



# Conejo Valley

www.mtacconejo.org/

NOVEMBER 2016

MUSIC TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WWW.MTAC.ORG

## Next Meeting **Dec.1, 2016**

**Website Launch and Demonstration at the home of Danna Southwell**

**1421 FEATHER AVE. THOUSAND OAKS 91360. 805-497-3140**



Bring your laptops for a hands-on demonstration

Lunch to follow. **Please bring a side salad or desert**



## 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

*Hillcrest Center for the Arts*  
403 W. Hillcrest Dr.,  
Thousand Oaks, 91360

## Branch Officers 2016/17

### 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 Mastrodonardo  
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

### Website:

Tachell Gerbert  
P88x2@verizon.net

## CALENDAR

Additions and/or  
corrections in magenta

**Nov. 1-10:** CM Fees Must be paid by parents

**Nov. 12:** Deadline for CM Student list and work agreement to branch chair

**Nov. 6:** Gold Medal Contemporary Recital, (Forum Theater) Chair: Edward Francis

**Nov. 17:** Branch Meeting & Brunch has been changed to Dec. 1.

**Dec. 1:** Branch Meeting at the home of Danna Southwell

**Dec. 3:** Concerto Competition Auditions (Piano at home of E. Francis, Other instruments at HCA) Chair: Ornela Ervin

**Dec. 4:** CVYO Holiday Concert at Reagan Library

**Dec. 15:** VOCE application due on line Chair: Wendy Velasco

Thanksgiving:

11/21-27

Winter Recess:

12/19-1/1 (Conejo)

12/19-1/2 (Las Virgenes)

12/19-1/3 (Pleasant Valley)

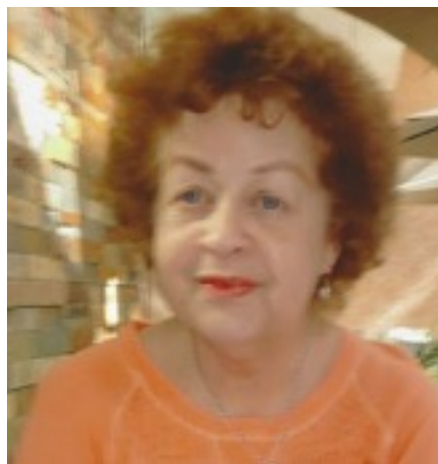
12/22-1/8 (Simi)

12/23- 1/8 (Moorpark)

## GREETINGS CONEJO BRANCH TEACHERS

We had an excellent meeting on Oct. 27 with 25 teachers attending. Special thanks to Kim Munday for the enormous work she put into our Advanced Contemporary Festival with Susan Mastrolonardo and Kyung Lee assisting. It is a huge job to organize and next year Kim would appreciate more help. Our students benefit greatly from the preparation and experience.

Thank you from all of us!! Now.....on to the gold medal festival this weekend with Edward Francis presiding.



Our Harvest Festival was held Saturday Oct. 29 and a big thank you to Brad Gregory for organizing this event for us. We certainly continue to give our students plenty of reasons to practice and improve their skills.

Our last Express Program topic was "Stress in Performing" with discussion of how we prepare our students for their events. We also talked about how artist performers have handled mishaps in concert and kept right on going. We teachers need to have strategy's to destress ourselves too.....with long walks, staying rested, not overextending ourselves, planning our time to include breaks from the routine. Good discussion lead by Ornela Ervin. Toby was so pleased to win the Teacher Treasure which was an assortment of goodies from Lassen Health Food Market.

Our next meeting will be December 1 at Danna Southwell's home and this will be a very important meeting not to be missed.

This is our WEBSITE LAUNCH with Tachell Gerbert and the IOVA team explaining how our website works!!! Watch for special instructions from Tachell nearer to the date. We will also have a GALA INTERNATIONAL LUNCHEON to celebrate our new Branch Website and the holidays too!!

Quote of the Month: "When I was young I wanted to play the guitar but I was told it wasn't respectable. My father broke 3 guitars to stop me from practicing.....I received from heaven the gift of music and could not do anything but music. The vocation was compulsory." Andres Segovia

Thank you all and enjoy the holidays!

