



March 2021

Conejo Valley

www.mtacconejovalley.org/

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

Next Meeting March 25, 2021

8:15 AM and 9:00 AM Pacific Time

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85104496465>

Meeting ID: 851 0449 6465



One of our founding members, Vanessa Allen, has just passed away. Vanessa was a beloved mentor, great encouraging and very kind to all she met. She will be sorely missed by all who knew her and her wonderful contribution to the Conejo Valley MTAC Branch will long be remembered.

Vanessa's memorial service will be March 12, 1:00 PM at Conejo Mountain Memorial Park, 2052 Howard Rd, Camarillo, CA. Her obituary may be found at <https://www.conejomountain.com/tributes/Vanessa-Myerson> Those who wish may send a card to the family may mail it to 1939 Meadow View Court, Thousand Oaks, Ca 91362. We remember Vanessa with fondness as we remember her wonderful influence in our branch and in our lives.

MUSIC TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

www.mtac.org

Conejo Valley Branch on
Facebook

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

MTAC Conejo Valley Online
Teaching Support Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2502583726676616/about>

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debbiesiemer@gmail.com

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glomusic49@gmail.com

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emywu15@gmail.com

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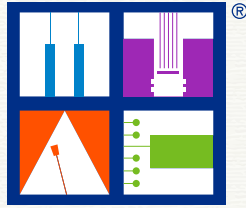
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CONEJO VALLEY BRANCH



CALENDAR

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

**CM THEORY TEST
through the state portal**

**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**

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Ornela Ervin, (Deadline
April 1 for Youtube
posting)**

**SoCal Jr. Bach Festival
(3-10) - Michael West,
April 6**

**Festimantic! Honors
Recital- Ornela Ervin, ,
April 25**

President's Greeting for March MTAC Newsletter

Hello dear colleagues,

We had a number of fine programs in February. Thank you to Fredric Beerstein for his work with the VOCE program. And thank you to Mike Preddy for once again hosting the Early Level Baroque and Classical Festival. And thanks also to Susan Mastrolonardo and Ruth Kao for their work with the Prima Vista Program. I thank each of the chairs who have worked hard to make these programs a success.

Congratulations to our MTAC members who participated in the Peace In Concert held online on February 6. Tomiko Taylor, Fred Beerstein, Kyung Lee, Eric Johnson-Tamai, and Chirstine DeKlotz joined other talented performers from around the world for a very special event.

We celebrate with Ruth Kao and her husband Hahn on the birth of little Isabelle Paisley Li, 8 lb 1 oz and 21 inch, born February 23. We rejoice with you!

Our next meeting is planned for March 25. The board will meet at 8:15 and the general meeting will be at 9:00 a.m.. Below you will find the Zoom link.

Warmest regards,
Debbie

Zoom meeting:
Mar 25, 2021 8:15 AM and 9:00 AM Pacific Time
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85104496465>
Meeting ID: 851 0449 6465

Debbie Siemer
618 Twin Peaks Avenue
Simi Valley, CA 93065



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), 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

CM Honors Recital -TBA, Katya Solovskaya, Debbie Siemer

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--see scjbf.org 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.



Vanessa Dawn Edelen Badner Myerson ~

Vanessa Myerson passed away into the arms of her Savior on February 19, 2021, at the age of 85, while hospitalized for a respiratory illness (not Covid). Vanessa was a sixty-year resident of Thousand Oaks. Most knew her as Vanessa Allen, a respected musician and inspiring piano teacher.

Vanessa was born in 1935 in Urbana, Illinois, the first child of Alfred and Rose Carl Edelen. The family moved often to accommodate her father's business opportunities. She spoke often of their home in a large, old 1704 farmhouse in rural Chester County, Pa. She grew up in a loving home emphasizing the importance of education as well as cultural pursuits and experiences.

Showing an early interest in music, Vanessa began piano lessons at the age of four at the Chicago Conservatory of Music. When the family moved to New York City, she was enrolled in the Juilliard Saturday School of Music for Talented Children. In 1943, her teacher entered a melody Vanessa had written in a national contest among outstanding music schools. The prize was to have the composition arranged for and performed by the NBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by Leopold Stokowski. Of the ten winners, she was the youngest at age eight.

