



ALAMEDA COUNTY  
EAST BRANCH

# ALAMEDA COUNTY EAST BRANCH NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2020

## Important Dates

- **9/30** Branch Recital  
Registration Deadline
- **10/1-31** CM Registration
- **10/19** Fall Lecture
- **10/24** Branch Recital

## Newsletter Submissions

Please send submissions for the October newsletter by September 27 to Linli Wang and Alec Sloane at:  
[linli.wang28@gmail.com](mailto:linli.wang28@gmail.com)

## President's Prelude

Dear Colleagues,

*For every negative issue, we can give a positive spin.*

This quote truly explains how we music teachers coped with this unexpected Coronavirus pandemic in 2020. CM and VOCE were postponed again and again, and eventually became online video submissions. Additionally, all concerts were canceled, State Convention was switched to virtual webinar, and the most frustrating part, no more in person music lessons.

To help our members transition to online music lesson, the board hosted three online meetings sharing teaching software and hardware, as well as CM submission guidelines and online student recital. Thank you to all participants for contributing their experiences and brainstorming fantastic ideas. All past meetings' videos are listed in our branch website.

On October 19, 2020 the board will host an online lecture with Dr. Betty Woo, titled "Beethoven, beyond Heroics and Titanic struggles." I encourage you to attend.

In my last prelude as your president, I would like to say a big "Thank You" to both our outgoing and incoming board of directors. It has been a privilege working with everyone over the past 4 years! I know our new board, led by Michelle Rank will do an excellent job leading Alameda East Branch to the next decade.

My wish is for everyone to be safe and healthy.

Ewen Tsai  
Branch President

# Certificate of Merit

## 2020-2021 Program Updates

Due to the continued restrictions on larger gatherings, and for the overall safety of our students and members, 2020-2021 Certificate of Merit program will be held virtually. Thank you for your understanding and support through these challenging times.

The 2021 Theory Exam and Performance Evaluation dates have not been yet confirmed. The CM enrollment period will still be from **October 1-October 31**.

Please stay tuned for more updates.

## Blankenship Project

### From Mary Beth Chaney:

We are all aware that because of COVID-19, some people have lost jobs and have had to close their businesses for months. If you have a student who has had to quit lessons or will have to quit soon because of financial difficulties, be aware that our Blankenship Project (piano lesson scholarships for low-income students) will be taking applications to help a few of the most needy students. We are trying to help the truly low-income students, those who would qualify for free lunch at school. This would be a temporary measure until their parents are back to work.

Please contact Mary Beth Chaney at [nolanmarycheney@gmail.com](mailto:nolanmarycheney@gmail.com) for an application.

Upcoming Lecture: 19 October 2020

# Beethoven — Beyond Heroics and Titanic Struggles

by Dr. Betty Woo



**Monday 10/19 @ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm**

**Zoom Meeting (Zoom invitation will be emailed prior to the lecture)**

**\*High level and older students are also welcome\***

## Lecture Description:

Beethoven is regarded universally as one of the giants in the history of mankind because his iconic works (Symphonies No. 3, 5 and 9) reflect the struggles and ultimate triumph in life, which all of us can relate to. His music, however, is more than that. In this talk, I would like to show an appreciation to his many other sides. These include: his innovative ideas regarding rhythm, harmony and tone color; and the variety of moods and styles depicted in his music. The music we will examine in this lecture will be chosen from well-known piano pieces composed in different periods of his life.

## Bio of Dr. Betty Woo



Betty Woo received her D.M.A. degree in performance practice from Stanford University and the Artist Diploma from the Royal Academy of Music in London. At the start of her performing career, she received a special prize for the best performance of a twentieth-century piece in the Gina Bachauer International Competition and a special award in the Carnegie Hall International American Music Competition. She has made major solo appearances in London and New York, conducted masterclasses, gave lectures at conservatories in Hong Kong (her hometown) and Shanghai, and appeared in such festivals as The Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Olympics in Washington, Yachats in Oregon and Music in the Mountain in California. In December 2019, she collaborated with other Hong Kong-born pianists to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Cultural Center in Hong Kong. She has also collaborated with many

