



February 2021

Conejo Valley

www.mtacconejovalley.org/

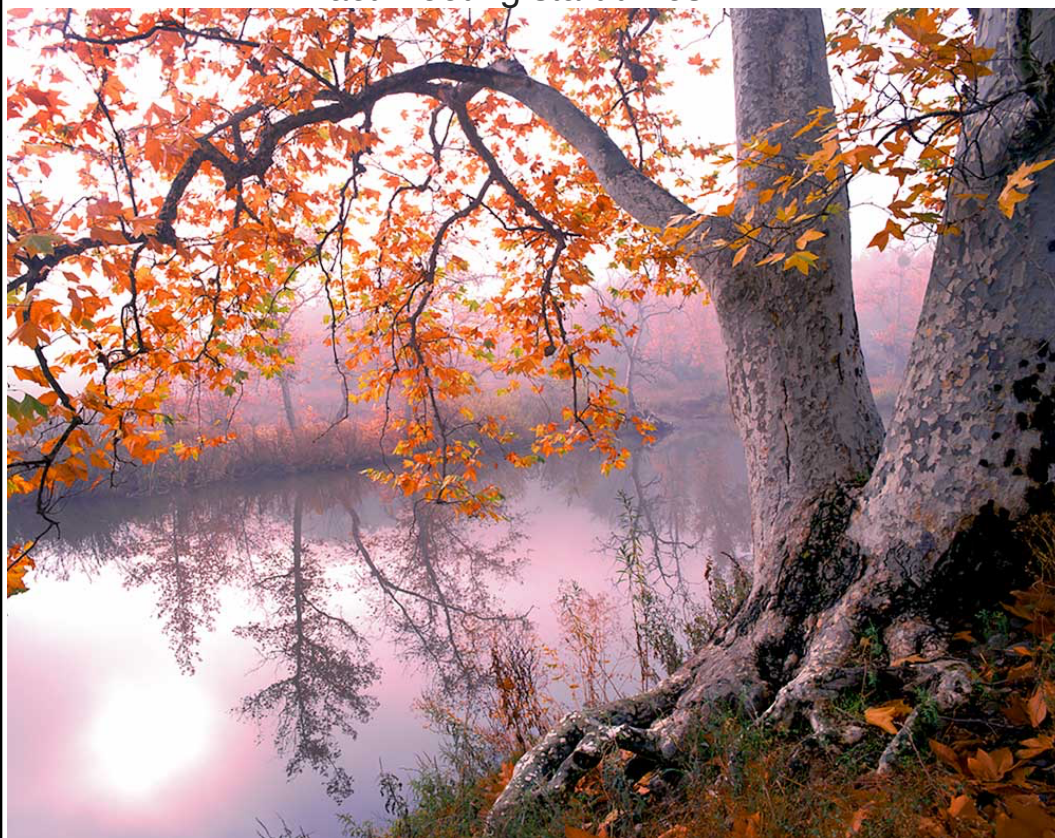
Newsletter of the Conejo Valley Branch of the Music Teachers Association of California

Next Meeting February 25, 2021

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82705310544>

Meeting ID: 827 0531 0544

Exact meeting start times TBA



MUSIC TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

www.mtac.org

Conejo Valley Branch on
Facebook

[https://www.facebook.com/
mtacconejovalley](https://www.facebook.com/mtacconejovalley)

MTAC Conejo Valley Online
Teaching Support Group

[https://www.facebook.com/
groups/2502583726676616/
about](https://www.facebook.com/groups/2502583726676616/about)

Branch Officers 2020/21

President:

Debbie Siemer

debbiesiemer@gmail.com

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Caitlin Baruch

caitlinwb@gmail.com

Second Vice President:

Gloria Hilliard

glomusic49@gmail.com

Recording Secretary:

Emily Wu

emywu15@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary:

Kyung Lee

kyunglee330@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Brad Gregory

begtzg@verizon.net

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Ornela Ervin

OrnelaErvin@verizon.net

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Susan Mastrodonardo

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Diana Ray Goodman

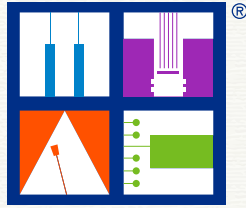
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CONEJO VALLEY BRANCH



CALENDAR

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

**CM THEORY TEST
through the state portal**

**PRIMA VISTA FESTIVAL-
Susan Mastrodonardo &
Ruth Kuo –February 28
(Feb 7)**

**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
(3-6) - Michael West,
April 5**

President's Greeting

Happy February dear colleagues!

