



January 2021

# Conejo Valley

[www.mtacconejovalley.org/](http://www.mtacconejovalley.org/)

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

## Next Meeting January 28, 2021

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87033811802?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87033811802?pwd=S0thV2h0SFBxd1Ark3d3dJXcmJtUT09)

[pwd=S0thV2h0SFBxd1Ark3d3dJXcmJtUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87033811802?pwd=S0thV2h0SFBxd1Ark3d3dJXcmJtUT09)

Meeting ID: 870 3381 1802. Passcode: 104704

8:30 am Board Meeting 9:00 am General Meeting

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## Branch Officers 2020/21

### **President:**

Debbie Siemer

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

### **First Vice President:**

Caitlin Baruch

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### **Second Vice President:**

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### **Recording Secretary:**

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### **Corresponding Secretary:**

Kyung Lee

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### **Treasurer:**

Brad Gregory

[begtzg@verizon.net](mailto:begtzg@verizon.net)

### **Membership:**

Ornela Ervin

[OrnelaErvin@verizon.net](mailto:OrnelaErvin@verizon.net)

### **Directors:**

Susan Mastrolonardo

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Danna Southwell

[dannasouthwell@gmail.com](mailto:dannasouthwell@gmail.com)

Diana Ray Goodman

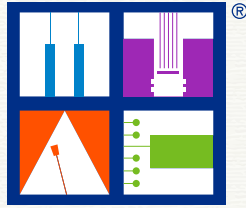
[diana4343@gmail.com](mailto:diana4343@gmail.com)

Ann Erwin

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Tachell Gerbert

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# CONEJO VALLEY BRANCH



## CALENDAR

**PRIVATE TEACHER  
RECITALS – Brad  
Gregory – TBA**

**CM THEORY TEST  
through the state portal**

**PRIMA VISTA FESTIVAL-  
Susan Mastrodonato &  
Ruth Kuo –February 28  
(Feb 9)**

**EARLY LEVEL  
BAROQUE/CLASSICAL  
FESTIVAL (from P-5)–  
Mike Preddy - Feb 21  
(Feb 7)**

**VOCE chamber music–  
Feb 13 3PM. (Dec 1 for  
state and Jan 15 for  
branch) Fred Beerstein**

**CM PIANO EVALUATIONS  
due by Mar 8**

**CM STRING  
EVALUATIONS – due by  
Mar 8**

**CM WOODWIND  
EVALUATIONS– due by  
Mar 8**

**CM Honors Recitals-  
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)**

### January Newsletter

Happy New Year to each of you! I trust you have had a time of rest during the holiday season.

Thank you to Mike Preddy for supplying us with a festive holiday program in December. Mike, we appreciate your time and preparation.

The time to enter our students' repertoire for Certificate of Merit is upon us. Let's be sure to get all our information entered before the January 15 deadline.

I hope to see you on Zoom on January 28, 2021 for our next meeting. Following the meeting, our own Gulia Gurevich will present a special Express Program for us. Gulia, who has been working with a new program called The Threshold Program, will share information about this music outreach initiative and perform selections from her visits with hospice patients. This will be an exceptional time together.

In February, we will look forward to the Prima Vista sight reading festival and also to the Early Level Baroque/Classical festival.

Warmest regards,  
Debbie



## 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 2019-2020 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](mailto: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 remaining events

This season's remaining Branch meetings; (Zoom, see Newsletter) 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](http://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** - February 13 (Deadline Dec 1)

**CM Honors Recital** -TBA, Debbie Siemer with Katya assisting

**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

Please contact the chair or go to our [mtacconejovalley.org](http://mtacconejovalley.org) website to enter students in the programs and events.

Remember to place musical items for sale in our newsletter.

**FOR SALE**

# Towards Empathy

by Debbie Siemer

Years ago, my young son wanted to study martial arts. Being the very protective homeschool mom that I was at the time, I told him, “Sounds good. LET’S do it! Where do WE sign up?” And that’s how I came to study Shorin Ryu Karate in my 30’s. I loved the high kicks and the breaking boards, but I really struggled in class. Young children in my class were progressing and earning their new belts, while I continued to lack stamina, to wrestle with my form, and fight to remember the kata (patterns). I remember sparring with the sensei and he called for a right hand strike. I jabbed with my left. Frustrated, he said, “No, your OTHER right hand.” I really was trying to listen and obey, but my mind and my body were exhausted. I desperately needed a break.