diverse groups and performers in the Bay Area, such as the contemporary music groups Earplay and the San Francisco Contemporary Chamber Players, the dance companies Oakland Ballet, Morphoses/The Wheeldon Company Group and the Paul Taylor Dance Company, and cellist Jennifer Culp. She is also a member of the Trio Brillante. A very successful teacher, she was on the faculty of Holy Names University and San Francisco Conservatory for many years. At present, Ms. Woo teaches piano at University of California, Berkeley, and frequently gives talks to various music teacher groups in the Bay Area. She is also a board member of the MTAC Alameda County Branch, and music consultant for US Open Music Competition, and has judged in numerous local competitions.

# 2020-21 Branch Recitals

**From Stella Liu and Kai-Li Cheng:**

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year!

Each year, MTAC Alameda County East Branch hosts several branch recitals, providing all students of our branch opportunities to build confidence through performance and to share their music with the community.

**The first Branch Recital this year will be held virtually on Saturday, October 24th.**

Registration form will be sent to teachers by September 15. Please submit the completed form by September 30. A non-refundable registration fee of \$5/student needs to be paid by October 5.

Click [here](#) for more information and guidelines.

## East Bay Young Talents Music Competition

**Location:** 3212 Constitution Dr., Livermore, CA 94551

**Dates:** November 21 (Strings), November 22 (Piano), December 5 (Piano), December 6 (Strings)

**Registration Deadline:** October 25

**Registration Fee:** \$40 (non-refundable)

In-person competition following all rules in compliance with state guidelines for social distancing.

Requirement: 1 song only (any style). Memorization required with no repeats.

Dear Teachers, if you would like your students to take part in the "East Bay Young Talents Music Competition" or rent the Recital Hall, please contact **Rimma Radayeva at 415-203-3453 or [r1975@aol.com](mailto:r1975@aol.com)** for more information.

## 2020-2022 Board of Directors & Chairs

Welcome the 2020-2022 MTAC Alameda County East Branch Board of Directors and Chairs!  
Thank you to all the current and previous officers for serving our branch.

<b>President</b> Michelle Rank	<b>Chairs</b>
<b>Vice President / Lectures</b> Hansen Liu	<b>CM / Theory</b> Velma Chan
<b>Treasurer</b> Lauren Goodall	<b>Recitals</b> Stella Liu, Kai-Li Cheng
<b>Recording Secretary</b> Mary Beth Cheney	<b>Hospitality</b> Masako Udagawa
<b>Membership Secretary</b> Jing Yang	<b>Library</b> Kayo Hsu
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b> Alec Sloane, Linli Wang	<b>Community Recital</b> Aiko Nomura Lavine
<b>Director / Email Announcements</b> Sofia Bikitimir	<b>VOCE</b> Kai-Li Cheng
<b>Director / Blankenship Project</b> Mary Beth Cheney	<b>California Plan</b> Mary Chung Lee
<b>Director / YAG concert</b> Michelle Rank	
<b>Director / Certificate of Merit</b> Su-Shan Chi	
<b>Alameda East Piano Competition Committee</b> Masako Udagawa, Stella Liu, Hansen Liu	

## 2020-2021 Membership Report

**From Jing Yang:** Our branch currently has **97** active members:

<b>66</b> Piano	<b>1</b> Piano, Accordion	<b>1</b> Flute
<b>9</b> Piano, Voice	<b>1</b> Piano, Flute, Recorder	
<b>2</b> Piano, Voice, Ensemble	<b>1</b> Piano, French Horn	<b>6</b> New Members
<b>3</b> Piano, Violin	<b>1</b> Piano, Bagpipe	<b>1</b> Cal Plan Members
<b>1</b> Piano, Violin, Ensemble	<b>1</b> Voice	<b>3</b> Provisional Members
<b>1</b> Piano, Violin, Viola, Ensemble	<b>1</b> Voice, Ensemble	<b>4</b> Over-70 Members
<b>1</b> Piano, Composition	<b>4</b> Violin	<b>3</b> Over-80 Members
<b>1</b> Piano, Composition, Voice	<b>2</b> Cello	



# Certificate of Merit 2020

Senior Award & Branch Honors



**From Su-Shan Chi and Velma Chan:**

**Congratulations to all the students who made the Senior Award, Branch Honors,  
and 100% Theory list for CM 2020!**

Thank you to all the CM teachers who have worked hard to guide our students through the many unexpected challenges caused by the pandemic this year. Although we won't be able to get together for a Branch Honors Recital as we did before, we would like to recognize the hard work and achievement earned by these students and encourage all to keep sharing music in as many ways as possible.

