



ALAMEDA COUNTY
EAST BRANCH

Alameda County East Branch Newsletter

January 2020

President's Prelude

Upcoming Events

1/13 David Abdalian lecture

1/25 Branch Recital

2/15 Piano Competition

2/26 Jason Black workshop

3/7 CM Theory

3/8 CM Theory

3/21 CM Performance

3/22 CM Performance

4/4 Branch Honors Recitals

4/25 Branch Recital

Newsletter Submissions:

Please send any submissions for the next newsletter by to Megan Mui, Newsletter Editor at mmmui14@gmail.com.

Dear Colleagues,

Time passes by so quickly as we already reached a new decade! I would like to express gratitude to the teachers who came to support our fall programs including YAG with Catherine Huang, CM Meetings, branch recitals and the Teen Community Outreach. On October 14, the board launched a new event with the Fall Social followed by Professor Frank Wiens sharing his experiences and perspectives from five decades of teaching and performing. It was wonderful to enjoy coffee, tea, pastries, and conversations with colleagues on a beautiful autumn morning. The Fall Social and Lecture had a high attendance rate and we will be holding this event annually.

Our popular 5th annual Alameda East Piano Competition has reached its maximum number of participants much sooner than we expected so the committee closed registration early. Thank you for everyone's enthusiastic support and the board will definitely consider extending the competition to strings, winds and voice in the coming years.

This month we have invited Registered Piano Technician David Abdalian to give us an insightful lecture about the piano's mechanism, tuning and maintenance. We will also be having Livermore-native pianist Jason Lyle Black, a bestselling arranger, concert pianist, comedian and YouTube star, present a performance in his hometown Bankhead Theater on Feb 28, 2020. Come and support local talent!

Please check our branch website periodically for the most up-to-date information on events and announcements. If you know any good interesting lecture/workshop topics or candidates, please contact Vice President Hansen Liu.

I wish you and your students a very successful CM season and look forward to seeing many of you in our future events. Happy New Year!

Ewen Tsai, President

Piano Maintenance with David Abdalian, RPT

Jan2020

Monday, January 13, 10:00am - 12:00pm

Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St, Livermore, CA 94550

How many piano teachers and pianists know much about their instrument beyond teaching and playing? We may be able to feel and hear the difference between a well-maintained and a poorly-maintained piano, but do we know why?

Please join us on January 13 for an informative and engaging lecture session with our local piano technician **David Abdalian** as he fully delves into how the piano works and what we can do to

take care of our instruments. He will be sharing tips on easy piano self-maintenance and what to look out for when something goes wrong and we will also be taking a detailed look at how the piano works. The lecture will end with a Q&A session, so this is the chance for all your non-playing related piano questions!

David Abdalian is a Registered Piano Technician and President of the Piano Technician Guild's San Francisco Chapter. He services many of our local pianos including those at the Bankhead, Firehouse, and Amador Theaters as well as many churches in the Tri-Valley area. Learn more about the Piano Technicians Guild at <https://www.ptg.org/home>.



Branch Recitals

Saturday, January 25, 7pm at Lynnewood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave, Pleasanton

Branch Recitals are a wonderful opportunity for students to get performance experience!

The next recital will take place on **January 25** at Lynnewood Church. To register, check your emails for the registration form or log in through our website by **January 15**.

Please also mark your calendars and consider preparing students to perform in our **April 4** recital.

Registration will be considered complete when both the \$5 fee and form are received through the website.

Due to time constraints, please limit repertoire selection to 3-4 minutes and there is an overall limit of 3 students and 10 minutes maximum per teacher.

Workshop with Jason Lyle Black

Wednesday, February 26, 6:30pm - 8:00pm

Music Exchange, 7704 Dublin Blvd, Dublin, CA 94568

We are fortunate to have award-winning pianist, composer, arranger, and comedic entertainer **Jason Lyle Black** present a fun and motivational workshop for our branch on **February 26!**

He has generously offered to share his gift and knowledge in an inspirational workshop where he will share practice tricks as well as fun arrangement and composition techniques including his very popular "song on the spot" segment. He will end the workshop with an engaging mini-performance.