I sometimes remember that scene from the dojo when my piano students are truly trying to do their best, but just not getting it. At that point, I have the student take a break from the task at hand, and we do something that seems totally unrelated to what we just left. Eventually, our “break” leads us back to that passage which had been impossible, but may have just become possible when approached from a different direction.

Recently, I took up running - another sport in which I have no skills. The coach of my running club has helped me with my breathing. After weeks of work, the 2:2 breathing pattern now feels almost natural. He is now trying to increase my running cadence from 160 to 180 bpm. (Do you have any classical suggestions for a 180 playlist?) At the moment, sustaining 180 is impossible, but if I sacrifice speed and breathing and focus just on the cadence, I can make it work for short periods of time. I trust with practice, I will someday be able to keep the faster cadence AND the proper breathing AND the faster speed (well, fast for me).

Likewise, in piano lessons, if the student is learning a difficult rhythmic or fingering pattern, I will not correct the occasional stray note or demand that the passage be played to speed. I know it’s really hard to focus on many unfamiliar things at once. But once a particular skill has been mastered, it becomes automatic, freeing a person to shift focus to the next challenge.

Playing a musical instrument presents many challenges. It demands stamina, form, memory and sustained focus. Almost every week, I say to a student, “No, your OTHER right hand.” I say it with a smile, without a bit of derision or ridicule. They are trying. I get it.

# Peace In Concert 2021

Saturday, February 6, 2020, 3:00PM  
View on [www.peaceinconcert.org](http://www.peaceinconcert.org) or  
Facebook/peaceinconcert



China Sat. 3pm — Japan 4pm, Russia 10am, Czech/Germany 8am, UK 7am, Fri. LA 11pm  
Russia Sat 3pm — Japan 9pm, China 8pm, Czech/Germany 1pm, UK 12pm, LA 4am  
Czech/Germany Sat. 3pm — Japan 11pm, China 10pm, Russia 5pm, UK 2pm, LA 6am  
UK Sat. 3pm — Sun. Japan 12am, Sat. China 11pm, Russia 6pm, Czech/Germany 4pm, LA 7am  
LA Sat. 3pm — Sun. Japan 8am, China 7am, Russia 2am, Czech/Germany 12am, Sat. UK 11pm

This concert includes MTACconejovalley members Tomiko Taylor, Fred Beerstein, Eric Johnson-Tamai, Christine DeKlotz, Dana Rouse, and others.

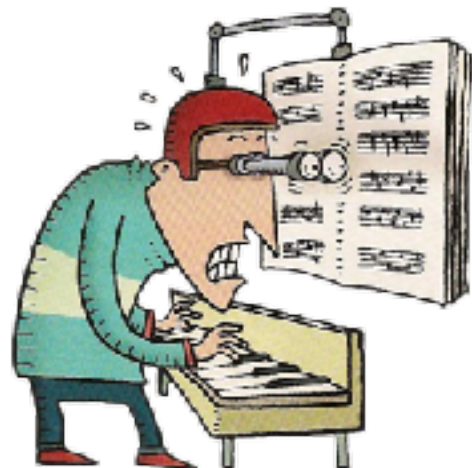
Past concerts can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPkg6DLUDXOODy67XH-svAQ/videos>

# PRIMA VISTA FESTIVAL

In keeping with CM 2021 Online Evaluation, our Prima Vista 2021 Festival will also be online. The objective of the **Prima Vista Festival** is to motivate students to improve their sight-reading abilities as well as prepare for the sight-reading portion of their Certificate of Merit exam. Students from Preparatory to Level 7 will be given 1 example with a 30 second preview time per example. Level 8 and above students will have with a preview time of 45 second. Our festival adjudicator, Sharon Townsend will evaluate students based on the CM Sight-Reading guidelines documented on Pg 17 of MTAC Piano Syllabus 2012. Gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded to each participating students.

- **Who may enter:** CM Registered students of all levels and all disciplines
- **Fee:** \$10 per performer. Please make ONE payment per teacher via our branch website.
- **Application Deadline:** 11:59 pm **Sunday, February 7, 2021**. Link to online registration is <https://forms.gle/2TZvPqLyn8M9dNjn8>
- **Youtube Posting Deadline:** 11:59 pm **Saturday, February 13, 2021**. Please send all recordings directly to Ruth Kuo at [ruthk.music@gmail.com](mailto:ruthk.music@gmail.com). *Please follow the video recording instructions provided by the CM State Council.*
- **Announcement of Results and Distribution of Judge's comments:** Sunday, February 28, 2021  
**For any questions, please contact Susan Mastrolonardo at [susan.mastrolonardo@gmail.com](mailto:susan.mastrolonardo@gmail.com) or (805)231-7876.**  
**PLEASE NOTE NEW YOUTUBE POSTING DEADLINE. THANK YOU!!!**







The Conejo Valley Flute Society (founded in 2002 and directed by Toby Caplan- Stonefield) - in it's recent Winter Holiday Workshop Program featuring flute students and area flutists is shown here. We are always looking for new members. For more information please contact [FlutistToby@gmail.com](mailto:FlutistToby@gmail.com)

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New Year's Day Beethoven Ode to Joy with Rotterdam Philharmonic.