Congratulations to you all!

**Scroll down** to see the list of students who made the CM Senior Award and Branch honors, and of those who received 100% on the Theory Exam.



## VOCE 2020

Regional & State Results



**From Kai-Li Cheng:**

**Congratulations to all contestants who participated in VOCE 2020!**

Thank you to students, teachers and parents for your dedication and hard work.

**Scroll down** for the list of participants who received First Place, Second Place, and Honorable Mention.

## 2020 Certificate of Merit — Theory 100%

Student	Teacher	Instruments	Level
Bronwyn Blair	Gala Bengé	Piano	Prep
George Fu	Milen Varimezov	Piano	Prep
Jayden Kim	Sarah Seunghye Pyun	Piano	Prep
Sahanya Pallikonda	Snug-In Cho	Piano	1
Victoria Qiu	Lien Le-Tran	Piano	1
Thao Trosien	Donna Mizuno	Piano	1
Aiden Wong	Kevin Sy	Piano	1
Grace Kang	Jennie Yukyung Byun	Voice	1
Atishay Belagodu	Todd Evans	Piano	2
Elijah Chen	Jamie Kim	Piano	2
Jayson Quah	Su-Shan Chi	Piano	2
Dasarathi Narayanan	Marzena Jones	Piano	3
David Kang	Jennie Yukyung Byun	Voice	3
Arjun Nagapudi	Sam Grobe-Heintz	Piano	4
Rishita Anumukonda	Jongmi Park	Piano	5
Audrey Fick-Furlotte	Kimberley Luty	Piano	5
Landon Leung	Masako Udagawa	Piano	5
Mia McNesby	Donna Mizuno	Piano	5
Umaiya Narendranathan	Sofia Biktimir	Piano	5
Hastin Chen	Lien Le-Tran	Piano	6
Celicia Thendean	Ewen Yi-Wen Tsai	Cello	8
Jay Krishnan	Velma Chan	Piano	8
Taiyo Lee	Masako Udagawa	Piano	8
Jeremy Lemaigen	Su-Shan Chi	Piano	8
Junhyeok Park	Jongmi Park	Piano	8
Savir Sharma	Sam Grobe-Heintz	Piano	8
Sadie Fisher	Donna Mizuno	Piano	9

## 2020 Certificate of Merit

### Senior Award & Branch Honors

SENIOR AWARDS			
Student	Teacher	Instrument	Level
Luke Ninh	Donna Mizuno	Piano	7
Gita Supramaniam	Milen Varimezov	Piano	8
Rohan Badida	Rumyana Chimeva	Piano	9
Abigail Canafe	Donna Mizuno	Piano	Advanced
Mishka Narasimhan	Milen Varimezov	Piano	Advanced
Anna Norman	Lauren Goodall	Piano	Advanced
Rayan Sanatkar	Ara Aghaz	Piano	Advanced
Stanley Su	Larisa Smirnova	Piano	Advanced
Sanjana Utiramerur	Rachel Robinson	Voice	8
Habin Kim	Jennie Yukyung Byun	Voice	Advanced
Aaron Zhang	Tatiana Kubatina	Piano	5