Jason, a former student of branch member **Mary Beth Cheney**, will also be performing his unique act combining comedy and piano at the Bankhead Theater in his hometown Livermore on February 28 during his nationwide tour. More information about this performance can be found under the "Around the Community" section or at <https://vpac.org/event/jason-lyle-black/>.

Jason Lyle Black, also known as "The Backwards Piano Man®", is an award-winning pianist, composer, and comedic entertainer, known for his performance on the Ellen DeGeneres Show in Hollywood and for his 30 million music video views worldwide. He is well-versed in both classical and pop styles and is a bestselling arranger with Hal Leonard in addition to his career as a national touring artist, television/radio guest, and luxury cruise performer. Learn more about Jason at <http://www.jasonlyleblack.com/>.

This free-of-charge workshop will be a motivational and exciting experience for teachers, students, and parents of all ages. We hope to see you there!

Fifth Annual Alameda East Piano Competition

Saturday, February 15 12:30pm - 6:00pm at First Presbyterian Church Livermore, 2025 5th St, Livermore

Please join us for another exciting afternoon of performances at our 5th Annual Alameda County East Piano Competition on February 15! There will be 55 students from 21 MTAC Alameda East Branch teachers competing across 4 age divisions:

Division A (8-10) & **Division B** (11-13) - 12:30pm - 3:30pm

Division C (14-15) & **Division D** (16-18) - 3:30pm - 6:00pm

For more information, please contact the committee at the mtacae.pianocompetition@gmail.com.

Around the Community

JASON LYLE BLACK PERFORMS AT BANKHEAD THEATER ON FEB 28

Friday, February 28, 8pm - There's a reason he's dubbed "the most unique concert pianist you've ever seen!" – **Jason Lyle Black's** combination of familiar music, comedy, and improv leaves audiences both laughing and crying. Dubbed "Incredible" by TIME Magazine and "Unbelievable" by Ellen DeGeneres, Black presents a one-of-a-kind, unforgettable piano experience filled with music from Disney and Broadway classics, songs from The Beatles to AC/DC, and beloved movie theme songs.

Black is a native of Livermore who started playing classical piano when he was eight. Although he also studied trumpet and organ, piano was his passion. He was just a teen when, in order to enter a talent show, he decided to learn to play the keyboard backwards. A self-taught composer who began writing music in high school, he took top spots on both the iTunes and Billboard music charts with his first original album of solo music, Piano Preludes, following it with four more. Black tours extensively across the country as a guest with orchestras and

choirs, and is a frequent headline performer on luxury cruise ships around the world.

"Audience interaction, beautiful medleys and a piano set rich with clean humor. – The Deseret News

Buy tickets for this performance at <https://lvpac.org/event/jason-lyle-black/>.

NEW STEINWAY CONCERT GRAND INSTALLED AT BANKHEAD THEATER

A new Steinway concert grand piano has been installed at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore and officially made its debut on Saturday, December 7, 2019 at Livermore-Amador Symphony's Winter Dreams concert.

Internationally-acclaimed pianist Jon Nakamatsu, who has performed at the Bankhead Theater multiple times, assisted in the selection of the new piano. He played several pieces on each of five possible instruments, which were compared and judged on sound and performance quality. The Steinway Concert Grand Model D that was selected is well-suited to the needs of the Bankhead, which hosts dozens of performances each year requiring the use of a piano, from traditional classical, to rock, jazz and other musical genres.

The new piano replaces an earlier Steinway model which had seen significant use since 2007 when it was purchased by Jean King as a donation to the newly-opened Bankhead Theater. Given the high level of use and replacement cost, rather than purchase the new piano outright, its lease agreement allows for replacement with a new instrument in seven years.

Initial funding for the new Steinway came from generous donors, Linda Tinney and Ron and Jo Ann Koopman. A Bankhead Piano Fund has now been created to raise funds to cover the ongoing costs of the piano lease, tuning and maintenance. For more information on the fund or to make a donation, contact Major Gifts Officer Steve Glavan at 925-583-2304 or sglaven@lvpac.org