Many thanks to Gulia Gurevich and Claytie Mason for an inspiring Express Program in January. Gulia, thank you for sharing your beautiful music with us. If anyone is interested in contacting The Threshold Music Program to find out more about playing for Hospice patients, please contact Claytie through Hospice of the Conejo, 805-495-2145.

If you have students registered in Certificate of Merit (CM), please check out the State website as they have recently added new information. At new.mtac.org you will find the "CM 2021 Sight Reading Instructional Video" and the "CM 2021 Technique Instructional Video." These are found in the teacher portal, under "New Program Updates."

This month we look forward to three special events - **VOCE** on February 13 hosted by Fred Beerstein, **Early Level Baroque/Classical Festival** on February 21 hosted by Michael Preddy, and the **Prima Vista Festival** on February 28, hosted by Susan Mastrodonardo and Ruth Kuo. We are so grateful for the many opportunities our students have to participate in such fine events. Thank you to each of the organizers. We appreciate your time and dedication.

Have you seen MTAC Conejo Valley's new facebook page? Many thanks to Dr. Keum Hwa Cha who is helping us have a presence on social media. Stop by and give us a "like!"

Our next meeting will be on February 25. Here is the Zoom link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82705310544>
Meeting ID: 827 0531 0544

I look forward to seeing you then.
With much gratitude for each of you!
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

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), 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

VOCE - February 13 (Deadline Dec 1)

Early Level Baroque/Classical Festival(P-5) Michael Preddy, February 21(Deadline February 7)

Prima Vista Festival - Susan Mastrolonardo, Ruth Kuo, February 28(Deadline February 7)

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 piano- Michael West,(Deadline March 6)

TO Phil - Ornela Ervin, April 16 and 18, June 25, 27

Festimantic! Honors Recital- Ornela Ervin, , April 25

Young Artist Recital/Branch Awards - Heidi Lyn Williams, May 14

SoCal Jr. Bach Regionals- Mona DeCesare

Koolfest Jazz, Blues, Pop Festival (All levels) Michael Preddy, May 22(Deadline May 9)

Planning Meeting - Ornela's home or Zoom?, June 3

Convention -We are excited to announce that the 2021 MTAC Convention will be a virtual Convention which will take place from July 2 - July 6 with a Convention archive posted through the end of July 2021

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

FOR SALE

Please use this space to advertise your music items for free. Contact Fred Beerstein, fbeerstein@gmail.com

A Good Teacher

by Debbie Siemer

When you think of a good teacher, what qualities or attributes do you think of? Think of a teacher who truly impacted your life. What qualities did they possess? Below are some qualities that I find important. I've divided them into five sections: Professional, Presentation, Personable, Pedagogy and Prudence. What would you add to my list? In which areas are your strengths? Are there any areas that you would like to improve? (Personally, I have several areas in which I'd like to improve.) Perhaps we could make some of these topics for discussion following one of our meetings.

A. **Good teachers are PROFESSIONAL.** They

1. are prepared with specific goals and plans for the year, the season and the lesson that day.
2. are organized, easily accessing books, papers and financial records.
3. have a clear studio policy that covers expectations and finances.
4. keep good records.
5. charge a professional fee and are worth every penny of it.
6. start promptly and use the lesson time wisely.
7. take time to assess their teaching, looking for ways to improve.
8. are focused on the lesson at hand (not answering calls, looking at their phone, or getting up to stir soup).
9. love and model their art, having passion and knowledge of their subject.
10. read widely and see connections between various subjects and the music at hand.
11. continue to learn and grow themselves, maintaining competency, utilizing updated resources, staying abreast of modern trends, reading professional journals, taking on new challenges.
12. have a good reputation among their peers and speak of their peers with respect.
13. have wisdom both in accepting a new student and in releasing a student from the studio, understanding that they may not be the best teacher for this particular student.

B. **Good teachers PRESENT their ideas clearly.** They

1. communicate well, able to take complex concepts and present them simply, step by step, relating the new material to what the student has already mastered, moving from the known to the unknown.
2. capture the attention by use of relevant stories, bringing the material to life and making it personal.
3. address the mistakes and problems, offering correction with kindness.
4. see personal successes and offer specific praise with sincerity.
5. communicate with the parents for the best interest of the student.
6. know the student and are able to teach in way that is able to be understood.
7. arouse curiosity, making the student want to learn.