Vanessa attended Junior High School in Larchmont, New York, and graduated from Downingtown High School in Pennsylvania in 1952, at the age of 16. She liked Downingtown High School and made many life-long friends. Vanessa received a full college scholarship and graduated from Penn State in 1956, at age 20, with a B.S. Degree in Business Psychology. She was a member of Kappa Delta Sorority. She participated in choirs, thespian groups, and later wrote arrangements for and sang in a sorority quartet called the K-Delts.

In 1956, she met and married Michael Badner, who was known professionally as Eddie Allen. In 1961, with two small children and a third on the way, they settled their young family in Thousand Oaks. In 1962, Eddie Allen Orchestra was formed, and soon became popular. When Eddie died unexpectedly in 1977, Vanessa kept the band going and continued teaching to support her family.

In 1982, she met professional guitarist Charlie Myerson, and they married a year later. They continued the band business, modernizing the 2-7 piece bands with more current music and instrumentation. Over 30 years, they played for more than 1300 social events.

Vanessa was fond of hearing bebop jazz performed live, and also enjoyed many years of playing music from the Great American Songbook, classic rock, Latin music, and traditional and modern church music.

Vanessa was a respected and well-loved piano teacher in the Conejo Valley for over fifty years. She enjoyed her young and older students, and cared about their success in music, and in life. She had been the president of the local Music Teachers Association, of which she had been a charter member in 1966. She taught into her eighties.

Inspired by her mother, Vanessa wrote her memoirs in the form of over 150 stories and vignettes. Her writings are a treasured gift to her family. She was a voracious reader who, in more recent years, read a book or more a week. Most of all, Vanessa cherished the time spent with her husband, children, and grandchildren.

Vanessa was a church musician almost her entire adult life including 14 years at Church of the Oaks. For the last 23 years, it had given her joy to play at the Freedom Assemblies of God Church in Thousand Oaks.

Vanessa will be sorely missed, and will be remembered by many for her kindness, understanding, wonderful smile, and devotion to her family, friends, students, and Church.

Vanessa is survived by her loving husband of 38 years, Charles Myerson; her children, Dawn Badner Kroker, Michael Badner Jr. and his wife Jennifer Badner, and Hope Badner Watterson; her grandchildren, Chloe Badner, Shane Kroker, Cameron Badner, Colin Watterson, and Quinn Badner; her siblings, Linda Edelen, Paul Edelen, Christa Selah, special nephew, Josiah Verkaik, and other much-loved family members.

She will be interred at the Conejo Mountain Memorial Park on March 12, 2021 at 1:00 PM.

The family asks you to consider a donation to samaritanspurse.org, upliftfs.org, or freedomchurchag.org.

Student in the News!

Huge Congratulations are in order for Aidan Vass, Westlake High School Senior, piano student of Nina Kelly since mid 2016.



Aidan has been declared an MTAC Young Composers Guild (YCG) winner, for his work, 8 Sketches for Piano, selections of which will be presented at Convention on July 4th. YCG is the highest achievement that a Composers Today student in high school can attain through MTAC and is granted a five year membership into the Guild from 2021-2025.

Even though Aidan has only studied formal piano with Nina for four and half years, he began composing just six months after that!

Aidan has been an L.A. Philharmonic Young Composer Fellow consistently from 2018 through 2021. And in 2020, Aidan won 1st place in the MTAC Composers Today State Contest for his composition for two violins. Additionally in 2020, he was named National YoungArts Foundation merit winner in music composition, one of just six composers honored nationally.

Many other awards and scholarships have been presented to this talented student. Several of his works are on YouTube, Facebook and his own website. Aidan is well-rounded as a composer, writing solo, chamber, choral and orchestral music.

I have been so blessed to have Aidan in my piano studio. He has grown immensely as a pianist and composer in this very short time, as well as a fine young man!

Congratulations, Aidan!

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 10- 2021 - Registration deadline **The fee for a student is \$38.00.**

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

SCJBF Student Fee and dates reminder

From: Michael West <mawmusic@gmail.com>

Hi all,

The per student fee for registration is \$38. Please pay this fee through the Conejo site by 3/13.

