



# Conejo Valley

www.mtacconejo.org/

OCTOBER 2015

MUSIC TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WWW.MTAC.ORG

## Next Meeting, Oct. 22, 2015

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Fireside Room.

8:30 - 9:00 Board Meeting

9:00 - 10:15 General Business Meeting

10:15 Express Program (when scheduled)



### GREETINGS TEACHERS:

Our November 19 meeting will be at Danna Southwell's home in Thousand Oaks. Board meeting 9:30 and General 10 AM. She is off Janss Rd. at 1421 Feather Ave. This is our special Holiday Brunch meeting/program. Italian main dishes will be ordered and all us teachers are asked to contribute desserts or side dishes....salads....whatever you like. I will bring all the paper goods. We are hoping

for a program from our new teachers. Danna has 2 excellent pianos side by side. Thank you to Danna for welcoming us once again!!!

Please see the rest of Carol's message on page 2 in the newsletter

## LOCATIONS

*Holy Trinity Lutheran Church*  
1 W. Avenida de los Arboles  
Thousand Oaks 91360

*United Methodist Church*  
1049 South Westlake Blvd.  
Westlake Village 91361

*T.O. Civic Arts Plaza*  
- Scherr Forum Theatre  
2100 T. O. Blvd  
Thousand Oaks

*LDS Church*  
3645 N. Moorpark Rd.  
Thousand Oaks, 91360

*Cal Lutheran*  
60 W Olsen Rd,  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

## Branch Officers 2015/16

### Co-Presidents:

Carol Lancaster  
carol@lancasterpiano.net

Edward Francis  
edwardfrancis@roadrunner.com

### Vice President:

Ornela Ervin  
OrnelaErvin@verizon.net

### Treasurer:

Debbie Siemer  
debbiesiemer@gmail.com

### Membership:

Susan Mastrolonardo  
frank\_mastro@sbcglobal.net

### Recording Secretary:

Michael Preddy  
michaelpreddy@hotmail.com

### Corresponding Secretary:

Kyung Lee  
kyunglee330@gmail.com

### Hospitality:

Elinor Martin  
iluv88keyz@pacbell.net

### Newsletter:

Wendy Velasco  
mundmusic@verizon.net

# CALENDAR

Additions and/or  
corrections in magenta

**Nov. 1:** CM Fees and work  
contracts due.

**Nov. 14:** Concerto  
Competition Auditions  
(TBA)

**Nov. 15:** Gold Medal  
Contemporary Recital,  
(Forum Theater) Chair:  
Edward Francis

**Nov. 19:** Branch Meeting &  
Brunch (location TBD)

**Dec. 6:** CVYO Holiday  
Concert

**Dec. 12:** Private Studio  
Recitals 10-8 (Hillcrest  
Center)

**Dec. 20:** VOCE application  
due on line, Chair: Wendy  
Velasco

**Jan. 2:** Database open for  
CM repertoire & evaluation  
information

**Jan. 8-10:** T.O. Phil Concerto  
Performances Opus 44

**Jan. 19:** Festimantic! Posting  
deadline Chair: Edward  
Francis

**Jan. 28:** Branch Meeting,  
(HTLC)

**Jan. 31, 2:30-8:** Early Level  
Classics Festival (HTLC)  
Chair: Mike Preddy

**Jan. 31:** CVYO Performance,  
T.O Performing Arts Center

**Feb. 6, 10:30-6:** Festimantic!  
Honors Recital (HTLC)

Our Oct. 22 meeting went well with 23 attending. Special thanks to Edward Francis for having us over and to Mona DeCesare for her outstanding performance of the Grieg Concerto accompanied by Edward.



Congratulations to Michael Preddy and Lisa Wall-Urgero for chairing excellent events Oct. 18 and 24 at HTLC. The young and diverse group of performers displayed an inspiring amount of talent and poise. Parents and teachers alike were very appreciative of the work that went into these events. Thank you from all the participants!

The MYSTERY PRIZE was won by Nina Kelly.....an assortment of pumpkin baking mixes just right for the holidays. Remember to get your name into the red sparkly box and you too could be a winner.....only if you stay for the entire meeting and program!

NEW TEACHERS .....we love to see you at our meetings and encourage you to come regularly. It takes many hands to make light work so if you would like to help out with our events please talk to any board member. We will try and find you just the right thing to get you involved. We want a New Teacher Program next meeting so get busy and contact Ornella Ervin [ornelaervin@verizon.net](mailto:ornelaervin@verizon.net)

As we wrap up the first half of our year I want to thank everyone for their help in making my job a pleasure. Special thanks to Edward Francis for multiple assistance.....to Ornella Ervin our vice president.....to all our trusty board members who perform their duties so well. All our chair persons who command our various events.....to Kim Munday for the huge job of Contemporary Festival.....to Tachell Gerbert for all her work on the website. This is an awesome and well oiled organization to really be proud of. Our students are soooooooo lucky!!!