<https://slippedisc.com/2020/03/exclusive-rotterdam-made-that-amazing-beethoven-9th-without-rehearsal/>

# VOCE update

## YouTube Broadcast performance February 13, 2020 at.3PM

(Fred Beerstein, [fbeerstein@gmail.com](mailto:fbeerstein@gmail.com) 805 625-2616 cell)  
Chamber Music including Voice Orchestral Instruments and piano)

Dear Teachers,

**Non-competitive Branch VOCE registration** continues to be open until Jan. 15, 2021. Piano duets and piano four-hands performances are particularly sought. Pianists are our most well represented instrument yet remain very underrepresented in this event.

The application link ,thanks to Tachell, is found under event registration on our [MTACconejovalley.org](http://MTACconejovalley.org) website. The state and branch performances will occur on the same concert. You will hear beautiful string, woodwind, and mixed instrument performances.

**State and non-competitive Branch VOCE Youtube Posting Deadline:** 11:59 pm Tuesday, February 9, 2021. Please create a video that includes sections from both pieces that is less than 10 minutes but longer than 9 minutes in length. Save it to a YouTube account you have created. Please send all YouTube links to Fred Beerstein at [fbeerstein@gmail.com](mailto:fbeerstein@gmail.com)

\*This is the the Branch VOCE soloist or ensemble application link: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc-kvsWbLqbyUJTfnvty9KkEQdu3gnm88QfCPKhtABcyx6bTA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc-kvsWbLqbyUJTfnvty9KkEQdu3gnm88QfCPKhtABcyx6bTA/viewform?usp=sf_link)

The state **VOCE Application Portal** will close on **Dec 1, 2020**. Refer to the **VOCE Guidelines** found on your Teacher Portal for information about important dates, categories and eligibility requirements.

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

### **State VOCE Enrollment Period:**

You will be able to make edits to applications up until **December 15, 2020**.

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.

### **Payment Period for State VOCE:**

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 **December 15, 2020**.  
***(Don't make the payment until the application is complete)***

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

VOCE State Chair, **Tina Yoo**, will help your Branch

Sincerely,  
[programs@mtac.org](mailto:programs@mtac.org)

# Announcing New Facebook Page

By Debbie Siemer

MTAC Conejo now has a new facebook page. This new page is in addition to the “MTAC Conejo Valley Online Teaching Support Group” page which is administered by Katya Solovskaia and Stephanie Emery. Whereas the “Online Support Teaching Support Group” is designed for our help and encouragement (and sometimes entertainment!), this new “MTAC Conejo Valley Branch” will be our outreach page to the public. Through this new page, we hope to reach parents who may be looking for a music teachers. We also hope to reach music teachers who may consider joining our group. More details regarding the new page will be coming. In the meantime, please “like” “**MTAC Conejo Valley Branch.**” Many thanks to **Keum Hwa Cha** for creating and helping to administer the new endeavor.

The following is taken from our Facebook page. Please post events that parents should see on this page.

[MTAC Conejo Valley Branch](https://www.facebook.com/mtacconejovalley/)

·<https://www.facebook.com/mtacconejovalley/>

**Welcome to the Official  
MTAC Conejo Valley  
Page!**

The Conejo Valley Branch of the MTAC primarily serves teachers and their students in the Thousand Oaks, Newbury Park, Oak Park, Westlake Village, Agoura Hills, Simi Valley, and Moorpark areas. Membership includes music teachers with private studios, instructors at private and public schools, and college professors.

# The Southern California Junior Bach Festival-

<https://www.scjbf.org/stringswindsandvoice.htm>

(rev. 12/01/2020)

## ELIGIBILITY

The Southern California Junior Bach Festival is open to students of active, provisional and student members of participating branches of MTAC who wish to perform original works by J.S. Bach and who will not have reached their 19th birthday by April 1st of the Festival year. Vocalists may not have reached their 25th birthday. For the Organ, Strings, and Winds/Voice Regional Festivals, students of teachers who hold membership in the MTAC, National Flute Association (NFA), American Guild of Organists (AGO), American String Teachers Association (ASTA), and National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) are also eligible.