Carol Lancaster  
Co-president

## CALENDAR

**Jan.2-15:** Database open for CM student schedule request changes

**Jan.15:** Deadline to enter CM repertoire & evaluation information

**Jan.26:** Branch Meeting, (HTLC)

**Jan 27 & 29.:** T.O. Phil Concerto Performances Opus 47

**Jan.29:** CVYO Performance, T.O Performing Arts Center

**Feb.11, 10:30-5:** VOCE Festival, (HTLC) Chair: Wendy Velasco

**Feb. 12:** Early Level Baroque & Classical Festival (HTLC) Chair: Mike Preddy

**Feb. 17-20:** JCM Music in the Mountains

**Feb.23:** Branch Meeting (HTLC)

**Feb.25, all day:** CM Theory Test (LDS)

**March 4:** Woodwinds CM Performance Evaluation (Cal Lutheran) Chair:Toby Caplan Stonefield

**March 11-12:** Piano CM Performance Evaluations Chair: Danna Southwell

**March 11 & 12:** Voice CM Performance Evaluations Chair: Heidi Yost

**March 18:** Strings CM Performance Evaluations (UMC) Chair: Diana Ray-Goodman



## Contemporary Festivals

This year's Early Level Contemporary Festival was an absolute success by any standard. Nearly one-hundred students and fifteen teachers participated in four programs between 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church on Sunday, October 16. It was a financial success as well, generating around five-hundred dollars in profit after judge's fee and all other expenses. Joanna Ezrin was delightful and efficient, and every program ran on time. I was gratified to see some of our newer teachers "learning the ropes" by entering students and helping with various recital duties. We also celebrated the birthdays of contemporary composers, George Gershwin and Dmitri Shostakovich who were born during this season. A Birthday Balloon (left over from my wife's birthday) was prominently displayed and a special treat bag was provided for each of the students, courtesy of the "Candy Man." I extend a special thank to Virginia Walters and her husband for helping open, set up and close the church. Looking forward to next year!

Thanks :-)

**Michael Preddy**

## Advanced Contemporary Festival Gold Medal Recital: Nov. 6, Forum Theater

Chair: Edward Francis

Dear Conejo Valley MTAC Members,

I wanted to personally invite you to attend one or more of the Gold Medal Recitals at the Forum Theatre at the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza this coming Sunday, Nov. 6. There will be five recitals, starting at 11:00. Recitals continue every 90 minutes. 12:30, 2:00, 3:30 and 5:00 are the starting times for the remaining recitals.

Gold medals will be presented to all students, and we will also have silver medals for teachers to take for students who participated in the festival, but are not in the gold medal recitals.

Remind your students to invite people. We need them to generate a decent audience. The ushers take a head count and report this back to the Cultural Affairs Department. The Cultural Affairs Department is the one which awards the Arts Grants. The more people we serve, the better position we are in for future grants.

Thank you,  
Edward

# CALENDAR

**March 18:** JCM Final Concert

**March 23:** Branch Meeting HTLC

**March 25:** Branch CM Early Levels (P-4) Honors Recitals (HTLC) Chair: Anahit Agdaian

**March 26:** Branch CM Advanced Levels (5-10) Honors Recitals (HTLC) Chairs: Nina Kelly & Diana Ray-Goodman

**March 31 & Apr. 2:** T.O. Phil Concerto Performances Opus 48

**April 1:** Branch Bach Piano Festival (HTLC) Chairs: Cheiko Boman & Mona DeCesare

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

**April 15:** Deadline for parents to pay Convention Application fee \$30 per student per recital

**April 15:** Festimantic! Posting deadline Chair: Edward Francis

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

**April 27:** Branch Meeting (HTLC)

**April 30, 2-6:** YAG & Branch Awards Ceremony (HTLC) Chair: Heidi Lyn Williams

## Attention All Conejo Valley Branch Members:



The the official launch of our new Conejo Valley Branch website will take place on December 1<sup>st</sup> at our Branch meeting and annual Holiday Brunch to be held at the home of Danna Southwell, 1421 Feather Ave in Thousand Oaks. You may wish to bring your mobile device (smart phone, tablet, laptop computer) so that you can register to enter the Teacher Portal. To register you will need to know your Conejo Valley Teacher number and your state MTAC member ID. Danna Southwell has a list of the Conejo Valley Teacher numbers and you can find your MTAC member ID number on your MTAC membership card or

call the state office. Please note: Following the launch of the website, you can register on the website at any time.

At the meeting, once registered, we will sign-in and tour the Teacher Portal beginning with Event Registration. Following Event Registration and as time allows, we will tour the remaining pages of the Teacher Portal and address any questions or concerns you may have about the website.

