



NEWSLETTER

*The Way We Were
Reminding ourselves
of where we have been*

President's Message

Dear Members and Patrons,

The Holidays are over...has the party stopped? For our Mu Phi Chapter, the party is still going strong. We have so many great activities on the immediate horizon and farther off, clear up through mid- summer. And remember, this is our celebratory Golden Anniversary Year, so let's keep this party in full swing, all year long!

Hopefully you are all busily selling tickets to Musical Mosaic on Feb. 7. Our chairs have planned a great evening of music, making use of our own fabulous local talent, of our outstanding local school music students and presenting amazing artists with whom most of us are as yet unacquainted. We already know the Divas will enchant and entertain us; we have already heard what wonderful sounds Dan Doctor has been able to elicit from his choirs at Peninsula High School. What most of us do not know yet is what to expect from a saxophone quartet or exactly how perfectly lovely Hyperion, the duo of harp and flute, will sound. Many of us are probably not familiar with violinist Etienne Gara and we possibly question how the instruments of the baroque ensemble, Sweet Temperament, will be tuned. The name promises it will be sweet, but only by hearing them play will we know for sure. So, there are many reasons to be at Rolling Hills United Methodist Church the evening of February 7 to see and hear these artists. (Continued next page)

CALENDAR

Friday, February 7 - 7:30 PM

Musical Mosaic
Rolling Hills United
Methodist Church
Tickets \$25.00
Reception following
the concert

February 18, 2014 – 10 AM

Board Meeting
Home of Pat Maki

March 2, 2014 – New Time - 5 PM

General Meeting
and MPE Foundation
Presentation
Featuring Performances by
members of Mu Nu,
Gamma Sigma, Beta Alpha
and Zeta Delta
Home of Ruth Cuccia

March 15, 2014

School Grant
Applications Due
Send to Carol Levin

March Board Meeting
changed to **March 20th**

April 5 10:00 – 3:00
Scholarship Auditions
ECC Band Room

President's Message (continued)

In our yearbook is the reminder that grant applications are due on March 15 but they need to go to Carol Levin, not to Pat Harpole. Pat graciously performed that job for several years and it is now being taken over by Carol with Anli Tong's assistance. If you know of a school that could use a few hundred dollars to support a music program, please have the music teacher, or other appropriate person, submit a grant in writing to Carol Levin by the March 15 deadline. The grant request should state specifically the amount being requested (up to \$500) and for what purpose.

We have two chapter meetings plus our Musica Primavera and the Patrons Appreciation Potluck Dinner coming up this spring. Musica Primavera is an all-hands-on fun event that has potential for raising a considerable amount of money to support school music programs. Begin making plans now by jotting down the names of those you want to invite and setting aside items for the Silent Auction. Even better, think of places to go and events to attend that you can donate as auction items. If you have concert or theater tickets you cannot use, consider donating them. Or possibly you are fortunate enough to own a time share and you wouldn't mind donating a week or even a few days for someone to win the bid and enjoy a happy vacation. If you love to cook, think about planning a luncheon or dinner party for which all the guests pay a certain amount and you treat them to your gourmet expertise. What is even more fun is if several people go together to prepare this special occasion. Even though May 10, the date of Musica Primavera, is a long way off, the success of the evening depends on a large attendance and enticing silent auction items. Our chairs will exert their usual heroic magic to arrange for great entertainment, super food and drink and all the extras that create an evening of pure delight. So, let's be sure we mark this as an evening we wouldn't want to miss!

Speaking about important events not to miss, our International Convention July 29 to August 2 in Sacramento is another place we'll want to be. You have been receiving messages about how we as a chapter and we as individuals can help make this the biggest and best convention ever. Keep watching for more information and announcements as they become available. Your board is in close communication with the major organizers and will do all we can to support this exciting event. Please consider making the convention your vacation destination this summer. In

addition to the programs, talks, recitals, reunions that will fill the convention schedule, there are so many attractions in and around Sacramento which you can visit on your own, or join one of the tours and "leave the driving to" them.

The Nominating Committee will be in action soon. When you are invited to serve as an officer, please try to say "yes!" If next year's board is half as dedicated and self-motivated as these past boards have been, you will truly enjoy the experience of working together to plan and administrate our chapter's worthy and ever-so-necessary projects.

Your loyal president for the last year,
Darlene

PS I apologize for these President's Messages always harking on the same themes of who we are, what we do and why we should support our goals and aims. But frankly, I cannot think of anything more important to say to you. With so many demands on our time, so many other interests and obligations, it seems of paramount importance to keep Mu Phi front and center in our thoughts and plans.

MORE CALENDAR

Veggie Grill Rolling Hills Plaza Fundraiser

February 9, 2014 – 11:00 - 9:00

2533 Pacific Coast Highway

310.325.6689



Invite your friends, students and family for lunch or dinner. 50% of your bill will help support our chapter activities.



