



December 2020

Conejo Valley

www.mtacconejovalley.org

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

Meeting Thursday December 3. Join the Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84390023210?pwd=RU1RbUc3R0F3eksxSDBES1ZIKzJUZZ09>

Meeting ID: 843 9002 3210

Passcode: 621471

Board Meeting 8:30

General Meeting 9:00

Express Program with Mike Preddy immediately following at about 9:45.

Mike will have his good friend, music-business attorney Joel Strote, talk to us about his time with Liberace. Then Mike will present a "Music Teachers' Holiday" slideshow and lead us in a sing along.



Branch Officers/Board Members 2020/21

President:

Debbie Siemer

debbiesiemer@gmail.com

First Vice-President

Caitlin Boruch

caitlinwb@gmail.com

Second Vice-President

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begtzg@verizon.net

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OrnelaErvin@verizon.net

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Ann Erwin

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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)**

Hello Colleagues,

Weren't the Advanced Contemporary Festival and Gold Medal Festival wonderful? I enjoyed each of the recitals with the high quality performances. Thank you to Emily Wu, Ornela Ervin and their teams for such successful festivals. Brava ladies!

This past month, I had several moments with students in my studio that made me smile. I thought I would share a few with you.

A young girl told me, "I hate the metronome. It shows me that I'm wrong when I think I'm right. Sometimes I turn it off so I can pretend I'm right for a little while." A teen boy working on a Bach Invention said, "Maybe if I slow down a bit, I can do the articulation."

A beginning adult student learning her first Bach Minuet stopped mid-phrase and exclaimed, "Oh, Oh! OH! The left hand REALLY matters!"

A twelve year boy learning the chords near the end of Kabalevsky's Slow Waltz cried out, "YES! These are like from a movie score, and Kabalevsky got it JUST RIGHT. The chords go just where they are supposed to go. I don't need to change them at all!"

An adult told me piano lessons were good therapy - and cheaper too.

One young lady on a Zoom lesson told me, "I played it better it at home..um, er, uh, I mean...."

A teen girl told me she was up past 10 the night before working on a recording because she didn't want to disappoint me. She added, "I'll try to plan my week better next time."

As we were working on a legato section in a Chopin Polonaise, another teen girl told me, "Maybe if I use the fingering for the Bb scale, I can connect those RH notes."

And finally, while we were working on Mozart's Minuet in F, a young man's eyes got wide and he said, "These are the SAME chords I just did in technique!" Then when I pointed out that the cadences in the piece were the same ones we had just discussed in his theory book, he let out a "WHOOOOOA!!!!"

Teaching is SO much fun when the students verbalize their own "Ah-ha!" moments! It's one thing for me to suggest, "You need to slow down, or plan ahead, or try this fingering." But it's far more exciting and meaningful when they make their own discoveries. I feel it's my job to just give them the tools and the time for those epiphany moments.

With warmest regards and with thanksgiving for each of you,
Debbie



Cover photo

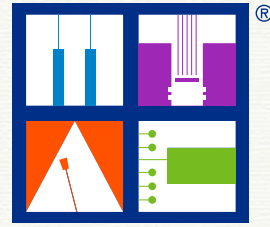
California's native plant Christmas Tree, the Toyon, otherwise known as the hollywood. The berries are delicious for birds but not recommended for people.

Help music find a good home.

Our MTAC Conejo Valley member, Glenda Buckley has piano and organ music to give away.

If interested please contact Glenda at the numbers below.

Glenda Buckley
805.498.5325 home (leave message)
805.208.4174 (you may text first so that I recognize the number)



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 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),, 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 - CLU Chapel, February 13 (Deadline Dec 1)

CM Honors Recital -TBA

CM Woodwind Honors Recital - Ann Erwin, TBA

Festimantic! (5-10) - Ornela Ervin, (Deadline April 1 for Youtube posting)

SoCal Jr. Bach Festival (5-10) - Michael West, Hillcrest, April 10(Deadline March 16)

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

Festimantic! Honors Recital- Nina Kelly and Ornela Ervin, HTLC, April 25

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

SoCal Jr. Bach Regionals- Mona DeCesare, First UMC, Ventura, May 8

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

Planning Meeting - Ornela's home, June 3

Convention - Santa Clara, July 2-6

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

IN THE COMMUNITY



Holiday playlists / planting season
in Southern California

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ncjuqjOWN6s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PYG5gIwn76I>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b4v_c_hCRIU

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRhjWdr-LAA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wDP2c2FCHAM>

<https://youtu.be/KX5Z-HpHH9g>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fqEQy6l1kzc>

<https://8tracks.com/IOse/holiday-playlist>

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,

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 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

*This is the the Branch VOCE soloist or ensemble application 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

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.

Recording Instructions and Details will be published and announced in January, 2021.

- **Who may enter:** CM Registered Piano 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. Prima Vista Application link will be published January 2021
- **Youtube Posting Deadline:** 11:59 pm Sunday, February 14, 2021. Please send all recordings directly to Ruth Kuo at ruthk.music@gmail.com
- **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.