BRANCH HONORS			
Student	Teacher	Instrument	Level
Aidan Mallick	Donna Mizuno	Piano	5
Alexis Riddle	Yelena Dadgar	Piano	5
Allie Shandonay	Lauren Goodall	Piano	5
Allison Zhou	Li Zhang	Piano	5
Amitosh Khubchandani	Yelena Dadgar	Piano	5
Amy Li	Tatiana Kubatina	Piano	5
Amy Yang	Michelle Rank	Piano	5
Anoushka Joshi	Elizabeth Tomlin	Piano	5
Audrey Fick-Furlotte	Kim Luty	Piano	5
Calista Tjandra	Tatiana Kubatina	Piano	5
Claire Lu	Li Zhang	Piano	5
Deeya Kang	Kathryn McCarthy	Piano	5
Grace Mundaden	Heesun Lee	Piano	5
Hannah Kwon	Jongmi Park	Piano	5
Ian Kuo	Tamriko Siprashvili	Piano	5
Isabella Oh	Hyun Seoung Kim	Piano	5
Ivan Ye	Jing Cui	Piano	5
Jake Xiao	Tatiana Kubatina	Piano	5
Jennifer Kim	Hyun Seoung Kim	Piano	5
Jiayi Eric Zhu	Li Zhang	Piano	5
Landon Leung	Masako Udagawa	Piano	5
Liam Yung	Michelle Rank	Piano	5
Masaki Allwardt	Masako Udagawa	Piano	5
Maya Gopalswamy	Joy Tsai	Piano	5
Mia McNesby	Donna Mizuno	Piano	5
Navya Vijay	Kayo Hsu	Piano	5
Nilasha Krishnamurthy	Yelena Dadgar	Piano	5
Noah Lloyd	Elizabeth Tomlin	Piano	5
Pranav Rebala	Milen Varimezov	Piano	5
Rishita Anumukonda	Jongmi Park	Piano	5
Rumi Yie	Donna Mizuno	Piano	5
Sadhika Pendyala	Rumyana Chimeva	Piano	5
Siqi Zhang	Jing Cui	Piano	5
Tu Han Huynh	Mary Beth Cheney	Piano	5
Xi Yue	Jing Cui	Piano	5
Yining Xie	Joy Tsai	Piano	5
Jalyn Kwong	Sophie Liu	Voice	5
Siqi Zhang	Jing Cui	Voice	5
Abir Bhatia	Aiko Nomura Lavine	Piano	6
Allen Long	Flora Wang	Piano	6
Brian Qian	Joy Tsai	Piano	6
Crystal Wang	Tamriko Siprashvili	Piano	6
Diego Mizrachi	Aiko Nomura Lavine	Piano	6
Evan Chiu	Makiko Allwardt	Piano	6
Hana Yie	Donna Mizuno	Piano	6
Hastin Chen	Lien Le-Tran	Piano	6



# BRANCH HONORS

Student	Teacher	Instrument	Level
Jacob Jung	Hyun Seoung Kim	Piano	6
Jessica Zhang	Michelle Rank	Piano	6
Katherine Shen	Flora Wang	Piano	6
Kelly Erdenesaikhan	Tatiana Kubatina	Piano	6
Kentaro Schirmer	Masako Udagawa	Piano	6
Megan Tu	Joy Tsai	Piano	6
Michelle Bai	Donna Mizuno	Piano	6
Olivia Luan	Lien Le-Tran	Piano	6
Raghavi Kantharuban	Sofia Biktimir	Piano	6
Samuel McClanahan	Markus Pawlik	Piano	6
Shriivanth Gunanidhi	Velma Chan	Piano	6
Skylar On	Sofia Biktimir	Piano	6
Sophie Chen	Lauren Goodall	Piano	6
Stanley Zhao	Velma Chan	Piano	6
Theodore Lee	Tatiana Kubatina	Piano	6
Vivian Ninh	Donna Mizuno	Piano	6
Yingkai Shao	Tamriko Siprashvili	Piano	6
Ellie Cheng	Masako Udagawa	Voice	6
Hayeon Kim	Jennie Yukyung Byun	Voice	6
Joan Pak	Jennie Yukyung Byun	Voice	6
Aadith Muthukumar Balaji	Sofia Biktimir	Piano	7
Alena Dinh	Masako Udagawa	Piano	7
Anoushka Pandit	Sofia Biktimir	Piano	7
Anthony Bonev	Masako Udagawa	Piano	7
Cara Wan Kong	Xuelian Wang	Piano	7
Chelsea Lei	Velma Chan	Piano	7
Claire Chen	Markus Pawlik	Piano	7
Dani Kim	Sarah Seunghye Pyun	Piano	7
Emily Lemaigen	Su-Shan Chi	Piano	7
Hwijung Kim	Heesun Lee	Piano	7
James Paap	Masako Udagawa	Piano	7
Joyce Wu	Velma Chan	Piano	7
Kavya Gadamssetti	Yelena Dadgar	Piano	7
Louisa Landhuis	Joy Tsai	Piano	7
Luke Ko	Flora Wang	Piano	7
Luke Ninh	Donna Mizuno	Piano	7
Manasa Banapuram	Sofia Biktimir	Piano	7
Michael Macri	Lien Le-Tran	Piano	7
Minh-Khang Nguyen	Chiyoko Terada	Piano	7
Shalini Rajkumar	Milen Varimezov	Piano	7
Sherry Yan	Jing Yang	Piano	7
Sruti Jonnalagadda	Makiko Allwardt	Piano	7
Wakana Ohkawa	Masako Udagawa	Piano	7
Yitong Xie	Joy Tsai	Piano	7
Yuto Ohkawa	Masako Udagawa	Piano	7
Andrew Peng	Li Zhang	Piano	8