Quote of the Month: "There is nothing to it. You only have to hit the right note at the right time, and the instrument plays itself." J.S. Bach

Thank you,  
Carol Lancaster  
Co-president

## MTAC-Conejo Concerto Competition



**The date of the competition will be Nov. 14, 2015**

Please see the information about the Appassionata Program  
later in the October newsletter



## CALENDAR

Feb.20, 1:30-5: VOCE

Auditions, (HTLC) Chair:  
Wendy Velasco

Feb.21: CM Theory Test  
Make-up (home of Danna  
Southwell)

Feb.25: Branch Meeting  
(HTLC)

Feb.27, all day: CM Theory  
Test (LDS)

March 5: Strings CM  
Performance Evaluations  
(UMC)

March 13: Voice CM  
Performance Evaluations

March 5: Woodwinds CM  
Performance Evaluation (Cal  
Lutheran)

March 12-13: Piano CM  
Performance Evaluations

March 19, 10:30-6: Branch  
CM Early Levels (1-4)  
Honors Recitals (HTLC)

March 20, 2:30-8: Branch  
CM Advanced Levels (5-10)  
Honors Recitals (HTLC)

TBA: S.C. Regional Strings  
Junior Bach Festival (El  
Camino College)

March 24: Branch Meeting  
HTLC

April 9, 10:30-8: Branch Jr.  
Bach Piano Festival (HTLC)  
Chair: Cheiko Boman &  
Mona DeCesare

April 15: Deadline for  
Convention Applications,  
\$30 per student, no late  
applications

## Early Level Contemporary Festival



Very happy kids  
after the October 18  
EARLY LEVEL  
CONTEMPORARY  
FESTIVAL!

Thank you to chair,  
Mike Preddy (also  
known as "The  
Candy Man")

The year got off to a great start for more than sixty kids in the 2015 Early Level Contemporary Festival. Our performers were very poised, nicely dressed in recital attire, and universally well prepared. They were rewarded with Certificates and special Gift Bags prepared by my wife---thank you, Michele! I particularly enjoyed this year's event thanks to you, all the teachers who were so helpful and encouraging. Topping it all off, our evaluator was "a gem," to use Carol's Lancaster's own words. Having received her Master's and Artist Diploma from the Manhattan School of Music, Irina Brener was positive, highly efficient and quite charming. Thank you Irina, and thank you Joanna Ezrin for your outstanding recommendation. I am sure we will be seeing Mrs. Brener at many of our events in the future. I am looking forward to an equally successful Early Level Baroque and Classics Festival on January 31, where our judge will be Lauren Shackelford who instructs in Piano, Piano Pedagogy and Music Theory at The Masters College in Santa Clarita. Her bio may be found at <http://www.masters.edu/academics/undergraduate/music/faculty/>

## Advanced Level Contemporary Festival Gold Medal Recital

November 15th, Forum Theater, T.O. Performing Arts Center

## CALENDAR

April 15: Deadline to apply  
for Make-up evaluations  
(High School only)

April 15-17: T.O. Phil  
Concerto Performances  
Opus 45

April 28: Branch Meeting  
(HTLC)

May 14 or 15: Coolest Jazz  
Festival (Keyboard  
Concepts) Chair Mike  
Preddy

TBA: Bach Regional Festival

May 20, 6:30-9: Young Artist  
Guild, & Branch Awards  
Ceremony (HTLC)

May 21, 10:30-8: Private  
Teacher Recitals (HTLC)

May 22, 2:30-8: Private  
Teacher Recitals (HTLC)

May 26: Branch Meeting &  
MTAC Luncheon, HTLC

June 2: Planning Meeting,  
Edward Francis' home

June 5: CVYO Performance,  
T.O Performing Arts Center

July 1-5: Convention in Los  
Angeles (Airport Hilton)

July 15-17: Opus 46 TO Phil  
Concert



## Certificate of Merit



### CONEJO VALLEY

- Piano Chair: Danna Southwell [dannasouthwell@gmail.com](mailto:dannasouthwell@gmail.com)
- String Chair: Diana Ray-Goodman [diana4343@gmail.com](mailto:diana4343@gmail.com)
- Wind Chair: Toby Capland-Stonefield [FlutistToby@gmail.com](mailto:FlutistToby@gmail.com)
- Voice Chair: Heidi Yost [heidi@heidiyost.com](mailto:heidi@heidiyost.com)

#### Dates:

Online Application Deadline: Oct. 31  
Theory Test: Feb. 27 (LDS)  
Piano Performance: March 12-13 (various locations)  
Strings Performance: March 5 (UMC)  
Woodwinds Performance: March 5 (CLU)  
Voice Performance: March 13 (location TBD)  
CM Honor's Recital: Levels 1-4: March 19, Levels 5-10: March 20

## YouTube Festimantic Festival\*

- January 19, 2015 is the uploading Deadline
- Feb. 6 Honors recital, tentative

\*new time of year



## Early Level Classics Festival

- Jan. 31, 2016
- Mike Preddy, Chair [michaelpreddy@hotmail.com](mailto:michaelpreddy@hotmail.com)