Please remember this is **OUR** branch website and it is important to the board members that our website is user friendly and informative to all the membership, their students, their student's families, to perspective students, and to the general public, as well. As an MTAC Conejo Valley member your user experience is key to the success of the website.

Looking forward to seeing you on December 1<sup>st</sup>,

Tachell Gerbert - Website Coordinator



## CALENDAR

**May 7:** Festimantic! Honors Recital (HTLC) Chair: Nina Kelly

**May 14:** Koolfest Jazz, Blues, Pop Festival Application Deadline (HTLC) Chair Mike Preddy

**May 21:** Koolfest Jazz, Blues, Pop Festival (HTLC) Chair Mike Preddy

**May 25:** Branch Meeting & MTAC Luncheon (home of Edward Francis)

**June 1:** Planning Meeting, Edward Francis' home

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

**June 30-July 4** Convention Santa Clara

**July 14 & 16:** T.O. Phil Concerto Performances Opus 49

### MLK:

1/16

### President's Day Weekend:

2/17-2/20

### Spring Break:

3/20-24 (Moorpark)

3/27-31 (Simi)

4/10-16 (Conejo, Las Virgenes, Oak Park, Pleasant Valley)

### Last Day Class:

5/26 (Oak Park)

6/9 (Simi, Moorpark)

6/14 (Conejo, Las Virgenes)

6/16 (Pleasant Valley)

## MTAC-Conejo Concerto Competition



### GENERAL OVERVIEW

an opportunity for excellent students to perform with the Thousand Oaks Philharmonic

### CONEJO VALLEY SPECIFICS

Repertoire must be a standard concerto or a concert piece or aria (for vocalists) for soloist & orchestra. Unusual or questionable repertoire should be cleared in advance with T.O. Phil (contact [OrnelaErvin@verizon.net](mailto:OrnelaErvin@verizon.net))

All students auditioning must also be members of the TOPhilharmonic's pre-college conservatory training program called "Appassionata!" The registration fee for "Appassionata!" includes all master classes, lectures, workshops and their highly successful Gold Recital Series, which gives all participating students added performance opportunities throughout the year. The optional audition to be considered for a concerto solo spot is also covered in the registration fee. Enrollment into the Appassionata program is available online at [www.tophil.org](http://www.tophil.org)

If no masterclasses are offered for a specific instrument (i.e.. French horn, clarinet, voice, trumpet, etc) the student will be given the option to simply pay the \$50 audition fee, and then if invited, asked for the same contribution as all other invited soloists.

Winners and invited soloists get 2 rehearsals and 2 performances with the professional orchestra and conductor.

Even though the local MTAC branch covers a small amount for winning entrants from the branch, the T.O.Philharmonic performance opportunity is actually valued at more than \$4000. This is a substantial performance award. All invited soloists are asked to contribute \$800 to help with the considerable costs incurred when hiring a professional orchestra. The TOPhil board works tirelessly throughout the year to fundraise and provide additional scholarships to help further reduce this contribution amount. Awards from \$100-\$300 are generously rewarded depending upon the success of annual fundraising activities. In 2016, 22 such awards were given.

Auditions will take place on Dec. 3

Location: Piano (home of Edward Francis), All other instruments (Hillcrest Center for the Arts)

More information: [www.tophil.org](http://www.tophil.org) or email: [tophilharmonic@gmail.com](mailto:tophilharmonic@gmail.com)

**The date of the competition will be December 3**

Location: Piano (home of Edward Francis)

All Other Instruments: Hillcrest Center for the Arts

# Early Level Classics Festival

Feb. 12, 2017

Mike Preddy, Chair [michaelpreddy@hotmail.com](mailto:michaelpreddy@hotmail.com)



## V.O.C.E.

Vocalists, Orchestral instrumentalists,  
Chamber music, Ensembles



### GENERAL OVERVIEW

- an opportunity for advanced student performances in solos and chamber music (please check the guidelines)
- All branches of MTAC may have a VOCE competition plus a non-competitive recital.
- Branch first place winners will advance to the State Finals competition in late March at Chapman University
- First place winners of the State Finals competition will be asked to perform on the VOCE Recital at the MTAC State Convention in July, where they will receive their cash awards.
- Guidelines, eligibility and applications can be found on the state website**