A Good Teacher (continued)

C. Good teachers are **PERSONABLE**. They

1. have humor and have fun.
2. are excited about their subject and impart this excitement to their student.
3. are humble - admitting when they make an error or misspeak and acknowledge that there may be more than one way to approach the material.
4. are empathetic, and compassionate, understanding the difficulties of being a student.
5. authentically care about the student- the whole person, intellectually, morally and physically.
6. seek to serve the student.
7. have patience and stamina.
8. can deal with behavior management.

D. Good teachers have **PEDAGOGICAL skills**. They

1. bring variety to the lesson.
2. can be spontaneous, able to change their plans when necessary.
3. let the student know that learning will be hard and are prepared to help the student work through the times of frustration.
4. encourage the student to think, enabling them to understand principles that can be brought to other pieces.
5. give the student time to discover and state the problem areas themselves.
6. give the student time to try to fix the problem themselves if they can.
7. let the student be hungry for help, wanting to hear the teacher's suggestions.
8. inspire the student to greatness, studying their interests and giving them tools to achieve what they may be capable of.
9. provide the student with a safe place to work hard and be creative, knowing they will be free from ridicule or harsh criticism.
10. are resourceful and creative.

E. Good teachers are **PRUDENT**. They

1. recognize their position of trust, care and authority.
2. err on the side of caution when it comes to online presence and "friending" students.
3. keep healthy boundaries, leaving no room for false accusations.
4. are joyful, not communicating moodiness to the student, not seeking emotional support from the student.
5. maintain safe communication with the student, including the parent in emails or texts.
6. avoid inappropriate conversations, innuendo, and profanity.
7. maintain confidentiality, not speaking of other students or their families.
8. respect the student's privacy and don't post photos of videos without prior express, written permission.
9. respect each student's cultural background.

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. *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 or (805)231-7876.**
PLEASE NOTE NEW YOUTUBE POSTING DEADLINE. THANK YOU!!!



Greetings from Advanced Contemporary Festival. Happy New Year!

Can't believe January is quietly passing us by. The certificates and medals for Advanced Contemporary have been sitting at my porch since October. They have been under the sun, the wind and the rain, and I have decided to bring them inside.

When you come to pick them up, text me at (805)3003645, and I will place your envelope on my bench by the front door. 2449 Whitechapel Place, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

Another option: if you live in TO, NP or Simi, I can deliver it to your house. Simply reply to me with your home address.

Sincerely,
Emily

EASIEST WAY TO SEND A “TOO LARGE” FILE:

What you are about to do is temporarily store the video in a cloud-holder app called Collect and send the file from there using your own email app. All of below is based on personal experience.

Instructions:

Download and install an app called “Collect by We Transfer.”

After that is done, go to your Photo app and find the video you want to send. Chose “Select” and then select the correct video. After you select the video, touch the “Upload” icon and then select the “Collect” icon. The video will now load into “Collect” for temporary storage. Next, go to your normal phone screen where you see all your apps, find and open the “Collect” app. Chose “Select,” select the video, chose “Export,” and chose your email app (Gmail, Outlook, etc.) and send the video.

Summary:

First, download and install “Collect by We Transfer”

Open Photos

Chose video (using Select)

Chose Upload

Chose Collect

Go to phone screen to see all your apps

Open Collect

Chose your video (using Select)

Chose Export

Chose your email app such as Gmail, etc.

Send your video

Alternately, you can upload the video to cloud storage and send it by sharing the link to it. Be sure to give permissions to the recipient. If you don't have a cloud storage account, easily acquire one by signing up for a Gmail, iCloud, or Outlook email address. They all come with cloud storage.

Corrections for any of above to. :mikepreddymusic@gmail.com

VOCE update
YouTube Broadcast performance February 13, 2020 at.3PM

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

Dear Teachers,

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**

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

For additional help please contact your VOCE Branch Chair or Branch President, or VOCE State Chair, **Tina Yoo**, will help your Branch

Sincerely,
programs@mtac.org

Please share my composition, **“In His Hand: Prelude,”** in the newsletter and with anyone you think might be interested.

Here is the link:
http://www.ml-m.net/Music.fld/In_His_Hand/In_His_Hand-Prelude.pdf

There is permission given at the bottom of the score for anyone to perform it non-commercially.