Registration through SCJBF site closes on Wed 3/10 at 11:59pm. Once I close the registration through their site I can't make any changes.

Video submissions are to be uploaded by 4/5. I'll be sending a video guidelines document soon. For those who are planning to reuse CM videos that is ok.

Thank you!

Michael W

FOR SALE

Hi –My name is Susie and my daughter used to be a piano student of Heidi Yost. We're moving and I'd like to sell her piano. We bought it brand-new for \$3.5K about 6 years ago. It's a very pretty black Yamaha CABLE-NELSON CN116 PE Upright Acoustic Piano with bench. Dimensions are 60"W x 45" H x 22" D and 465 pounds. I'm hoping to sell it for \$2.3K but am willing to go down. Heidi mentioned you might be able to share this info with some folks who might be interested.

It's in pristine condition, no scratches and has been tuned every year. I didn't dust it before I took the pictures, sorry. Any interested parties could either email me or contact me on my mobile cell phone (805) 233-0026.

Thank you kindly for any assistance you may be able to offer.
Susie BourneDirector, Clinical Study Planning



IN THE COMMUNITY

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

A Tour of China - Feb. 28



Please check out one our local / international heroes!



1.

<https://seanchenpiano.com/media/videos>

Connections

Debbie Siemer
February 17, 2021

"Learn how to see. Realize that everything connects to everything else."
Attributed to Leonardo da Vinci.

It amazes me that in studying a particular subject, one ends up learning about a host of other subjects. It seems that everything is related. My husband has recently taken an interest in his family tree. His study of his relatives has led him to learn about Native American gold miners, the tower of London, the Reformation, pig farming in Golden Gate Park, sail making in Germany, and bottling "vinegar" during the Prohibition. He also discovered he has a great, great aunt who sang opera in San Francisco just before the 1906 earthquake. I'm just beginning to look at my own heritage. So far I've learned the my musical background includes my kinfolk in West Virginia who played the gut bucket, a comb lined with cigarette paper, a washboard, a jug, a couple spoons, and a fiddle.



I think any subject can lead us to music. Last month, I was reading a cookbook about pasta. I read about Italy, China, Marco Polo, the Silk Road, the Islamic Spice trade, sugar colonies, and slavery. This led me to think of music from Africa, homophonic black spirituals in America, then heterophonic jazz lines.

Likewise, music can lead us to any subject -art, architecture, language, science, math, anthropology, history and technology. When we discuss the elaborate ornamentation and complex musical characteristics of the Baroque era, we can note the similar detailed work in the art of Caravaggio (The Calling of St. Matthew), the extravagant architecture of Bernini (The Basilica of St. Peter's), and the rich writings of Milton (Paradise Lost). When a student comments that their piece sounds different in the studio versus in their home, we can discuss how string length and room size/geometry affect acoustics and sound waves. When they note that the studio piano feels different from their own we can discuss the instrument's mechanics and show them how the sound is physically produced on various instruments.



Last week, I was talking to a student about the piano marking "*m.s.*". This led to discussing folklore about being left handed and current practices in some parts of the world about what the left hand may and may not do. We ended up discussing bathroom habits and gift giving rituals in Indonesia.

Recently, a discussion of intervals included three whole steps of the tritone, the "*diabolus in musica*." This took us to medieval tonality and medieval illuminated manuscripts. From there, we could have continued on to discuss vellum, linen, and type setting which could have led us to printing and copyright laws. It just as easily could have taken us to overtones that occur in "dissonant" intervals, the perceived moods of various keys, the formulation of tuning, wolf tones, and Bach's Well Tempered Clavier.

Thursday, a young student laughed out loud when she found out Mozart's first name was Wolfgang. (Actually Wolfgang is his third name, but not too many people talk about "Johannes Chrysostomus Wolfgangus Theophilus Mozart".) She asked me if I had ever met someone name Wolfgang. I told her about a Wolfgang I met at a Waste Water Treatment Plant seminar in Northern California. He was a Palauan prince who was visiting Humboldt to learn clean, natural ways to deal with waste runoff, so as not to further harm the archipelago's coral reefs. The Pacific Islander was named after a German man who introduced his grandmother, the Queen, to Christianity. Given time, that conversation could have gone to tourism, theology or ecology or WWII or the matrilineal system or the *ngaok*, a wooden flute used in traditional music in Palau.



