA #4: VIRTUAL ENSEMBLE

- Compilation of audio files only in Audacity or similar app
- Compilation of video files in video editing app

4 TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL VIRTUAL RECITAL

THINGS YOU SHOULD PLAN AHEAD

EXTERNAL MICROPHONE

Use an external wired microphone and test it before using it at the recital. Wireless microphones may cause sound delays.



RECORD A TEST VIDEO

Ask a friend who lives in another location to help you run a test. Connect to zoom, have the friend record your playing, and watch the recording for things that you want to improve. Video through zoom will have different quality of sound from a video recorded on your device.



AVOID PAGE TURNS

Page turns sound loud through zoom. Make copies of *legally purchased* music and arrange all pages in front of you if you are not playing from memory.



PROPER DEVICE POSITION

Position your device to the right of the piano, slightly higher than the keyboard, and tilt the screen down to show both your face and the piano keyboard. If the device is near the bass register, the low sounding notes will be amplified and sound harsh.

A swivel bar stool with a flat seat will help you adjust height and viewing angle. A stack of books on top of a chair also works well. Practice positioning your device prior to the recital.



RIGHT BEFORE THE RECITAL:

MAKE SURE YOUR DEVICE HAS:

- A fully charged battery
- The latest version of zoom or another application you are using
- Access to the recital link



ENABLE ORIGINAL SOUND

When in zoom, enable original sound function. Go to: Audio Settings -> Advanced -> Check "Show in meeting option to Enable Original Sound."



STOP ALL OTHER STREAMING

Ask family members to stop all video streaming from other devices. Connect to a TV screen for family watching on one device.



DRESS UP

It's easy to forget you are being watched by others when you are playing in the comfort of your own home!



BE EARLY AND TEST

Connect at least 5 minutes prior to start of the recital and test your microphone and speakers in zoom.



MUTE AND UNMUTE

Don't forget to mute yourself upon entry into the zoom meeting and unmute yourself for your performance. Mute yourself again after performance.



SPEAK INTO THE MICROPHONE

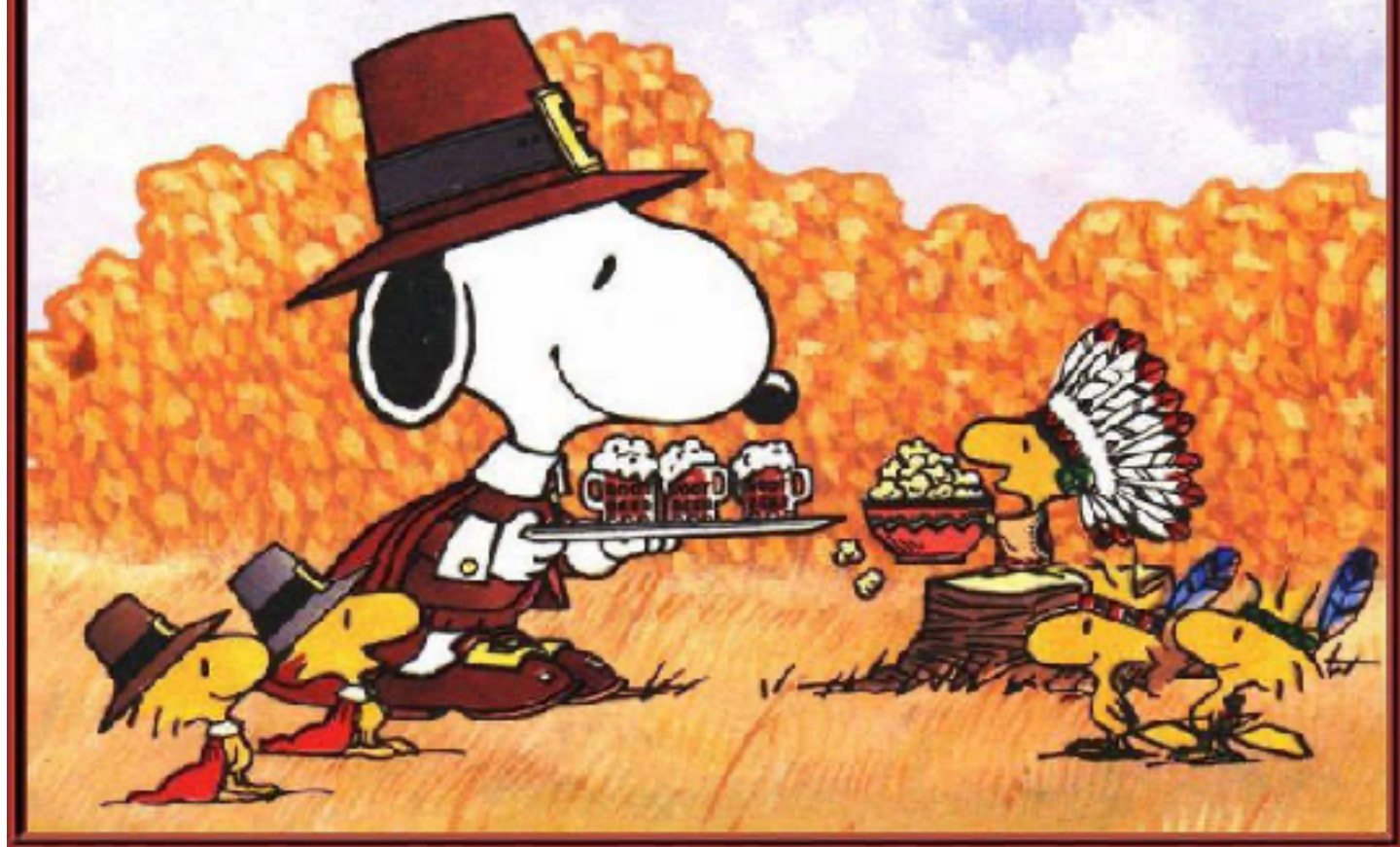
Come closer to the device when speaking. Even if piano sound comes through well, sometimes the voice doesn't, so speaking into the device microphone is important.

HAVE FUN

...and remember - you may inspire others to do their best and learn new music.



Happy Thanksgiving!



**HAPPY
TOFURKEY
DAY!**