### CONEJO VALLEY'S AUDITIONS

- Branch Audition Date: Feb. 11, 2017
- Location: HTLC
- Entry Due Date:, Dec. 15** State application on line at [mtac.org](http://mtac.org) -Branch application will be available in November and should be sent to [CelloVelasco@gmail.com](mailto:CelloVelasco@gmail.com)
- Questions should be addressed to **Wendy Velasco at (562) 903-0010 or <[CelloVelasco@gmail.com](mailto:CelloVelasco@gmail.com)>**

### \*\*2016/17 "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, may perform 2-3 selections with a time limit of up to 9 minutes
- Entry Due Date:, December 15th, 2016
- Application and Questions should be addressed to **Wendy Velasco at (562) 903-0010 or <[CelloVelasco@gmail.com](mailto:CelloVelasco@gmail.com)>**
- Branch-Only Competition Fee: Solos: \$35.- Ensembles: \$50 for the group
- Master Class Fee: \$45.-

**For the Branch Application:** <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zSmgwCXAUNlyHKyeeFEb5vD6P6pUW5aem3T3LD0Evv0/edit?usp=sharing>

# 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: (LDS) Feb. 25  
Piano Performance: (various locations) March 11-12  
Strings Performance: (UMC) March 18  
Woodwinds Performance: (CLU) March 4  
Voice Performance: (location TBD) March 11 or 12  
CM Honor's Recital: Levels P-4: March 25, Levels 5-10: March 26

Dear Voice Teachers,

Due to voice CM enrollment most likely being very low this year, we cannot guarantee the date and location of the exams prior to the registration deadline. If students discover a scheduling conflict once we do learn of our test site/date, they will NOT receive a refund.

This means that you MUST inform you students ahead of time (before they have committed!) that the date AND location are TBD, and that should they choose not to test after October 31, there will be NO refund from the state.

Unfortunately there is nothing more we can do about this. When we know more about the possible dates/sites, and whether video audition is possible, I will send you that information.

I'm hoping we can grow voice participation in the coming years so that the branch can support our exam being local with more certainty, but this is where we're at for the 2017 season. Thank you for understanding.

Heidi Yost



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## Bach Festival

- April 1, 2017 (UMCW)
- Mona DeCesare [mwdecesare@roadrunner.com](mailto:mwdecesare@roadrunner.com) & Chieko Boman, [chieko4piano@gmail.com](mailto:chieko4piano@gmail.com) co-chairs



## YouTube Festimantic Festival

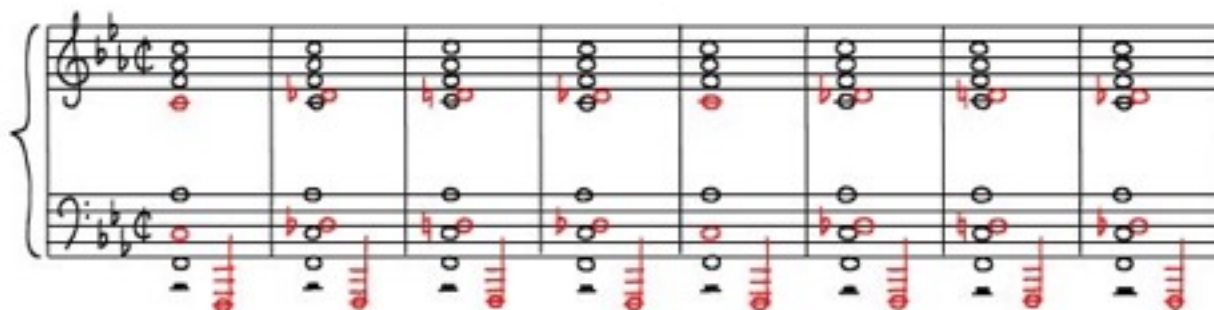
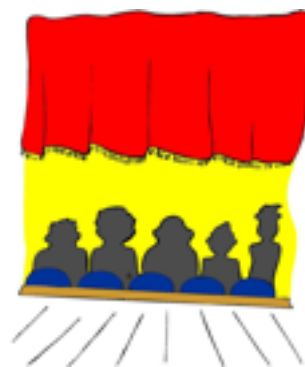
- 🎤 April 15, 2017 is the uploading Deadline
- 🎤 May 7, 2017 Honors recital



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## 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 dates have NOT been approved for this year. We do not know if and when dates may open up.



