Alameda County East Branch Newsletter

ALAMEDA COUNTY
EAST BRANCH

February 2019

President's Prelude

Important Dates:

2/3 Piano Competition

2/16 CM Theory

2/17 CM Theory

3/2 CM Performance

3/3 CM Performance

3/16 Branch Honors Recitals

4/13 Ensemble Recital

5/13 Lecture/Luncheon

Newsletter Submissions:

Please send any submissions for the next newsletter by **March 31** to Megan Mui, Newsletter Editor at **mmmui14@gmail.com.**

Dear Colleagues,

Happy 2019!

As we approach our fourth annual branch piano competition on Sunday, February 3, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to current and former Piano Competition Chairs **Masako Udagawa**, **Makiko Allwardt**, **Kayo Hsu**, **Mary Beth Cheney** and their committee members. From months of planning, inviting prestigious musicians to be our judges, detailing contestants' registrations and teacher assignments to executing everything on the actual day, their countless hours of hard work allow the competition to run smoothly. We hope you and your students will attend this free concert as it is a perfect opportunity to motivate students and expose them to a variety of musical styles and great artistry in a wonderful venue.

While we hope to expand the competition in the future to cover a growing number of vocal and instrumental students, the **VOCE** branch competition (for vocalists, strings, winds/brass, and chamber music) will also be held on February 3 at the San Francisco Community Music Center and first place winners will advance to State Finals. We will have 9 groups of young musicians competing in our branch; what a joy to see vocal/instrumental teachers and their students thriving!

We are always in need of good music venues for our events. If you have access to a preferably free venue (such as a church or company auditorium in the Tri-Valley area), I would love to speak with you.

With our hectic CM season approaching, please don't forget to relax and enjoy yourself between teaching. I wish you and all your students success in the upcoming evaluations!

Ewen Tsai, Branch President

4th Annual Alameda East Piano Competition

Sunday, February 3, 10:30am - 4:20pm at Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd, Pleasanton

By Masako Udagawa, Competition Chair & Makiko Allwardt, Co-chair

We are very pleased to announce that 52 students supported by 19 teacher members will compete across 4 divisions at the Alameda East Piano Competition on Feb.3 at Amador Theater in Pleasanton. This year, we have invited renowned pianists/teachers Betty Woo and Daniel Glover as our judges.

The competition will be split into two parts:
Div. A and B - 10:30am - 1:00pm
Div. C and D - :30pm - 4:20pm

We encourage every member of the Alameda East Branch and their students will come to this free event even if they are not competing. It should be exciting and motivational. Please show your students and invite them to attend!

We would like to take this time to thank the wonderful teachers who have been working very hard to help us to prepare for this competition:
Ewen Tsai (securing venue)
Yu-Ting Chen (producing programs)
Michelle Rank (producing award certificates and medals)
Kayo Hsu (competition adviser)

We would also like to thank all the additional teachers who will help on the day of the competition for check-in, seating students, assisting students and set-up/clean-up, etc. If you are available and would like to help, please contact us.

Upcoming Branch Events

While the next month will be mostly occupied with our busy CM theory, performance evaluations, and Branch Honors recitals, there are some fun upcoming events to look forward to.

Happy students and their proud teachers after branch recital on January 26, 2019.

The **Ensemble Recital**, tentatively scheduled for April 13, will be a great opportunity for students to prepare and showcase works for multiple musicians. Ensembles provide great experience and motivation so please think about participating and keep a look out for more information.

On May 13, our branch will host a **Lecture with Dr. Omri Shimron** at 10am followed by the annual **May Luncheon** at noon. Mary Beth Cheney, our branch recording secretary, has generously offered her home studio in Livermore for this event, so please mark your calendars and we hope to see you all there!

MTAC Adult Performance Program

Saturday, March 9 at Contra Costa College, San Pablo, CA
Registration deadline: Feb 15

By Ewen Tsai

Do you have any adult students and/or would like some performance experience and expert guidance yourself? MTAC offers the Adult Performance program for adult students and teachers. Each participant will prepare three works and can receive individual evaluation, a private lesson with one of the judges, participate in a master class, and per/form in a recital. Auditors are welcome at master classes and recitals. Recital participants are also considered to perform at the Adult Performance Recital at the State Convention.

The judges for this year's program will be Lino Rivera, Machiko Kobialka, and Markus Pawlik. Adult students at the intermediate level or higher, college students majoring in music, professional performers, and MTAC teacher-performers are all welcome to participate.

You can register through mtac.org and if you have any further questions, please direct questions to: **Jennifer Griest,** Adult Performance Chair North at jgriest@contracosta.edu.

John O'Conor Performs at Bankhead Theater

Saturday, February 9, 8:00pm at Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St, Livermore

The legendary pianist, **JOHN O'CONOR**, performs in Livermore on **FEBRUARY 9** at 8pm. He ha been a featured artist at a past MTAC Convention.

"This artist has the kind of flawless touch that makes an audience gasp." - Washington Post

Program:

Haydn: Sonata in B minor, Hob XVI No. 32
Schubert: Four Impromptus D 899
Field: Nocturne in F Major, No. 6
Chopin: Nocturne in E flat Major, Op. 9, No. 2
Scriabin: Nocturne in D flat Major for the Left Hand, Op. 9, No. 2
Beethoven: Sonata in C sharp minor, Op. 27, No. 2

Individual ticket prices: $31-$49
Students are free with discounted ticket for 1 adult.
IN PERSON: box office, 2400 First St. Livermore
BY PHONE: 925.373.6800
WEBSITE: www.bankheadtheater.org

Sponsored by **Del Valle Fine Arts**

Holy Names University Suzuki Piano Teacher Training

Join participants from all over the world at Holy Names University in Oakland this summer for a fun and immersive opportunity to discover first-hand Shinichi Suzuki's belief that "Every Child Can."

The HNU Suzuki Training Institute will run from July 8-27 and offer a variety of courses taught by the wonderful master teacher Caroline Fraser.

Please visit summersuzukihnu.com to find out more information about the institute. Register by March 15 to receive the Early Bird registration fee pricing. Hope to see you there!