Everything does connect to everything else, and I also believe that every person connects to everyone else. You have probably heard of the "Six Degrees of Separation." This is the premise that any two people in the world are connected by six or less "friend of a friend" associations. I think this may be true. My youngest daughter and her family lived in Indonesia for a number of years. She has friends who live in a very remote mountainous village with the Moi people on the island of Papua. Together with our daughter's family, Brent and I took a tiny plane and landed on a tiny airstrip to stay with her friends for a few days. The Moi tribal people met us at the plane. Many of the men were carrying spears and wearing penis gourds. Many of the women carried a baby on their back and a piglet on their front. I got to have conversations (with my daughter's friend serving as translator) with Wewa, one of the Moi women. I truly felt like I was sitting talking to a dear sister as we shared common concerns about raising children and concern for aging parents. So now you know that you have a friend who has a friend who lives at the end of the earth.



I was so curious to learn about the music of the Moi people. Wewa and her tribe allowed us to attend one of their gatherings. The Moi used no instruments, but their singing was rhythmic and melodic, often accompanied by clapping and dancing. Several of the Moi had recently created new songs that followed a call and response style. It seemed to mostly follow a tonal scale, but had some passing semi-tones. I found it beautiful - unusual, but not entirely foreign. Is there

anything that is entirely foreign? Einstein wrote that we should free ourselves from the prison that is our optical delusion of our separateness. I'd like to let go of the myth of isolation and see the ontological commonality I share with every other person on earth. I'd like to continue to grow in my awareness of the many connections all around me. I want all parts of my life to become more integrated so my sacred and secular life are not compartmentalized.

I'm thankful for the many connections I share with each of you and our unique connections through music and MTAC.

Continuing to learn how to see,
Debbie

Notes:

1. Regarding the quote that is attributed to Leonardo da Vinci, I was unable to find a credible reference citing an original source to confirm that da Vinci actually said these words. I started looking through an online book of his notebooks, but as they are written in Italian and in mirror writing, I did not make much progress.
2. The photo of men playing homemade instruments was taken from this website <https://www.motherearthnews.com/diy/homemade-instruments-homegrown-music-zmaz78mazjma>. To my knowledge, these people are not my close relatives.
3. The 14th century illuminated manuscript was from <https://fdleone.com/2015/11/20/machauts-messe-de-notre-dame-an-overview/>.
4. The photo of the shark sanctuary in Palau came from <http://www.infoniac.com/environment/palau-to-create-worlds-first-shark-sanctuary.html>
5. I took the photo of the people around the Kodiak plane on July 9, 2015.
6. Information about Einstein came from a New York Times newspaper article. <https://www.nytimes.com/1972/03/29/archives/the-einstein-papers-a-man-of-many-parts-the-einstein-papers-man-of.html>
7. On a personal note, I hold to the teaching of Col. 1:17 that all things are connected to and held together by Christ.

Dear TOArts family,

As hope looms on the horizon, we would like to get our audiences excited and ready for live performances once it is safe to do so.



To make this happen, we are asking our valued TOArts partners to share any compelling images that can be shared on TOArts social media, which will help us garner that desire for live shows as well as increase visibility to your own program.

See the post below with an image we received from Pacific Festival Ballet, which garnered more than 600 likes across TOArts social media platforms, bringing a significant increase and boost in post engagement.

If you or anyone from your organization has imagery that conveys this message you would like to share, please email them to niki@toarts.org or to our social media firm; dbw@consortium-media.com or rebecca@consortium-media.com.

MTACconejovalley Recitals from February

For VOCE 2021 Recital playlist.. Click "play all" below.—Fred Beerstein

[PLAY ALL](#)

ELBCF Recital links (written programs attached below):

Recital 1, 1:45 p.m.

<https://youtu.be/D4sNg11aVIE>

Recital 2, 3:15 p.m.

<https://youtu.be/4hZFSvX3Elc>

You may watch these videos at anytime following the presentations above.

Thanks and best notes,

– **Mike Preddy**

1993 Stonesgate St.

Westlake Village, CA 91361

mikepreddymusic@gmail.com

805-427-2786

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



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.