Other free compositions of mine are available here:
<http://www.ml-m.net/Music.html>

Blessings to you and yours,
Mark Lybarger-Monson, Ph.D.
Pianist • Composer • Teacher
www.ml-m.net

J o h n 3 : 1 6
“For God so loved the world,
that he gave his only Son,
that whoever believes in him
s h o u l d n o t p e r i s h
but have eternal
l i f e.
”

Thank you Mark!!
Sincerely,
Fred Beerstein, newsletter

Check out the 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>

ELIGIBILITY (rev. 12/01/2020)

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- String teachers please contact Diana Ray-Goodman

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 FESTIVALS- 2021 Season

April 15, 2021 - Last day for **2021 Branch Keyboard Festivals**

May 16, 2021 -- All-Branch Regional Winds & Voice Festival will be held virtually this year. All video entries must be submitted by 11:59pm on Sunday, May 16, 2021 Emily An, chair. Check scjbf.org for updates under *Special Announcement*.

April - May 2021 -- Regional Organ Festival - Date and Location To Be Determined. Branches with organ participants should contact Sylvia Barton, Chair. Check scjbf.org for updates.

May 31, 2021 -- Regional Keyboard Festivals to be completed by this date

The [Special announcement for teachers of Wind, String and Voice students](#) has additional information regarding those festivals. (Rev. 01/28/2021)

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.

SCJBF PIANO- Conejo Valley Branch.

March 6- 2021 - Registration deadline

Monday April 5 videos to be submitted at 11:59 PM

The Branch Festival portal is now open and you can begin the registration process here:

https://www.scjbf.org/teacher_login.a5w

Please send me any questions regarding login and passwords as soon as possible. mawmusic@gmail.com

Thank you! Michael West, piano chair, Conejo Valley Branch

EARLY LEVEL BAROQUE & CLASSICS FESTIVAL

February 21, 2021

Synopsis: *The Early Level Baroque & Classics Festival (ELBCF)* provides an encouraging performance experience of 18th and early 19th Century music for students at the *Preparatory through Fifth Level* of study. It further promotes the appreciation and understanding of these two important classical styles through an evaluation by a qualified judge.

Who may enter: Students of MTACCV, Levels Preparatory through Five.

Deadline to apply: Midnight **Sunday evening, February 7.** Go to the MTACConejoValley website. Login, go to Event Registration, scroll down to Early Level Baroque/Classics. You can access the link to the application form and make payment all at that location.

Application link: Fee: \$14.00 per performer

Date and Time: **Sunday, February 21.** First recital at **1:15.** Second recital: **3:15.** Additional recitals will be scheduled depending on the number of entries.

VIDEO INFORMATION: **Presentation this year will be via YouTube.** An iPhone, Android or Tablet camera video acceptable. FORMATS: mp4, .mov or .wmv. Send your videos to mikepreddymusic@gmail.com. Put VIDEOS in the subject line so I can easily search it. I prefer if TEACHERS are send the videos to me please.
Repertoire Requirements:

Time Limit: Three minutes. A student may play more than one piece by either the same or a different composer as long as the combined time does not exceed 3 minutes.

Music Allowed: Preparatory thru Level Five (5); Music written between 1600 through ca. 1830. Levels are based on CM syllabus. Contact the chairperson with questions regarding repertoire selections. **COPIES OF THE MUSIC ARE NOT REQUIRED THIS YEAR.**

Memorization: **With few exceptions,** pianists may not use music during performance. Other instruments may use music as is customary to their discipline. Contact the chairperson with concerns.

Dress: Appropriate recital attire.

Please address questions to: mikepreddymusic@gmail.com; Cell: (805) 427-2786. Thank you!

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Sent from Gmail Mobile
mikepreddymusic@gmail.com
805.427.2786

"What you yourself hate, don't do to your neighbor. This is the whole law; the rest is commentary. Go and study."

-- Hillel the Elder

Application Link, EARLY LEVEL BAROQUE & CLASSICS FESTIVAL

<https://forms.gle/Yv4yBfPxxoMF1Jp>

Judge for Early Level Baroque/Classics Festival

Dear Teachers, I am honored to announce that this year's judge for ELBCF will be pianist and teacher, **Dr. Lauren Schack Clark, Dept. Chair at Arkansas State University**. I heard her present two summers ago in Austria where she gave a wonderful talk at the **Haydn Festival**. In addition to Dr. Clark's information below, her website address is listed at the end. **We, along with Candy Man** look forward to receiving your video performances as our **Deadline of February 7** rapidly approaches!