## STRING FESTIVAL

The String Festival format for 2021 is as follows:

1. String students perform in an All-Branch Regional Festival encompassing all of the MTAC branches participating in SCJBF.
2. The All-Branch STRING Regional Festival is made up of two divisions:
  - (1) Junior – students who will not have reached their 14th birthday by April 1st of the Festival year, and
  - (2) Senior – students who are 14 through 18 years old as of April 1st of the Festival year.
3. Eligible instruments are violin, viola, violoncello and guitar or lute.
4. The All-Branch STRING Regional Festival will be held virtually this year. All entries must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, April 17, 2021.
5. A panel of three judges will write comments about each performance and will select up to 45% of the students in each division as Regional Medalists.
6. Both Junior and Senior medalists playing eligible repertoire may go forward to the Complete Works Auditions.
7. All other Rules and Teacher Guidelines of the SCJBF apply.
8. The fee for a soloist is \$35.00. The fee for an ensemble is \$60.00 (total). (Checks from parents will not be accepted) Teachers should submit one check, with all student fees combined, payable to SCJBF, and mailed to:

Cheryl Scheidemantle  
1141 S. Oak Knoll Ave.  
Pasadena, CA 91106

## WIND AND VOICE FESTIVAL in 2021 (information not yet revised) please check website

The Wind and Voice format for 2019-2020 is as follows:

1. Wind and Voice students perform in an All-Branch Regional Festival encompassing all of the MTAC branches participating in SCJBF.
2. The All-Branch WIND and VOICE Regional Festival is made up of two divisions:
  - (1) Junior – students who will not have reached their 15th birthday by April 1st of the Festival year, and
  - (2) Senior – students who are 15 through 18 years old as of April 1st of the Festival year; Vocalists through age 25.

**Piano Festival Information coming.**



1. **CM has drastically changed, there are no more instrument chairs.**

The names of instrument chairs have been taken off the contact list under CM. Only Danna Southwell remains the branch CM Chair. Please contact any knowledgeable members of your discipline who can answer general questions when needed.

2. January 15 is the last day to make changes for student materials online.

3. March 8 is the announced deadline for submission of videos and other materials.

## **MTAC CONEJO VALLEY program chairs**

EARLY LEVEL BAROQUE/CLASSICAL FESTIVAL (P-5)\– Mike Preddy -\

VOCE state competition– - Fred Beerstein

VOCE branch non-competition performance-- Fred Beerstein

CM EVALUATIONS – Danna Southwell –\ Only Danna Southwell remains the branch CM Chair. Because the Certificate of Merit program is being conducted directly from the state office, the section chairs for strings and winds are no longer current.

CM HONORS RECITAL– Debbie Siemer with Katya Solovskaya assisting

CM WOODWIND HONORS RECITAL, - Ann Erwin –

FESTIMANTIC! (5-10) – Ornela Ervin

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA JR. BACH FESTIVAL(SCJB) (5-10) Keyboards only– Michael West

FESTIMANTIC HONOR RECITAL, HTLC – Ornela Ervin –and Nina Kelley

YOUNG ARTIST RECITAL/BRANCH AWARDS CEREMONY,– Heidi Lyn Williams –

SCJB REGIONALS-- Mona DeCesare

KOOLFEST JAZZ, BLUES, POP FESTIVAL (All levels) – Mike Preddy –

PRIVATE TEACHER RECITAL– Brad Gregory –

PLANNING MEETING, Ornela

THOUSAND OAKS PHILHARMONIC CONCERTS – Ornela

Please contact the chairs or go to our [mtacconejovalley.org](http://mtacconejovalley.org) website to enter students in the programs and events.

# IN THE COMMUNITY

....and there was Beethoven.

<https://www.seattletimes.com/entertainment/classical-music/how-world-war-i-made-beethovens-ninth-a-japanese-new-year-tradition/>

<https://www.dw.com/en/beethovens-ninth-at-the-g20-peace-joy-and-provocation/a-39594778>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphony\\_No.\\_9\\_\(Beethoven\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symphony_No._9_(Beethoven))

<https://slippedisc.com/2020/03/exclusive-rotterdam-made-that-amazing-beethoven-9th-without-rehearsal/>

<https://aleteia.org/2019/12/22/the-little-discussed-faith-of-beethoven/>

<https://off-guardian.org/2020/12/16/beethoven-in-the-age-of-endarkenment/>