## Branch & Private Studio Recitals

- Branch Recitals (Student Showcase) & Private Studio Recitals at Holy Trinity can **start no earlier than 10:30 a.m. on Saturdays and no earlier than 2:30 p.m. on Sundays**
- Private Studio Recital available dates are: Dec. 12(Hillcrest Center)(openings available) & May 21 & 22 (HTLC) (Already filled)

**Thanksgiving:**

11/23-27 for all but  
Conejo district

**Winter Recess:**

12/21-1/11

**President's Day  
Weekend:**

2/12-2/15 for Conejo,  
Oak Park, & Moorpark

**Spring Break:**

3/25-4/11

**Last Day Class:**

all districts out by 6/10



# Southern California Junior Bach Festival

PIANO

BACH only

Co-Chairs: Mona DeCesare [mwdecesare@roadrunner.com](mailto:mwdecesare@roadrunner.com) & Chieko Boman,  
[chieko4piano@gmail.com](mailto:chieko4piano@gmail.com) co-chairs

Date: **Saturday, April 9, 2016**

Place: Holy Trinity Church

Registration Deadline: March 12, 2016

Fee: \$32 (ONE check to Mona DeCesare by March 19)

Registration, rules and guidelines: Go to [SCJBF.org](http://SCJBF.org)

## Branch rules:

- 1) No Anna Magdalena pieces.
- 2) Requests are limited to AM or PM with valid reasons.
- 3) Students who fail to attend their assigned recitals are subject to disqualification.
- 4) Teachers who enter students are expected to work on the festival day. If you cannot work on the festival day, you will need to send in a substitute.

## Reminders:

PRINT OUT YOUR STUDENT LIST. Check that all students were successfully registered. If any of your students' names do not appear on this list, their registrations are not complete.

Delete all students who are not participating this year.

The Regional Festival is in May, 2016 at the First Methodist Church in Ventura. Each performer will pay \$10 to cover the cost of regional registration.

If you have questions, please email Chieko or Mona.



# V.O.C.E.

Vocalists, Orchestral instrumentalists, Chamber music, Ensembles



## **\*\*NEW FOR 2015/16 "BRANCH ONLY" EVENTS\*\***

- A new "Branch Only Competition" which does not advance to the State level
- Each instrument competes separately instead of all strings and all winds
- Voice categories offer the option of classical or musical theater/pop
- Ensemble category will allow for piano 4 hands
- VOCE Instrument Masterclasses when 4 or more students of the same instrument express willingness to participate
- Only ONE solo piece is required with no level requirement
- **Entry Due Date: December 15th, 2015**
- **Payment Deadline: Jan. 10th, 2016**
- Application and Questions should be addressed to Wendy Velasco at (562) 903-0010 or <CelloVelasco@gmail.com>

Please note the earlier deadline of December 15th. You will receive a link via email in November.

**We need to increase participation in this event to maintain it's viability.**

Check out the **handy flyer** at the end of the September newsletter **to give to parents!**

**The Conejo Valley will have 2 VOCE programs running concurrently on the same day: one that is only for branch members and does not go further than our area, the second is the traditional VOCE program with a State level competition.** Our branch level competition will have an online application that will be sent to the chair, Wendy Velasco. The State level competition will be filled out completely online. All payments and proof of age will be coordinated through the State Website. Below are the instructions for this process. IT IS NOT THE SAME AS PREVIOUS YEARS SO PLEASE READ CAREFULLY.

The VOCE Program has migrated to the new online web system. You will need to log in to [new.mtac.org](http://new.mtac.org). Use your existing username and password. When you log in for the first time, you will need to change your password. Follow the instructions on the screen to change the password.

Once logged in, you will be presented with a list of students that were migrated from the old database. Only those students who participated in VOCE last year are listed. You will need to confirm these students so that they can be migrated and added to your roster.

You will receive documents via email with the Branch-Only Rules and Guidelines in early November. The State program rules and guidelines can be found on the State website. You do not need to collect payment or proof of age from your students. The new website will contact the families directly so be sure to have a current email address for your students when you log on. If you are planning to enroll students in this program, please send me an email at CelloVelasco@gmail.com and I will send you some additional instructions which will hopefully make the process a little easier.

If you are enrolling in the Branch-Only events, the application will be done via google docs. I will send a link. Please do not fill out the form directly on the email. Instead, click on the link to complete the form. After you have sent in the form, the payment will be due by January 10th. Please pay with one check per teacher. Make the check payable to MTAC Conejo-Valley and mail to Wendy Velasco  
10515 Bluefield Ave.,  
Whittier, CA 90604



Students received certificates for participating in the branch recital  
“Anything Goes” chaired by Lisa Wall-Urgero

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Mona DeCesare gave a wonderful performance of the Grieg Piano concerto at the October meeting. Ed played the orchestra reduction at the second piano.