Dr. Lauren Schack Clark, Department Chair, Professor of Piano, Arkansas State University

Education:

D.M.A, Boston University, Collaborative Piano

M.M., Northwestern University, Piano Performance and Pedagogy

Teaching Specialties:

Piano, Collaborative Piano, Piano Pedagogy, Keyboard Skills, Piano Literature.

Recordings:

Dr. Clark has recorded on the Centaur, Vienna Modern Masters, Emeritus, and Mark Records labels. Website: <http://www.laurenschackclark.com>.

Thanks,

Mike Preddy

mikepreddymusic@gmail.com

--

Sent from Gmail Mobile

mikepreddymusic@gmail.com

805.427.2786

"What you yourself hate, don't do to your neighbor. This is the whole law; the rest is commentary. Go and study."

-- Hillel the Elder

Peace In Concert 2021

Saturday, February 6, 2020, 3:00PM
View on 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, Kyung Lee, 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>



The Westlake Village Music Society presents

Russian Treasures

A Free Virtual Concert featuring:

Dmitrii Tabala – violin

Christine DeKlotz – piano

Tomiko Hamada Taylor – piano

*Concert program includes pieces by Alexander
Glazunov, Pyotr Tchaikovsky & Sergei Rachmaninov*

Premieres on YouTube

Friday, February 12, 2021 at 7 p.m.

Also available at any time after premiere performance

Search YouTube for “UMCWV Russian Virtual Concert”

For more information, email WVMS@umcwv.org

IN THE COMMUNITY

From the Ventura County Star

Editor's note: *The Star is making this story free to readers due to public health concerns related to coronavirus. Please consider a digital subscription to The Star so we can continue doing this important work.*

A second mutated strain of COVID-19 was found in Ventura County, public health officials said Friday. Calling the discovery concerning but expected, Ventura County Public Health Officer Dr. Robert Levin said the apparent variant does not appear to be widespread but may be more contagious than the known Wuhan strain.

The finding involves a small amount of mutations discovered through an Oxnard sewage study that looks for the presence of the coronavirus in human waste.

Samples revealed two mutations that are each among the 17 found in the COVID strain that emerged in the United Kingdom. One of the found mutations, called N501Y, is also believed to be more easily spread though no more fatal than the Wuhan strain of the virus.

Additional studies are being done to determine whether the apparent variant is indeed the UK strain or just shares some of the mutations, Levin said. That testing could take one to two weeks.

"The likelihood is it's the UK variant. It's conceivable it is another variant," said Levin.

More: [COVID-19 variant found in Ventura County in discovery official calls 'inevitable'](#)

<https://newwestsymphony.org/2020-21-virtual-season/>

A Tour of China - Feb. 28

<https://www.tophil.org/past-at-home-performances/>



From County of Ventura Facebook Page

SCAM ALERT - Vaccines are free. Do not fall victim to paying for a vaccine.

An elderly couple arrived at the vaccine site at the fairgrounds today saying they had pre-paid for their vaccine. They had provided financial information to a scammer prior to arriving to the site. Please be advised that vaccines are completely free. There is no cost to receive a vaccine. Please do not provide financial information to anyone by phone or email. Use extreme caution with your financial information.

The community is also advised to be aware of several other frequent types of phone scams. These scams can include calls from people claiming to be from the IRS, a Gas and Electric company, the Social Security office, Medicare, text messaging phishing, targeting grandparents, and QR code related scams.

To reduce the risk of becoming victims of this type of crime, review the following crime prevention tips:

Sign-up for free scam alerts from the FTC at ftc.gov/scams.

Spot imposters: Scammers often pretend to be government officials or family members. Always ask for identification or ask questions to verify who they are.

Verify an agency by researching online searches.

Don't trust caller ID.

Consider the type of payment used for transactions. Most credit cards have significant fraud protection built-in and are safer to use.

Talk to someone. Scammers want the public to make decisions in a hurry and often threaten people to make hasty decisions. Slow down, check the story, and consult an expert – or just tell a friend.

Hang up on robocalls.

Be skeptical about free trial offers.

Don't deposit a check and wire money.

If you believe you have been the victim of a scam and have suffered financial loss, contact your local police department. For all other scam-related calls, please report calls to the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-FTC-HELP or visit ftc.gov/complaint.