BRANCH HONORS			
Student	Teacher	Instrument	Level
Annalisa Siu	Joanna Lu	Piano	8
Brandon Leung	Masako Udagawa	Piano	8
Celine Ha	Lauren Goodall	Piano	8
Doyle Miller	Kim Luty	Piano	8
Edwin He	Jing Yang	Piano	8
Eric Xiao	Jing Yang	Piano	8
Fionna Chang	Jing Yang	Piano	8
Galen Spies	Jing Yang	Piano	8
Gita Supramaniam	Milen Varimezov	Piano	8
Irene Chi	Jing Yang	Piano	8
J.D. Cerruti	Kim Luty	Piano	8
Jay Krishnan	Velma Chan	Piano	8
Jeremy Lemaigen	Su-Shan Chi	Piano	8
Junhyeok Park	Jongmi Park	Piano	8
Marcus Hsieh	Mary Chung Lee	Piano	8
Nicholas Tang	Makiko Allwardt	Piano	8
Pranav Hegde	Sam Grobe-Heintz	Piano	8
Riyanka Narasimhan	Milen Varimezov	Piano	8
Ryan Suh	Jongmi Park	Piano	8
Sasha Gorrepati	Velma Chan	Piano	8
Savir Sharma	Sam Grobe-Heintz	Piano	8
Sophia Ann Bardunias	Velma Chan	Piano	8
Sushruth Booma	Sung-In Cho	Piano	8
Taiyo Lee	Masako Udagawa	Piano	8
Theodore Nguyen	Joy Tsai	Piano	8
Tyler Sullivan	Joy Tsai	Piano	8
Vishnu Nair	Sung-In Cho	Piano	8
William Chen	Li Zhang	Piano	8
Yena Cho	Heesun Lee	Piano	8
Youngha Hwang	Heesun Lee	Piano	8
Harika Muthalraj	Masako Udagawa	Voice	8
Alexandra Macri	Lien Le-Tran	Piano	9
Ayan Bhatia	Aiko Nomura Lavine	Piano	9
Brycen Zhang	Daniel Richardson	Piano	9
Christine Lau	Sofia Biktimir	Piano	9
Eileen Seetho	Sofia Biktimir	Piano	9
Ethan Chen	Janice Monkowski	Piano	9
Evelyn Wu	Li Zhang	Piano	9
Hanrong Zhang	Tamriko Siprashvili	Piano	9
Iris Yuan	Jing Yang	Piano	9
James Ren	Tatiana Kubatina	Piano	9
Keerthana Nallamotu	Masako Udagawa	Piano	9
Sadie Fisher	Donna Mizuno	Piano	9
Shiho Yanagawa	Masako Udagawa	Piano	9
Steve Chung	Masako Udagawa	Piano	9
Victoria Li	Chiyoko Terada	Piano	9