Patron Scholarship Awarded to Cristina Jones

The Palos Verdes/South Bay Chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon awarded a special scholarship to Soprano, Cristina Jones to help support her travel to London where she has been accepted in the graduate vocal program at the Royal Academy of Music. The grant will be considered a special project of our year-long anniversary celebration. \$350.00 was awarded from the Patrons Scholarship account and presented with another \$400.00, especially donated by some of our members and patrons. Cristina is a graduate in music from California State Fullerton. She came to the attention of our president, Darlene Vlasek, our district director, Ruth Cuccia and David Champion at the 2011 Mu Phi Epsilon convention where she represented her collegiate chapter, Beta Alpha, and served as chair of the nominating committee, making the presentation of the slate of candidates to the entire

January 24, 2013

convention assembly. Some of our members attended her fund-raiser recital and reported an outstanding voice and talent. Cristina is now settled in London, having learned to cross streets in a different way because of the traffic patterns being different. She is also happily reunited with her guide dog, Kingsley, after his brief quarantine.

The January 12th Night Party

A small, but spirited group met at David and Lenita's home to celebrate the close of the holiday season. A program consisting of a flute and piano duo, Jean Strickland and Noriko Sato playing one of Noriko's own compositions!, "I Wonder as I Wander" sung by Ruth Cuccia, a vocal duet by Ruth and Lenita singing a piece that Lenita remembered singing with her sister through the years as they grew up; Carla Sedlacek, Ruth and Leslie Sharp gave us Eartha Kitt's version of "I'm Gettin' Nuttin' for Christmas and Leslie Sharp played some of her own pieces. The program was capped off by all of us joining Linnea Eades on Christmas Island as she played her ukulele. A good time was had by all!



L to R Maureen Engelhard (guest) Carla Sedlacek, Paul Irving, Pearl Kim, Shirley Ho (patron), Leslie Sharp



L to R David Witherspoon, Lenita McCallum, Ruth Cuccia, John Cuccia, Brent and Beth Howell, Linnea Eades

**Deborah Aitken Performs
with the Beach Cities Symphony
Friday Evening, January 24th
8:15 p.m. in Marsee Auditorium
El Camino College**



Prokofiev Piano Concerto No. 1 in D flat Major

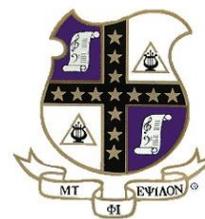


Long-time member of the Palos Verdes/South bay Alumni Chapter, Deborah Aitken studied first in the US and continued in Milan, Italy, with Alberto Mozzati of Conservatorio Verdi. Ms. Aitken then received Bachelor of Music and Master of Arts degrees from USC and California State University, Northridge, studying piano with Bernardo Segall and Jacob Gimpel, and harpsichord with Malcolm Hamilton. She has received coaching from André Watts, Gabriel Tacchino (Paris

Conservatory), and others. Her expertise in music of the French and Spanish styles was acknowledged with the prestigious Mu Phi Epsilon Memorial Foundation Grant for study in Paris with Françoise Labroquere, longtime protégée of Marguerite Long.

Ms. Aitken's concert work as soloist, collaborator, and concerto artist has taken her throughout the US and to Europe, Mexico, Asia and Russia. She has performed for film, LA television stations, and radio, including a recital on Vatican Radio, broadcast throughout Europe.

Ms. Aitken is completing a teaching DVD on Piano Technique and Tone Color. She has a CD entitled Piano Recital and is planning the release a CD of Latin American music later this year. Currently she serves as professor of piano for El Camino College and LA Harbor College in addition to teaching award-winning students privately at her studio in Redondo Beach. In demand as a Master Class clinician and competition adjudicator, she will return to Tokyo in June for the seventeenth year to perform and conduct Master Classes, promoted by Yamaha Corporation and other entities.



Bernstein Recital, January 26th

The voice students of Lenita McCallum are giving a recital featuring the vocal music of Leonard Bernstein on Sunday, January 26 at 3 PM at her home, 28 Aurora Drive in RHE. All are welcome.



PALOS VERDES PENINSULA ALUMNI CHAPTER
PRESENTS OUR ANNUAL

MUSICAL MOSAIC

A FUNDRAISER CONCERT TO SUPPORT MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS

HYPERION DUO

GINA LUCIANO, FLUTE / CHARISSA BARGER, HARP



ETIENNE GARA

VIOLIN



PALOS VERDES PENINSULA HIGH SCHOOL CHORUS

DIRECTOR: DAN DOCTOR

THE PRIMA DIVAS

GAIL GERDING MELLERT, VIOLIN
JAN BUNKER, PIANO AND VOCALS
CHERYL GRAUE, PIANO
SPECIAL GUEST, ANN GRENNAN



SWEET TEMPERAMENT BAROQUE ENSEMBLE

KATINA MITCHELL, SOPRANO / ARTHUR OMURA,
KEYBOARD / FREDERIC ROSSELET, CELLO

CITY OF ANGELS SAXOPHONE QUARTET

BILL WILSON, SOPRANO SAXOPHONE / SEAN STACKPOOLE, ALTO SAXOPHONE
CINDY SWANSON, TENOR SAXOPHONE / MATT GERMAINE, BARITONE SAXOPHONE



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2014 AT 7:30PM

ROLLING HILLS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
26438 CRENSHAW BLVD., ROLLING HILLS ESTATES

ADULTS \$25 / JR-SR HIGH \$10 / ELEMENTARY FREE

TICKETS AND DONATIONS: DAVID CHAMPION, DAVID@THECHAMPIONS.COM

INFORMATION: PAT HARPOLE, G.HARPOLE@VERIZON.NET