M16 WERE STUNNED TO DISCOVER THAT PRIZED AGENT JAMES BOND  
WAS ACTUALLY A RUSSIAN COVERT OPERATIVE NAMED SERGEI.



# Shared Notes

The Westlake Village Music Society presents a

## *Fall Concert*

Featuring Amici Musicae:

**Tamara Chernyak – violin**

**Wendy Velasco – cello**

**Christine DeKlotz – piano**

*Program includes numbers by  
Schumann, Rachmaninov & Schubert*



*Sunday, November 13, 2016 - 4 p.m.*

**Sanctuary**

United Methodist Church of Westlake Village  
1049 S. Westlake Blvd., Westlake Village  
(corner of Westlake Blvd. & Hampshire Rd.)

**Donation at the door – \$10 general,  
\$8 seniors (62+), \$5 students**

**For more information, call: (805) 497-7884**

# IN THE COMMUNITY

## The Search for a New Music Director Continues!



**Rachmaninov Piano Concerto in c minor**

**Schoenberg “Go”**

**Stravinsky Suite from “The Firebird”**

Phillip Mann, conductor

Friday, Nov. 4, 8 pm Oxnard  
Saturday, Nov. 5, 8 pm Thousand Oaks



Schoenberg, composer



Vadim Kholodenko, piano

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

## 'TIS THE SEASON

Welcome the holidays with The Village Voices Chorale's concert **'Tis the Season**. The beauty of "Silent Night" and "The First Noel/Pachelbel's Canon" will permeate your soul and the beat of the rousing "Ocho Kandelikas" and "Betelehemu" will penetrate your feet. Your voices will join in the joy of live music with our traditional sing-a-long. You will also be captivated by the Covenant Ringers Handbell Choir and our scholarship soloist. The 70-voice chorale will entertain you with a radiant array of holiday renditions - something for everyone. Bring along family and friends, after all - **'Tis the Season!**

**The performances will be 8 p.m.**

**Friday, December 2 and 2:30 p.m. Saturday, December 3, 2016.**

**VILLAGE VOICES CHORALE**

Presents

*'Tis the Season*



**GLORIA HILLIARD, DIRECTOR**

**CHRISTINE DEKLOTZ, ACCOMPANIST**

**Friday, Dec 2, 2016, 8:00 pm**

**Saturday, Dec 3, 2016, 2:30 pm**

Scherr Forum Theater, T.O. Civic Arts Plaza

Tickets \$25. Call Village Voices (818) 889-7150

Theater Box Office (805) 449-2787

Ticketmaster (800) 745-3000

Visit our website at [www.villagevoices.org](http://www.villagevoices.org)

## From the Studio of Toby Caplan-Stonefield

Toby is seated here in the front surrounded by her students and flute choir, "The Conejo Valley Flute Society" which she formed 14 years ago. They are pictured here at their recital Aug 28, 2016. The flute choir plays for Social Occasions, Holiday Parties as well as Weddings.



### Thousand Oaks Philharmonic's "Appassionata!" program

Registration for the Thousand Oaks Philharmonic's "Appassionata!" program is up and running on the organization's website: [www.tophil.org](http://www.tophil.org)

This year, the registration cost has been standardized for each discipline. String students have a yearly tuition of \$250, and for all pianists: \$300.

Master classes for strings are held 2-3 times for the session, and pianists meet each month. Occasional lectures and the Gold Recital Series are all important parts of the program. All students are encouraged to volunteer for the recitals which take place at various retirement communities (you do earn community service hours), libraries and other suitable locations where adequate instruments are available. The TOPhil covers the cost of an accompanist for instrumentalists at the performances. The audition for solo concerto opportunities is also covered in the tuition cost, and this year, the auditions will take place on December 3. Vocalists and instrumentalists are encouraged to audition as well. Interest from students in these categories has not been as strong as violin and piano, so no classes are scheduled until they register in sufficient numbers, but they may audition on Dec. 3 and register with an audition fee of \$50. Master classes for pianists are part of the "Hammered! Honors Master Class Seminar," which usually take place at the Hillcrest Center for the Arts in Thousand Oaks. The schedule is being worked on now, hoping to alternate between Saturday/Sunday to mitigate the conflict of religious Sabbath observations. We are even trying to schedule some Saturday evening classes to avoid conflict.

For more information and registration, please visit [www.tophil.org](http://www.tophil.org)