BRANCH HONORS			
Student	Teacher	Instrument	Level
Alice (Juhye) Oh	Hyun Seoung Kim	Piano	Advanced
Andre Xiang	Jing Yang	Piano	Advanced
Angela Huang	Kayo Hsu	Piano	Advanced
Anika Jena	Tamriko Siprashvili	Piano	Advanced
Avery Kuo	Sofia Biktimir	Piano	Advanced
Claire Song	Heesun Lee	Piano	Advanced
Courtney Mui	Tatiana Kubatina	Piano	Advanced
Emerson Yu	Yu-Ting Chen	Piano	Advanced
Eric Kuo	Li Zhang	Piano	Advanced
Frank Xiao	Jing Yang	Piano	Advanced
Gabriel Rao	Jing Yang	Piano	Advanced
Grant Chen	Sofia Biktimir	Piano	Advanced
Jessie Chan	Tatiana Kubatina	Piano	Advanced
Josephina Chang	Heesun Lee	Piano	Advanced
Julian Xiao	Yu-Ting Chen	Piano	Advanced
Justin Lee	Markus Pawlik	Piano	Advanced
Karina Thendean	Yu-Ting Chen	Piano	Advanced
Mishka Narasimhan	Milen Varimezov	Piano	Advanced
Patrick Ting	Kai-Li Cheng	Piano	Advanced
Rebekah Hwang	Hyun Seoung Kim	Piano	Advanced
Richard Bai	Yu-Ting Chen	Piano	Advanced
Sarah Zhang	Masako Udagawa	Piano	Advanced
Seungju Ahn	Sue Jin Kim	Piano	Advanced
Angelina Chen	Sophie Liu	Voice	Advanced
Habin Kim	Jennie Yukyung Byun	Voice	Advanced
Hannah Kang	Jennie Yukyung Byun	Voice	Advanced



# VOCE 2020

## Regional & State Results



### Regional Instrumental

	Student	Teacher
Junior First Place	David Chang (violin)	Kai-Li Cheng
	Cecilia Thendean (cello)	Ewen Yi-Wen
	Ryan Lee (Cello)	Brady Anderson
Junior Honorable Mention	Jaclyn Wang (Cello)	Brady Anderson
Intermediate First Place	Hoaran Li (Cello)	Brady Anderson
Intermediate First Alternate	Evan Chin (Cello)	Brady Anderson

### Regional Voice

	Student	Teacher
Intermediate First Place	Angelina Chen	Sophie Liu
	Hayeon Kim	Jennie Yukyung
	Renna Popli	Jumi Kim
	Kaede Shimizu	Sophie Liu
Intermediate Second Place	Joanna Chu	Sophie Liu
Senior First Place	Hannah Kang	Jennie Yukyung

### Regional Vocal Plus Ensemble

	Student	Teacher
First Place:	East Bay Teens Ensemble (Angelina Chen, Joanna Chu, Justin Wang)	Sophie Liu
Second Place:	Ensemble Dolce (Hannah Kang, Joan Park, Enoch Lee)	Jennie Yukyung

### Regional Vocal Ensemble

	Student	Teacher
First Place:	Sound of Tri-Valley (Kaede Shimizu, Celicia Thendean, Cecilia Guo, Yinuo Tang)	Sophie Liu
Second Place:	Spring Singing Quintet (Amy Cai, Cinthia He, Siqi Zheng, Yuezhi Guo, Angela Yang)	Jing Cui
	Angel Singing Quintet (Maggie Cai, Vivian Lei, Yueyao Chen, Avery Liu, Toby Zhou)	Jing Cui

### State Voice

	Student	Teacher
Intermediate First Place:	Angelina Chen	Sophie Liu
Intermediate First Place Alternate:	Renna Popli	Jumi Kim
Intermediate Honorable Mention:	Kaede Shimizu	Sophie Liu
Senior First Place Alternate:	Hannah Kang	Jennie Yukyung

### State Vocal Ensemble

	Student	Teacher
Second Place:	Sound of Tri-Valley (Kaede Shimizu, Celicia Thendean, Cecilia Guo, Yinuo Tang)	Sophie Liu